



This column is for readers who have questions but don't know who to ask for answers.

"You Ask—You Answer" is for non-cooking questions. When a reader sends in a question, it will be printed in the paper. Readers who know the answer are asked to respond by mailing the answer, which will then be printed in the paper.

Questions and Answers to this column should be addressed to You Ask—You Answer, Lancaster Farming, P.O. Box 609, Ephrata, PA 17522. Attention: Lou Ann Good.

Or, you may e-mail questions and answers to lgood.eph@lnpnews.com

Please clarify what question you are answering when responding.

Do not send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a reply. If we receive the answer, we will publish it as soon as possible. Please include your phone number because we sometimes need to contact the person to clarify details. We will not publish your phone number unless you request it.

QUESTION - Sara Newswanger, Narvon, wants to know of a seed catalog that has Love Me Begonia seeds, which are also called Christmas Begonia or Busy Lizzie. It is an old-time houseplant with a single pink flower on a cluster.

QUESTION - Elam Stoltzfus wants a used 12-quart White Mountain ice cream freezer. Write to him at R.2, Box 203, Loysville, PA 17047.

QUESTION - Loyed Adams, 541 Wintersteen School Rd., Millville, PA 17846, wants to know where to purchase a Sotz automatic draft control for a barrel stove.

QUESTION - Eva Marie Poliquin's only bantam hen died and she wants to know where to find a few more. She was told she needed to order 30 but she only wants six. Write to Eva at 242 Pilgert St., Alburits, PA 18011.

QUESTION - Christine Westerhole, 2424 Edgemore Ave. Easton, PA 18045, is looking for a local breeder or owner of unregistered Border collies and Australian Shepherds. She wants to buy a pup for a pet, not to breed or show.

QUESTION - Barbara Oldanteeks has a big old tin or steel roof on an old barn that has rusted. She does not have a lot of money to replace the roof and wants to know how to preserve the roof. Is there a coating that is better than others? Does the aluminum paint work well and will it keep it from rusting further? Any information would be appreciated.

QUESTION - Amy McBlane, Boyertown, is raising a dual breed chicken - buff orphingtons. Amy wants to know how old the males can become without caponizing or getting tough. If 13 weeks is the maximum, she wants to caponize them or needs someone to teach her how to do it. She has written information, but want hands-on experience.

QUESTION - Jean Kriebel, Harleysville, is looking for seeds or plants for yellow impatiens. Anyone know where she can find them.

QUESTION - A Schaefferstown family is looking for an old version of the "Candyland" game. Call (717) 949-2846.

QUESTION - A reader received a poinsettia for Christmas and wants to know how to care for it so that it will bloom again for next Christmas. Also what type of fertilizer works best for poinsettias.

QUESTION - A reader wants to know where to buy photo albums with fabric and lace covers.

QUESTION - A reader wants to know of gardening magazines, with a minimum of advertising, other than "Organic Gardening."

QUESTION - M. Musser, Lititz, would like the address for "Gardeners' Kitchen. She likes its canning lids better than any other but lost the address.

QUESTION - Ruth Boshnaugle, 202 Sylvan Retreat Rd., Columbia, PA 17512, would like to know if anyone has a Helen Barth cassette tape they would be willing to part with?

QUESTION - Lois Sollenberger, 2136 Hillview Dr. Fayetteville, PA 17222, would like to find one or more copies of the little Golden books called "The Rag Man's Sneeze."

QUESTION - Susan Sensenig, Mount Joy, is looking for a white teddy bear dressed in blue with stars, moons, or a design that glows in the dark. These 12-inch bears had been sold in 1994, she thinks, by Furst McNess Co., Freeport, IL.

QUESTION - Ann Hochenbury is looking for a pattern for an Afghan called "The Night Before Christmas." The design is by Raymond Gustafan, photographed by Scott Little, and is a scenic portrayal of St. Nick's midnight ride, which captures many details mentioned in the poem. The central motif is the farewell scene, complete with miniature sleigh and eight tiny reindeer. The pattern appeared in the 1991 "Better Homes and Garden" magazine.

QUESTION - Mrs. Zimmerman, Manheim, needs a lid for an Imperial pasta maker. The address and phone number that came with the item are no longer current. Small Appliance Repair, Reading, could not help her.

QUESTION - A reader wants to know where to find Iris bulbs that bloom more than once and the name of a mail-order catalog where they are available.

QUESTION - Mary Haubrick writes that she has a box of beautiful broken Fenton art glass that was the result of a wall-shelf breaking accident. A lot of the glassware was hand painted cranberry as well as other colors. The pieces were shattered so badly that they can not be repaired; however, the glass is still beautiful. She is looking for someone who works in mosaic glassware made with a type of grouting to transform the unfortunate disaster into a work of art. Contact Mary at 25435 Great Cove Rd., McConnellsburg, PA 17233.

QUESTION - The Enos B. Stoltzfus family would like a set of "Boxcar" children's books to borrow or buy at a reasonable price. The family does not have a phone, but their address is 119 Lower Valley Rd., Christiana, PA 17509.

QUESTION - Virginia S. Horning wants a set of hardcover books, not soft cover books, by Thorton W. Burgess. Write to her at 151 S. Farmersville Rd., Leola, PA 17540.

QUESTION - Frank Cerami, Ottsville, is looking for the company that manufactures wood paving blocks like those used in the Philadelphia Historic District.

QUESTION - Calendars are needed to help mentally handicapped people with a project. They can be used calendars with notes on the dates, etc. Please send calendars to Gladys Stephens, R.1, Box 1069, Starrucca, PA 18462-9703.

QUESTION - Yvonne I. Musser, Lancaster, is in search of a Christmas tree made from an aluminum during the 1960s-1970s. The larger the tree, the better, none smaller than 5 feet. Call her as soon as possible with size and price at (717) 871-9706.

QUESTION - Bonnie Gible, Annville, wants to locate a Dr. Yanick, who was a professor at Monmouth College in New Jersey during the 1980s. Anyone have information? Call Bonnie at (717) 865-6029.

QUESTION - Dave Stehman, 531 Power Rd., Manheim, PA 17545, wants to find a replacement chuck for his Black and Decker Super Service Valve Refacer, size 5/8 type N, set 664110.

QUESTION - Cindy Eshleman, Jonestown, wants to know where to buy "Chicken Soup for the Soul" cards in the area of Lebanon or Dauphin counties.

QUESTION - Any reader collect old vacuum cleaners? A reader has a Commander Imperial, which looks like a torpedo Model #116.722 Serv. #29628. "I used to help mom 55 years ago. The vacuum still runs, bag is good, and is in good shape for the age. Free to a good home. Call (610) 827-7561.

QUESTION - Paul Dowie has what he believes is a Longrich brand musical instrument: 32 brass rods of increasing lengths, closely suspended with strings to a 15-inch long 1x2-inch board. Run a spoon up or down for a "tinkling" scale. If this is something you can play, call Paul at (610) 827-7561.

QUESTION - Janet Lawton, Wellsboro, is searching for the address and phone number for Tom Schell, who wrote "An Introduction to the Dried Floral and Woody Ornamental Business." She believes Schell lives in Illinois or Indiana.

QUESTION - C. Woods wants to know where to purchase a pan to make panettone, a traditional Italian Christmas bread.

QUESTION - Mike, Pottsville, wanted information on starting a broom making business. He also needs equipment and materials. Call him at (570) 544-6417.

QUESTION - Eva Marie Poliquin, Alburits, is looking for a top rack that swings out to fit a 1963 Kitchen Aid portable dishwasher.

QUESTION - Becky Allgyer, Skiles Rd, wants to know where to find a French Fleur cannister set (stoneware).

QUESTION - Amos Petersheim, Lykens, wanted to know where to buy new and used paint rollers with rubber designs on them. He needs parts to go with the rollers and thought someone might have some stuck away in their attics. Write to Amos at 554 N. Crossroads, Lykens, PA 17048.

QUESTION - Harold R. Stoudt, Hamburg, is in search of a rust inhibitor for a Drain Back Solar Domestic Hot Water System. The inhibitor must be non-toxic so that the water would be suitable for human consumption in case of leaks and it must mix well with water.

QUESTION - Anna Bryan writes that years ago her mom had an angel food cake pan with a lid on top. She asks where she can find one with a lid.

QUESTION - A reader from Ephrata wants to know where to purchase rubber or plastic ends for croquet mallets. She has two good sets but the plastic ends are broken.

ANSWER - Ed Craig, Newton Hamilton, wanted directions for making Depression flowers by using coal, ammonia, blueing, salt, and coloring. Thanks to Linda Christman, Greencastle; Harold Wolf, New Cumberland; Rachel Himmelberger, Fleetwood; and others for sending similar recipes they had used as kids. Wolf writes that he hasn't been able to find the ingredient blueing in stores anymore. Anyone know where it is available? Depression Flower
4 tablespoons salt
4 tablespoons baking soda
4 tablespoons laundry blueing
4 tablespoons water

Mix together ingredients in a bowl. Pour mixture over two to three pieces coal that has been placed in a shallow dish. For a pink flower, add a few drops of mercurochrome. For a white flower, add a few drops iodine to the water in the dish every three to four days being careful not to touch the flower.

Mineral Garden

Pieces of coal or brick
4 tablespoons non-iodized salt
4 tablespoons liquid bluing
4 tablespoons water
4 tablespoons household ammonia
Food coloring

Place the pieces of coal or broken brick in shallow glass bowl, six-inches in diameter. Mix the salt, bluing, water, and ammonia. Pour slowly over coal or brick. Sprinkle different colors of food coloring over the coal or brick.

Crystals form as the liquid evaporates. They will start to form within 30 minutes. Let the garden stand for two days. It will grow and grow, and may even spill over the edge of the dish.

Some sources say to use coal or charcoal briquettes and sprinkle with a few drops of food coloring instead of using mercurochrome, which may have been added just for color.

ANSWER - Eva Marie Poliquin, 242 Pilgert St., Alburits, PA 18011, is looking for a reasonably priced wringer to do laundry. She does not need the washer part, only the wringer. Thanks to Richard Herring Sr., who recommends she read the mailbox sections of this paper because this item is advertised almost every week.

ANSWER - Pete Westover wanted used but serviceable draft-size work harnesses. Thanks to Kevin Wormald for writing that he has one to sell. Write to Kevin at R.1, Box 735, Paxinos, PA 17860.

ANSWER - L. Garner wanted the names of suppliers of handcrafted soaps, lotions, and bath products. Nancy Mayer writes that she has lots of experience making handcrafted soaps of saponified olive oil, palm oil, coconut oil, and avocado oil. She sells retail and wholesale. Call her at (570) 586-0145 or e-mail soaplady99email.msn.com