



3-15-1992

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Francie Merchant

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Recommended Citation

Merchant, Francie (1992) "Ode to Menno," *Westview*: Vol. 11 : Iss. 3 , Article 32.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol11/iss3/32>

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Ode to Menno

by *Francie Merchant*

One acre, one chicken, one cow, and one wife—
What a way to start married life.

"But this is enough...This is all I can do
Until I get my sons tall, handsome, and true."

In '34 Katie said, "Your crew is on its way."
Son Number One was named Julie Rae.

'Oh well," said Menno; "we'll get her a brother."
But when Francie arrived, she looked like the other.

"Now, Katie," said Menno, "this just will not do."
"Where are all those sons tall... handsome... and true?"

"To care for my acre, my chicken, my cow?
"I need some help, and I need it **now**."

"Have patience," said Katie; it'll be very soon."
Son Number Three was named Sandra June.

September of '47 and Gloria came to be.—
A cute little girl, but she was not a he.

"Okay," said Menno; "they'll wear pink and not blue."
But Katie, my dear, I tell you I'm through."

Four fine fat fair daughters—what more can one ask!
As for the work on the farm, 'twas clearly Menno's task.

Fifty acres, no chicken, no cow, and one wife.
What a way to begin his retired life.

There was only way that it could have been beat—
If Jimmy Carter would have given him \$5 for wheat.

After his 70th birthday, so I have been told,
He plans to sit around just counting his gold. ■

FRANCIE MERCHANT, second daughter born to Menno and Katie Bergman, is a lifelong resident of Weatherford.