

# 'The Valentine's Day I'll Never Forget...'

MIDWINTER THAWS in western Illinois can be so deceiving, but it was during such a time in 1947 that I ordered 300 baby chicks for February delivery. I had never ordered so early before, but it was partly to assuage a depression I was feeling since the Christmas program at our small church.

(This touching, true story of a special kind of Valentine's Day love was written by Iva Peters of Rushville, Illinois. It was entered in a *Farm Wife News* writing contest, and is reproduced here with FWN's permission.)

Somehow everything associated with Christmas seemed to accentuate the emptiness of our lives, espe-

cially when I watched the happy, expectant children and the beaming parents at the Christmas program. It had been 11 years since we buried our only children, beautiful twin boys, for whom we had waited and prayed for 3 years, and each year at Christmas and Mother's Day, the ache became more intense. It seemed as though everyone I knew had a child to love except me, and the outlook for ever having one became dimmer each year. "The Box", baby clothes I had accumulated, had been care-

fully stored, awaiting the day the dream baby would come to fill them. There was even a container of small announcements, some experimentally filled in with "Rosemary's" name,

leaving only the date and weight to be supplied.

I would open The Box occasionally to look and touch, only

to reopen old wounds and make demands of God. I love all small creatures, so each year the baby chicks filled an emotional as well as maternal need in my life.

Five years after the twins died, our

hopes were dashed again when I almost lost my life in an ectopic pregnancy, and upon our physician's advice, we abandoned all hope of ever having a child of our own.

We then placed our name with three adoption agencies, and our home was quickly approved and licensed for child placement. But during the next 6 years only one opportunity arose, and that also failed to materialize. After this newest setback it seemed as if our hopes were truly gone forever. So, it was in this state of mind I allowed myself to be deceived by the January thaw.

The first week in February, our  
(Continued on EXTRA page 2)

**"We celebrated February 14 as the day a longtime dream came true..."**

## Hundreds Phone CX In 'Mystery Ad' Race

"I COULDN'T believe I found the 'Mystery Ad' in our paper," said an excited Elaine Glienke of St. James, Minnesota when she called our *Country EXTRA* editorial offices.

Elaine had spotted the "Mystery Ad" we'd inserted in the Mailbox Marketplace section of CX in the St. James *Owatonna Country Times*. She was the first caller to get through to our office at 8 a.m. after that issue of the *Times* was printed.

Being the first *Times* reader to reach us, Elaine won our regular prize of a "free dinner for four" at the restaurant of her choice within a 100-mile radius, with CX picking up the tab.

"My husband, Bernard, and I have been reading through the classifieds in every issue, looking for the Mystery Ad," Elaine said. "We read all of *Country EXTRA* every month, and like all of the light-hearted, positive stories."

Hundreds of other *Times* readers also called us after spotting the CX Ad—including many who were turned down because they called before the 8 a.m. starting time stated clearly in each issue's Mystery Ad rules.

You could be this month's free-dinner-for-four winner if we've inserted the Mystery Ad into the newspaper you're now reading, and if you're the first person to call the CX editorial office between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. So, look through the classified ads in Mailbox Marketplace on EXTRA page 4—that Mystery Ad may be hiding in their somewhere!

## Wife and Farmerette

*I was a farmer's daughter,  
And I married a farmer's son.  
We started farming together,  
When farming wasn't fun.*

*All the years have not been sunny,  
Some have been hard—but yet,  
If young again, I would want to be  
That same guy's farmerette.*

—EUNICE E. HEIZER  
BLACKWELL, OKLAHOMA

# Country EXTRA

FEBRUARY 1984

Adding Extra Humor, Photos and Fun to Your Rural Newspaper



## 'Stories That Would Curl Your Tail!'

THE farm animals above are finding new "homes" all over the country. They're brightening walls in kitchens, living rooms, bedrooms, barns, schools and offices... appearing on full-color, 14" x 18" posters that trigger smiles for all who see them. The two photos above are among the leaders in popularity of 22 country-oriented posters now available from the *Country EXTRA* publishers.

Of course, the "Little Farmers" poster that started the "rural poster mania" after it was published in CX last spring remains by far the most popular. The "bib-overalled twins" even made big spreads in many big-city newspapers during January—triggering floods of phone calls and letters from newspaper readers wondering where they could get copies of that poster.

If you would like one or both of the pictures above as a full-color poster, they're available for only \$3.00 each, and that includes postage and mailing costs. Be sure to identify which one(s) you want. Or you can get a free brochure (including order form) showing all 22 of the rural-oriented posters from: *Country EXTRA*, Box 643, Milwaukee WI 53201. You can also use the order form on EXTRA page 4 if you want a poster or notecard of the "Little Farmers".

## Have You Voted for 'Miss Agriculture'?

THE BALLOTS for the first "Miss Agriculture" competition are rolling in... including many from *Country EXTRA* readers who clipped the ballot from the January CX.

As CX readers will recall, votes received by the February 20 deadline will determine which of the 22 candidates for "Miss Agriculture" will go the March 16-17 finals in Chicago. That honor goes to the 10 young women who receive the most votes.

If you haven't voted as yet (you can cast only one ballot and you must be at least 18 years of age), here are other farm publications where the ballot is being published:

*Farm Journal, Wallaces Farmer, Pennsylvania Farmer, The Back Forty, Wheat Life, Farm & Ranch Living, Farm Wife News, Country People, Nebraska Farmer, Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman, NPPC Pork Report, Badger Farm Bureau News, Illinois Pork Press* and others.

Combined circulation of the publications carrying the ballot exceeds 3.0 million!

The 10 finalists will be interviewed for 2 days in Chicago by a selection panel made up of people representing farmers, ranchers and agri-business. This panel will make its "Miss Agri- (continued on Extra Page 10)

### WE APPRECIATE IT!

We're proud to learn that readers enjoy the contents of this monthly *Country EXTRA* section in their newspaper—so much so that they stop in and tell the local publisher about it. We hope you'll do the same.

Your newspaper is the only paper in your entire area selected to carry this *Country EXTRA* section—you can't get it anywhere else but in your paper.

But the decision on whether your paper continues to include the EXTRA each month is up to your local publisher. So if you like it, let your publisher know. That way we'll keep "comin' to visit" through these pages every month.