

One Homeless Person In Every Four Is A Child

NEW YORK, NY — An increasing number of Americans are taking action to help the growing number of homeless people throughout the nation, studies show.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, approximately 750,000 persons are homeless on any given night and up to 2.5 million people become homeless in the course of a year.

Those numbers may just be a small indication of the homeless problem. Other organizations, such as the National Coalition for the Homeless, estimate there are at least three million homeless people in the U.S. Not all are on the streets or in shelters. Some are staying with friends or relatives; others, in rural areas, are living in something less than housing—shacks or chicken coops, open to the elements, without plumbing.

The causes of homelessness are many, from lack of affordable housing—long gone are the days when one week's paycheck could pay a monthly rent or mortgage bill—to economic recession, cut-backs in Federal entitlement programs and inadequate mental and physical health care.

Helping to make a difference for the homeless is a community outreach program called Campaign Clean, created by Lever Brothers in coordination with the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Along with helping to provide homeless shelters with clean, warm clothes during the winter, Lever will donate a year's



Estimates are that 2.5 million people become homeless every year.

supply of detergent and fabric softener to a shelter program in each "Campaign Clean" region, conduct clothes drives at each of Lever's plants and administrative locations, hold educational forums at schools to address the problem of homelessness on a national and local level and offer community service initiatives for work to help the homeless.

You can also take action to help the homeless:

- Join national, state or local

homeless coalitions.

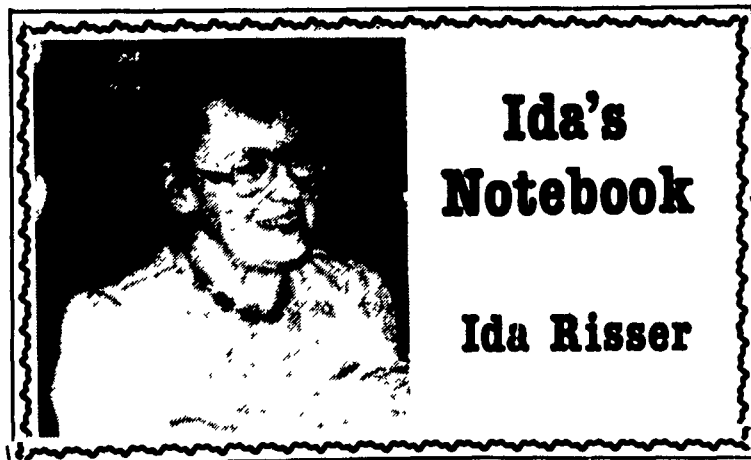
- Inform others about homelessness by talking to a group to which you belong, writing to a local newspaper or by calling in to radio talk shows.

- Donate food, blankets or clothes to local social service agencies.

- Call or write for more information: Lever Brothers Consumer and Public Relations, 390 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022; 1-800-598-1223.

The Christmas tree in Germany, Europe and the United States... The first recorded reference to the Christmas tree dates back to the 16th century. In Strasbourg, Germany, families both

rich and poor decorated fir trees with colored paper, fruits and sweets. The retail Christmas tree lot also dates back that far — in those times, older women would sell trees harvested from nearby forests in the marketplace.



Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser

Last week I took the time to look over a sheaf of papers that my cousins gave me a few years ago. These bills spell out the price of things at the time of my grandfather's death in 1900.

He met a sudden and tragic death as a train in Lancaster struck his team of horses. He had just sold a load of wheat and was returning home. The story is told that he had bought bananas for my mother, who was five years old at the time, as they were her favorite fruit.

I find it interesting to compare bills, that were part of his estate, to present day prices. John Wolf, the undertaker, was paid thirty-three dollars for the coffin and for his services. Nowadays the price tag would be four figures.

A meal was served after the funeral and the baker's bill says 60 loaves of bread \$3, 30 dozen buns \$3, and 20 dozen rusks \$2. The storekeeper also submitted a bill and some items were 90 pounds of

cheese at 15¢ a pound, 25 pound prunes at 9¢ a pound, 22 pounds of raisins at 11¢ a pound, 8 pounds of coffee at 25¢ a pound and 6 quarts of syrup at 8¢ a pound. The butcher's bill was for \$16 worth of beef. "The New Era Printing Company" ask 40¢ for the funeral notice and later sale bills cost \$5 to be printed.

The inventory of his estate included such items as sleigh, top buggy, trotting buggy, and market wagon all for \$45. Bed, bureau, 3 chairs, carpet and wash basket all for only \$12. Another price of \$50 is put on a "lot of chickens." One larger item is 5 cows, 2 heifers and 1 bull for \$195. All of the machinery listed would not buy one piece today.

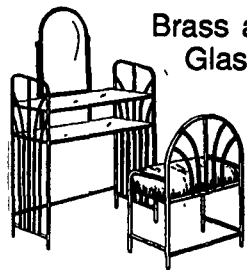
Grandmother Landis moved off the farm the next spring and moved into a two-story frame house in the village of Oregon. She had to pay \$1,500 for the dwelling and a small barn. That is where my mother grew up.

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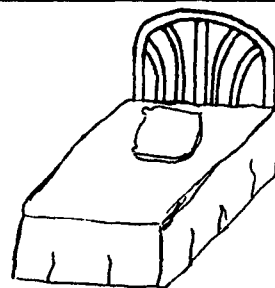
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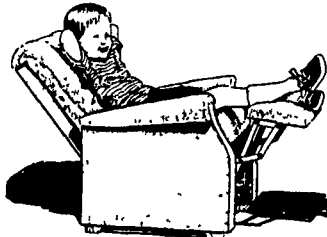
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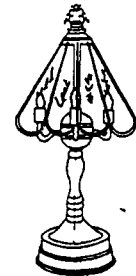
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