

## Ladies Have You Heard?

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### BEFORE YOU CALL THE REPAIRMAN

Before you phone for the appliance repairman, be sure you really need his services. Approximately 30 to 40 percent of the calls he makes are not necessary. Thousands of dollars are spent each year by families who have an appliance repairman come to their home only to discover the appliance needs no repair or that the repair could have easily been handled by family members. This does not mean that you must learn to be an electrician, or an engineer. It simply means you need to make a few simple checks to be sure the appliance is really broken.

One of the main reasons for the nonfunctions of appliances is that they are not plugged in or the plug is only half-way in. Be sure to also

check that there is not a blown fuse or circuit breaker for the circuit the appliance is plugged into. If the problem is the plug or the fuse, you can take care of either without the aid and expense of a repairman.

Perhaps you are not using the proper combination of controls or buttons. For example, you may have to switch the range timer controls from automatic to manual before you can turn on the oven manually. Your dryer may not start if the door is slightly open or if the lint filter is full. Review the operator's manual that came with the appliance and be sure you are operating the appliance correctly.

The manual may also give a list of additional points to check before calling for service. You might find the cause of trouble and be able to eliminate it as you check each of the suggestions listed.

It, after all these checks, the appliance still does not work, then call the repairman. He has been trained to make repairs. It is a good idea to ask what his rates are and after he has looked at the appliance what the estimated costs of parts and labor will be. This will help you decide if repairs would be a good investment or if you need to consider buying a replacement for the broken appliance.

### ALUMINUM COOKWARE IS SAFE AND SOUND

Aluminum pots and pans are safe to use. Some over-zealous door-to-door salesmen, in an attempt to sell very expensive sets of cookware, have been telling potential customers that the aluminum cookware they are currently using can be toxic.

Unless you rinse it very carefully, the scoured surface of an aluminum pot will leave grey smudges on a dish towel, and it is this factor that the salesmen are capitalizing on. Aluminum, however, is one of the most abundant elements in the earth's surface and is present naturally in variable, but always low, concentrations in plant and even animal foods.

The aluminum we get from foods, from aluminum sulfate baking powders, does not constitute a health hazard. In fact, the body can tolerate 10 times the amounts likely to be ingested from these sources without ill effects.

## Longwood display features Easter eggs

**KENNETT SQUARE** — Colorful trees, shrubs, and flowers by the tens of thousands mark Nature's rebirth during the spring months at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square. From April through mid-June, cherished old-time favorites as well as the latest choice specimens fill Longwood's 350 acres with heady fragrance and spectacular color.

As an added attraction, Easter eggs from the collection of noted egg artist Virgie Denning from Palmyra, NJ, will be exhibited from Saturday, April 11, through Sunday, April 26, in the conservatories.

Longwood's regular hours are extended into the evenings on Good Friday, April 17, through Easter Sunday, April 19, from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. so that visitors have more time to enjoy the lavish spring display, this year featuring an abundance of Easter lilies.

### Easter Eggs

For the holiday season, the art of egg decoration is featured in a special display installed in the "Living with Plants" exhibit in Longwood's Azalea House. The eggs were either hand-decorated or collected by Mrs. Virgie Den-

ning of Palmyra, NJ.

A wide variety of egg types will be on view, selected from ostrich, rhea, black swan, cockateel, canary, parakeet, dove, goose, duck, and chicken eggs. In addition, most of the recognized decorative styles are represented, including decoupage, diorama, fancy-cut, folk art, hand-painted, hinged, jewel box, mechanical, and miniature.

The most unusual specimen is a rare emu egg, 14 inches in circumference from end to end, left a natural dark green with gray undertones. The largest egg is from an ostrich, and the smallest is a hand-painted finch egg. The oldest example is a scratch-carved ostrich egg dating back to 1840.

Egg artist Denning, who specializes in folk-art-style, scratch-carved, and decoupage eggs, is one of nearly 5,000 known American egg decorators. She has been intensely involved in her craft for the past seven years and has lectured and exhibited frequently. Her collection will be on display at Longwood from Saturday, April 11, through Sunday, April 26, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily and until 9 p.m. on April 17-19.



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