

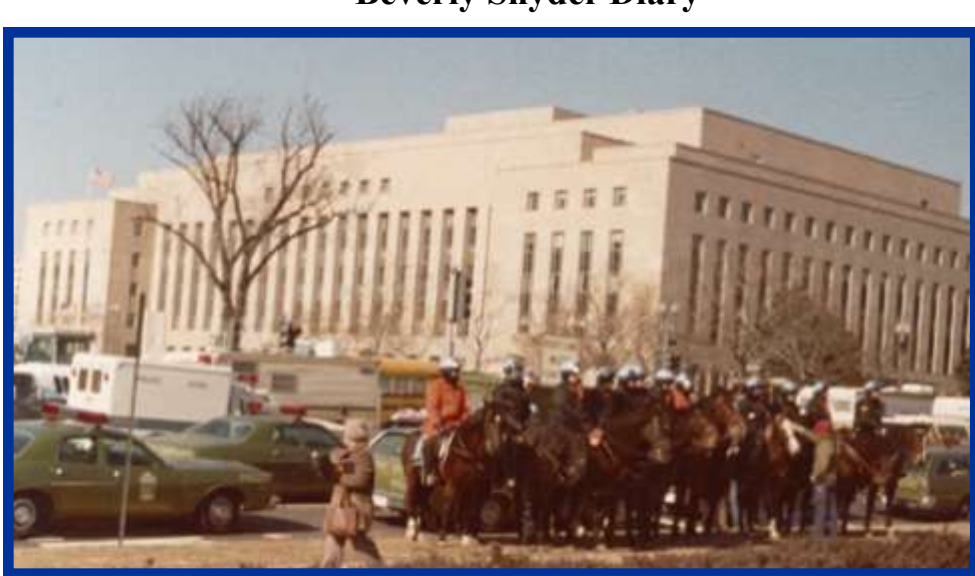


FARMERS CLASH WITH POLICE

Tractors tie-up traffic and farmers demonstrate in Capitol
 February 5, 1979 19 farmers arrested — 17 tractors impounded



“The Missouri leader (Marvin Oerke, Butler, MO) lowered his blade and didn’t stop until he had 3 police cars and some cycles piled up. By then the cops had broken his tractor window and dragged him out. Another driver had a mace can in his cab after he bumped some cycles. He is in the hospital in critical condition. Others were clubbed after harassing cops.”
 Beverly Snyder Diary



“One thing that the D.C. police did that was really funny was they tried to scare the farmers with their mounted police. These farmers aren’t afraid of those horses. They know those horses aren’t going to kick them. They might push them around, but if you take a hotshot, the horse will move. So, they put the horses up real quick when the farmers got the hotshots out.”
 Mary Ellen Schinstock



“Daryl Chenoweth (Haviland, KS) bumped a motorcycle cop who drove out right in front of him, then slammed on the brakes. After about 15 minutes, drivers became impatient. Daryl was in the police car along with an officer. Another officer, a lady, was doing the writing.”
 Beverly Snyder



“When we got up that morning, they had men up on the Capitol with guns. After they did the parade, they had the tractors down there all barricaded in (with buses, trucks, and other city vehicles) so they couldn’t get out.”
 Jean Titus

A LITTLE RURAL MISCHIEF AND FARMER HUMOR...



...a threshing machine over the White House wall...



...burning a cotton bale or spare tractor or two...



... and keeping the police chasing Missouri goats.



Don Bergner’s (Pratt) tractor was used for Mercy Missions

“There was this huge 20” SNOW and all a sudden we went from being the enemy to being their friends because nobody could do anything, and the farmers were hauling doctors and nurses to hospitals with tractors. They even took these big ones with the blades out to the national airport and had them cleaning off runways. They were donating blood and the farm women were cooking meals in places. After that the farmers redeemed themselves a little bit.”
 Darrel Miller



Police in full riot gear on all the Capitol steps and roof



Karen Miller and Deputy Chief of Police Robert Klotz



Ed & Marj Scheufler with police



Farmers reseeded the Mall in the spring

“When you get back there in Washington, D.C., the Mall was operated by the Park Police. Then you had the Capitol Hill Police. Then you had the Washington, D.C. Metro. But we got to be friends with a lot of those guys.”
 Darrel Miller