

# Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser

We've had hunters and more hunters here on the farm - not that there is that much to hunt. But we do have an abundance of squirrels, groundhogs and sparrows. It would be helpful to lower the population of these three species.

Even though it is illegal to hunt in standing corn, our son saw four hunters driving through our field. No one even asks permission to walk over our land to hunt.

The other morning shots rang out just beyond our front yard. When I looked outside, I saw hunters looking at something floating in the river. The next thing I heard was the rattle of chains as our Amish neighbor loosened his boat and rowed out to retrieve the wild goose that had just been shot.

It was a "sitting duck" so to speak as it had been raised on a nearby island and stayed around here all winter with our geese. When he told us what he had done, I was glad that the trespassers

didn't get the bird. When Allen asked them not to hunt so very near to our buildings, they said, "We're not shooting now."

The other Tuesday I had a busy day working at the election. Our largest group of voters were from a local retirement village. These people came with canes, walkers and on wheelchairs. It would be wonderful if the rest of us had so much determination.

It is a place to see neighbors whose paths seldom cross. However, it does seem that the main topic of conversation is the health problems that people have. Occasionally one learns of a marriage or a birth. It is a job that is not finished when the polls close either.

The next day Allen asked me to go along to Churchtown to see a bin wagon that he was considering buying. It was a cold and rainy day and there were no hunters roaming in our meadows.

## Select Books For Children's Gifts

**MEDIA** - You can count on books as gifts to provide a refreshing change of pace from a child's usual Christmas toys. But selecting a good book for a child can be a difficult task.

Maryetta Dorricutt, Delaware County Extension home economist, suggests you look for an attractive book. A young child needs a book with many pictures and few words. As the child grows older, the book can have more printing and less vivid, smaller pictures.

Choose an interesting and convenient-sized book. Size intrigues a child so buy unusual and

varied sizes. Select a cloth book for a young child and progress to hard-bound books when he's old enough to learn respect for them.

Relate the books' content to the child's experiences and understanding. A child enjoys books about things he knows - friendly animals and their young, everyday living or children who speak and act as he does. Tie a book subject to a recent experience if possible. Since young children like repetition and sing-song rhythm, books of poetry make appealing gifts.

Select books that present

something new to think about. A book should arouse curiosity and create an appetite for more. But don't select books that are too advanced. Short descriptions, explanations and stories satisfy a child.

Gear the book to the child's age. Children's books usually have a statement such as "ages two to five" or carry a code number to indicate age level. Keep in mind that this is merely a guide. Children mature at different rates and two children the same age may require books of two different levels.

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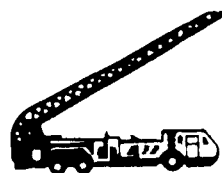
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## Toddler Topics Program Wins Award

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. - A team of extension home economists in the southeast region received the Florence Hall Award from the Pennsylvania Association of Extension Home Economists for producing *Toddler Topics* programs in three languages and at an easy reading level in English.

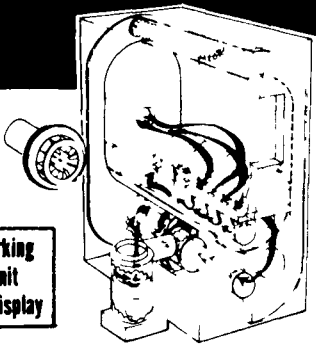
Eleanor Garris, Adams County, Claudia Mincemoyer, Bucks County; Michelle Rodgers, Berks County, Martha Sheehe, Chester County, and Nancy Stevens, Montgomery County wrote issues of the learn-at-home program for a three-year distribution.

Dr. James E. Van Horn, associate professor of rural sociology at Penn State, also wrote programs.

"We have a rich mixture of nationalities and ethnic groups in our area," says Rodgers, project coordinator. "By translating *Toddler Topics*, we're letting our clients know that we respect their cultures and are committed to serving their needs."

Topics include nutrition, safety, family activities, clothing, health, stress and tension, teaching children and selecting toys.

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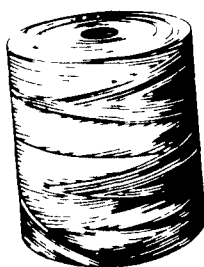
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