

# LADIES HAVE YOU HEARD?



By Doris Thomas, Extension Home Economist

**Caring For Pewter**  
 Antique goblets and modern etched bowls made of pewter all require different cleaning processes to retain their finishes.  
 Modern pewter comes in a range of finishes from "antique" to a bright sheen. Decorative pieces need only be dusted and washed occasionally to remove any slight darkening or fingerprints.  
 Wash new pewter in warm water with a mild detergent. Then use a soft cloth or brush to clean crevices. To avoid water spotting, rinse and dry the article at once.  
 Never use steel wool or other abrasives on modern pewter. But when old pewter acquires brownish scales,

pewter dealers recommend cleanings the article in a solution of five ounces of lye and four gallons of water. Wear gloves when using this mixture and do not use the solution on Japanese pewter or pieces with wooden handles.

Place the pewter piece to be cleaned in a porcelain enamel container and cover with the mixture allowing at least two inches of solution over the top of the article. Soak the pewter 15 minutes. Then rinse the item well. Scrub with water and a piece of 0000 steel wool or a brush. Repeat the entire process if necessary. Rub longer for a higher sheen.

After rubbing with steel wool, wash the piece in clean water. Dry with a soft cloth or towel and let stand for 12 hours or more. Although pewter will not spot during washing, if you touch it during the long drying process, you will leave permanent fingermarks.

To keep pewter bright and protect it from oxidizing materials in polluted air, wipe or rub the piece with

petroleum jelly or a fine oil and wipe off excess. Do not use linseed or any other oil with a strong odor because pewter is somewhat porous and the oil can never be completely removed from its surface.

### Pollution Damage In The Home

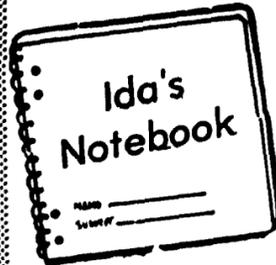
Dust, soot, and smog are recognized as being harmful to your health and the environment. But they also can damage furnishings in your home.

Pollutants in the air affect the fabric on furnishings. They can fade colors, yellow whites and weaken fibers.

The most common pollutants are: nitrogen oxides, produced by combustion in furnaces, incinerators, and automobiles; ozone, a natural pollutant; and sulfur dioxide, produced by burning coal or oil with sulfur impurities.

Nitrogen oxides and ozone affect colorfastness in fabrics. Ozone has the effect of a strong bleach and may react with chemicals in fabrics treated with durable press to cause coloring changes. In high humidity, sulfur dioxide may form an acid which corrodes cotton and nylon.

But frequent laundering or dry cleaning can help remove destructive particles from your furnishings. To reduce air pollutants in your home, check for leaks in the furnace, gas dryers and flue pipes. And keep humidity constant by using dehumidifiers in the summer and humidifiers in dry weather.



Ida Risser

The first week in September and the children are back in school. We took Judy to Mansfield State College two weeks ago and now it is quiet during the day. However, when the 3:30 and 4:00 buses leave the two youngest off, we return to a noisy household again.

There is one thing you can't help but learn by living on a farm and that is "how to work". It seems we never get finished. But I do hope learning to work will be an advantage to our children the rest of their lives.

xxx

I was pleasantly surprised the other Sunday when a spring wagon came down our lane with a young couple and their children. They had packed a lunch and drove along the Conestoga hunting me, as they read Lancaster Farming.

They have ten children from 3-15 years of age and soon they had a game of kick-ball going in the yard. We adults discussed the usual topics of rising cost of feed and fertilizer in addition to raising a large family which entails a big grocery bill.

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## Farm Women Calendar

Tuesday, September 10  
 1 p.m. - Farm Women Society 22 meeting with Ann Diller, hostess.

Wednesday, September 11  
 Workshop: "Meat Buying Made Easy" 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. at the Chester County Cooperative Extension Meeting Room, Paul B. Dague Building; 235 West Market St., West Chester.

## BULLETIN:

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