



Ida Risser

Recently I spent a couple hours one night going through the schedule of classes which my son attends at the Middle School. We parents marched down one shiny hall after another and up and down stairs five times to attend seven classes.

We "sorta" got the feel of their days at school. As one mother said, "It's been a long time since we were underlings." With a different teacher for French,

hygiene, history, music, science, English and algebra, there are just so many more personalities to adjust to. As one of the teachers told us, "We aren't always approachable."

There certainly are advantages to modern education but I really don't envy him his day at school.

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I've been looking over a record book which a young farmer kept in the year 1908. It is very in-

teresting to compare prices then and now.

Here are a few examples -- two bushel corn at 54 cents; 40½ pound chickens at nine cents; 25 pieces lumber 8x484 at three cents per square foot; 10 pound lard at five cents; eight pound puddings at eight cents; 17 pound pork shoulder at 12 cents, and 10 duck eggs for 32 cents.

Some of the labor is listed as follows -- four hours mowing wheat for 60 cents; one-half day cutting logs for 70 cents; one-half day shocking oats for 50 cents, and one day hauling stone cost \$3.75 for two men and two horses.

Prices go up and prices go down but I'd suppose folks those days were as happy or unhappy as we are in 1973.

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The other day I mentioned to Philip, our son, that a new building was going up near the antique shoppe. He asked me where the shop was and I said surely you know where the nearest antique shop is around

Buy Correct Size Sheets

Since you can't return bed sheets you buy on sale, be sure to size them up before you take them home, says Mrs. Helen Puskar, Extension home furnishings specialist at The Pennsylvania State University.

To get the correct fit, you must know your mattress size before going to the store. You might want to invest in fitted sheets. Size is especially important here. If they are too small, they will give you more work and less wear. Too large a size takes away their advantage of giving a smooth fitting surface.

If there's a possibility of

considerable shrinkage in the sheet you buy, choose a longer than usual size. Check the label to see if there is good shrinkage control.

When you're buying flat sheets, the size is given in "torn" length. With the hems in, they become five inches shorter. Shrinkage may shorten them even more. You'll be smart if you subtract a few inches from the size on the label.

One last point on sizes, says Mrs. Puskar, is that the unusual sizes, such as extra long sheets, are not often on sale. You may find that it would be to your best advantage to buy some regular-size sale sheets and use one to lengthen all the others. If you add a piece where you tuck the sheet under the mattress, you'll have stretched your sheet and your dollar.

here. He looked me square in the eye and said "Sure, right here."

It was an overstatement but I don't know whether to be insulted or flattered. You put old things in an old house and I guess that's what it looks like to a child.

PLAN HOME-HEATING SAVINGS NOW

Looking for ways to cut household operating expenses? Trimming heating costs is probably the most important single thing you can do. What's more, there's no better time than now to prepare your home and heating system for winter.

Here are some ideas. They not only can result in year-after-year savings, but make your home more comfortable, too.



Are you sure you have enough insulation?—Adequate insulation in your home can reduce heating costs by as much as one-third. Even in homes thought adequately insulated a few years ago, some additional insulation, particularly in the ceiling, may produce substantial savings. And, as shown below, it's an investment that pays for itself quickly.

ANNUAL DOLLAR SAVINGS WITH THE ADDITION OF ATTIC INSULATION
(Based on 1,000 square-feet of attic space and a fossil-fuel heating system)

		IF YOU HAVE—		
		NO Insulation	2½"	4"
AND YOU ADD THIS— You'll Save . . .	2½"	\$98	\$13	\$7
	4"	\$107	\$19	\$10
	6"	\$113	\$23	Over 8½" not Practical

APPROXIMATE COST OF INSULATING MATERIAL

(Dollars per 1,000 square-feet)

2½"	4"	6"
\$70	\$90	\$160

In addition to reducing fuel bills with a well insulated home, you can also reduce your electric bill. Don't forget, electricity runs the blowers or pumps common to most all heating systems. When they don't have to work as hard or operate as long, you're saving both energy and maintenance costs.

Storm windows and doors can cut in half heat losses through existing single glass windows. If any glass panes are broken, now's the time to fix them. If you don't already have storm windows and doors, an investment in them should pay for itself in less than 10 years.

Caulking and weatherstripping — Seal around doors and windows while the weather is pleasant. Remember attic doors, too. A ¼" crack under a 3-foot door loses heat through 9 square inches. Believe-it-or-not, just this small space can cost you several dollars each winter.



HEATING SYSTEM EFFICIENCY TIPS

Warm air heating system filters should be clean for good heat circulation. Clean or replace dirty filters at least once a month during the heating season.

Blower motors on warm-air heaters or circulators on hot water systems should be given a couple of drops of oil unless the motors are the newer, permanently sealed and lubricated types. Be careful not to over-oil and use only the "oil" lubrication holes. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions.

Belts should be checked on warm-air system blowers and adjusted if needed.

Heating ducts in unheated areas such as attics and crawl spaces should be examined for leaks and insulated with at least one inch of insulation.

Vents in attics or crawl spaces should be open. Don't block them: your home could suffer damaging condensation.



Clean registers, baseboard units or radiators. A thin layer of dust can impair heat radiating ability . . . vacuum cleaning can eliminate the problem.

Call your serviceman early for any burner cleaning or tune-up work needed.

Set thermostats bearing in mind you can reduce heating costs by about 3% for each degree you can lower the setting. Adjust or turn heat off in rooms you don't regularly use.

Remove furniture or obstacles from in front of heating outlets.

Each of these tips can make a difference in dollars to you. You can also add comfort to your home and assure better performance of your heating system as well. Moreover, you'll be performing another service. You'll be conserving fuel and helping our nation achieve energy conservation goals.

Plan for tomorrow . . . start saving now!