

## Beware Chewing of Christmas Plants

Some familiar Christmas plants are poisonous and can be a hazard to children if they are accidentally swallowed, according to Jack B. Ogun, chief of the Special Services and Plant Inspection section of the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

"The poinsettia plant and the mistletoe sprigs which are so closely associated with Christmas cheer can cause a tragedy," he said.

The poinsettia leaf when eaten can produce burning in the mouth and throat, sneezing, diarrhea, and possibly collapse and death.

Milk and raw egg white can be given as a first aid measure until a physician can be reached.

Mistletoe berries have caused death in children, and are officially rated as being moderately toxic. First aid is to induce vomiting.

"In any case of poisoning, it is essential that the victim see a doctor as soon as possible," he added.

Less common but still hazardous Christmas greens include European bittersweet and Jerusalem cherry, both of which are rated very toxic, and yew, which is rated as moderately toxic.

In a recent memorandum for advertisers, U.S. News and World Report said: "Time is the single most important commodity of all. How you use it, spend it, waste it, save it, lose it, or squander it is sometimes a matter of choice and sometimes not...it is the one bank account into which you can never make a deposit."

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Officers and directors of the Pennsylvania Association of County Agricultural Agents, elected at the organization's recent annual meeting on The Pennsylvania State University campus are, seated from left: William R. King, Armstrong County, secretary-treasurer; Richard A. Bailey, Bucks County,

president; and Duane G. Duncan, Cumberland County, vice president. Standing, from left, all directors: Richard N. Plotts, Wayne County; Samuel M. Crossley, Potter County; Robert M. Hetrick, Blair County; Robert J. Rugaber, Butler County; and Max M. Smith, Lancaster County.



What is this season? A time for family gatherings. A time for fond remembrance, happy anticipation. A time for reflection, rededication. A time for reaching out to others. A time for joy. A time for kindness. A time for love. A time for peace. Best wishes for this holiday season.

  
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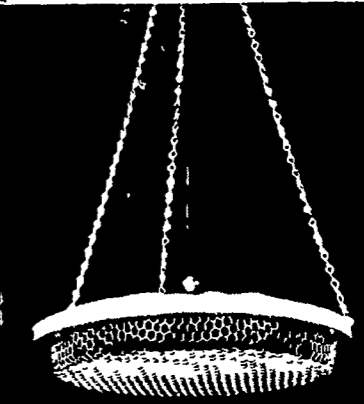
## County Hosts Vet Forum

The Pennsylvania Veterinary-Nutrition Forum held its last meeting of the year recently at Lancaster's Sherwood Knoll Restaurant. Fifty people attended the husband and wife dinner.

After the dinner, the officers for next year were introduced by outgoing president Dwight Schwartz, extension veterinarian from Penn State. The new officers are: President - Gerald H. Hess, Young's Inc., Roaring Spring, Pa.; Secretary - Dr. Vassilios J. Theodorides, Smith, Kline & French Laboratories, West Chester, Program Chairman - Dr. Richard Peacock, Pennfield Corp., Rohrerstown. Dr. Sam Scheidy, former president of the American Veterinary Medical Association, and consultant for Smith, Kline & French Laboratories, gave a slide presentation entitled "Around the World in 45 Minutes."

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