

Kieffer Ends 34-Year Career With Extension

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thus gone awry, unexpectedly, the gang was delayed seven hours. They went late-night sightseeing in the Windy City. Hours later they learned that while they were casually strolling its darkened streets, one of Chicago's most infamous murder cases was happening.

Two years after, in Utah, the situation was different when their hosts were Mormons. They gained a knowledge about that religion, visited Salt Lake City, saw and heard the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

Through the Interstate 4-H Exchange program Kieffer said participants learned how to travel, how to understand different cultures and how to adapt into a family whose circumstances and routines were different from their own. Most shocking to the kids was what they learned about themselves, she said.

"We always said we started with boys and girls but came home with young men and women," Kieffer said, adding that they had a deeper sense of appreciation for their home and family, and the standards they were raised with.

To date, the trips have included Montana, California, Utah, Oregon, Texas, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan, Colorado, North Dakota, Arizona and Idaho. They

returned twice to three of the states—California, Utah, and Colorado. All but Michigan have been west of the Great Mississippi River.

From these, Kieffer says seeing the Grand Canyon's awesome grandeur from the back of a mule ranks among her most memorable 4-H experiences. It was worth every minute of scorching July sun, and resulting stiff muscles she got during the day-long trek to the bottom and back up.

Another pleasure was riding a massive wheat harvester in Kansas. She recalls that it took an hour to go around one field.

Kieffer says kids are interviewed for the program before they know the destination. "We want them to apply for the experience, not the destination," she said. They have to decide if they can handle traveling 2,000 miles from home to live in an unfamiliar environment with a family they've just met.

Because of her 4-H exchange experience, one girl chose to enter the Peace Corps and go to Africa. Another attended college in her host state. Still others maintained contact through weddings, vacations or passing through Somerset via the turnpike, Kieffer said, especially truck-driving parents.

There was much more to 4-H for Kieffer. Food revues, fashion

revues, farm show preparations, Make-It-Yourself With Wool contests, and numerous other responsibilities that involved extension staff and 4-H parents.

"Extension started in 1915 and has been very influential in farm families and rural communities. I think it's pretty awesome to have been a part of it for 34 years," says Kieffer, with obvious respect.

"When history looks back on extension, I hope it does so favorably," she added.

So what's next for Marie Kieffer? "I refuse to commit myself," she states, holding out on her options—sewing, cooking (she's garnered an extensive collection of cookbooks over the years)—and traveling.

"I may travel a bit—without 40 kids following me," she laughs.

But for now, she doesn't care that "It's taking me longer to move than I thought it would," because her goodbyes are coming gently, not abruptly, to friends and former colleagues. Folks like Bob Antram and his wife, Roberta; Bob Brown, the extension agent who succeeds to the post of director Kieffer held when she retired; office staff Kathy Dwyer and Linda Johnson; and Melissa Hipple, the newest agent on board at Somerset.

There once was a son that went "Pennsylvania Turnpike I'm stuck

on you..." sung by a country artist who was alluding to the normally vicious snowfalls in Somerset.

It's a ditty Kieffer may well adopt, only in another context. She has found the roadway the most direct route between her two

homes and she's been cruisin' it two, three times a week, between snowstorms, to get herself relocated.

You know, it may not happen 'til spring, but then, what's the hurry?



(Continued from Page B14)

ANSWER — To the Mt. Joy reader who wanted to know the zip code for Waterbury, Conn. It is 06701. Zip code numbers are available by calling the U.S. Post Office in your area and asking for the zip code. For your local post office number, look in the phone directory under U.S. Post Office.

ANSWER — For the reader who asked, Nolt Spreading sells finely ground natural phosphate rock in bags and in bulk. Nolts are located at 155 E. Wood Corner Rd., Lititz, Pa. 17543. Also Bio Farm Service delivers the phosphate rock state wide. Contact them at 216 Pleasant Valley Rd., East Earl, PA 17519-9301 or call (717) 445-4794.

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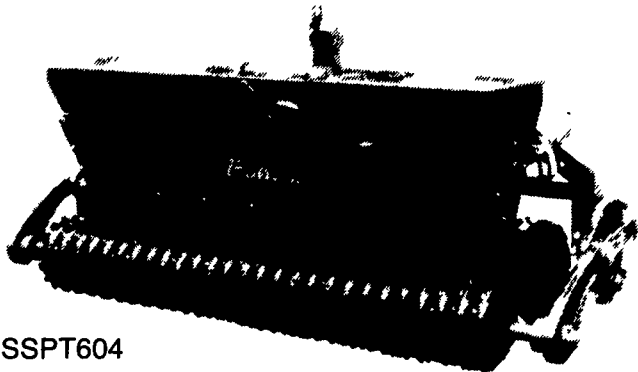
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5' SURE STAND SEEDER

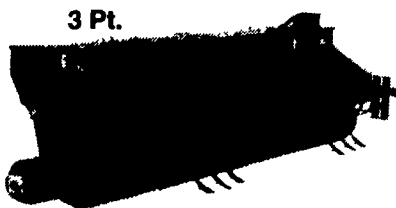


SSPT604

This 5' model has a single box with two compartments. The capacity of the front box (for chaffy seeds) is 1 1/4 bushels, the rear box (for legumes) holds 3/4 bushel. This model fits category 1 three point hitch.

SSP10 GRASS SEEDERS

3 Pt.

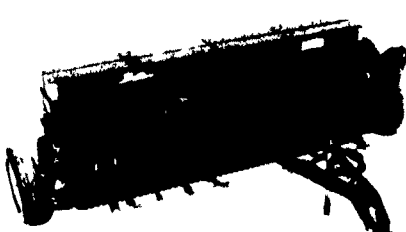


Available in 3 point or pull type

Features of the SSP10 are 4 3/8 Bu. meter box capacity, 4 3/8 brome box capacity, Standard front wheel, and a 10' rolling width. The overall width is 11'4" and approx. weight is 2018#.

12' SURE STAND SEEDER

SS12 PULL TYPE



Special Features of the SS12 Pull Type are a 5 1/4 bu. meter box capacity, 5 1/4 bu. optional brome box capacity, and standard front wheel. It has a rolling width of 12'. The overall width is 15' with an approx. weight of 2547#.

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