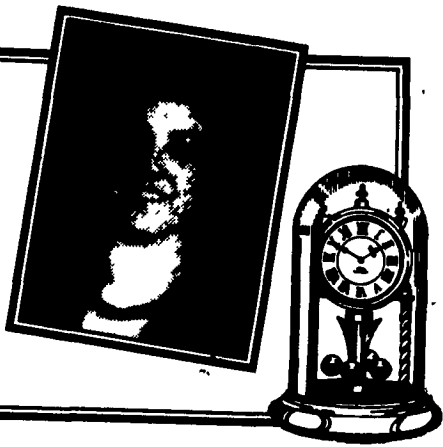


**Taking Time**  
by  
**Rebecca Escott**



**A Blizzard Game Plan**  
I, like many of you, have been preoccupied lately with thoughts about snow. A favorite phrase of my mother's keeps running through my head, "When faced with the inevitable, relax and enjoy it." I'm trying, honestly. But when faced with more than a week of blizzard-like weather and poor driving conditions, the "relax and enjoy it" part becomes more difficult. It is with that challenge in mind that I composed my game plan to deal with the next round of frosty weather.

I call my game plan, The Twelve Days of a Blizzard. And the first few days are the same (aren't they always!).

- Day 1: Shovel snow.
- Day 2: Shovel snow.
- Day 3: Shovel more snow.
- Day 4: Turn off the TV and play "Find the mitten." Pick an old, brightly-colored mitten. Most families have at least one glove or

mitten that has lost its mate. Use it. Designate an indoor or outdoor hiding vicinity. For example, between the front door and the maple tree or in the living room. One person hides the mitten making sure at least some part of it is visible. (The game is no fun if the mitten is completely buried in the snow!) The rest of the family seeks it. Take turns hiding and finding the mitten. Try different locations. With younger children, play as teams to help each other.

Day 5: Do an inventory of your pantry/canned goods cupboard. What do you have that could be made into a meal? Hold a family contest. Who can come up with the most creative stir fry or casserole recipe using things on hand?

Day 6: Use a scooped out grapefruit/orange rind or a pine cone from your stored Christmas decorations and make a bird feeder. Fill the holder with suet or peanut butter, then top it with bird

seed, nuts, raisins, or cracker crumbs. Hang it on a tree or fence post. Toss stale bread outside. Then watch what birds come to visit your outdoor diner.

Day 7: Mend clothes that have been stacking up.

Day 8: Call a friend who lives in a warmer climate.

Day 9: Take turns visiting and hosting neighbors who are within walking distance. Take an evening and play board games together. Young children will appreciate the change of scenery as much as you do. They'll also like having different games/toys to try.

Day 10: Exercise outdoors for at least 20 minutes if temperatures permit. You might take a walk, build a snowman, help out a neighbor who is not able to do an outdoor task. For some, getting to your mailbox and digging it out would be a perfect assignment. By Day 10, you'd really like to get some mail!

Day 11: Write a letter to someone who is just as snowbound as you are. If you have young children, allow them to add pictures and decorate the envelope. If you're a computer junky, surf the net and send a note to someone in another state.

Day 12: Get out some unlabeled photos and add descriptions to at least two rolls of prints. Have others help you with the task. This is a great way to reminisce. Be sure to throw out the pictures that aren't so good. And if you haven't already done so, before you com-

**Ida's Notebook**  
by  
**Ida Risser**



On one of these snowbound days, I decided to sort through a drawer in my cedar chest. It has been a catchall for years.

The items that I decided to remove were a hundred or more postcards and a collection of loose stamps. In my youth I faithfully put stamps in a special book, but over the years I lost interest or became too busy. Now I can hope that someday a grandchild will take up where I left off.

There were several old leather coin purses that contained pennies and nickels. There were four unusual bone and cloth fans. There were two pairs of chopsticks and lots of special letters written by my sisters or my children to me.

One item that I found was a small, black book made to hold

pletely dig out of the snow, take some more pictures. Our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren need evidence of the winter we lived through!

name cards. Most of the cards belonged to my high school classmates but some were our children's official name cards connected to their business affiliations.

In the bottom of the drawer was a large Christmas book given to me by an older lady in 1945. I had forgotten about it, but I took it out and read some of the stories.

Probably the most interesting were the postcards. Some were sent to great uncles and great aunts. There were messages written on the front and on the back. Many said, "Sorry I can't come to your home on Saturday." Others said, "Meet me at the trolley station Friday evening." They seemed to take the place of our telephone today. And, they had a one cent stamp and not a 20¢ stamp as we must use today.

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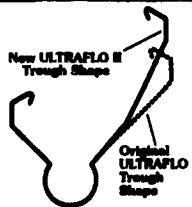


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