Ah, February.

Month of such diverse distractions from the seasonal blahs as the birthdays of two of our greatest presidents and the celebration of love with silly cards and calorieladen heart-shaped boxes of candy.

And at this point of winter weariness, even a groundhog earns his day in the sun - or whatever depending on the weather at Quarryville or Punxsutawney. Personally, I've always figured any groundhog worth his weather wisdom will play it smart the beginning of this month and stay put in hibernation.

Frankly, its pretty tempting some days to me to do the same.

For in February, there's little more enticing to my mind than settling down with an afghan over my toes, a cup of hot chocolate steaming at my elbow, and a stack of seed catalogs on hand.

Man - that's living.

Besides, it's high time to get down to the serious business of decision making about spring planting. My favorite seed catalog offers a discount through the end of the month, which just about covers the state sales tax tacked on at the bottom.

So let the snow gather softly outside the storm door and the arctic air masses argue through the treetops.

With just the turn of a brilliantlycolored, glossy cover, I can escape to a world of "radiant rose-pink with a touch of salmon," "gorgeous leaves in variegated colorful patterns," and "juicy flesh, deliciously sweet and fragrant "

There, in that wishbook haven between the pages of perfect petunias, pansies, peas and pumpkins lies a wonderful Never-Never Land.

Never any cutworms not whitefly. Never telltale signs of tobacco mosaic, mildew, Verticillium wilt. Never a cabbage looper nor a nematode. Never roosters scratching out the spinach seeds, or cows clomping through the cantaloupes, or pigs rooting through the rose bed.

Even if you're a realist rather than a romantic, the seed catalogs

## Red meat totals increase

HARRISBURG sylvania's commercial red meat production for December 1983 totaled 105.3 million pounds, up three percent from the previous month, according to the Pennsylvania Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.

January-December 1983 total red meat production was one billion pounds. Cattle slaughter was 85,100 head with an average liveweight of 1,816 pounds. Calf slaughter was 26,600 head with an average liveweight of 170 pounds.

The 313,500 head of hogs slaughtered, had an average liveweight of 231 pounds. The number of sheep and lambs slaughtered totaled 11,700 head with an average liveweight of 103

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You might find anything from a full-size plastic greenhouse (just match part A to part B and fit into part C), to canning labels, from earthworms to nutcrackers, Hotkaps to mole traps, realisticlooking plastic snakes (forget it!) to soil acidity computers.

It almost makes you want to rewrite the lyrics to that old son: "summertime... and the livin' is easy," by scratching out the word 'summertime'' and inserting "February."

No weeds. No gnats. No guilt about hitting the garden at dawn's first light or hanging out there picking the peas by flashlight. (I have a friend who once did that.)

Just a stack of seed catalogs on a snowy, cold night.

Now that's living.

Nationally, commercial red meat production during December 1983 totaled 3.39 billion pounds, down two percent from the previous month. Production during 1983 totaled 38.9 billion pounds. Commercial red meat production includes slaughter in federally inspected and other plants, but excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

United States Beef production for December totaled 1.97 billion pounds. Total head killed was 3.17 million with an average liveweight of 1,070 pounds. Veal production was 37 million pounds. Calf slaughter of 284,000 head averaged 227 pounds liveweight.

United States pork production during December totaled 1.35 billion pounds.

# 'Antique' Valentine

(Continued from Page B2)

doing scherenschnitte, she says, 'Work out from the center when cutting. It's very easy to cut the wrong thing.

Once the cutting is done, pin pricking may be done to add some detail to parts of the picture. The actual paper used is calligraphy parchment, and to create an old look, Janet has her students brush coffee water onto the paper. The liquid is made by using 1 teaspoon instant coffee and I tablespoon boiling water. After it is brushed lightly onto the paper, it should be turned upside down on another paper which will absorb the extra liquid. Placing a pane of glass over it will help flatten the work. The final step is using water colors to add color and interest to the design which is then glued on mat board, and can be framed.

Janet says the interest in paper items, like Valentines, has increased tremendously over the last 10 years. "In the last ten years paper things have come into their own. Before that you could buy paper items very cheaply.'

Janet's own collection started

because of her mother's interest which began when Janet was a teenager. Now Janet says she looks in antique shops, and antique and hobby magazines to continue her collection.

Interest has grown, according to Janet. "Because we have more time to be collectors. There is a great deal of interest in American history and in preserving buildings, and we are more conscious of it. We want to participate in collecting history.'

Janet's interest also includes quilts and music boxes, and even Santas. A member of Derry Presbyterian Church, she quilts each week with their quilting group, something she has learned in the last five years since she and her husband moved to the Hershey

Valentines will probably remain a popular way of expressing affection, but few today reach the decorative or sentimental proportions of those fragile Pennsylvania German Valentines which Janet is helping to preserve through reproductions.

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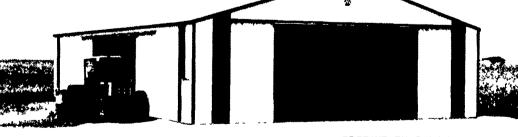
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