

Visitation month

A Christmas tree that held out until "Fifteenth Night." A huge horse conch shell washed ashore at just the right moment. Shared family movies, shared memories, good conversation. Small arms buging and a small, soft voice keeping up a running commentary. It all added up to a great beginning of 1984 for a pair of retirees who had to admit to missing a great deal of the family they reared and then saw scatter to the four corners of the land. Visits from daughters in January were something that Joe and I have been looking forward to almost from the beginning of our retirement to Florida more than a year ago. And expectations were fulfilled as three of our four offspring showed up to see us and our new quarters will be once since these quarters are a bit restricted in space.

GRADUATE STUDENT Kathy came from California (by way of Michigan and Kansas) shortly after the new year began, and minister Mary and pastor Linda arrived from Main a few days later.

It was close enough to Christmas to make it feasible to have one last presiding-opening in a rather fragmented holiday. Our little tree cooperated by holding its needles through Jan. 9.

The sea cooperated too during that visit. During one of many beach walks, it dumped a conch shell, bigger than my eye found in a year of beachcombing right in front of Mary, the family's other shell out.

On the road to good health

A one- to six-mile "Fun Run" (or walk, if preferred), tailored for people of all ages and degrees of fitness, is sponsored by Wayne State University professor and cancer surgeon Arthur Weaver and his Better Living Seminars.

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Planting tips pay juicy dividends

This is "thinking time" for gardeners and those who want to improve their home grounds. Before we get into "deep stuff" with Valentine's Day just behind us, some of us just might still have some flowers sent as gifts. If you have cut flowers, they will have good mileage if you place them in a container with equal parts of water and 7-Up or Sprite with a one-half teaspoon of bleach added to a quart of water. This last addition will control the bacteria action and give a longer life to the cut flowers. Here comes your annual lesson on fertilizer ingredients. Nitrogen will boost growth. Phosphorous will provide vigor and a good root system. Potash

down to earth
Alice Burlingame

will give pep to the growth and good green coloring. This last mentioned element you can get from your fireplace (ashes). Many catalogues will probably come in your mail, but the pros seem to gather garden knowledge from Burpee catalogues. This company has a long history of research and development. Westminster, Pa. 18974.

WHILE browsing through my issue, I came across cucumbers, Bush Champions. They would be ideal for a person with very limited space who wants good production. Browsing through a group of catalogues surely helps create spring—at least in the mind. Here are some ideas which will pay you dividends. Plant basil near tomatoes to keep insects away. If you plant mint close to broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage, it will repel ants and aphids. I like tansy as a filler for cut flowers due to the texture of its leaves and compact yellow flowers. Plant tansy in your garden because Japanese beetles don't like it and it repels fleas on household pets if rubbed across their coats. Nasturtiums planted near vines and crops will control the damage from insects. Plant a bulb of garlic where you are having trouble with insects. If you have moles or aphids, make strong el-

derberry tea and sprinkle it at the base of the trouble zone. BUY A BOX of Fels Naptha flakes and sprinkle on plants to control insects in the garden. How long has it been since you have had so many choices to control a problem? I read, I listen, and bring back the helpful data to my Down to Earth friends. If you are in an experimental mood and like watercraft, try growing your own. Cress makes wonderful tea sandwiches. If you have a sealed wooden bowl or a plastic bread box, try this: First have some fine screening, some vermiculite, peat or perlite. Cut the screening to fit the bottom of the growing container after there is about one inch of water beneath to provide moisture. You might have to firm the wire in the container with putty as it is above the water level. Put in the container about an inch or two of the mix. Scatter in the water cress seed. I would do it with the tip of a pencil. Thoroughly spray until you see growth. I would put plastic wrap over the project and keep out of the sun. When you see growth start, remove the plastic cover. Keep moist by spraying. Report your luck, please.

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