

Mind if I tell you a bit more about our trip to the West Coast? The weather wasn't the best, as we had some rain or snow every day. Our trip to Vancouver, British Columbia and tour through

Stanley Park and Queen Elizabeth Park, with its enclosed arboretum was very interesting. I'm anxious to develop some close-up pictures of orchids and tiny colorful birds feeding there.

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We were delayed over an hour getting through customs as some people on our bus apparently had items of a suspicious nature and their suitcases were dumped and they were questioned. The night we came back from Canada, Nancy had a ceramics class, but even so, she had a long wait till we arrived.

We attended a church on Mercer Island and felt the design was unusual. A lot of glass was used in this round building and evergreen trees were planted very close by, which gave an illusion of worshiping in a forest. We even met Dr. Sanford Lehman - now, isn't that a Lancaster County name?

Logging is a big industry in Washington and we saw rafts and rafts of logs on the many lakes and rivers in the area. One day we drove 35 miles east of Seattle, through the Snoqualmie Valley, (lots of Indian names out there). We arrived at Carnation Farms where an expansion program is in progress to put in free stalls and a milking parlor for 200 cows. Their facilities are excellent.

We spent a day at the Pacific Science Center and at a Home Show at Seattle Center. There was simply too much to see and remember. However, one thing we'll recall for many a year will be our ride to the top of the Space Needle at the speed of 800 feet per minute. After observing the city at sunset, we ate a fancy meal in the revolving restaurant atop the Space Needle. As we ate and watched the twinkling lights of the city, we were struck with the great difference between this kind of life and our life "down on the farm."

New Onion Varieties Released

Spartan Sleeper, a new hybrid onion developed to withstand prolonged storage, and the three inbreds which make this hybrid have been released by the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station, East Lansing.

The new onions were developed by USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the Michigan experiment station.

Spartan Sleeper is a long-day variety, adapted to muck soils of the northern United States, where strains of Downing Yellow Globe onions are grown. The new variety is globe shaped with dark brown outer scales and is well adapted to bulk storage and mechanical harvesting.

Spartan Sleeper should permit a longer storage

season and give growers and shippers more flexibility in supplying late export and processing markets.

The three inbreds which make Spartan Sleeper (MSU 1459, MSU 2935 and MSU 4535) are being released for use in the production of long-day, long-storage onion varieties. Both MSU 1459 and MSU 2935 are very hard, high globe shaped and have light yellow-brown scales. The seed stalks of MSU 1459 are not erect enough to be acceptable in seed production, making it necessary that it be used as a pollen parent. MSU 4535 is a dark, very hard, globe shaped selection out of Trapp's Downing Yellow Globe.

Seed of the three inbreds, produced under screen isolation, will be distributed to hybrid onion seed producers upon request. Limited amounts of Spartan Sleeper seed will also be available for the 1974 planting season. Address requests to: Grant Vest, Department of Horticulture, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich, 48824.

ARS has no seed for distribution.

Extension Offers Preschooler Program

"The World of the Preschooler" will be the subject of a meeting for all mothers of young children to be held April 4, 1974 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 311 Haines Road, York. The session will begin at 9 a.m. and end by 12 noon.

March Seckman, Ass't Ext. Home Economist with Penn State University Cooperative Extension Service says the program will include discussions on "Your Preschooler at Mealtimes", "Reading and Language Development", "Fostering Creativity", and

"Your Preschooler's Health". A general session on "You and Your Child's Feelings" will be conducted by Chad Howells, Family Life Specialist from Penn State University. Howells will also be available for individual conference.

Baby sitting service will be provided. Registration is required for the meeting and for your children. To register please call the Cooperative Extension Office - 848-2101 by March 28th. The 50 cent fee may be paid at the meeting.

Selecting Home Sewing Books

There has been a boom in books and publications related to home sewing. This is simply following the increased trend to home sewing. Unfortunately not all of these books are worth your money or necessary for you as a home sewer. Consider if you need to spend a lot of money on a hard cover book or if a soft cover book might be good enough for your needs. Perhaps it's human nature to assume that if you pay ten dollars for something, it is better than something free. The expensive book may have prettier pictures, a handsome cover, and better paper but the information is not always complete or reliable.

Since many of the most expensive books are sold by mail order, be sure you have the option of returning them if you aren't satisfied with them. Then if you do order one, or a set, also be sure to examine them on arrival so that you can return in the allotted time if they don't live up to your expectations. It is all too easy to let the time go by thinking it's too much trouble to return the product. But, remember it's your hard earned money that's wasted, if you keep an unsatisfactory product.

Keep in mind that much information is available in pattern directions, free and inexpensive leaflets and booklets in stores and news counters. When buying a book or booklet from a store or news stand take the time and effort to look and see if the information you're looking for is covered and in a way that you can understand.

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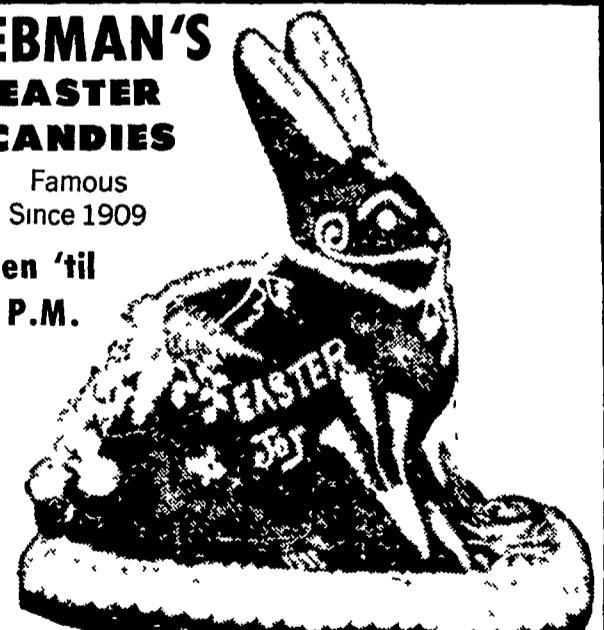
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