

# AGRICULTURE

## "Sluggo" returns with a desire for the beach life

### SLUGGO LIVES!

(For new readers: Sluggo is a fat you-know-what who summers under Jean's squash. Miranda Mallard was abandoned, trescient, by her shiftless mate and for the last two summers has been under Sluggo's fatherly protection.)

### BEYOND THE WEEDS

by Jean Winslow



ITEM: "...the surgical incision I made in summer squash vines that were being devoured from the inside by borers worked pretty well. But my operations

always caused extreme trauma in the plants...it occurred to me that instead of cutting the stems, I could inject them with Bt (Bacillus thuringiensis) to kill the caterpillar...shooting Bt into the stems bathes the borers' food supply with bacteria that promptly give them a terminal bellyache..."

Barbara Pleasant, Organic Gardener  
Magazine, June, 1984

"Sluggo! This is Nags Head! Why aren't you in Hertford? Why haven't you been in Hertford, as a matter of fact."

And so slim. Your skin looks like parchment — and the glisten ain't what it used to be. Listen, I've turned over every squash leaf in my garden trying to find —"

"Hold on, Jean. First of all,

pour a little of that Diet-Rite on my back. Ah.

We've been friends for a long time now, so second of all I forgive you. Pull up some pine straw and sit.

I was here in May to check up on Miranda and the kids. Slid up from South America to Costa Rica. Hitched a ride to Miami on a load of draecenas out of San Juan. Caught a transport of peat moss to the K-Mart and rode on in to Hertford on a Swedish Ivy some guy bought his mother. Fortunately the dear lady was an

avid waterer and after two weeks she threw me and her rotten plant out in the backyard.

When I got to your house the squash was up, and I settled in, had a bite or two and was going to get up with you in the morning.

But the next morning — I'll never forget it. Woke up with gripping, horrible pains in my stomach. When I moved I'd just roll to one side. My feelers were slowly beginning to malfunction. Made it to your house and called out, but it was closed and I knew you had gone to the beach. When Miranda waddled over to help, she asked me what I'd eaten, and when I told her squash her beak gaped in horror.

"Sluggo, it's the Bt! Jean inoculated all the squash stems yesterday because of borers in the cymplings. You've digested the Bt. Bt is bad news."

So — was I dying?

"Get me to Nurse Jodie at the Health Department."

I don't remember the trip to Charles Street on Miranda's back. I do remember the look on Nurse Jodie's face, though. It

was clear that she never expected to have to treat a snail for a stomach ache.

I was wrapped in a four by four gauze bandage and put to bed on the baby scales. While, another nurse swabbed me down with a Q-tip dipped in glucose; Jodie called the vet. He thought it was a crank call from his old lab partner at State, the one that kept sneaking rat gadders into his bed. But when the doctor realized she was serious, he told her Bt poisoning was fatal and she really ought to put me out on a sunny sidewalk to end my misery.

"Not Jean's friend! I'll keep trying to save him."

She remembered that you reported from time to time on experiments out of Mostly Organic Magazine so she called the Laboratories in St. Paul. Needless to say, they were intrigued. Within two hours I was rushed to Norfolk, strapped to a Marriott dinner plate, and set directly under the Captain's seat on Stateside Airline flight 840.

I'll make a long story short.

After umpteen strenuous examinations the lab folks realized that that I was indeed singular to have survived for even that long with Bt in my tum. Since it hadn't killed me they'd cure me. Which meant getting rid of the offending stomach.

Word went out to every agricultural lab and Marineland

in America — a snail stomach was needed, and fast.

A call from Florida solved the problem, a snail was on its way.

And so the historic operation was accomplished. Being of stout nature I came through like gangbusters. After a month I was able to leave and flew back to North Carolina. But when I got to the squash patch, they didn't taste as good as they used to. I had these strange cravings. Something made me head for our beach house. I've been waiting for you to come to the outdoor shower.

I've figured out my problem, Big J. The doctors should have

figured it out, too, when that call came in from St. Augustine.

There are snails and there are snails. What they did was transplant the stomach of a sea mollusk into this land slug's bod. That's why I'm craving products of the sea. So be a dear. Run down to Austin Fish, for a quart of seaweed and some pickled algae.

Yessere, the beach is for me. Ah, Jean, my great agrarian buddy, thanks to that transplant, we'll never be apart again in the summer.

Just knock before you step into the shower."

## Only in America...

Where else, but in America, can you enjoy complete freedom? Freedom of communications and conversation, freedom to pursue a career, freedom to worship or not worship, freedom to pay homage to the colors or not pay homage.

Where else, but in America, can you pursue a career that lets you reap the rewards of your efforts or lets you fail because of whatever reasons. Security from failure seems to be more and more in people's minds.

"Safety net" is a new buzz word that is being adopted much too rapidly. Granted, no one wants to fail. The reason we're good is because of our fear of failure—we just won't let it happen if we can help it. In the Soviet Union no one fails, but no one succeeds.

Where else, but in America, can you enjoy more abundance? We are blessed with resources that flourish abundances upon us. Our major problems seem to center around the management

### Soccer sign-up underway

Youth Soccer — Boys and girls ages 6-15 may sign up to play soccer this fall. Deadline is August 29, 5 p.m. The fee is \$7. There will be an organizational meeting Thursday, August 30 at Winfall Central Elementary at 5:30 p.m.

**REC HAPPENINGS**  
by Howard Williams  
Perquimans Co. Parks & Recreation Director

**Midget Football** — Register now! Players 9-13 may sign up with the following exceptions: Nine year olds must weigh at least 100 pounds. Thirteen year olds must weigh under 100 pounds. All other players must weigh between 70-130 pounds. The fee is \$10 which includes insurance and a mouthpiece.

**Cheerleading** — Ages 9-12 may register now to be cheerleaders during Midget Football season this fall. Fee is \$7.

**COACHES NEEDED** — Coaches and instructors are needed in football, soccer and cheerleading for the upcoming year. Interested persons should contact the recreation department at 426-5695.

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of abundance. Such things as food, cars, computers, satellites, etc. are treated as a problem, but in reality only in America do we struggle with this.

Where else, but in America, can you see our flag and then only you will decide what you will do? You can salute, cry, bow your head or do nothing and only have to answer why.

Where else, but in America, can you shape your own destiny? Through education, perseverance, good luck and guidance we can be somebody.

Yes—we have so much to be thankful for, but too few times we take the time to think about it. Our buzz word should be "Only In America."

**IMAGE MAKERS HAS OFFICIALLY CLOSED**

Ira B. Hare, the owner of Image Makers has closed her business due to her marriage and re-location to Nashville, Tennessee. She wishes to "thank" all of her patrons and customers for her business. Anyone needing to contact Ira may do so at the following address:

Mrs. Ira H. Parker  
2300 Ridgeland Dr.  
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