

**On being
a farm wife
- And other
hazards
Joyce Bupp**



At the risk of sounding like Scrooge, I'll go ahead and say it.

Good grief! Christmas merchandise already?

For super-organized, plan-ahead-people, that means you'll soon be voicing those words that send a stab of guilt flying through my ego.

"I have all my Christmas shopping done."

On the other hand, naturally-born procrastinators about such things — and I speak from experience — cringe in the presence

of such efficiency. After all, there are still gladiolus bulbs to dig, grass which is trying to make up for a season of drought to cut, and spring housecleaning to finish before we're a total year late.

Still, there are those who get their jollies from finishing the holiday crunch before it becomes one. And I thought of all of you when I flipped a printed page over the weekend and found myself reading an ad on an item that might be "The Gift" to give this year.

An electric room freshener.

This nifty-gifty gadget is a small sort of box, electronically designed to play what appears to be a cross between a record and a computer floppy disk. What's on the record-disk are smells. Right. As in fragrances, odors.

Flower smells. And pine tree smells. And good things like that.

Of course, you can still hit a spray button on an aerosol can and get smells that are supposed to smell like flowers and pine trees, or bayberry. (But they usually don't, just leave the room reeking of someone-spilled-the-cologne after effects, which combined with the lingering aroma, of say, cooked cauliflower, doesn't necessarily "freshen" the air.)

But, hey, I know a market when I see one. And "country" still sells. So does "natural."

Therefore, we are considering offering for these gadgets a fragrance album combining all those classic, natural scents of country life. A title isn't certain yet, but "Country Whiffing" has kind of a nice ring, don't you think?

"May Morning" would be an album feature, a blend of freshly plowed ground, dewy, green grass and just a delicate hint of fragrant

peony blossoms. The sequel, no doubt, could be "June Twilight," a heady aroma of roses and honeysuckle. Possibly even "Frosty Dawn," reminiscent of piles of crisp, woody leaves and woodsmoke.

"New Mown Hay" needs no explanation, and will hopefully be far closer to the real thing than a candle under that scent we once tried, which reeked of — what else — hot green wax.

And how about "Country Fair," the nostalgic aroma of sawdust bedded pigs, cattle in knee-deep straw, French fries, Italian sausages and cotton candy. Um-mmmmm!

But let's be real here, now. There are other country fragrances that, in fairness, must be included.

Start with the obvious: "Barnyard Remembrance." This one should be mandatory playing for anyone who waxes poetic about moving to the country after not

having been there for a long time. After all, where there are picturesque barns and pastures filled with livestock, there will be barnyard remembrances which must be periodically recycled to restore organic matters in the soils.

On a lighthearted note, how about a fragrance track of "Wet Dog In The Living Room During A Thunderstorm." Highly recommended for playing when you have late-staying guests before an early-get-up morning.

For our shepherd friends, perhaps "Ewe de Cologne," faintly reminiscent of damp wool fleeces, or "Summer Pignic," which we will simply leave to your imagination. Surely there are numerous possibilities here we haven't even begun to touch.

So there, all you early bird shoppers.

Finally, a gift for the person who has everything. And something that really makes scents.

Newsletter Offered To Home Sewers

YORK — "Threadlines," a newsletter for home sewers, is being offered by the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service. It will provide up to date fashion and sewing tips and instructions of interest to the home sewer.

"Threadlines" is available for \$2

to cover postage and handling. You will receive six issues.

To receive "Threadlines" send your name and address and check payable to Extension Service Special Fund and to Treadlines, Penn State Cooperative Extension Service, 112 Pleasant Acres Rd., York, PA 17402. Deadline is Oct. 24.

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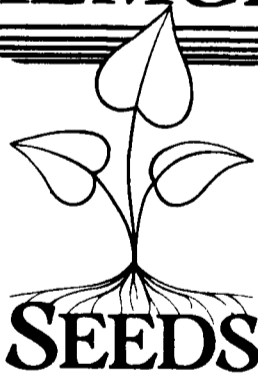
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