



# BACK HOME

By Michelle S. Rodgers

Berks Extension  
Home Economist

BY MICHELLE S. RODGERS  
Extension Home Economist  
Traveling with Tiny Toddlers

"You can control a modern automobile with your fingertips, but controlling the young passengers inside it is a problem auto engineers haven't solved," quoted a wise motier. Little passengers in the bassinet stage will travel peaceably, as long as they are dry and fed. It is the children past that stage who can create a carload of noise and confusion.

By the time you read this, I'll have taken some of my own advice, packed our bags, my husband and 1½ year old and began a six-hour trek to ski country. While we have traveled distances before, Elise was then a docile bundle of joy. By this age, she more closely resembles a tornado in both speed and upheaval.

So, while the destination sounds fabulous, the effort to get there was almost enough to keep me from going until I enlisted some references on how to survive the six hour drive with a new toddler. What follows are some ideas that I've pulled together for that age that is in between infant and "reasonable" toddler.

Whatever age and type of travel, keep in mind that safety must come first. Insist on your child using a seat belt or child

restraint seat. Remember to set a good example with your own behavior.

Don't expect youngsters to be thrilled by things other than those very close a hand, such as radio knobs, or seat recliner buttons. The spectacular, such as large doses of scenery, is rarely interesting to a child. On long trips, restlessness can be minimized if you stop every two hours. Let the children out to stretch, though they will need close supervision at busy rest stops. Some experts suggest that child controllability is best if you stop traveling by 4:00 p.m.

Another aid to child control lies in not crowding young passengers inside the car. Pack carefully, avoiding taking "everything" along. What you will want to include are the following items:

- Healthy snacks that are neither messy nor perishable ... pretzels, crackers, cookies, grapes, carrot sticks.

- A litter bag, tissues and damp washcloth to wipe sticky hands and unexpected spills.

- Small individualized juice cans come in handy, although water from home is hard to beat as a thirst quencher and is less likely to stain if spilled.

- A child's bed pillow or familiar blanket will help to take a nap

when they get drowsy.

- For entertainment enroute, the two to seven set will enjoy crayons, paper, and blunt scissors. Put a few small light toys inside the box with the snack. Small picture books, games, magnifying glasses, magnets are good ideas. You might try one or two new play items for some excitement.

You may want to try tape recorded stories as another option. Before you leave, tape some of your child's favorite songs or stories — or you can buy many of these already recorded. You may even find it fun to tape record your child and they play it back for some family fun.

Remember, too, to put comfortable, familiar clothes on your kids. The layered book may help to adjust to temperature changes that will occur throughout your travels.

And despite all of your efforts, if pandemonium does break loose inside your car, let it go until you can safely pull off of the highway. Only when you have safely come to a stop can you properly deal with the situation within the car.

As for the success rate of these ideas ... I'll let you know if I survive the drive! Happy travels.

## Cook's

### Question Corner

(Continued from Page B8)

**ANSWER** — Mary Schlaseman, Mt. Zion, requested a recipe for molasses coconut Easter eggs. Thanks Ruth Grubø, Barnesville, for sharing yours.

#### Molasses Coconut Eggs

- ¾ cup light cream
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- ¼ cup molasses
- 2 tablespoons baking molasses
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 3 cups flaked coconut

Place cream, sugars, molasses and butter in a heavy sauce pan. Bring to a boil, stirring until sugar is dissolved. Boil over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until a soft ball forms when a small amount is dropped into cold water. Remove from heat. Add coconut, stir well. Drop by teaspoonfuls on a greased cookie sheet. Shape into eggs when cool enough to handle. Chill. Dip into melted chocolate made from:

- 12 ounces semi-sweet chocolate bits
- 2 tablespoons vegetable shortening, melted

## Did You Know?

Tightening our homes through the use of window and door sealers, weatherstripping, and other energy conserving measures will considerably reduce the amount of energy required for heating and cooling. Unfortunately, these practices also reduce natural ventilation to the point that moisture generated by typical everyday activities such as cooking, bathing and even breathing presents a problem.

Condensation on interior windows, wood decay and growth of

mold and mildew on walls or ceilings are sure signs of excessive moisture. Because excess moisture can cause hidden problems as well, a clear understanding of why problems occur is an important first step towards a successful solution.

To learn about causes and a range of possible techniques to eliminate home moisture problems, come to the "Moisture and Water Control in Residential Environments" seminar sponsored by the Penn State Coopera-

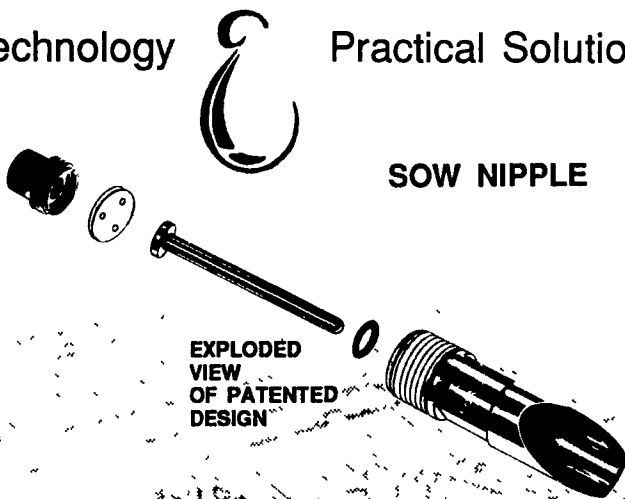
tive Extension, Lancaster County. It will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and repeated from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 31, at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center. Phyllis Barner, Ph.D., Extension Housing and Home Environment Specialist, Penn State University, will teach the seminar.

The seminar is free and open to the public. Please call Penn State Cooperative Extension at 394-6851 with your reservation.

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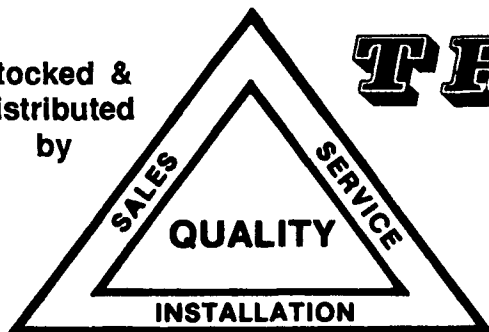
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