



# TOT TALK

When New Bern parents shop for toys, there are several things to consider aside from the price tag.

First of all, of course, is the plaything safe? Check for sharp edges, material that is easily splintered or broken, and for paint that might be toxic.

Secondly, you should ask

yourself if the toy is durable enough to justify what you must pay for it. Sometimes the least expensive ones last such a short period that they aren't a good investment.

Can your child share it with playmates? The ideal toy is suitable for amusement when your tot is alone, but also suitable for mutual use by several of the small fry. Don't expect to find such a plaything very often.

Make sure before purchasing a toy that it will appeal to a child in the age group you have in mind. Aiming above Junior's level is a mistake, but probably less of a mistake than setting your sights below his level.

Many parents thoughtlessly buy toys that are too small for small children. Perhaps you've never considered that fact, but tots are able to handle big blocks, big pieces to puzzles, big balls and the like easier than they can manipulate less bulky but more complex gadgets.

The amount spent for toys in America annually approaches two billion dollars. Approximately half of this huge sum is paid out for the amusement of children between the ages of two and six.

The outlay referred to does not include general play equipment, sports items, books or records. As you can see, providing fun for the small fry is a major industry. Let's hope it's worth the price.

Breaching the Blue Ridge barrier with a railroad was a tremendous feat. Rail transportation did not reach Asheville until the 1880's.

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## Pre-Heating Glads Makes 10-Day Difference in the Blooming Time

BY JOHN H. HARRIS  
N. C. STATE

Want to make your glads bloom 10 days earlier than usual? Mitchell Jenkins of the Vegetable Crops Research Station at Castle Hayne, was telling me the other day how to do this. He says glads will bloom earlier if stored in a warm place just before planting.

In his experiment he used two varieties--Snow Princess and Valeria. The corms were stored at 70, 80 and 90 degrees for periods of 15 to 30 days just prior to planting. All the plants from heat-treated corms emerged sooner than those from un-treated corms. They also bloomed earlier. The best treatment was storage at 80 degrees for 15 days. Plant from this treatment bloomed 10 days earlier than from the check



There are almost as many varieties of Southern cornbread in Dixie as there are unreconstructed Rebels.

Our favorite happens to be cornmeal muffins, and hush puppies run a close second. Both seem to be better with seafood than anything else.

The Progressive Farmer's Southern Cookbook, edited by Sallie Hill and published two years ago, includes most of the cornbread recipes found below the mason-Dixon line.

For example, it tells you how to make green corn spoonbread, Alabama fluffy batter bread, superb spoonbread, fried mush, corn pone, Mrs. Silver's fried corn pone, crackling bread, and Texas-Kentucky hoe cake cornbread.

If these don't strike your fancy, there are recipes for Alabama Mush bread, Blanche's corn crisps, Lulle's lacy corn cakes, Sweet potato cornbread, wampus bread, Blanchard's hush puppies and Alabama hush puppies.

In addition, you can stir up a batch of Tennessee steamed cornbread, Tennessee buttermilk cornbread, Texas sweet milk cornbread, Hollis bread, Awendaw cornbread and cornbread ring.

There are a large number of biscuit recipes in the Progressive Farmer's Cookbook. They range from sweet potato biscuits to, of all things, grapefruit biscuit. It's the same recipe as buttermilk biscuit, with grapefruit juice in place of buttermilk.

It sounds revolting to us. No thank you, we'll still stick to cornmeal muffins.

plots. Yields of flowers and No. 1 corms were also higher from this treatment.

He goes on to say that by treating corms for 15 days at 80 degrees before planting you can expect to get earlier flowers, which often bring higher prices. Also, if planting is delayed by unfavorable weather you can make up part of this delay by heat treating the corms before planting.

In a new bulletin on gladioli I notice pathologists are recommending treating corms as an aid in controlling brown rot or yellows. This disease is one of the most destructive diseases of gladioli in North Carolina.

They also suggest that you use stock as free as possible from this disease and that you follow at least a three-year rotation in planting. They recommend a pre-storage treatment as well as a pre-planting. They recommend a pre-storage treatment as well as a pre-planting treatment. Immediately after digging the corms, dip them in a solution of Dowlcide-B (1-3/4 to 2 pounds per 100 gallons of water) for 20 minutes. The corms are then stored for the winter months. In the spring, immediately before planting, dip them again--this time using Ceresan-100 or Elcicide-73 (2 pints per 100 gallons of water) for 10 minutes. Either material can be

used with safety on slightly rooted or sprouting corms, but corms should be planted immediately after treatment.

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