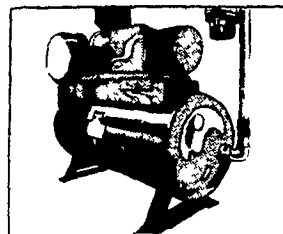


HURRY!

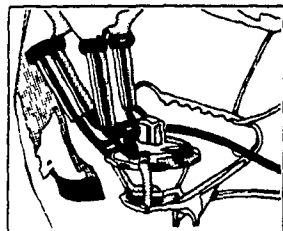
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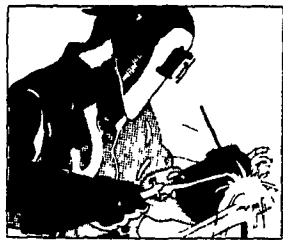
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My Thoughts

By JOANNE SPAHR



Now that I'm older, I really take pity on my father for all those years my brother and I would wake up at 4 o'clock on Christmas morning and yell in song-songy, naggy voices, "Mom-m-m, Dad-d-d, can we get up?" And, being persistent, if we didn't get an answer, we'd yell the same thing over and over again getting sing-songier as we went, until we practically had a harmony going - a harmony Mom and Dad couldn't stand, so we always were allowed to get up and open presents like we wanted.

Of course, everybody has the same memories, from city-dweller to urbanite to farm child. But now that I'm getting older, I'm beginning to be able to put myself in the place of the farm father who has to put up with it all.

In the first place, the poor guy is usually beat from staying up past his bedtime the night before for the Christmas Eve church service, which, unlike a late running movie, he has to stay awake for. And, then when he does get home from church, he's still not able to go to bed because there are presents to be put together. And, no matter how much of an expert he is at repairing tractors, combines, trucks, and the like, when it comes to putting "Part A" in "Hole B" he just can't do it without messing it up first, and then throwing away the instructions, starting over, and doing it his way.

Then, when he finally does hit the sack, he quite naturally is desirous of an extended snooze in bed the next morning, but knows in his heart that in just a few short hours there is going to be an annoying noise coming from the neighboring bedrooms, which, like the drone of an alarm clock, or a cow bawling for her missing calf, never stops. And, then he'll have to drag himself out of the nice, warm bed and sit like a zombie with one eye open, one eye shut, and a sleepy smile plastered on his face, while the children rip paper off packages and squeal with glee. And, if he does accidentally close the one eye that had been open, he's sure to be jarred awake when one of his children runs the toy he just constructed not more than four hours earlier into the wall, knocking "Part A" out of "Hole B". So, daddy, the repairman, is called on to fix it, and all is well.

By that time, the cows are bawling, demanding attention, so it's out to the barn he goes - new work socks on his feet, new flashlight in the pocket of his new coveralls, and a new cigar in his mouth. And, there he faces the animals, as always, knowing that the best gift of the day, besides sharing the joys of family and friends, will be calling it a day after all the excitement is over, and resting up before New Years comes.

good gift ideas

Vests & Ranch Jackets

Flannel Shirts

Belts

Gloves
Dress & Work

Wallets
Dress
Knit Slacks

Water Proof Boots

Carhartt Brown Duck

Insulated Coveralls

Ladies

Insulated Boots Shoes

Dress, Work & Casual

Bib & Belt

Overalls

Hooded Sweat Shirts

Zipper Front, Lined & Unlined

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