

What's New

Homesteading Book Released
 "Homesteading" a book which provides a practical guide for the new country dweller has recently come on the market. Written by Patricia Crawford, who bought a 27-acre mini-farm near Philadelphia, the book deals with her life on the land. Stuffed with chapters

on raising flowers, nuts and herbs and building a greenhouse and family dwelling, the book offers suggestions along with telling personal views on the subjects.

The book is available in paperback form from Collier Books, 866 Third Ave., New York, New York 10022. Cost is \$3.95.

Plastics may replace needed body parts

UNIVERSITY PARK — The Penn State chemist who developed a new plastic says that they have promising potential for use in replacement parts for the human body.

"Existing artificial biomedical materials," says Dr. Harry R. Allcock, professor of chemistry, "often trigger blood clotting, wear out, irritate or even poison body tissue, or fail to degrade in the body when their usefulness has expired."

Such defects can be avoided, Allcock contends, with new materials he has designed and made over the past decade: the first inorganic plastics since the silicones.

What's more, he says, the new materials are safe. "As far as we know, none is carcinogenic or poses any other threat to living systems."

Allcock's work is reviewed in "What's Happening in Chemistry," a January, 1976 publication of the American Chemical Society.

The new plastics, Allcock says, could be used for artificial heart valves, blood-vessel sections, artificial kidney components, sutures, etc.

Allcock's discovery imparts a versatility to plastics which, he says, is achievable in no other polymer system. "Self-destructing sutures could be made, for instance," according to Allcock. "They could be programmed to dissolve harmlessly into body fluids after they have done their duty as sutures."

Animal implantation tests of various prosthetic devices made with the new plastics are under way at several medical schools, Allcock says.

TRIVIA

Horsepower

Horsepower is the power needed to lift 33,000 pounds a distance of one foot in one minute—about one and one-half times the power an average horse can exert

Ida's Notebook



Ida Risser

On a sunny day last week, I set out with my Aunt to find the home-farm of John Sprecher who lived one hundred years ago in the Bareville area. We didn't find it; but it was interesting to see what other people were doing on the spring-like day.

The first inquiry was at a business place where the man assured me that he had lived in the area for 40 years but had never heard of a Sprecher farm. He sent me to an Amish farm where the ladies were washing barn windows and the man was hauling manure after a large tractor loaded his horse-drawn spreader. Then on to a neighboring farm where an old couple with several middle-aged daughters were scalding and cleaning ducks.

They knew where another Aunt had lived but not where my grandmother was raised. Two more stops and we gave up for that day. The one Amish home had 4 year old twin boys who were swinging on a tire tied to a large tree; of course, they couldn't help me. The next lady had a large quilting frame set up in her kitchen and was stitching away merrily but convinced me it wasn't her farm that I was hunting.

We did get to see the spot where five roads converge; or maybe, I should say where they go out like spokes on a wheel. It is an unusual sight.

xxx

My sister tells me she had an unhappy experience with her many potted plants as an

aftermath of her trip to Florida this winter.

It seems she read that sea water was very healthful as it contains minerals and so she brought a gallon jug home from Florida and put a tablespoon on her oatmeal each morning. One day she was in a hurry and mixed her water jugs and unknowingly put sea water on her plants. A few days later the greenery was wilting and the leaves were turning yellow and she was most unhappy as she realized what had happened.

She then flushed them with fresh water and only time will tell what the results will be.

Society 17

Farm Women Society 17 met last Thursday at the Buck Ball Park for a progressive dinner. Mrs. Ernest Shaub's home was the first stop for fruit drink and crackers. For salad the group visited the home of Mrs. John Lefever. The main course was served by Mrs. Richard Lefever with the dessert provided by Mrs. Frank Leed.

During a business meeting which followed the dinner, donations were made to Cutler Fund, Meals on Wheels and the Easter Seals Society.

Society 17 will be entertaining Society 4 on April 1 at a meeting at Shady Maple, Mrs. John Myer will be the speaker.

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