

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff
LITITZ (Lancaster Co.) — Perhaps you shunned allowing your photographs to accumulate in a shoebox. Instead, you painstakingly arranged them in an album complete with photo descriptions and various memorabilia such as newspaper clippings and travel brochures to describe the pictures.

You think you did a great job — now.

But take a look in another 10 years or so, and you will be dismayed to see that the photos have yellow staining and the newsclippings have disintegrated.

"You would have been better off if you had stored the pictures in a shoebox," says Jeannie Angelo Ruth of Furnace Hills Pike, Lititz.

"Most scrapbooks have so much acid in the paper that it bleeds into the photos and deteriorates them," she said.

The worst culprit of all the scrapbooks, according to Jeannie,

is the magnetic albums. These are made with cardboard pages that grip photographs on a sticky adhesive coating covered by a layer of plastic that is peeled back to position photos.

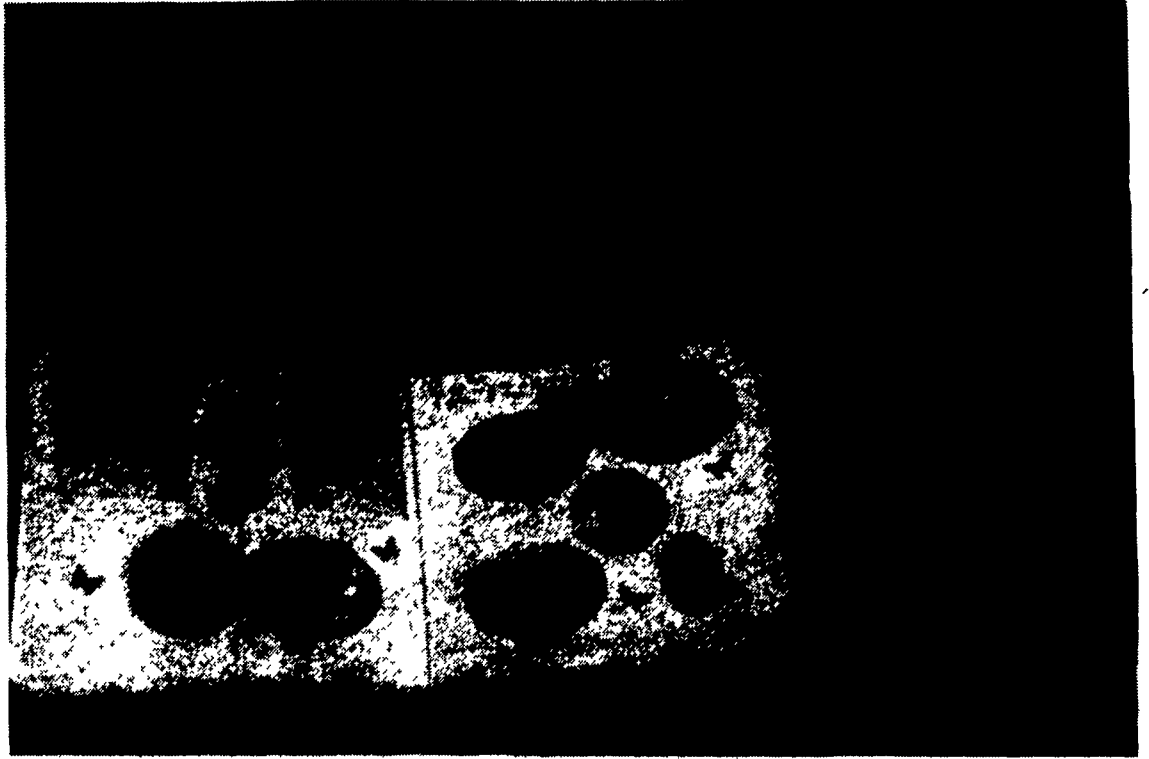
These adhesives give off peroxides that cause yellow staining and the plastic coating gives off gases that attack photographic images.

The books with plastic pockets cause problems because the bindings are often weak, and the plastic often contains PVC's that are especially damaging to colored pictures.

Jeannie teaches photo preservation and organization classes. She is also a Creative Memories consultant, who sells acid-free albums and safe-for-photo products and helps people compile scrapbooks.

Some safe-for-photo products are available in the better stationery stores. "Make sure it is labeled with 'No PVC's' somewhere on the album," Jeannie said.

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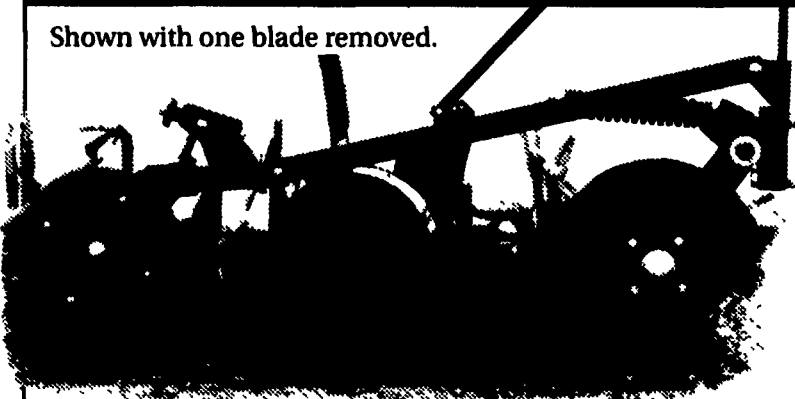


Jeannie Angelo Ruth compiles scrapbooks with the future in mind. She uses all photo-safe materials so that the pictures do not turn yellow or the pages disintegrate.

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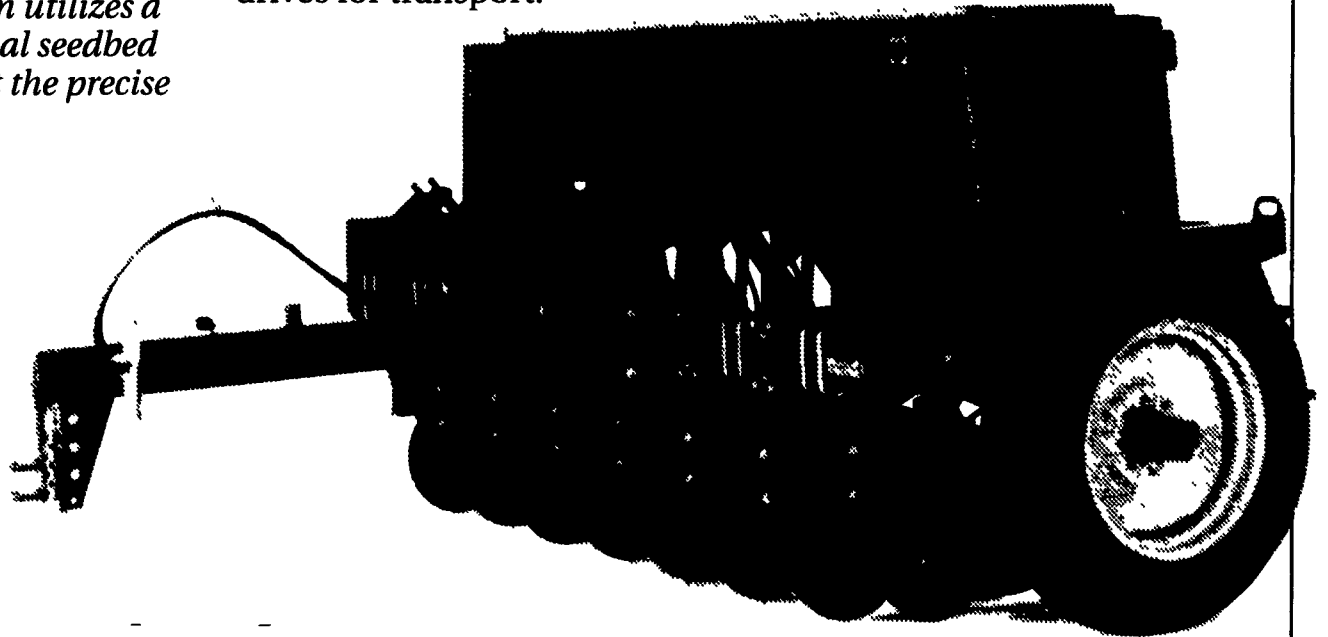
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