

## Facts You Should Know When Heating With Wood

**EBENSBURG** (Cambria Co.) — The old saying that "firewood warms you twice" has once again been proven true by many this year. If you heat your home with wood, you know the work involved throughout the year and how "warm" you get while cutting, splitting and stacking firewood. You also know about the cozy warmth burning wood provides for your home all winter long.

Wood, utilized as a heating fuel, has played a very important role in our country's history. In 1844, 95 percent of all energy needs in this country were met by wood. But, by the early 1900s fossil fuels — coal, followed by oil and gas — became the products of choice because of their availability and ease of handling. Most homes today are not solely heated with wood. But, since the mid 1970s and the Arab oil embargo, peo-

ple have been more interested in wood energy as an alternate heat source.

Wood is a renewable and readily available resource that is relatively easy to ignite and will burn rapidly if properly dried. Wood requires no special facilities for storage and is a relatively clean fuel with nearly pollution-free combustion. In addition wood burners or wood stoves are readily available in every shape, size and color. They have become a valuable complement to home heating and home decor.

There is a lot to think about each year when you use wood to heat your home. Of course you need to secure firewood and plan for all the work involved such as cutting, hauling, splitting and stacking. But, there are also other yearly considerations such as...


- How much wood do I need?

- What is the best way to store my wood?
- Is my wood dry enough?
- What species of wood are best?
- Do I need to clean my chimney?
- How can I prevent a chimney fire?

The Penn State Cooperative Extension has a great publication that can answer many of these questions and more that you may have about heating with wood. You may order the free publication by calling the Penn State Cooperative Extension, Cambria County, at (814) 472-7986. Ask for "Returning to Wood Heat," prepared by Walter W. Johnson. The 13-page publication can also be a great resource for someone thinking about installing a new wood burning system.

### Ida's Notebook

by  
**Ida Risser**



We've just had an interesting week. You see our son from Georgia came to visit for a week. We worked and we played.

He mowed the hill behind our house and he raked several wheelbarrow loads of leaves. He picked up a few Stabler black walnuts. Two small trees were transplanted and a high vine was trimmed.

One day he went along to a doctor's appointment and to the drug store. We also picked up some MRI records for other doctors to scan.

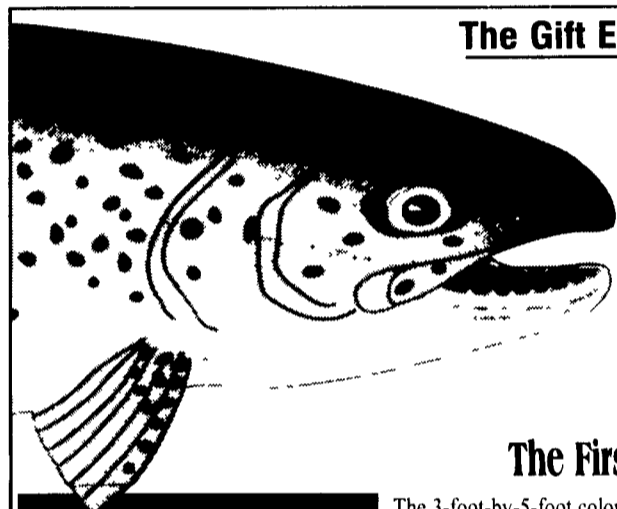
Then we went visiting as my husband had not seen a new addition to a relative's home. Their one large room has been turned

into a greenhouse, and it has a Jacuzzi too. Our longest

trip was to Palmyra where Allen's brother is now living in a retirement home. He has a beautiful cottage-apartment and was able to take many pieces of his own furniture with him. He treated us to a nice lunch while we were there. On the way home, we drove by the very large Risser homestead that is located between Elizabethtown and Manheim.

Jeffrey was also able to spend two days with our younger son in Tioga County where he is building a large cottage. They worked with one of our grandsons in the snow. As my husband has a camper on the large wooded area, they had a place to eat and sleep.

Now we shall get back to our regular routine of sleeping, eating, and running to the Hershey Medical Center. I know more about doctor's offices than I ever wanted to know.



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### LOST STREAM MAP

The STREAM MAP OF OHIO resembles another map—known to Pennsylvania anglers as the "Lost Stream Map"

The "Stream Map of Pennsylvania" was completed in 1965 after a 30 year effort by Howard Higbee, a former Penn State Professor

Professor Higbee succeeded in creating a map of the highest detail possible—a map that shows every stream and lake. He painstakingly plotted by hand, the location of 45,000 miles of streams onto a 3 by 5 foot map

The map sold extremely well—until it was lost several years later. Incredibly, the printer entrusted with the original drawing and printing plates declared bankruptcy, then carelessly hauled Higbee's 30 years of work to the landfill

The few remaining dog-eared copies became a prized fisherman's possession. Professor Higbee was offered \$400 for one of his last maps. And state agencies were forced to keep their copies under lock and key

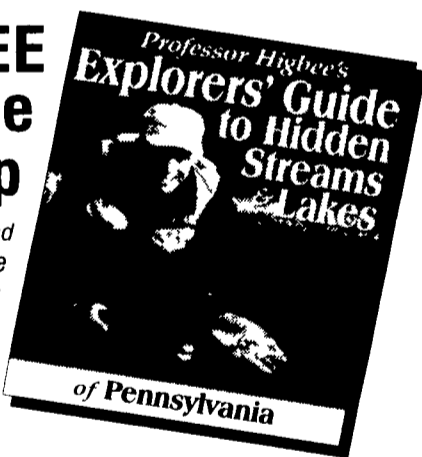
The experts had always told Professor Higbee that reprints were impossible, because the maps were printed in non-photographic blue

Then, in 1991, at the age of 91, Howard Higbee's dream came true. Computers made it possible to reprint the map. Holding an updated map, Howard said, "I never thought I'd live to see this day"

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