

Store that old fabric with care

By MARY KAY DAVIS



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Mike accidentally bumped my bottle of hairspray. The top flew off and the liquid splashed over most of my quilt collection. Catastrophe!

Seven quilts had to be hand-washed on that cold, rainy day. My previous engagements flew out the window. But the wash didn't. It had to be dried in a carpeted basement recreation room which wasn't designed for hanging the wash. I think it's time to discuss the safe storage of valuable textiles.

First, don't make my mistake and store cloth near chemicals. My quilts lived a note past tense — in a linen closet that was all theirs except for one shelf. That stored the overflow from our medicine chest.

Liquids that didn't spill, but could have, were shoe polish, calamine lotion, mouthwash (green), and mercur rochrome (red). I was lucky that Mike picked the hairspray.

SECOND (it would have been first

before the deluge), don't store fabrics where they touch wood or wood products. This is wider-ranging than it sounds. Tissue paper and cardboard boxes are made from wood pulp. As the wood ages, it slowly gives off acids that remove oxygen from your cloth fibers. This doesn't happen quickly, but over the long haul it can produce browning or brittleness. What to do?

Substitute paper products made from

rag for those made of wood fibers. Rag paper is the more expensive and it's called "acid-free." You can locate a source through a reputable picture framer. He uses acid free matt board to mount valuable prints. Museums are another source of paper companies to write to. Sadly, I'm not aware of any store in Michigan that sells acid-free paper products over the counter.

BE CAREFUL of creases. Whatever it is that you're storing, don't always fold it in half and then in fourths, etc. You've heard of metal fatigue. Cloth fibers get fatigued, too, and this is one of the main causes for splits and rips. Refold two or three times a year and always in a different way so that no one spot gets the crease.

What about plastic bags? Lots of good and lots of bad is being attributed to them. What are the facts?

Plastic protects cloth from dust and dirt, a main cause of deterioration. Plastic would have kept the hairspray

from my quilts. Dark plastic eliminates light which can rot or fade cloth. All of these are good.

On the bad side, plastic is airtight and, when sealed, can form a perfect place for mildew to flourish. Cloth should be able to breathe. It should be in harmony with the humidity and the temperature of the air around it. So don't seal plastic bags unless you're storing wool and moth damage is your main concern.

I SEE NOTHING wrong with storing cotton and linen in plastic bags under the following conditions. The bags should not be sealed.

The cloth should be flat or rolled over acid-free cardboard tubes to prevent creasing. If this isn't convenient, fold loosely. Heavy stacking can cause textiles while keeping air out and allowing mildew in. Don't jam everything into a small space.

And keep your husband away from the hairspray.

Consumer mailbag

Septic tanks require precautions

We just moved into a house that has a septic tank. We have been city dwellers up until now and don't know how to treat our septic system. Do you have any information that could help us? Mrs. R. F. Rochester

Here is a list of dos and don'ts from an excellent new pamphlet published by the Environmental Enrichment Committee of Oakland Township.

• DO have the septic tank pumped out by a licensed operator on a routine basis every one to three years.

• DO maintain an easy access to the septic tank cover and know its location, so it can be easily reached by a pump.

• DON'T allow heavy vehicles to drive over the tile field. They crush and damage the drainage tiles.

• DON'T allow trees and shrubs to

grow over the septic field.

• DON'T drain into the septic tank, large amounts of water all at once, such as from running a dishwasher and shower at the same time.

• DON'T connect downspouts, sump pumps or water softener backwash to the septic system.

• DO minimize the amount of kitchen garbage put into the system through a garbage disposal.

• DON'T put down the drain such harmful materials as fats and oils, solvents, or solids like plastic, paper-towels, sanitary napkins or disposable diapers.

• DO make normal use of bleaches, detergents, soaps, bowl cleaners or drain cleaners.

• DON'T use additives that are claimed to help septic systems work better.

For your own copy of this helpful brochure write to Oakland Township Hall, Environmental Enrichment Committee, 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, 48063.

Consumer Mailbag answers your questions on environmental and consumer issues. Address letters to Consumer, Inc., Det. 1 Northfield Plaza, Troy 48068. Grace R. Gluskin

Big Sisters get salute

Lord & Taylor will sponsor a fashion show and a champagne party on the evenings of April 10, 11, and 12, in honor of working women who have become Big Sisters.

"Big Brothers/Big Sisters is a unique service agency for children," said Cindy Benedict, regional public relations director for Lord & Taylor, "and with so many working women contributing to the program's success, Lord & Taylor is proud to assist with their fundraising."

From 7-8:30 p.m., each evening, the store will host a semi-private showing of spring fashions accompanied by champagne and dessert crepes. With one show at each of the Lord & Taylor's dining rooms in the area. They are Fairlane, April 10; Twelve Oaks, April 11; and Lakeside, April 12.

Tickets for the event are \$25, tax deductible, and available by reservations. To secure reservations phone Susan DeMaggio, director of public relations, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, 273-9216.

COMBINED GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
at Ward United Presbyterian Church
Six Mile & Farmington Roads, Livonia

12 noon to 3:00 p.m.

"The Seven Last Words From the Cross"

"Forgiveness"-Rev. Gerald Dykstra, Church of the Savior
"Pardon"-Rev. Dickson Forsyth, St. Timothy United Presbyterian
"Love"-Rev. William C. Lindholm, Holy Cross Lutheran
"Loneliness"-Dr. Bartlett L. Hess, Ward United Presbyterian
"Human Need"-Rev. Douglas L. Thompson, Ward United Presbyterian
"Triumph"-Dr. Wilbert Gough, Grand River Baptist
"Reunion"-Rev. William C. Moore, Ward United Presbyterian

Choral Selections:
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St. Matthews United Methodist Church Choir (second hour)
Ward United Presbyterian Church Choir (third hour)

The public is invited. Nursery care provided for children up to 3 years.

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Sunday School 10:00 AM
Easter Service 11:00 AM
Special Guest 6:00 PM

Hondo Grouch is self appointed mayor and over-see of Luchebach, Texas. He lures people to the town he bought through a Want Ad by staging events such as Luchebach's Home Movies Film Festival and Hell Hath No Fury Women's World Child Cook Off.

Easter Services

First Apostolic
Lutheran Church
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At 7:30 PM
GOOD FRIDAY
1:00 and 7:30 PM
EASTER DAY
11:00 AM, 2:00 and
7:00 PM
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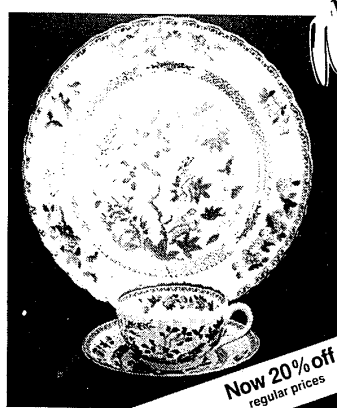
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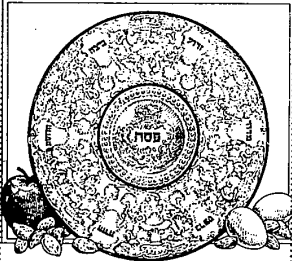


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Spode

You'll set an unforgettable table with Spode Imperial Earthenware. You'll create a mood of uncommon elegance. And this strikingly different Indian Tree pattern is just one of the many exquisite examples of Spode's hauntingly beautiful designs. Come find your own personal look. See them all on sale now. Sale ends April 21st.



Lenox authentic
Seder Plate to enhance
the celebration of Passover.



Created by Lenox to grace your Passover table for many years to come. The design and carving on this handcrafted traditional Seder Plate were adapted from an authentic 19th Century plate in the collection of the Jewish Museum in New York City.

The Seder Plate can bring just the right touch of elegance and beauty to your Seder...fashioned on the rich, ivory-toned china body that has made Lenox world famous. The six areas of the plate where the symbolic foods of the Seder are placed, are identified in Hebrew in 24-karat gold.

Whether for yourself, or as a gift for family and friends, the Lenox Seder Plate will be a welcome addition to the Passover celebration. \$56.

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Volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer bureau, a program of the Volunteer Action Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of volunteer opportunities. Further information about these and other volunteer needs at more than 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the bureau at 642-7272.

GROUPS — Marillac Hall, a Farmington residency for unwed pregnant girls, would like to find groups of volunteers interested in working on specific projects. These include planning and presenting holiday parties throughout the year, providing decorations for the

dining room on special days, baking cookies and birthday cakes, helping with maintenance of physical therapy equipment and various seasonal projects.

CLERK-TYPIST — Volunteers are urgently needed by the 45B District Court Probation Program in Oak Park. Accurate typing skills, an ability to work in a busy office and a good moral character are required. Duties include typing highly confidential material, filing and requesting police records. Hours are at the volunteer's convenience, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays.

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