

# You ask You answer

(Continued from Page B16)

**ANSWER** — Merryleigh Berger wanted to know how to propagate roses from her mother's rose-bushes. Here is a method different from the one printed in last week's issue. Sorry I can't credit the person who mailed the instructions because she did not include her name.

Here are the instructions for air layering, a method of propagating: Leave a few leaves on the tip of a strong rose stem and cut a notch about a quarter through the stem a short distance below the leaves. A small splinter of wood or pebble is placed in the cut to keep it open. Place a larger handful of sphagnum or peat moss around the stem at this point and bind it in place with an opened plastic bag tied around it with a cord. Keep the moss moist. When the roots develop, cut the upper part away, which will be the new plant.

**Simple layering:** Make a small trench where a flexible rose stem is growing. Bend stem down into the trough, anchor it with a stone, cover it with enough ground to keep it as moist as much as possible. The underside of this stem can be cut slightly where the roots are desired before placing it in the trench. The tip must be kept uncovered.

**ANSWER** — Mrs. John David Zimmerman, East Earl, wanted to know if someone has a Model 47 Royal sweeper or Tristar they wish to sell. L. Zimmerman writes that she has one that was used only 1½ years. Call her at (717) 445-5104.

**ANSWER** — Lena Oberholtzer, Leola, wanted to know where to get a rubber seal for a No. 7 National pressure cooker. The company had been located in Eau Claire, Wis. An Ephrata reader writes that the seals are available from Sprecker's of Main St., Ephrata.

**ANSWER** — Pat Barbosa should contact N. Kring, 943 Fleegle Rd., Cairnbrook, PA 15924, for an answer to her request.

**ANSWER** — In answer to Ed Hoffman, David Kreider, Bethel, writes that groundhogs serve no good purpose on their farm. Toxic smoke bombs, available from farm supply stores, have been used with good results.

G.C.M. writes that they got rid of a groundhog beneath their deck by putting vinegar around the opening of the deck. The leftover brine from a jar of pickles works well.

## What Is The Average Life Of Appliances?

While they don't get taxed, death is an eventuality even for faithful appliances. The following list shows the average useful life of major home appliances.

Appliance	Average Useful Life (years)
Garbage Disposal (in the sink).....	12
Trash Compactor.....	14
Dehumidifier.....	11
Room Air Conditioner.....	12
Washer (front load).....	11
Dryer.....	13
Washer (top load).....	14
Microwave Oven.....	9
Oven (built in).....	16
Range (slide-in single oven).....	17
Range (double oven).....	18
Dishwasher (portable).....	11
Dishwasher (built-in under counter).....	13
Refrigerator (compact).....	5
Refrigerator (top mount).....	14
Refrigerator (built-in).....	14
Refrigerator (side-by-side).....	14
Refrigerator (bottom-mount).....	17
Refrigerator (one door).....	19
Freezer (upright).....	15
Freezer (chest).....	18

# Working From Home Saved The 1800s "Decayed Gentlewoman"

**LINDA WILLIAMS**  
*Bedford Co. Correspondent*  
**PHILADELPHIA** — Working from home while the soup simmers on the stove and clothes tumble in the washing machine is a dream for many women.

It is a concept that has deep roots in Pennsylvania.

In 1837, before heart bypasses and antibiotics, many women suddenly found themselves without a husband or substantial income to feed a growing family. Sweatshops were prevalent and day cares were absent. On the plus side, many of these women developed marvelous sewing and artistic skills.

Their talents did not go unnoticed. In 1837, Elizabeth Stout of Philadelphia and 16 of her benevolent associates opened the first Women's Exchange. This was a shop where women could anonymously sell their handmade creations. It was a concept that quickly spread throughout many of the states.

The Exchange movement with the lovely handmade products grew rapidly after the Civil War. It was referred to as the angel's inspiration to save the decayed gentlewoman, because the war had left a surplus of widows and children.

Changes cause many businesses to fall by the wayside. Such it was with the women's exchanges. Richmond, Virginia closed the doors of its exchange in 1955. Cincinnati celebrated 75 anniversaries before closing down in 1958.

Philadelphia Ladies' Depository, originator of the Exchange idea, merged with the Philadelphia Exchange for Woman's Work. This new consolidated business, in turn, spawned several other exchanges in the Philadelphia area with five still being concentrated in the surrounding suburbs and townships.

Boston Women's Industrial and Educational Union continues as a popular shopping spot for a fifth generation of New England patrons and boasts one of the country's finest needle work departments. The Brooklyn, New York, Exchange prides itself as being one of Brooklyn's oldest continuously operating enterprises and is housed in one of



the borough's historic churches and employs about three hundred consignors a year.

St. Augustine, Florida, and Hartford, Connecticut, also survive. Hartford had a great celebration in 1988 and invited all 238 consignors to share in the event. It was a far cry from the early days of the exchanges, when consignor's identities were kept secret, because it was considered unladylike to earn money.

The longest surviving continuous business in Baltimore, Maryland, is the Women's Industrial Exchange. Located near the Peabody Institute, it is a step back in history to walk through the old wooden doors with the arched window top.

Inside, dark polished shelves are home to dozens of objects created by women from around

the country. Today's computerized methods make it possible to stock items from all over the United States and not just the immediate area.

A rack of carefully stitched and lovingly made children's clothing ranging in size from infant to about a size six invites mothers, grandmothers, aunts, or just gift seekers to visit on a regular basis.

Paintings, an assortment of handmade toiletry items, dollhouse furniture, stuffed toys, handpainted notes, quilted potholders and other kitchen accessories and an assortment of fresh daily baked goods line the shelves and counters of this quaint shop.

Nora Ephron, director of the 1993 hit film *Sleepless in Seattle*, was inspired to stage a scene in the lunchroom of the Baltimore Women's Industrial Exchange. One of the waitresses, Marguerite, who is now well into her 90's has worked at the Exchange for over a half-century, had a role in the scene. Later, she was a guest of honor at the movie's premier in Baltimore.

Much of the material for this article was taken from a book written by Kathleen Waters Sander, "The Business of Charity."

For more information on the "Exchanges" contact the "Baltimore Industrial Exchange" at 300 Charles Street, Baltimore, Md.



The outside of the Women's Industrial Exchange in Baltimore, Maryland is the oldest continuing business in that city. Considered unladylike to earn money in the 1800s, the exchange enabled women to sell handmade creations anonymously.

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