

**On being  
a farm wife  
- And other  
hazards**

**Joyce Bupp**

This column is a tribute to those brave, hardy, tireless souls, devoted undyingly to their cause, undeterred from their rounds by storm or sleet, snow or rain, or dark of night.

Deer hunters.

Having stumbled across winter-starved deer in the mountains near our hunting camp, and knowing the thousands of dollars of loss inflicted on our fellow farmers by hordes of corn and hay-hungry white-tails, this annual harvest of deer does serve a useful purpose to agriculture. A dead, starvation-killed deer is not a pretty sight.

I do wish, however, the Game Commission would outlaw party driving of deer in wooded areas of less than fifty acres.

But enough of the sermon.

And on with the reason for this tribute.

Men, who normally wouldn't find, fold or furnish their own clothing and sundries for love or money, become busy with these mundane chores when they involve hunting gear.

That means accumulating and packing everything from an extra pair of heavy wool socks to digging out the time worn fuzzy hat, with

ear warmers please, rolling up a fat sleeping bag, and stashing away the armaments and mortar rounds. And don't forget the raincoat, snack items, extra boots, gloves, etc., etc., and all that other stuff hunters claim they need.

We've long teased a certain hunter of family acquaintance about his love-affair with brown paper grocery bags he uses to stash all that gear for the trek northward to Potter County.

But after the packing experience

of a neighbor's a few years ago, I rather suspect the paper-bag packer is onto something.

Seems this fella neatly packed together all his gear-coats, sleeping bag, hunting license—into secure, waterproof plastic garbage bags. Then he set the stuffed bags in the garbage, where he could grab them and run when mountain take-off time came.

Enter the villain, another member of the family, innocently

on his way to carry out the family's weekly accumulation of trash. You're getting ahead of me.

Sure enough, the garbage bags that went out along the road for pickup were the same ones bulging with hunting gear.

If there's a moral to this tale, perhaps it's that the men of the house should be responsible for carrying out the garbage.

Or, maybe they should just stick to brown-bagging it.

**Tax law changes filing forms**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — When you go to file this tax season, you'll find that your tax forms have changed. Many of the revisions reflect changes brought about by the 1981 Economic Recovery Tax Act passed this year.

Among the most significant differences is the government's clear encouragement to use the short form 1040A by making more taxpayers eligible.

Last year, taxpayers were unable to use the short form if they had income over \$20,000 (or \$40,000 where the taxpayer was married and filed a joint return.) The same applied where the taxpayer had more than \$400 in interest or

dividends, unless the taxpayer was filing only to get a refund of the earned income credit.

This year's returns however consolidate last year's filing status tax tables into one table, covering up to \$50,000 of income, making the short form usable by more taxpayers.

Thomas M. Bloch, president of tax operations for H & R Block, Inc., says that taxpayers should take a "close, hard look" before deciding to sue the simpler short form for any type of income bracket:

"Traditionally, as tax processing is simplified, the taxpayer tends to lose out on im-

portant opportunities for taking advantage of tax breaks, regardless of income level," said Bloch. "You may save time, but at the cost of wasting tax dollars."

Among changes taxpayers may expect are reporting procedures for interest and dividend income, Bloch adds. For 1982, interest and dividend income sources are listed on the back of the 1040A, which is a change. This means that the IRS has eliminated the requirement that taxpayers with over \$400 in interest or dividends must use the long form.

Another noteworthy change of interest to consumers is on Schedule A. Separate lines for the deduction of the cost of transportation necessary for medical care, and the cost of having one's tax return prepared have been provided. Both items have been frequently overlooked by taxpayers. In addition, a separate line has been added for general sales tax paid on motor vehicles.

"Both the first-time taxpayer and those who have been familiar with IRS tax return forms will undoubtedly have questions this year as a result of these and other changes," concludes Bloch. "As has been our long-standing policy at H & R Block, Inc., our tax preparers will be happy to answer the public's questions about both the new tax laws and the revised forms as tax filing season approaches."

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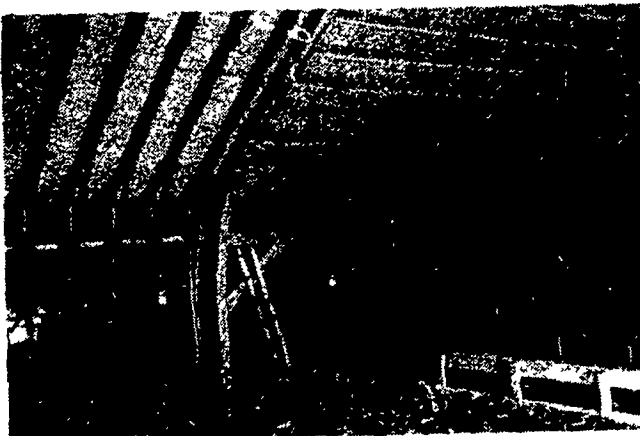
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