

# LADIES HAVE YOU HEARD?



By Doris Thomas, Extension Home Economist

### Buying Fabrics On Sale

This is sale time, that time of year when stores are clearing out Christmas merchandise and cutting down on inventories. It's a time when you can get good bargains, especially in clothing and fabrics. Now is a good time to buy quality items you might normally feel you can't afford. Here are some suggestions for buying fabric on sale.

Don't get carried away by a big markdown. Nothing is a bargain unless you have a use for it. Remember, sale merchandise is usually not returnable. Money spent on a readymade garment you will wear only once or a fabric you will never use is a poor investment compared to the

same amount spent for something you will use often.

Party dresses and glamour fabrics are often on sale after the holidays. It could be a good time to buy them for use next year but keep in mind that styles could change. Fabric for party wear might be a safer bet if you know how much to buy and can store it properly. But be careful about stocking up on velvets and other crushables unless you can store them properly. Also buy the fabrics that were new this season because they are likely to be around next year.

You can buy some fabrics to use next year if your storage is adequate and if you can store woollens to prevent moth damage. But

before you get too enthusiastic, remember that the new fabrics next fall will tempt you too, and you may wish you didn't have to make up that bargain.

Some bargains get pushed to the back of the "to make" drawer for a long time until they are out of style or you no longer like them. If you never use the fabric it's not a bargain. Most seamstresses have drawers full of such bargains, so before you add any more, take stock of how much you have on hand.

### Tips on

**Smokeless Fireplaces**  
If tears run down your cheeks every time there's a fire in your fireplace, make sure the room is well ventilated, the damper open and the flue unplugged.

Poor ventilation will cause the fireplace to smoke. Avoid burning wet or green wood. This wood gives off more tars and wood extracts that may condense in the chimney flue. These could result in a chimney fire in time.

Unseasoned wood plus poor ventilation or an obstructed chimney can lead to all sorts of irritation. Eye, nose and mucous membranes, even at nontoxic levels, are first to react to

# USDA Publishes Shoppers Guide

"Shopper's Guide", the new Yearbook of Agriculture, is designed to help the shopper buy the right product for the best price.

The 368-page illustrated hardback, published this month, is packed with information useful to consumers. It has six sections—Food, Materials, Equipment, Gardening, Services, and Recreation—and is written in popular style.

In a foreword, the Secretary of Agriculture says that "Shopper's Guide" lays down guidelines to help shoppers make their own decisions, and do their own brand comparisons.

Practical information in the Food section includes a chapter that tells how many servings you can expect from a package of food, and

how many of those packages a family will require, the Secretary notes. The chapter also helps you compare the costs of food in various forms—fresh, frozen, or canned.

Other information in the Food section includes ways to combine foods to provide a desirable diet, tables which help you compare costs of foods you might use as replacements in meals, nutrition labeling, food grades, and unit pricing, Secretary Butz says.

"The Materials sections covers concrete and concrete block, brick, lumber, plywood, and other wood-based material, insulating and wiring—mostly in relation to work an energetic homeowner might do himself," Secretary Butz continues.

"The Equipment section covers kitchen appliances, laundry facilities, lighting fixtures, and furniture, among other things. Gardening ranges from buying seeds to trees and shrubs, roses, cacti, ground covers and vines, and fruits.

"The Services section includes how to deal with movers, shopping for credit, and having appliances and your car repaired or serviced. The Recreation section is angled mainly to vacation activities that don't involve much use of gasoline."

Secretary Butz notes that "Shopper's Guide", the 1974 Yearbook of Agriculture, is a companion volume to the 1973 Yearbook, "Handbook

for the Home." Both books are based mainly on Federal or state research. The Yearbooks are devoted to a different subject each year.

A copy of "Shopper's Guide" may be obtained for \$5.70 at government bookstores in various parts of the country or by sending a check or money order to Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20401.

In addition, each member of Congress has a limited number of copies of the Yearbook for free distribution to constituents.

The Agriculture Department has no copies of the book for public distribution or sale.

### Consumers' Corner

#### Door-to-Door Sales

A recent ruling by the Federal Trade Commission is now in effect. The purpose of the ruling is to allow consumers a cooling off period to protect themselves from the high pressure tactics employed by some salesmen.

Following are the major provisions of the rule.

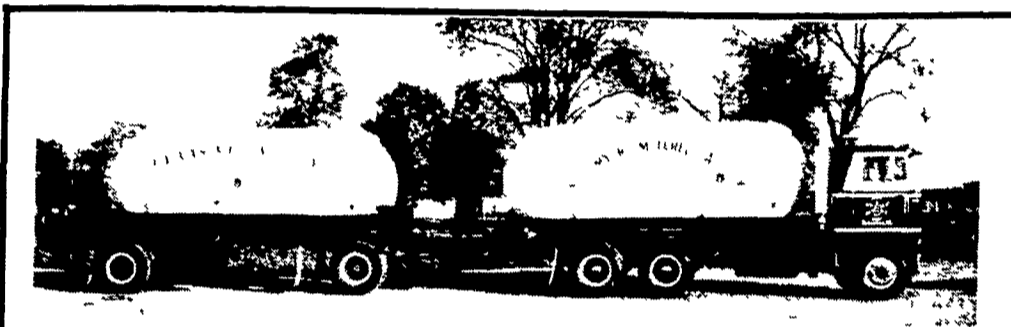
—Consumers may cancel their purchase of goods or services bought from a door-to-door salesman if the price is \$25 or more and if he cancels in writing within three business days.

—Salesman must produce a sales contract and give an oral explanation of the consumer's right to cancel. Salesmen must also provide a completed "Notice of Cancellation" form. Both the notice and the original contract must be in the same language that the salesman uses in his sales pitch.

—After cancelling, the consumer must have the merchandise available for pick-up. Consumers may keep any goods not claimed within twenty days.

—Salesmen must pay all expenses for return of goods.

—Salesmen must return any payment to consumer within 10 business days after receiving the cancellation notice.



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