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Don't postpone those winter home projects

By NANCY HOSKIN

Few people enjoy the thought of winter being just around the corner. Most of us are procrastinators, especially during the summer months, when we'd rather spend our time outside.

Though tedious indoor projects are usually saved for the winter months, spring usually appears before we remember what should have been tackled.

Here is a list of common indoor projects that shouldn't be shunted aside:

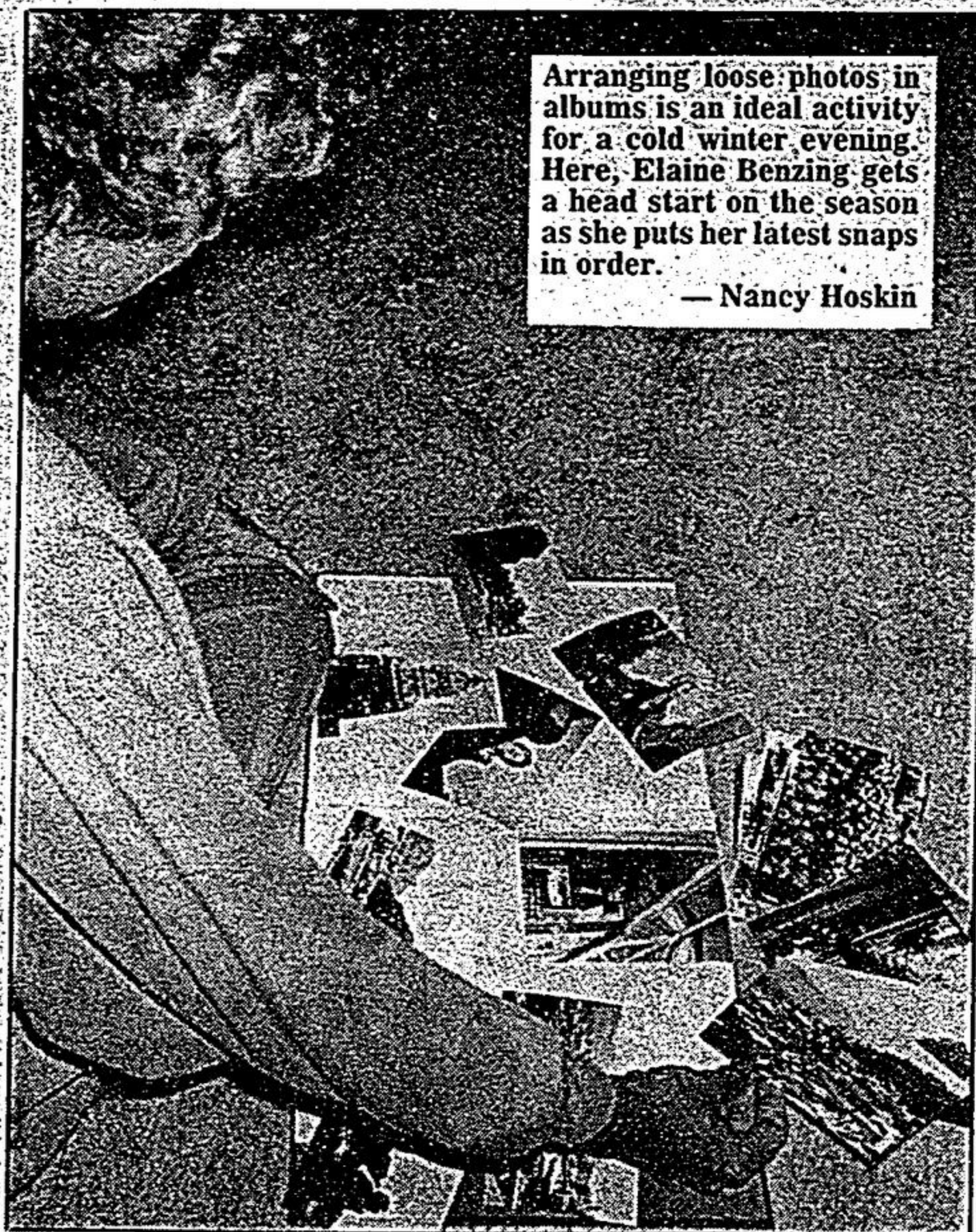
1. How many of us enjoy taking photos, but detest putting them in albums? Set aside several Saturday afternoons. While you revive fond memories of places and people you have seen, begin to label each picture and add them to an album.
2. Begin cleaning out your drawers and clothes closets. Keep in mind that spring is a great time to hold a garage sale. Get rid of the clothes that you've hung on to, hoping they will become fashionable again.

Look for items that need a trip to the dry cleaners. If you haven't used something in several years, chances are you won't in the near future. Remember one man's trash is another man's treasure.

3. Linen closets are a prime area to find things that have gone missing. It's a great place to toss items when company is coming over. Spruce up your linen closets. Tidy your piles of towels and sheets. Take the time to make sure your blankets, comforters and pillows are cleaned.
4. Clean out your desk. Replenish your supplies. Take time to arrange your paperwork. How often do you miss lay receipts and important papers? Consider using a filing cabinet.

It is useful, not only for important papers, but for maintaining an accurate record on a variety of subjects; restaurants you have enjoyed, places you'd like to visit or articles you have clipped out for reference later.

5. Now that your indoor plants are in their dormant state, repot them in fresh soil when they are less likely to go into shock. Soil should



Arranging loose photos in albums is an ideal activity for a cold winter evening. Here, Elaine Benzing gets a head start on the season as she puts her latest snaps in order.

— Nancy Hoskin

be changed once a year. Your plants will live longer and enjoy a healthier existence.

6. You have always wanted to re-decorate that spare bedroom or bathroom. Now is the time. If you aren't using that particular room, tackle a little bit each week. Holes can be plastered one week, followed by sanding the next.

Then chose your paper and paint, apply them and sit back and enjoy the professional job you have completed without hiring someone to come in and do it for you. If you have never painted or papered, most decorating stores will give you helpful hints.

7. Ladies, finish the craft projects that are stuffed in drawers. Don't start anything new. An interest might be sparked in a project you had forgotten about, a quilt that is

almost finished; an outfit missing a zipper or a rug nearly hooked.

8. Exercise is very important; and if you aren't involved in winter sports, chances are you'll be lacking in one form or the other. Dust off that exercise bike in the basement.

Try to set realistic goals and stick to them. Join an exercise class if you have been putting it off. They are offered during the fall and winter at local schools and community level for people at all levels.

We all dislike certain jobs, but if they're tackled one at a time, with a bit of enthusiasm, not only will the winter blahs be minimized, our tedious chores will be completed before spring comes and we can't resist the call of the great outdoors.

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