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APRIL
1984

THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

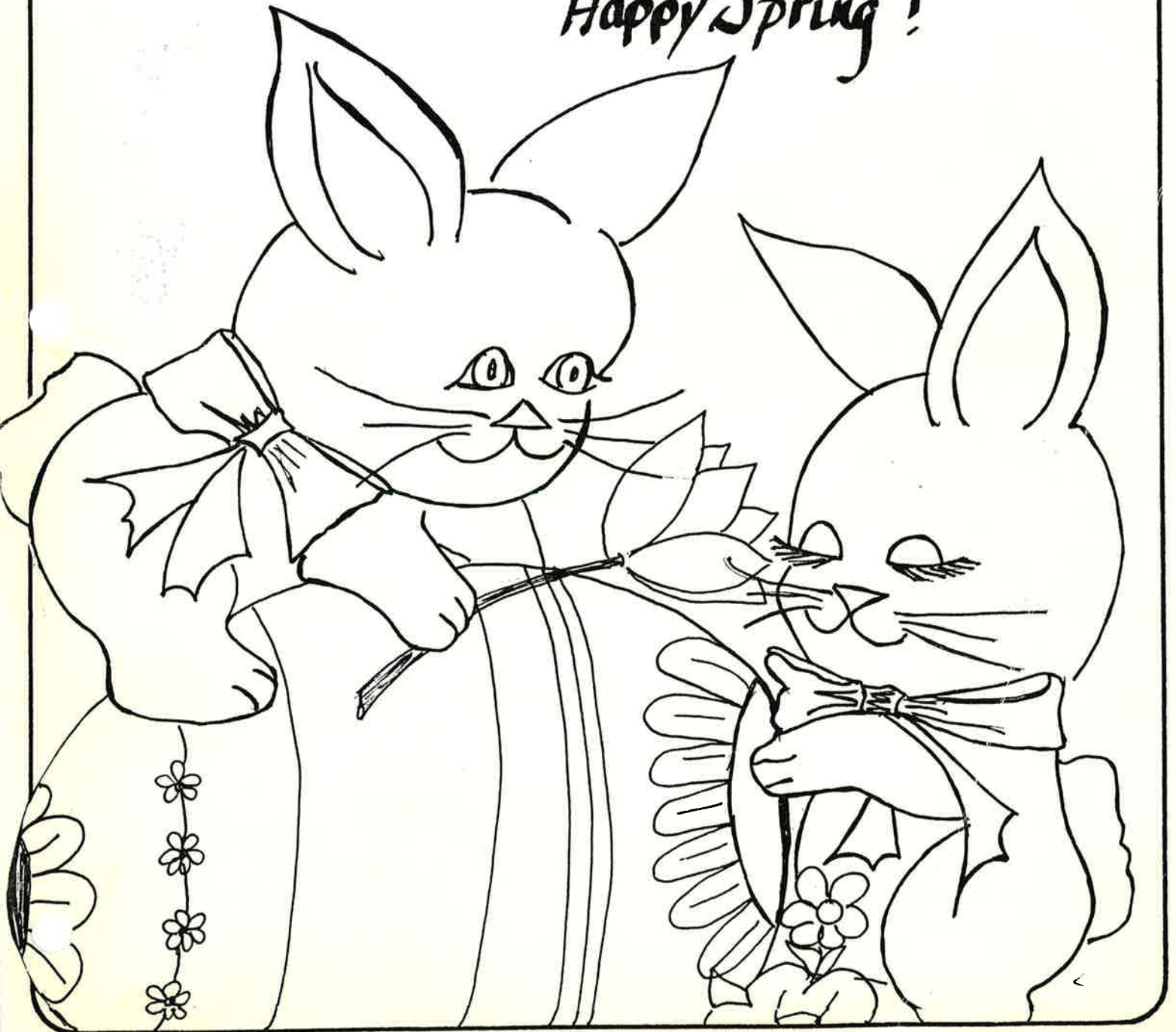
VOL. V
No. 6

A PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION

Happy Easter

Happy Passover

Happy Spring!



Ah, Spring

There are several spring celebrations coming up in the next month. You can add foods from these celebrations to your own family table...and can share a spirit of internationalism with your children.

Passover is a yearly festival that is celebrated by Jewish people for 8 days and starts on 17 April this year. The Passover ceremony is a symbol of liberty--commemorating the ancient Israelites' march to freedom from Egyptian slavery. During the Sedar service a special supper is served. The menu includes Matzo (unleavened bread) to remind the family of the hasty flight when there was no time for bread to rise before baking.

Easter is the most joyous Christian festival since it commemorates the resurrection of Christ. It was originally celebrated at the time of Passover. Many of our Easter traditions come from ancient celebrations. The idea of Easter eggs comes to us from Egypt and Persia where eggs were a symbol of new life. The word "Easter" comes from the name of an Anglo-Saxon goddess, Eostre, who represented light or spring. Just as the earth is dressed in a new cloak of greenery, people often wear new clothes for Easter. There was an old belief that if a person wore a new article of clothing for the first time on Easter, he would surely have luck for the rest of the year.

May first is May Day. As children we always made baskets from paper or recycled containers and filled them with flowers, popcorn, homemade cookies, etc. We would sneak up to the front doors of neighbors, hang the basket on the doorknob, ring the doorbell and run--sometimes hiding to watch the surprised receivers. We often chose to give them to elderly neighbors...as a first grader I thought they were old...they were probably about my age right now, sigh.

Anyway, the baskets can be made of construction paper, oleo tubs, cut down milk cartons, etc. They can be as simple as a paper cone with a handle to as fancy as imagination and time allows. We used to take long sheets of tissue or crepe paper, fold it lengthwise and cut designs on the folds (like for paper snowflakes). Then we would fringe the bottom and staple the long paper skirt around our baskets.

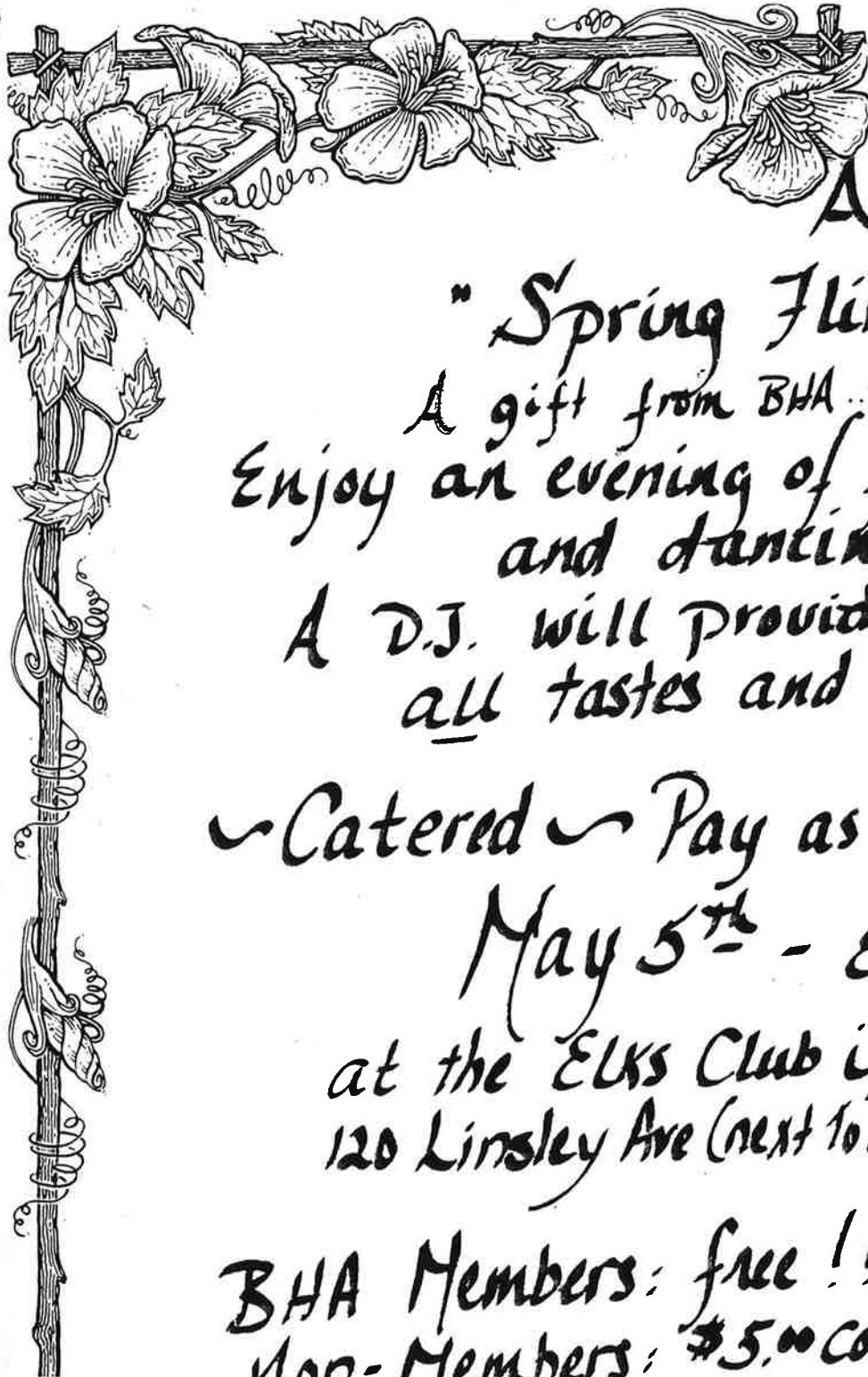
May 5th is a busy international day. Cinco de Mayo is Mexican Independence day. The festivities usually include parades, pinatas, music and favorite foods of the family. It is celebrated locally so watch for info in the newspaper.

Japanese boys' Day brings carp kites flying from family flagpoles--one for each son. Rice cookies are one of holiday foods served.

Korean children's day has parents planning special treats and trips and schools planning ceremonies and sporting events. This is not one festival I am going to adopt...I really don't need to voluntarily add another budget wrecker to our calendar of events...though I guess I could swing a box of crayons and a trip to the local hamburger emporium...its the thought that counts, right?

Have a happy month!

MPC 



Announcing

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Hi Neighbors - new and old,

Welcome to Bloomingdale! Well, it's Spring and that brings a lot of activity to the community. Everywhere you look, yards are getting face-lifts, kids are swimming and joggers and bicyclists abound! I guess it's safe to say everybody enjoys spring. As you have read, your B.H.A. is planning a Spring Fling. We have two basic objectives; to give everybody a chance to get acquainted; and to have FUN. We hope you ALL will join us for this gay affair.

Some of you have been asking about streetlights-when? where? what if I want one sooner? Lighting districts are created when a given section of the development is sold out. The county must then fund these new "taxing districts" through its normal budget-setting procedures. The order is then sent to TECO to install the new lights. And then there is LIGHT. If all this is too slow for you, you (and some neighbors if you want) may request TECO to install a (some) light(s) in your area early by agreeing to pay the electric bill for the light(s) until such time as the lighting district is funded. At this time the lighting district automatically assumes payment of the electric bill for the lights.

There are some new developments of the S.T.D. which will be covered in the General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, April 17th at 8:00 (coffee at 7:30) at the Pulte sales office in the East Section.

There are three positions available on the Board of Directors for the B.H.A. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the General Membership Meeting so come participate.

Gazette problems, bad weather, and general APATHY have resulted in such diminished attendance at the last two meetings that we didn't even have a quorum, making it impossible to conduct official business or even approve the expenditure of funds. As I am currently serving my third term as President, I must tell you all that those of us who keep getting left "to carry the load" are having some serious doubts as to whether Bloomingdale even wants to uphold its young but strong heritage of being a close, friendly, aware community of caring neighbors. I implore you! Come to the meetings! Join with us in working for a better community! Join your B.H.A.! Your ideas are GOOD- share them with us. See you at the meeting.

Bob Knott
President, B.H.A.

Gardening

with Eric Wilds

April is perhaps the busiest month of the year in the Florida landscape, it is certainly one of the more enjoyable times of the year to be outside. Previously I had said I would be writing about annual foliage this month, but I'm going to postpone that and talk to you about flowers for your spring and summer annual beds. Before I get into that, I have a correction to make in last month's column. In speaking about plants of special interest, I mentioned *Raphiolepis* or Indian Hawthorne and said that there were two types now commonly available; the compact shrub type and the Majestic Beauty, a tree form. The latter is not so commonly available now because of agricultural restrictions on shipments between California, where the tree is under patent and Florida. The compact version of Hawthorne is readily available and is a great replacement for azaleas in the full sun.

Now about flowers and annual beds! Remember in Florida you have to do a lot of soil improvement for your flowers to get through the long hot summer. Previous to planting your bed introduce a sufficient amount of organic matter to enrich the soil. You can use peat, manure, planting soil, composted leaves, Milorganite or any combination of these. Follow label direction if given or ask your local nursery person for help. Another important element is bone meal. Apply it at about 5lbs per 100 sq ft. Bone meal makes flower stems stronger and strengthens the actual tissues of the flowers.

After you have properly prepared the beds, it's time to choose which flowers to plant. This is very important because not all annuals for sale now will last all summer. The first week in June is an approximate cut-off point between the spring annuals and the spring and summer annuals. Some flowers meant for full sun in spring do better in the shade in the summer, such as carnations, verbena, dianthus, marguerite daisies and salvia; however, for annuals and perennials which prosper and flower in the full sun all summer, the following is a list and brief comment on some good ones.

Marigolds are the old standby and need no comment. They are very tough and respond strongly to regular fertilization.

Gazania daisies are fast becoming popular and rightly so. A beautiful display of them is to be seen at the intersection of Bell Shoals and Bloomingdale in front of the Bloomingdale sign. Gazanias last approximately 10 months and can go into the next season but are best replanted in March.

Gerbera daisies are perennials which can take full summer sun if properly cared for. They need regular watering, daily almost, and monthly liquid feeding to bloom all summer. They are expensive compared to annuals but they can be divided successfully and they bloom nearly all year, lasting for years and years. Bone meal is essential in the culture of gerbera daisies.

Blue salvia is a great summer flower and is a perennial in our area. It makes a small bush about 12 inches high with spikes of light blue to purple flowers about 18 inches high. Blue salvia takes well to trimming and becomes quite dense.

Celosias are another good annual for the summer. There are several varieties with the flowers appearing as velveteen cockscombs or multitudinous shapes, sizes and colors. They have a decidedly curious appearance and when used in massed beddings are startling in their effect.



Eric Wilds



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My last suggestion for color in the full summer sun is the wax begonia. The bronze-leaved variety, which may have red, pink or white blooms, is an excellent perennial bedding plant. They respond well to pinching and can be kept as low as 6" or as high as 18". If you mulch begonias well in winter they will last year after year.

The native plant this month is the palmetto. That's right ... the PALMETTO! In botanical nomenclature, serenoa repens. The palmetto is the official plant of the Florida Native Plant Society and does not deserve the curses and abuses heaped upon it by homeowners. Its ability to grow underground and spread combined with its fibrous trunk and prolific seeding ability make it nearly impossible to eradicate if it occurs naturally in your yard. I suggest instead that you trim and shape this palm and make it the beautiful item in your landscape that it has the potential to be. By selecting a few trunks to let grow and discouraging others by cutting the head back into the pulp, you can establish control over this misunderstood palm. A specimen with several 4 to 5 ft. trunks is quite beautiful and accomplishes an air of informal native tropicality.

I hope this information will be of help to you. Enjoy this month in your yard. Gardening is a great family activity, it's therapeutic value is time proven and who can't use a little therapy these days? Happy Gardening!!!

NOTICE

TO CAT OWNERS IN THE VICINI TY OF PARK WEST
(Canoga, Isleton, Caliente)

As pet owners we are constantly aware of our responsibility to restrain our pets and not let them become a nuisance to our neighbors. We do not appreciate the additional expense incurred or time wasted because someone else's pet has been allowed to roam at will and has used our yards and gardens as a playground and litterbox resulting in damaged shrubbery and dead flowers. Consequently, we have arranged to rent a humane trap from the County Office for Animal Control and will turn over any captured animals to that Office.

Anne Fuller
Anne Fuller
727 Isleton

Betty Hopkins
Betty Hopkins
731 Isleton

Joan Miller
Joan Miller
723 Isleton

Gazette Distributinn!

Many thanks to Sue Mulzer for her help in distributing the Gazette in Bloomingdale East. Good Luck in the future with your move, Sue. Thanks and welcome to Wynella Wilson for taking over for Sue. I really appreciate the help!

In the near future I will be needing more area distributors for the new neighborhoods as they open up. Presently a need has arisen for a distributor for the Mobley homes. If anyone would like to give us a hand, and a few hours of time each month please call me at 681-5199.

Thanks to all the present workers, without you the Gazette delivering couldn't be done. Thanks again.

Sandy Hollows,
Distribution Chairperson

BHA Membership Application 1984



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 who'll never know
 They're friends.
And lovers I've held
 only once.

I'd let them know, but how?
I'd fit them in, but when?
Still no one's needs
 Are that of being
 fitted in.

Every man demands
his full round
share of time.

But on those few
Who've found the time
 to fit me in,
schedule me somehow
Within Their crowded lives.
They are remembered
 Almost daily.

 At Night
each of them returns
every bit as real
As lilac smells
 on April days.

by: Rod McKuen

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HANDY HINTS

Handy Carry All

When taking a young child to grandma's house or to a day-care center, use a picnic basket. All those bottles and jars stay upright. Clothes stay neatly folded and there's still room for a favorite toy.

Practical Recipe File

Dieting or not, I am always looking for low-cal recipes. When I spot one, I transfer it to a blue card. When it's time to diet a quick glance through the file for blue cards makes those recipes easy to find. I do the same with Bar-B-Que recipes, only in a different color. With color coding your file it will make all your recipes easier to find.

A CHILD'S QUESTION

"Mommy, what does Mr. Lane pay you when he borrows the lawn spreader?" my son asked. "My God!" I thought, "He doesn't know what it means to be a good neighbor!"

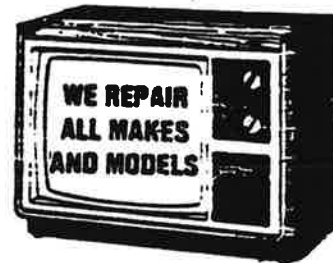
"Son, he doesn't pay me anything." I answered. "We are trying to be good neighbors. If we have something he needs we let him use it and if he has something we need he lets us use it. It's caring and sharing. Good neighbors try to make things easier for those around them. They feel better and happier and try harder to be good neighbors themselves. It's like when you play. If Paul has five trucks and you don't have any, you can't play. But if Paul loans you one of his trucks then you can play-but you also feel good because he shared. You can then make Paul feel good by sharing one of your gloves when you play ball. It's that way in life. To get along with others you must be willing to share and care. But you mustn't be the one who's always borrowing but never lending. There must be give and take in every situation. If it happens where you live, that's a sharing and caring community. Good neighbors offer to share tools, mowers, ladders, eggs, milk, but most importantly time. Time to help each other. Time to talk over a shared interest. Time to "be there when you need them"- for watching the kids, talking over problems, having a cheery chat, or to take a break on a bad day. Good neighbors try to make things easier for those around them by keeping their yards up, stereos down, dogs in their own yards and considerate things like that."

"Gosh, Mom, I'm glad I live in Bloomingdale. We borrow Mr. Brown's ladder and loan Mr. Jones

our axe and Mr. Clarke lets Mr. Brown use his edger and Mr. Moore helped Mr. Clarke with his new sod."

"Yes, but the most important thing to remember is that having good neighbors means you also have good friends, and friends are one of life's most precious gifts."

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Narni's Notes

"Spring is sprung, Grass is green.
The crocus are blooming, ho ho for the spring."

Why is it that we tend to remember negatives the longest...and in such detail? For example, the charming little poem above was written at young age by yours truly...and on the same night I also wrote a reasonably decent poem about Easter but no one in my whole family (author included) can remember even one word of it...and Yet all take great delight in reciting this artistic effort. (needless to say, Robert Frost is feeling unchallenged though slightly queasy.)

Why do we find it easier to relate tales of tribulation instead of enumerating our blessings? Why is it that if you tell the neighbors at a coffee klatch that your husband just gave you diamonds, compliments and breakfast in bed, you are blowing your own horn. But if you relate that tale of a hubbie snoozing while you put the kids to bed, painted the living room and mowed the back 40, Then all heads nod in sympathetic and supportive understanding and a sense of friendly goodwill. And I can tell you in complete detail how my sons flooded my basement office in Germany and stuffed the cat in the mailbox to surprise the mail lady -- yet I can't remember the special cards they labored over for Mother's Day last year.

Of course, certain stories become part of memorable and humorous family history--and they not only add laughter to family reunions but point out that the trials of child-rearing, marriage, and day to day living haven't changed through the generations--and you are not alone.

But if you find you are concentrating in conversation or thought on the daily negatives; i.e., "he always misses the ashtray," and; "they never pick up their socks.", you are not adding to family humor, you are undermining family relationships. These stories will only perpetuate "down" feelings and can affect how you approach that person the rest of the day.

We forget to remind ourselves daily of the good times and the good points of others and ourselves. We are so busy concentrating on the little negatives--past and present. Remembering silently or aloud those good moments (flowers for no occasion, a homemade card, extra chores done as a surprise, regular chores done without reminding) can not only cheer you up and make you feel good about dealing with another person, BUT, if you tell them you remember, the praise may encourage them to do more good deeds.

It's going to be hard work to try and eliminate a bad habit. but this Spring I'm going to try and create a positive memory bank. I'd like this Spring's crop of memories to be one's of praise plus laughter.





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APRIL 1984 What's Going On? MAY 1984

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
15 PALM SUNDAY	16	17 PASSOVER BHA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING	18	19	20 GOOD FRIDAY NO SCHOOL	21
22 EASTER SUNDAY	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 BACK TO SCHOOL	MAY 1 MAY DAY BHA BOARD MEETING	2	3	4 GAZETTE DEADLINE	5 CINCO de MAYO SPRING FLING
6	7	8	9 PRESIDENTS' ROUNDTABLE 7:30 @ CENTER PLACE	10	11	12
13 MOTHER'S DAY	14	15 BHA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 7:30 @ PULTE SALES OFFICE	16	17	18	19

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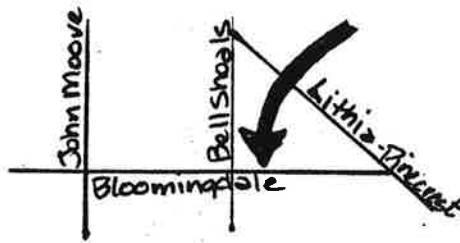
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