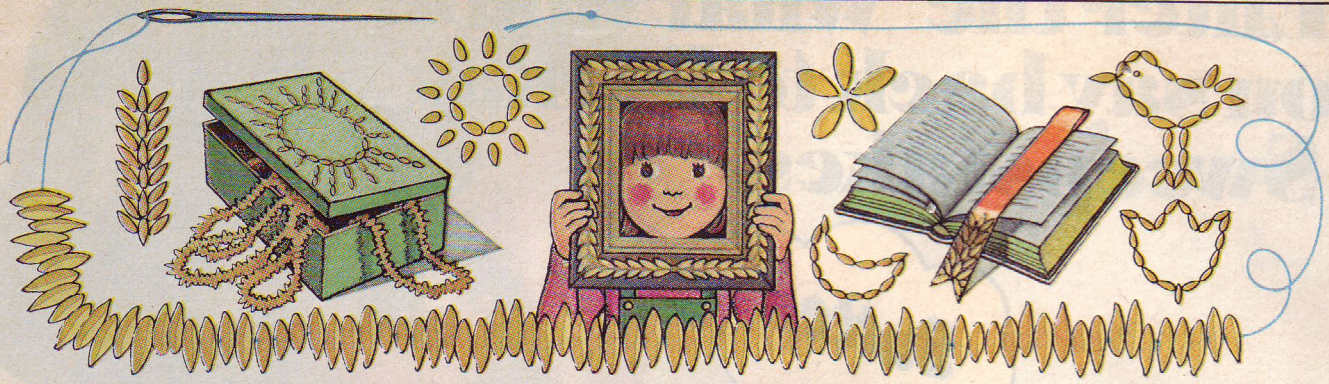

BETSY McCALL: HAVING FUN WITH SEEDS

Our family collects seeds and pits the way some people collect stamps and coins! The twins save cherry pits to make *bean*bags. Daddy can't resist avocado pits—our sun porch is an avocado jungle. Mommy plants orange and lemon pits, and they sprout right on our windowsills. And me? I'm into melon seeds. This necklace I'm wearing is made of melon seeds. The picture I'm holding has a frame made of melon seeds. I made Grandma a bookmark of ribbon and melon seeds, and I have enough seeds left for a box-top cover! They're so *easy to do!* Next time you have melon at your house, scoop out the seeds, wash them and spread them out on a paper towel to dry. You'll have a zillion oval-shape "beads" that look like honey-color *wood*. The necklace is the easiest—the needle and thread just seem to glide through!

The other things are a little harder, but even more fun. You need paper cement for the picture frame. Spread cement around the outside to make a border, and press the seeds down in any design you like. Use toothpicks to push seeds where you want them. Do the box top the same way. The bookmark has a base of masking tape that holds the seeds nice and firm; the ribbon, too. Oh, before I forget—the ribbon and the tape should be the same width—one inch.

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