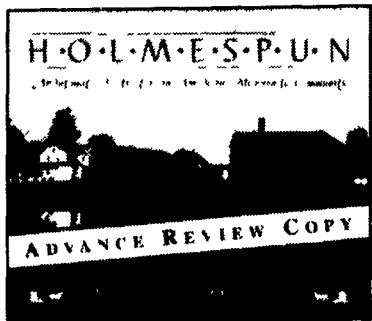




Books and magazines of interest to Lancaster Farming readers

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor

HOLMESPUN: AN INTIMATE PORTRAIT OF AN AMISH AND MENNONITE COMMUNITY, by Laura Hurwitz, with photographs by Amanda Lumry and Loren Wengerd. Eaglemont Press, 2002, 190 pp., \$45.00. ISBN 0-9662257-6-7



When I was a child, I was in a dangerous bicycle accident.

It must have been some stroke of good luck, or perhaps some distant prayers, fortunately I suffered only a minor concussion.

If you have ever lived through something so physically traumatic, it can be hard to describe. The memory of falling off the bike, headfirst, with the handlebars smashing into my stomach... the glaze of slow motion,

almost as if you are watching something in a movie, not in real life, happening to you... the vague memories of padded and abrupt silence, like cupping your hands with gloves... and then waking up in a place, lying on the bed, holding a cold compress to the side of your face, wondering how all of a sudden you went from riding bike to lying in bed, in an instant...

What I was told was that, lying in a bleeding mess on the asphalt, an Amish buggy came by, and a Plain lady stopped to treat me, I was told. I was told she used peroxide on the wounds. I was told she took good care of me until somebody found my parents. How I got home is still a mystery, but apparently I could walk...

Growing up in New Holland, the Plain community was a common thread, and we've grown up with them here in Lancaster County and Pennsylvania Dutch Country all our lives. Without a doubt, they have affected us all.

Perhaps the authors of HOLMESPUN, with the Plain communities in Holmes County, Ohio, feel the same way. The community is interwoven throughout. The scenes are eerily similar in Holmes County to many places in Lancaster Coun-

ty. Even the tourist spots in a place such as Mt. Hope, Ohio look like they were borrowed from Intercourse, Pa.

In the book, filled to the brim with simple and eloquent photography, author Hurwitz provides a history of God's people extending back to 1525, with the start of the Anabaptist movement in Zurich, Switzerland. It details some of the story of Menno Simmons, the Catholic priest from Holland, and the formation of the Mennonites and how, in 1693, a bishop of the church, Jacob Amman, established the Amish Mennonites.

What became most enjoyable about HOLMESPUN, by far, were the family profiles, interviews with various family members who make up life in Holmes County. They include the Millers, the Schrocks, the Wengerds, the Keims, the Bowmans, and others.

Everybody will enjoy the barn raisings, the benefit auctions, a peek into shop work, and scenes on and off the farms.

Loren Wengerd was born into a Mennonite family in Holmes County. He grew up in the heart of Amish country on an exotic animal farm and petting zoo for handicapped children.

Amanda Lumry, born in Bellevue, Wash., traveled frequently with her parents. She enjoys traveling the world and supporting charitable and conservational causes through her photography.

Order from Eaglemont Press, PMB 741, 15600 NE 8th # B-1, Bellevue, WA 98008, (425) 462-6618.

ARE YOU READY TO GET MILKED... OR JUST GLAD TO SEE ME! By Scot Alan Bly. www.jerseycow-book.com, 2003, 198 pp., \$25.

In light of today's depressed dairy world, a little humor can certainly help. Looking on the bright side of things, Bly provides us with baskets of sunshine in this humorous look at dairy farming, ARE YOU READY TO GET MILKED!

Bly grew up on a registered Jersey cow farm in western New York and practices law in Hershey, Pa. His experiences with bringing up several prize-winning cows, his award-winning times at fairs, and his fond memories growing up on the dairy are reflected here.

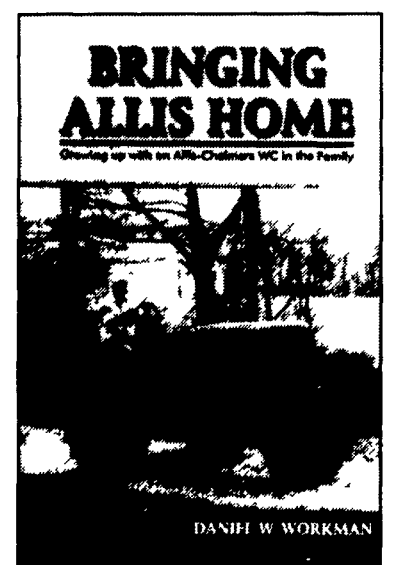
And yes, the author assures us there really was a Babe (Luv-Li Generators Fern Babe) and Angel (Luv-Li Golden Angel), which he talks about with a lightness and lore in the book.

Bly mixes whimsy, lighthearted despair, cowering humor (OK, you don't have to excuse the puns) and fair time frolics in MILKED. He gives Angel the cow some loving testimony (Chapter 15, and she was Classified 95 with 5.5 percent butterfat). You can't help agree with his assessment of dairy farming in general in the title to Chapter 18, "It's an Economist, It's a Mechanic, It's a Vet, It's a Nutritionist, No, It's a Farmer!"

There are some great illustrations throughout.

Order from Bly at P.O. Box 341, Hershey, PA 17033, (717) 533-8315.

BRINGING ALLIS HOME: Growing Up With An Allis-Chalmers WC in the Family, by Daniel W. Workman. Sharodan Educational Enterprises, 2002, 115 pp., \$12.95 U.S. plus \$3 s&h, ISBN 0-9717437-0-3



Workman apparently has a passion for orange. He writes, "My dad had purchased a new WC around 1947 and from that time on, the beautiful and unforgettable Persian orange or near-Persian orange was in my system. What a splendid and handsome tractor that WC was. We had no idea how much this addition to our family would alter our lives then and even now."

Workman details the many ways — in many accounts — of the passion. From escapades in bringing a "rusty, bent, abused" Allis-Chalmers WD from an old barn near Ashland, Ohio, home to the what the orange meant for the entire family, this is an unforgettable book.

For all Allis-Chalmers tractor lovers and fans of antique tractor collecting, this book is hard to beat.

Order from Sharodan Educational Enterprises, 6529 Co. Rd. 201, Millersburg, OH 44654, (330) 893-2083, or e-mail dworkman@valkyrie.net.

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Confessions Of A Plant Addict

KENNETT SQUARE (Chester Co.) — On Monday, April 28 at 7 p.m., join Kelly Dodson for Confessions of a Plant Addict.

The \$29 lecture fee includes a dessert buffet following the lecture. Additional information and a printable registration form is available on Longwood's Website, www.longwoodgardens.org. To receive a course catalog, call the continuing education office at (610) 388-1000, ext. 516, or write to Longwood Gardens, PO Box 501, Kennett Square, PA 19348-0501.

Kelly Dodson has been interested in plants since he was young. He had his own greenhouse at age 13. He has a horticulture degree from Washington State and has been a propagator at the Rhododendron Species Foundation. Kelly has traveled to exotic destinations including Yunnan, China on seed-collecting trips. Several plants have been named after him. He is currently looking to start a new nursery.



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