

You ask You answer

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QUESTION — For years, L. Sensenig, Shippensburg, has been looking for a book, "The Warm Summer," which is about a boy named Jerry. She is willing to pay a fair price for the book.

QUESTION — Jean Nestler, Halifax, would like the name of a company that makes towels and washcloths and does embroidery work on them.

QUESTION — Joelle Fischer would like to know where Swiss cheese with a touch of ham can be purchased. Her brother used to get it at market. She checked at different places but no one has ever heard of it. Joelle said the cheese is extremely delicious and has a taste all its own. It is not sharp and is quite different from any flavor she ever tasted in cheese.

QUESTION — Ben Kinsinger, Meyersdale, would like to know where to get a Farmall pedal tractor like the Farmall M Tractor. Doesn't matter if the pedal tractor needs repair. He would also like to know where if anyone has parts for a Farmall Cub for sale.

QUESTION — Don Miller, Summit Hill, wants to know who can appraise the value of an antique goat cart. Call him at (717) 645-9693.

QUESTION — Art Sholly Jr., Mt. Joy, wants to know where to find a gas-fired Royal Peanut Roaster, any condition and any size.

QUESTION — Fannie Beiler, Lancaster, would like to know where to purchase a Bio-Snacky sprouter of someone who is willing to sell theirs.

ANSWER — A reader wanted information on keeping a pair of swans in their pond in order to keep a Canada goose population under control. Thanks to Kim Bechtel, York Springs, for sending information. She writes that mute swans are easiest and more hardy than others. Make sure their wings are clipped. When the Bechtels purchased their first pair, the man told her they were clipped but the swans disappeared.

Swans must have water all year long. They need it to swallow food. So in winter, you must have an area open for the swans to get water for drinking and bathing. Kim's husband has an air compressor hooked to a timer with a pipe in water with holes all over to keep water moving. The area is large enough for swimming and to get to the feeder.

Swans eat wild game bird pellets. Food must be non-medicated.

In May or April, swans usually have about six eggs, very large and gray colored. Swans can get nasty during mating and laying time. They must be pinioned when two days because it is then a bloodless operation and the birds are easier to catch. You may need to fight off the parents.

Make sure swans are fed or they'll walk away.

Kim writes that swans are definitely a plus to any pond. They are gorgeous. She has a feeder on the edge of the pond that she fills every other day. During winter, she also feeds them shredded lettuce. Kim recommends the book "Swan Breeding and Management," by Laeyl Stromberg.

ANSWER — Henry Stoltzfus, Christiana, wanted a flashlight to crank to recharge or a Russian-made continuous pump flashlight. Thanks to a reader who writes the flashlights can be ordered from Major Surplus & Survival, 435 W. Alondra Blvd., Gardena, CA 90248.

ANSWER — Pat Elligson, Millers, Md., wanted to know where to purchase a square metal cake pan 8x8x2-inches that comes with a matching lid. Donald Love, Somerset, writes that cake pans of all sizes with lids can be purchased and mailordered from Cake & Kandy Emporium, East Petersburg, PA 17520-1624 or call 1-800-577-5728.

ANSWER — Anna Nolt, Peach Bottom, wanted to know how to control red spider mite in flowers. Thanks to Catherine Goubeaux, Strasburg, who recommends "Rodale's Organic Gardening." Red spider mites like dry conditons and usually become a problem in dry years. Spray the plantw with Rotenine or insecticidal soap three times, once every five to seven days.

ANSWER — As a girl in the 1920s, Lenna Martin's grandmother sang at the Welsh Mountain church. She is now 83 and wanted the words to the song "The Orphans." Thanks to both Arlene Zimmerman, Ephrata, and Naomi Morrison, White Hall, Md., for sending the words.

The Orphans

Two little orphans a boy and a girl,
Sat by an old church door.
The girl's little feet were as brown as the curls,
That fell to the dress that she wore.
The boy's coat was ragged and hatless his head,
A tear shone in each little eye.
Why don't you go home to your mama? I said,
And this was the maiden's reply.

Chorus:

Mama's in heaven, they took her away,
Left Jimmy and I alone.
We came here to stay at the close of the day,
For we have no mama or home.

Daddy was lost out in sea long ago,
We waited all night on the shore.
For he was the life-saving captain you know,
But he never came back anymore.
Then Mama got sick, angels took her away,
She said, to a home warm and bright.
They are coming sometime for my darlings, she said,
Perhaps they are coming tonight.

Maybe tonight there's no room there, she said,
For two little ones to keep.
And placing her arms around little Jim's head,
She kissed him and both fell asleep.
The man came early to ring the church bell
And found them beneath the snow white
The angels made room for the orphans to dwell
In heaven with Mama that night.

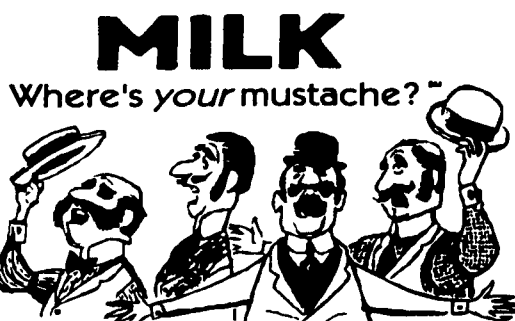
ANSWER — R. Himmelberger, 129 Poplar Rd., Fleetwood, PA 19522, wanted poems with the word thimble in them. Thanks to Melva Wright, Newville, for sending a poem that she composed.

Thimbles

Some folks have many thimbles
They're a collector's item you see
But we only have a few—one, two, or three.
One is very tiny—it was a sewing kit
When I was a little girl—it was given to me.
Another is larger—silver-colored you see
It was mother's; she kept it nice as could be.
The third one is somewhat dark-colored and bent too.
I guess Grandma used it harder than we knew.
Auntie used to say:
"Put on a thimble, you must, if a good seamstress you want to be."
And the home ec teacher said the same thing
But somehow, those instructions never appealed to me.
When patching overalls I'd push and punch, and sometimes use pliers to pull the needle through.
Yet, I'd still keep in mind what I ought to do.
In our sewing box, we count our three thimbles
Articles of fine art but if someone comes to buy them,
we'll say,
"With these thimbles, we'll never part."

ANSWER — For the reader who wanted to know what to do to prevent cloudy jars when canning, Mrs. J. Kauffman, East Berlin, writes that she had the same problem until she discovered a solution by accident. One of her jars of pickled red beets broke while in the canner and Mrs. Kauffman noticed that all the other jars were clear, not cloudy. Since then she adds enough cider vinegar to cover the bottom of the canner before filling with water as usual for canning. Since she uses vinegar when processing jars in a water bath, she hasn't had trouble with cloudiness.

ANSWER — For Joelle Fisher who wanted to know who to remove scratches from marble, Catherine Goubeaux, Strasburg, suggests she contact a marble company in Lancaster, Banta Tile and Marble Co., Inc. (717) 393-3931. They answer questions about restoring and repairing marble.



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