



On Being a Farm Wife
(and other hazards)
Joyce Bupp

No. I don't want to go back to the "good old days."

And, I'm not going to wax sentimental about how we used to do things. Or how simple or much better life used to be. Or bore you with all that "now, when I was a kid..." stuff.

Still, there are moments when I almost yearn to return to the historical era of B.C.

You know B.C. Before Computers.

Computerization has "tripped my trigger" since the first PCs came onto the market at a price that made the ownership of such technology a cost-effective possibility for the general public. Nevertheless, every advance I've made on the road to technological progress has had to begin with a push.

That's because, despite glib "plug-and-play" marketing promises, there will inevitably be a bunch of glitches somewhere in between the plugging in and the playing of the program. The incredible advancement of computer technology has still not overcome the fact that taking a byte into the chip still yields some crumbs.

Or, in other words, no matter how simple it's supposed to be, your high-tech journey will still be pocked with potholes.

Our first computer came into the office about 15 years ago when my faithful, used, electric typewriter hiccupped for the umpteenth time, and choked. A total technological ignoramus, except for the minimal terminology I'd grasped scanning reading materials, I tiptoed into a local computer salesroom like a 5-year-old entering kindergarten. But I returned home with 128K memory and a knot in my stomach.

How would I ever get the stuff up and running?

No sweat. Our youngest paraded home from sixth grade, plugged all the components together, and in an hour I was computing. With a call to the manufacturer, a few days later I even managed to eliminate the triple-spacing the printer insisted on inserting between every line of hard copy.

Confidence grew as I learned to make the system work, though I never did really learn DOS or how to go into the guts of the system. And occasionally, it struck abso-

lute terror into my heart. Never more so than when I hit some combination of keys — which to this day I've never figured out — and got total computer lock-up and a stern message that "you have found an error at 123456789..." or whatever bunch of numbers it happened to be.

A decade later, the beloved sidekick followed the typewriter to high-tech heaven. With slightly more confidence this round, we entered a new era of Windows on the world. And fell in love with a mouse that did something more worthwhile than chew up stuff it shouldn't and leave residue behind in the cupboards and drawers. Still plugging away, however, was our original stone-age-gear, dot-matrix printer.

The mouse's tummy ball was barely warm from use when computerization zoomed past on the wings of pentium chips, modem, laptops and a new addiction called "surfing the web." In a technological heartbeat, me and my little mouse friend were rendered obsolete.

Thus, again, the need to interface with today's comprehensive, amazing, but memory-hog programs have booted this simple-minded, non-technocrat along yet another stretch of the information highway. And I was dragged, screaming and yelling, into it. Because I knew full well that the upgraded computer road would be fraught with potholes and my life was too busy to take all these detours. Just let me keep computing on what I knew how to operate.

In the end, the promised destination of faster and greater capabilities won out over reluctance to

navigate the potholes along the way. Some of 'em are filled, though rough edges and periodic speed bumps pop up on this sometimes-exciting, sometimes aggravating journey. I still stumble across an occasional error message, though they offer more explanation: "An unrecoverable error occurred accessing the drive or cartridge. There is a DMA conflict when using this drive." Or, "Error on file; did not match data."

Later the computer gods relent and pat me on the back: "Your files are safely backed up." I hope it knows. I don't.

And — as if to taunt me even as I wrote this — the power shut down midway through this column and I had to rewrite half of it.

We might have smoothed most of the potholes.

But the souvenir gray hairs I've picked up on the trip are no doubt here for life.

Dealing With Change Workshop

EBENSBURG (Cambria Co.)

— How can you become prepared to deal with change in your life? Let Penn State cooperative Extension help you with this process by attending the "Living with Change" seminar being held at Seven Springs on Wednesday, April 30.

The keynote speaker, Eleanor Shano, one of the area's best known broadcast personalities will present "Aging with Attitude." This lively and interactive program shatters age-old myths. It's about celebrating the passage of time and facing the future without fear of growing older. It's about changing attitudes and building self-esteem. It's about exploring the body-mind connection. It's about self-empowerment.

In addition to the keynote you may choose to attend two of 11 workshops. You can explore topics such as current health trends in workshops titled Making Your Kitchen Low Fat Friendly, Can Supplements Prevent Disease?, or Herb! Herb! How Does Your Gar-

den Grow?

Money management will be the focus of workshops titled Super Pocketbook, about how to stretch your money, and Quick, Quicker, Quickest, where you will become familiar with financial record keeping using jargon free software for your computer. Or, you may be interested in attending workshops dealing with personal situations, such as "Rising Over Troubled Waters," dealing with identifying problems, talking with teens and where to find help.

If parenting issues are of interest, choose workshops like putting Your Child Into the Winner's Circle and Kid's Day Out. Just for fun, you can start on a journey of family history in the workshop titled Digging At Your Roots, or learn how to make an inexpensive flower arrangement during your time in Roadside Arrangements "Working with Roadside."

A buffet luncheon is included in your registration and you may be the lucky winner of a getaway weekend at Seven Springs. Early bird registration is \$21.

NEW IMAGE
INTERNATIONAL
INC

Independent Distributor TM

Before After

I lost 52 lbs on NEW IMAGE PRODUCTS. Everyone I knew wanted to try the products so I became a distributor. I am a single Mom and really needed an extra income. My first check from the company was 07 and last months check was over \$5,000. The products have helped my diabetes, depression, arthritis, migraine headaches, varicose veins, high blood pressure, cholesterol, fibromyalgia, high triglycerides, also my twin boys with bronchitis, asthma and A D D. Nil does not make any health claims this is strictly personal testimonies of product users.

NEW HIGH ENERGY SOURCE

All Herbs Plus One Mineral!

\$1.00-A-Day Melt Fat Away Feel Great! Lose Weight!

JUST 3 TABLETS AT BREAKFAST

THE REST OF OUR STORY

For thousands of years the Chinese have used herbal remedies. Our product is synergistically designed to promote optimum health using natural ingredients like the Chinese have seemingly always known about. The ingredients are all safe and natural. Gum Karaya, American Desert Herb, Guarana, Korean Ginseng, Bee Pollen, White Yellow Bark (Weidwinde), Bladder-wrack (Fucus Vesiculosus), Gotu Kola, Licorice Root, Reishi Mushroom, Astragalus, Ginger Root, Rehmannia Root, and Chromium Picolinate (300 Micrograms per 3 tablets taken once a day).

Announcing A Nutritional Breakthrough

The First and Only Antioxidant of its kind.

New Image Total \$31.95 +

With Pine Bark, Grape Seed, Blue Green Algae, 10 additional nutrients

20 Times More Powerful Than Vitamin C
50 Times More Powerful Than Vitamin E

- Helps circulation
- Improves joint flexibility
- Works to lower cholesterol
- Decreases hemorrhoid/prostate
- Helps diabetes
- "Free Radical" producers
- Resists Free Radicals
- Helps Alzheimer's
- Increases energy, less fatigue

No Diet - No Exercise
No Skipping Meals
Big Energy Response
Lose Pounds & Inches

New Image - Plus

\$29.95 One Month's Supply

Works great on weight loss, cholesterol, high & low blood pressure, arthritis pain, sugar problems, varicose veins, and many, many more! No drugs, chemicals or preservatives!

Your Independent Distributor Is:

Gerald & Margie Jones

75 Goodyear Rd.
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-776-7806

Call or write us for Wholesale Prices.

Call Us Toll Free At

1-888-788-5572

FREE SHIPPING NO TAX

DISTRIBUTORS WANTED

• Agricultural • Commercial • Residential

We do box culverts and wing walls to match your specifications

• Retaining Walls • Bunker Silos • Manure Storage, Etc.

LET OUR EXPERIENCE WORK FOR YOU-ESTABLISHED SINCE 1979!

We Work Hard For Customer Satisfaction!

WALLS INC.

430 Concrete Ave., Leola, PA
717-656-2016

Sizes And Layouts To Your Specifications