



BACK HOME

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Patience by the Bucketful

Warning: If you follow me, you will be in the slowest line!

I think that I should probably have a T-shirt with that message written on the back for anyone who steps behind me in a line. I guarantee it will be the slowest one (at least that is what it seems like to me)! A few weeks ago I had a car full of teenagers and was in a line of traffic that took three hours to go three miles. By the third hour, my patience was depleted.

Patience is the name of the game, and one in which I must improve my average. A co-worker once related to me a visual image of receiving a bucketful of patience each day. Each of us gets a fresh bucketful each day that must last for the whole day. No one gets more than one bucketful, and none can be saved for another day. The goal is to use up as little as possible. If you can visualize a bucketful of patience it is easy to understand what someone means when they say, "I've just about run out of

patience!"

The biggest problem with this bucket of patience is keeping it intact. Sometimes we have leaks in the bucket. Do you "lose" patience when someone drives slower than the speed limit...in front of you; when your child takes twenty minutes to dress himself; when an elderly person climbs the stairs slowly while you wait to rush by. We each have our own "leak" in our bucketful of patience. Sometimes our leaky bucket is purely our own fault and results from over-scheduling, poor planning, and fatigue. The next time you find that you are "running out of patience" try a time-out. For example, if you have become exhausted from refereeing the children, actually call a time-out. Each family member goes to a separate area for the designated period of time. Five minutes is generally long enough to refresh your bucketful of patience. Then get back together and calmly work out the solution together. If you find you have "lost

your patience" while waiting in line at the grocery store, calm yourself by calling a time-out. Instead of muttering and shooting fire at the person ahead with 100 coupons, use the time for your personal benefit. Take several deep breaths, hum a favorite tune, roll your head from side to side to relax your neck muscles, or analyze the fashion trends of the other shoppers. We have to work at patience, because for most of us it does not come naturally.

I've also noticed that we seem to lose our patience most often with two types of people: family members and people we don't know at all. That may seem like opposites but it is understandable. Close friends and family members know us well and generally accept our behavior as it is. Strangers that we see only once in a lifetime have never seen any other behavior and probably don't care. Isn't it embarrassing to tailgate the slow driver in front of you, only to pass and find out it is your neighbor? Now you worry about the impression you've made.

Patience is a gift we can give to family, friends and strangers. Patience. You can't see it or feel it, but you sure know when you have a lot and when you've run out. It's there to use when you really need it, if you work to stop any leaks.

I have been wondering, though, do parents get larger buckets than everyone else, or do they just plug leaks better?



Classic Tractor Calendar Released

Vintage tractor owner John Clow, Centreville, Maryland, has earned recognition for restoring a 1937 Oliver Hart-Parr Standard 70 to its original condition. His painstaking project won a page in the 1990 Classic Farm Tractor Calendar by Du Pont, which will be distributed to more than 100,000 farmers. A companion full-color poster and videotape also are available, featuring all 14 tractors selected for the calendar.

"My husband's name is John, but from his 'habit' you would

swear it's Oliver," says Pat Clow of her spouse's obsession with old Oliver tractors. A semi-retired carpenter, John denies having green blood, but doesn't deny being fascinated by antique Oliver's. "Every trip I take, I scan every farm for old models," he says.

This Oliver sports a six-cylinder, vertical, valve-in-head engine with a 3 1/4 in. bore and 4 1/4 in. stroke. An electric starter, battery and lights were optional. This model came with steel "tip-toe" wheels, while rubber tires were optional, of course.

National Forest Products Week Scheduled

WILLIAMSPORT (Lycoming Co.) — By congressional proclamation, October 15 through 21 is National Forest Products Week. The theme for this year is managing the future of America's forests. This theme reflects the forest industry's concern and commitment to America's future.

Forests play an important role in Pennsylvania's economy. The wood-using industry in Pennsylvania employs more than 89,000 workers with an annual payroll in excess of \$1.9 billion. Seventeen million acres in Pennsylvania is classed as forest; this represents 58 percent of the total land area in the state.

Pennsylvania grows some of the

highest quality hardwood timber in the United States. Species such as red and white oak, sugar maple, white ash, and yellow-poplar occur throughout the state. Pennsylvania also grows the best black cherry in the world, and it is the most valuable timber species in the state. Many of the baseball bats used in major leagues are made from Pennsylvania white ash.

The continued productivity of Pennsylvania's forests depends on wise, professional resource management. Despite continued population pressures and competing uses for forest resources, America's forests still are among the most productive in the world. Largely as a result of careful resource management, the U.S. built 46 million new housing units and produces 1.7 billion tons of paper and paperboard in the past 25 years.

Today, wood products include more than just lumber and paper products. Wood flour and melamine resins, using cellulose filler, are components of dinnerware, telephone housings, and radio and TV cabinets. Torula yeast, made from wood sugars spent in the pulping process, is used in baby foods, cereals, baked goods, and dietary preparations. Ethyl cellulose is used in products such as sausage casings and photographic films. Rayon, a natural fiber, is used in the garment industry.

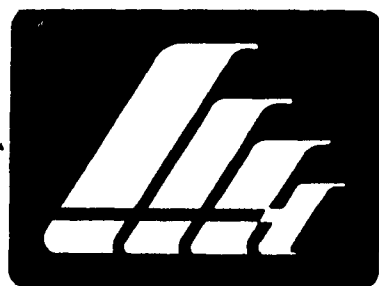
Given this rising demand for both traditional and non-traditional uses of wood fiber, it becomes apparent that sound forest management is becoming more and more important. With sound management, timber can be harvested leaving a supply available for future generations.

Information on forests and forest management can be obtained through county Extension offices.

har·mo·ny \här-mə-nē\ n. 1: working together 2: a mutual understanding



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Berks Society 9

Nine members of the Berks County Society 9 of Farm Women, entertained six members of Group Four at an International Dinner on Tuesday, September 26, at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Amityville. Dishes were served from a variety of countries including Mexico, China, Russia, Italy, France and England.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 8, at the home of Winnie Hayik in Weavertown. Each member will make and decorate a Christmas wreath at that meeting.