

Child-Proof Home Before Grandchildren Arrive

TURKHANNOCK (Wyoming Co.) — It's over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's house we go...If your grandchildren are going to be visiting for the holidays, you should work on child proofing your home before they arrive.

• Run a safety check of your home, especially if it's been a while since children have lived or visited your house. Move all breakables and dangerous objects including anything that could cut, burn, or otherwise harm a curious child.

• Place all medicines and household chemicals in locked cabinets. Remove all ant traps or poison rat bait.

• Do not leave pesticides on the floor or a low shelf in the basement or garage, assuming that no one will enter those buildings. Place them in a locked cabinet. Put away garden sprayers and dusters. Place gasoline and other petroleum products out of reach.

• Put away and out of reach cigarette lighters and matches.

• Buy outlet protectors to pre-

vent young children from poking their fingers or other objects into electrical sockets.

• Although most holiday plants are safe, holly, mistletoe, and azaleas can be toxic if ingested. Poinsettias do not

cause death if eaten, as once believed, though they may cause nausea or stomach discomfort.

• Alcohol in all forms—beer, wine, and liquor as well as perfumes, colognes, and aftershave—can harm a child if con-

sumed. Be sure these items are kept out of reach of children. Half-empty beverage glasses should be emptied before you go to bed at night to prevent an early-rising child from sampling the drink.

• Hang holiday decorations up high. Tell children to "look, but don't touch" the Christmas tree, but be sure a parent or other responsible adult keeps an eye on very young children when they are near the tree.

• Do not use lighted candles, angel hair (spun glass), or sharply-pointed objects for decorations.

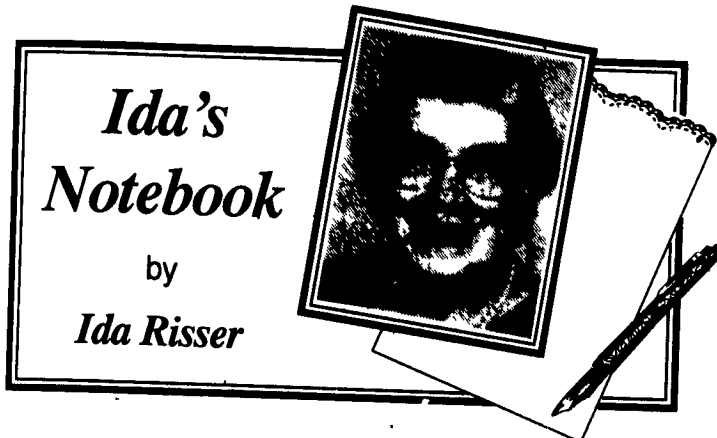
Keep children away from woodburning stoves, fireplaces, and kitchen stoves.

Monroe County Holds Holiday Program

STROUDSBURG (Monroe Co.) — The program theme for the annual Monroe County Cooperative Extension Holiday program to be held Thursday, December 3 is "A Wealth of Creativity." Topics included in the program are Mutual Funds, Plants for the Holidays, Wrapping Up Your Creativity, Shopper's Survival Guide, Money 2,000, and Pennsylvania Electric Choice. In addition, you can choose to participate in three of the 17 holiday workshops offered, to help prepare you for decorating the home during the holidays or to use as gift giving ideas.

The event will be held at the Four Points Sheraton, Stroudsburg, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. and is handicap accessible. For

registration information, contact the Cooperative Extension Office at (717) 421-6430 or stop by the Penn State Cooperative Extension Office located on Route 611 North, Stroudsburg to see project samples.



*Ida's
Notebook*
by
Ida Risser

Our church recently held a fair. There were more than 40 different organizations that displayed literature.

Within our 2,000-member church are many special interest groups. Some concentrate on personal ministry, some on handiwork, some on mission, some on Bible study. There is a "Peace and Justice Committee," a "Market Share Project" and also "Earthkeepers."

The "Noah's Ark Project" provides a place for children to go after school. They provide a meal and also various crafts are enjoyed. All of this takes a lot of planning, but it is held in the inner-city and is needed there.

Our church has several social groups. One of for younger members and another for senior citizens. The very young enjoy a softball team.

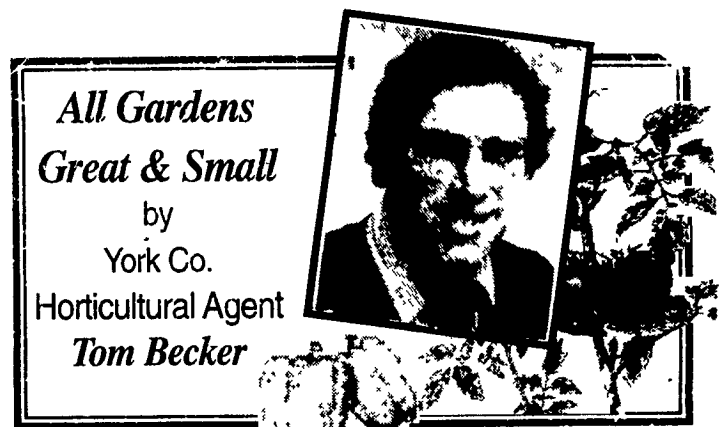
Music is not forgotten as there are 75 members in the adult choir. There is also a Children's Choir and a Cherub

Choir, plus an orchestra and a Bell Choir.

The building is a busy place as it also houses a nursery school. A retired citizen's group also meets regularly in the building as does the Embroiderers' Guild. There are two "Men's Breakfast" groups that meet regularly elsewhere.

So even though we have a large congregation, there are small groups where you can find people with interests similar to yours. In this way you can get to know others much better. The youth group has their own leader for Christian education. They often travel to other states on work camps. Everyone can find a place to fit in if they really want to be active.

Soon I must shift gears and think Christmas. The invitations have gone out for our family get-together at our home. Now I must write Christmas cards and decorate the house.



*All Gardens
Great & Small*
by
York Co.
Horticultural Agent
Tom Becker

Tips For Planting Bulbs in Patio Containers

Tulips, daffodils, and other bulb flowers are planted in the late fall for enjoyment in the spring. Plant in the landscape or in containers suited for entryways, decks, patios, and balconies.

Any container makes a useful planter. Try objects out of the ordinary like old wooden wheelbarrows, retired truck tires, wash tubs, a child's wagon, milk crates, or old fixtures.

These outdoor containers must have drainage holes to prevent root rot. If you love a pot, but it has no drainage hole, drill a hole in the bottom or use it as a "cache" pot to hold smaller "liner" pots or trays with their own drainage holes.

For best results, elevate the "liner" pot by placing it on a brick or inverted cup set within the outer pot. Position it above water that might accumulate at the bottom. This accumulated drainage water may need removed periodically from the outer pot.

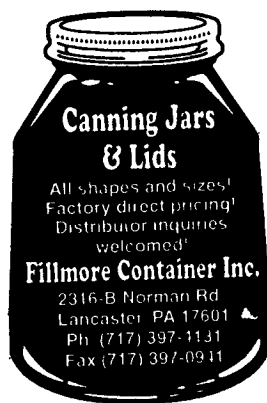
Any type of hard spring flowering bulb grows in a container. An easy and popular planting method is called the "double-decker" technique. The planting is done in layers. First, plant a

layer of tall-growing bulbs, such as tulips, eight inches deep in a container. Cover with three inches of soil, add a layer of low-growing bulbs such as crocus and cover with another five inches of soil. Lastly add an inch of mulch. Water well after planting.

It is possible to plant lots of bulbs in one large container by incorporating several layers of bulbs. Select and plant bulbs by their blooming period. Select bulbs that bloom at different periods—early, mid, and late season. As a result a colorful combination of colors occur. Three types of bulbs provide weeks of successive spring color.

Protect the containers in the spring to keep the bulbs from freezing. This is normally not a problem with bulbs planted in the garden. Move small containers to a sheltered area or an unheated garage or shed. Large containers do not require cold protection. Wrap containers in burlap or blister wrap, or set containers in bales of mulch hay or straw.

Any questions can be directed to Thomas S. Becker, Horticultural Agent, Penn State Cooperative Extension, York County (717) 840-7408 or Email at Yorkmg@psu.edu.



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