

The Plain and Practical

Year Five, Issue 45, September 2012

“Live simply, that others might simply live.” Elizabeth Seaton

When Your Cup Runneth Over With Something

I remember after my Aunt Virginia passed, Grandpa came from her place in Louisa, Kentucky, with the back of the capped pickup truck full of scraps from her four decades of doing alterations for that town. I remember, as a teenager, thinking all the people in town must have been just as short as the Crabtrees and Johns and Masons, not tall like the Dyes and the Vinsons and the Pickles, because there were boxes and boxes and boxes full of wool pant hems, about four to six inches wide. There was brown, and brownish grey, and brownish black, and brownish tan and brownish brown. Not a lot of fashionistas down there in 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s Louisa, I suppose.

“Grandma,” I asked, “How come there’s no black slack hems, Grandpa has black slacks he wears for funerals and pictures.”

“The black slacks were your good ones, honey, so when the men bought them as part of a suit at the better mens store, hemming was included and they got them done there.” There’s a statement from back when everything made sense!

So for an entire winter, there were baskets (this was before the days of plastic tubs for our excesses) and wood apple crates around the living room, and every time it was snowing too bad to do anything else, we had the fireplace going and oil lamps lit, and we cut and folded and sewed those rectangles of fabric and I’m telling you, it made quite the unusual rug. Grandpa got really good at seeing the one place he could pull a thread and undo the overcast hems, I cut them up the middle and folded them and pinned them, and Grandma did all the sewing with an upholstery needle. It got done, I remember admiring it, and then Poof it left the house and I never did find out where it went, but I am sure someone is still using it today, it was well and sturdily made.

When a whole lot of anything shows up, it just takes a day or two to figure out a good use for it but that good use might be labor-intensive. I simply love stories of people buying a barn and discovering it has seven hundred bags of powdered milk, which works great for fattening up angus beef cows and a piglot of porkers, even if it was originally intended for veal calves. I like stories where people make lemonade out of lemons, like when a flock of turkeys drowned, were fished out and processed for food, and the two ladies that came along to help were thrilled to be paid with feathers for making new pillows. The never-ending ways people can use their smarts and skills to create something out of nothing, or a new use for a thing you’ve never had to figure out before, that’s dandy, and makes for stories that you can wade into their truth, bask in their brilliance.

When I go to the wool mill, part of how I save on gasoline expense, is to get thirty-five, fifty, or even a hundred pounds at a time. This means a full laundry room for awhile, as well as canner-loaded dyebaths of goldenrod with pounds of wool simmering, tied-up sinks, buckets of black walnut hulls soaking on the porch in readiness. It’s just better to get everything out at once, deal with and prepare all the fibers, then they graduate to the studio to be drum carded and spun into yarn.

It’s a sensible movement from picking one handful of berries and eating them on-the-spot, and taking the children and picking all the ripe berries and bringing them home and making jelly. You have still not progressed into that wasteful arena of Commercial Production. Many of us have worked in factories, restaurants, grocery stores and other Commercial Production places where food, time, and resources are wasted. Every shift at a fast food place, food is rejected and thrown away. At my own store, on the night of the sixth day, anything I made—soup, bread, anything—had to be tossed into the trash by health department law.

That’s our job, no matter where our paycheck comes from or what we do to earn our living. When you see waste, put two brain cells together and try to do what you can to eliminate that waste.

(continued on page three)

One Purpose Of Crafting—Educational

Now, you’ll be shocked I’m sure, but I was hunting all over Marysville trying to find a latch-hook kit, and most of the clerks I asked, didn’t even know what one was. At the Michael’s store, they didn’t carry any needlepoint kits or supplies, and the clerk there thought “needlepoint” was another word for “cross stitch.” A friend was needing a particular size knitting needle to replace one that slipped out of her work, and the salesgirl said, “Can’t you just use the same size crochet hook?”

I told someone the other day that my drop spindles were made out of hardwood, and she said, “So you bake them in your oven?” like you could turn pine into oak with 350 degrees in your kitchen. Students I’ve worked with don’t know how many inches in a yard. A girl at the checkout counter in a thrift store didn’t know “where polyester comes from” and I explained it was an extruded petroleum product, and came from a factory, and she said “Oh, I thought it grew, you know, like cotton.” Crafting really does expose you to knowledge.

I don’t know what we’re teaching in public schools these days, but we appear to be raising idiots. Our expectations are low, it seems.

Like the girl at the Der Dutchman who had to get out paper and pen and figure the difference between \$7.99 and \$10.99 (I am not kidding, she even mumbled “carry the one” while she did it, and doesn’t that hurt your head?). This was a twenty-something woman, put in charge of the cash register and the paging system at the largest restaurant and catering facility in town.

If the public schools are going to fail to teach our children and grandchildren, it’s up to us to supplement those days they spend “socializing” and put forth some real-life tasks for them to do. Involve them when you write checks for the bills, can and freeze foods, change a tire on the car, or shop for a rug. Make sure they are standing right there when you telephone the bank, pick up lumber for a project, while you are under the sink fixing a leak. The schools have dropped the ball on teaching common sense and planning ahead; making things can help teach these skills.

When you craft, you make hundreds of little decisions, and think ahead. You sequence tasks, observe patterns, and develop hand-eye coordination. You respect what you make, and understand how to repair and maintain it. Your independence grows with each new skill.



September, 2012						Ninth Month
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
Sept. 3, Labor Day						
School Starts—Watch for children walking in the mornings, while it’s still dark outside.						
Ancient Anglo-Saxons called September “Barley Month” because it was when the grain was harvested. Known as Harvest Month, the harvest moon will be Sept. 29-30.						

And Man created the plastic bag and the tin and aluminum can and the cellophane wrapper and the paper plate, and this was good because Man could then take his automobile and buy all his food in one place and He could save that which was good to eat in the refrigerator and throw away that which had no further use. And soon the earth was covered with plastic bags and aluminum cans and paper plates and disposable bottles and there was nowhere to sit down or walk, and Man shook his head and cried: “Look at this Godawful mess.”

Art Buchwald, 1970

It would be best if the trash wasn’t created in the first place, but at the very least we can control some aspects of it:

- Paper, all kinds, reuse as you can for compost, roll up cardboard for emergency burners in tuna cans, let the children use colored paper for crafting (then compost it), firestarter ingredients, and use the good side for a letter or note.
- choose glass jars with washable, reusable lids, and they can be used to store dry goods such as beans, herbs, and seeds, as well as honey or molasses. Beer and wine type bottles can have new corks and be used for herb vinegars, tinctures, storage of extra vinegars and brines for salad dressings later, or dyestuffs.
- tin cans can be rinsed and flattened and stored anywhere, for taking once or twice a year to a recycling place and exchanged for cash.
- most grocery stores have a place to put plastic bags, and they will be recycled into new products. It’s often hidden way in the back or next to the bottle recycling, ask if you can’t find it. Better yet, sew up washable totes to use, instead.

The Broom Corn is Ready!

I'm headed down to visit friends in Hillsboro on Tuesday, to pick up some broom corn they were kind enough to grow for me. I have dried branches ready, and after it's all dried and cleaned, I'm looking forward to making some hand brooms for Christmas gifts, as well as a couple of larger ones for our house and porch.

Before a foot-treadle broom machine was invented in 1810, folks gathered all manner of dried materials from their own property or walking along hedgerows, and tied their own "round brooms." You could use twigs with leaves still attached (good for dirt floors especially) or for wood floors, usually broom, sorghum branches, I've even seen historical examples made from oat straw and from rushes. Europeans used longer handles, some other countries, shorter handles, but from further back than our language, there were brooms to help a woman sweep out dust, dirt, spiders and cinders from hearth and home.

Shakers are credited with the woven-stalk variety of hearth broom, and for using wire instead of the traditional hemp cords for tying. I'll be spinning flax into a cord, if I can find the bast fibers. Many traditionalists find a straight, sturdy limb to whittle the bark off of and use, that's my preference too, but the ones from the store always have a dowel handle that is milled for the purpose.

One of the things that is missing from most commercial brooms you buy in the store, is a hole drilled through the top and a cord or leather lacing that you can use to hang it up on a nail or peg. Brooms get bent on the bottom, even if you wash and flatten them with a broom vice (yes, I made one for myself), and they do much better and last longer if you just do that simple chore so they can hang up off the floor and stay neat and straight.

When you grow broom corn, after the seeds are ripened (harvest some for next year) you bend it over just below the "stalk" that holds the reeds, called Table-ing. Then a week or so later, snap off the stalks at the plant, and either lay them out flat, or hang them upside down on beams to dry. When you are ready to make brooms, stand the stalks down into buckets of water with a few drops of bleach, soak 2-3 hours and start makin'! As with our other goods in our homes, handmade is better.

Mental Dry Spells

Just the same way we have our rain barrels positioned under the spouts, and a pond with reserve water, we can take care of mental dry spells with a reserve of ideas stored away for a later need. Here's a little trick I learned in my college art classes, that works for all sorts of day-to-day life problems that need solving.

Either put a half-ream of punched paper into a recycled binder, or get a journal, or even a "real" sketchbook from the store. Put it near where you sit often, or on a shelf by the kitchen table, somewhere you can conveniently reach it often throughout the day (mine is on the top of the piano, which I walk by dozens of times a day). I keep a pen inside the book, or you can put a cup of pencils and pens next to it.

Now, when you are thinking of something that's off in the future, such as "ask Elizabeth if she needs blackberry shoots," or "Doris said she liked these slippers," write it in there with a map where you saw the blackberry canes, or a pattern number or sketch of the slippers. Paste in a recipe you see, jot in an idea for a pincushion or your inspirations for recycling an item. We are often given vast amounts of creative ideas while we wash dishes or take a walk or scrub the floor, but later, it's hard to remember exactly what you wanted to do with that flowerbox or the idea you had on the way home, for mixing up some biscuits. Where exactly did you see that black walnut tree, again? What was that flavor of candy Jack said he really liked?

Your "memory book" can help you keep track of all the wonderful bits of inspiration you are given from above, as well as use the resources you have around you every day.



A couple of hee-haws!

Murphy's Law: The misbehavior of a horse will be in direct proportion to how many people are watching at that time.

Q. What is the difference between a horse and a duck?

A. One goes Quick, and the other goes Quack!

A man rode into town on Thursday, stayed three days, and rode out on Thursday. How did he do that?

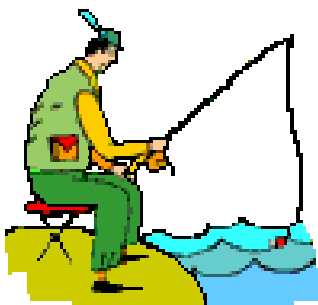
Answer: his horse's name was Thursday!

Bob said to George, "Hey, George, why don't we get ourselves 2 horses? We could ride them in the summer and in the winter we could put them in the paddock behind the house." George thought it was a great idea, so the next day they went out and bought themselves two horses. They rode them all summer. Bob really liked the way his horse had a smooth canter; George liked the way his horse would go over to a stump so George could mount easier. When winter came George got worried. He said "Hey, Bob, how are we going to tell them apart next spring? I really like my own horse." Bob said, "Well, I'll shave the mane off mine and you shave the tail off yours." This satisfied George, so he did. The next spring when they went back to get their horses they found the horses' hair had all grown back. Alarmed, George said, "Oh great, now how are we going to tell them apart?" and Bob said, "Well, you can have the red one and I'll take the gray one, and if we got it wrong, we'll trade."

What would I need?

Here's a little quiz for when you're sitting down with a young'un. Looking at each of the pictures, what materials on the list would you need for doing that activity? Can they tell you the process for each activity (order in which you would do the task)?

- Needle and thread
- Pots and pans
- Washcloth
- Fishing pole
- Hammer
- Bait
- Spoon
- Fabric
- Wood pieces
- Wash tub
- Soap
- Books
- pencils
- Water
- Chairs
- Stove
- Sunlight
- Aprons
- Scissors
- Pliers
- Nails and screws
- Hat
- Shoes
- Lid
- bucket



Ways to Recycle A Broken Basket

- soak it with water, turning it in the tub or sink, and then take it apart for materials to repair other baskets, or make a smaller one
- if the bottom is broken out, set it down on the ground in your herb garden, and fill it with dirt, and plant flowers in it
- a small basket makes a dandy bird feeder, hang it on a shepherd’s crook or attach to a tree limb, and put crusts of bread or blocks of suet cake in it, and birds will entertain you with their enthusiasm
- even baskets in bad shape will hold a clean napkin and be useful hung from the kitchen rafters, for drying bread into croutons, orange rinds for future potpourri, and other items
- if the handle is broken but the rest of the basket is sound, you can fashion a new handle from a belt or folded and sewn cloth strap, and attach it around the bottom and to the sides
- bits and pieces can be incorporated into your fire starters
- put it in your compost pile
- use it as a pattern to copy for making another basket!

(Cup Runneth Over, Continued)

and we kids would be across the street in the gas station on our bikes, peering across, wondering why the adults liked that place so much. None of us knew anyone who had ever walked across that threshold, none of our parents went there, we had heard adults say “it’s a rough place” but we didn’t know what that meant.

Anyway, the fellow that owned that bar, had a father out in the countryside who raised a couple hundred head of hogs. So behind the bar, on a wood back dock, there were galvanized trash cans with lids. All the extra food, half-finished bottles of beer, the grease from the fryer, that was all put into those barrels and on Sunday when they cleaned the bar, they took the barrels out to the farm and used the contents as part of the pig’s fare for the week. In the 70s the health department made him stop this.

I’m not sure what the problem with this idea would be. We kept a slops bucket under our sink, one for the chickens with smaller stuff, and one for the pigs, and it would be taken out after dinner. Sometimes in the middle of the day, Grandma would say, “Take the pig bucket out” because she’d been canning beets and it was full of pulled skins and roots, or “Take out the chicken bucket for Grammie” because it had gotten full of the leftover pasta salad or watermelon rinds from the fruit she was fixing for dinner. Every food waste in the house had a spot where it went, one of those two buckets, or the compost bin on the back porch (coffee grounds and tea leaves and cheesecloth-wrapped pickling spices).

When you work somewhere and they are throwing things out, do what you can to express a wish that this waste could be put to another use, sold, donated to an Arts and Scraps Box, or at least recycled. Pallets will disappear if left out front with a “free” sign on them. Styrofoam is desired by art students everywhere. Small pieces of carpentry wood are good for crafters. Sawdust makes fire starters, waste material can stuff pet beds at the humane society, packing popcorn can be dropped off at the antique mall for them to re-use for shipping. See? Big amounts don’t have to mean big wastefulness.

There are folks who want your glass food jars for pouring candles, and smart folks who will make Bunsen burners from your tuna cans, and others who will piece those extra clothes into smaller garments for their children. When your cup runneth over, you are responsible for the whole.

Current prices on recyclables—source, the Columbus location of OhioMetalRecyclers.com, 614-572-3310, price as of August 13, 2012:

- Copper, \$2.35 pound
- sheet metals, \$240 ton
- Aluminum cans, 50 cents/pound
- Whole Autos, \$260 ton
- Glass (broken cullet) \$21 ton, delivered (U.S. data)
- Newspaper/newsprint, \$30 ton, going rate according to ILSR

Note: Cost/profit results from controlling transportation; if you can collect and store it, and have a local drop off, you can profit. The best way to recycle is to directly share it with someone who can use it.

Editor's notes

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Different Kinds of Aprons

Right up front in Genesis 3:7, we read “And the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.” And beyond that calico or denim piece that a mother wears in the kitchen, there are lots of different kinds of aprons out there. Can you match the apron with the material used to make it?

Medical Apron	Linen, floor length
Cobbler’s Apron	Waterproof Plastic, neck to knees
Farrier’s Apron	White with lace ruffle
Restaurant Apron	Leather or Canvas
Painting smock	Lead with Plastic covering
Barbeque Apron	Embroidered wool or linen
Masonic Apron	Flame Resistant
Woodcarver’s apron	Polyester, short, pen holder in center
Nun’s apron	Leather or Denim
Welder’s apron	Calico, smells like cookies
Fishmonger’s apron	Cotton, buttons up the front
Waitresss apron	Cotton, with built-in scoop
French Maid apron	Duck or Denim, Large pocket
Carpenter’s apron	Black Rubber
Mother’s apron (answers on page four)	Leather, buckles in rear, like chaps

New FDA Regulations Having an Effect on Us

Recent changes in some FDA rules, and an increase in how both new and existing rules are being more aggressively enforced, are starting to creep into my “radar.” Etsy, my online art and crafting community where I sell vintage and handmade items, is “cracking down” on any health claim made by sellers of teas, crystals, powders, beads and other goods. No longer can someone say their tea, from farm-raised peppermint fields, is calming and healthy. No longer can a seller say that their copper bracelet promotes heart health, or that their lanolin cream helps skin heal faster.

I totally believe in the placebo effect. Most of the time I do not believe in the tea, herb, oil, meditation, breathing exercise, crystal, bone or copper or agate or willow wood bracelet, the medicine bag with pollen or the prayer beads made from olive wood and knotted by an old nun.

But I totally believe that you can cure yourself of a lot of everyday aches, pains, depression, anxieties, etc., if YOU believe that this rock or herb or practice will do so. The power, I think, is not in the object but something we don’t understand yet in ourselves—something that God built into us—that can appease/reverse/subside the symptoms (not the problem, but the symptom).

I’ve seen people get up out of their sickbeds after being prayed over, and people who have gotten off their 20 years of anxiety meds with yoga and meditation and lifestyle changes. I’ve seen elderly people who believed a spoonful of castor oil would solve about eleventy problems, and it did, for them. I have friends who swear that suppliments that support natural melatonin increases have changed their lives in every way.

Whatever floats your boat. Really. I don’t have all the answers to life, never will, so if you find something that works for you, have at it. Let’s have a little less government muddling in our traditional medicines and practices, and a little more investigation of the practices we know are dangerous and risky—such as genetically modified foods, food fumigation, and unhealthy additives.

Little trick for socks/itchy feet:

Sometimes, even hand washing doesn’t really take all the sweat out of a pair of socks—if you soak your socks in a sink or bucket for 1 hour, in a solution of four parts water to one part cider vinegar, then wash as usual, you’ll find they are cleaner, any smell will be gone, and you’re disinfecting them, too.

A Few Plain and Practical Resources for Self-Sufficiency

Need something for the Home, or Clothing?

- Lehmans, 877-438-5346, or write for a catalog, 289 N. Kurzen Rd., Dalton, OH 44618.
- Healthy natural soaps and salves, Cindy High, 905 Egeler Lane, Dexter, MI 48130
- Gohn Brothers, Box 1110, Middlebury, Indiana 46540-1110, toll free number 1-800-595-0031. All sewing done by local seamstresses to your measurements, at very reasonable prices for good quality.
- Prayer caps, Plain and Simple Head coverings, Bayley Thompson, P. O. Box 185, Bagdad, KY 40003.
- Aprons, Dresses and Coverings, Mennonite Maidens, <http://www.mennonitemaiden.com>, or orders by phone, 703-622-3018 or 304-492-5590. Wide variety of all offerings, reasonable prices.
- GVS, clothing for the entire family, baby supplies, toys, stationary, sewing supplies—many hard to find items. Highway 5, Versailles, MO 65084.
- Sisterthreads is a group of three Christian women who sew together in the daughter’s house amongst her four children, one of which is special-needs. Although they focus on quilts, they also do a variety of purses and organizers for knitting needles, crochet hooks and other sewing items. By mail: Sister Threads, P. O. Box 91, Herrietta, MI, 49638, or telephone, 231-389-0253.

Need something wholesome to read?

- The Budget, a Mennonite rural newspaper, P. O. Box 249, 134 N. Factory Street, Sugarcreek, OH, 44681. Several editions, so ask for information, 330-852-4634.
- Keepers At Home magazine (Plain homemakers) \$13 year/4 issues. 2673 Township Road 421, Sugarcreek, OH 44681
- Quaker Hill Farm, children’s books, P. O. Box 10, Harrisville, MI 48742 (recently featured on Animal Planet!) Quaker Anne has all kinds of good things made from her farm, web site is www.quakeranne.com
- An Encouraging Word, P. O. Box 374, Covert, MI, 49043, \$20/year includes yours and one gift subscription.
- Plain Interests newspaper (Plain lifestyle), 420 Weaver Road, Millersburg, PA, 17061. Monthly, \$16 yearly.
- Young Companion, Pathway Publishers, 2580N=250W, LaGrange, IN 46761, scripture-rich moral stories for young people, many are reader-contributed. They also produce Family Life, as well as Blackboard Bulletin, and I recommend all three as suitable literature to leave around where you find yourself spending a few moments in the day, they are uplifting, spiritual, and helpful. \$23 annually for all.
- Pendle Hill, 338 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, PA 19086. Quaker literature resource.

Want to stop and get bulk food on your next trip?

- Clintonville Community Market, 200 Crestview Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43202, 614-261-3663
- Yutzy’s Bulk Foods, 614-873-3815, 6010 Converse Huff Road, Plain City, Ohio 43064
- Countryside Bulk Foods, 4230 West Pike, Zanesville, OH 43701, telephone 740-450-1595
- Bulk Food Depot, 5457 Radford Road, Athens, OH 45701, 740-594-5053.
- Apple Hill Ltd., 8690 Vermilion Road, Amherst, OH 44001-9475. Telephone 440-965-7077
- Coon’s Candies, 16451 County Highway 113, Harpster, OH 43323, telephone 740-496-4141
- American Harvest 51323 County Road 16, Coshocton, OH 43812, 740-622-2855
- Swiss Village 309 S. Broadway St., Sugarcreek, OH 44681, telephone 330-852-2896

Need supplies for Making it yourself?

- handspun yarns for knitting, soy candles, black walnuts for dyeing: Beverly Thorne, 1941 S. Camp Ten Road, Elmira, MI 49730.
- Leather: Scrap Leather, lacing, and hides, all American leather, Real Leather People, P. O. Box 251, Sonora, KY 42776 or 270-369-8880 or sales@realleatherpeople.com
- Make your own brooms—Broomcorn and supplies at R.E. Caddy, Box 14634, Greensboro, N.C. 27415, 336-273-3609.
- Sewing Supplies, Home-Sew Inc., P. O. Box 4099, Bethlehem, PA. 18018-0099, 1-800-344-4739, homesew.com.
- Linen and wool fabrics, 1-888-546-3654, FabricsStore.Com, 6325 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite #102, Hollywood CA 90038
- Countryroad Fabrics and Gifts, 2195 N 700W Shipshewana, Indiana, 46565, good resource for fabrics, snaps, prayer caps, and more.
- Knit Picks, P. O. Box 870760, Vancouver, WA 98687, 1-800-574-1323. Fine quality wool and wool blend yarns—their natural color, dye your own selections are especially well priced. Many sock yarns, patterns, and superior quality needles. Online also.
- Raw Wool for Spinning at \$2-4 pound, also well priced natural roving, and shepherd’s supplies, Mid-States Wool Growers Co-op, 9449 Basil Western Road, Canal Winchester, OH, 43110-9278, 614-837-9665, call for hours and directions.
- Wm. Booth, Draper. 18th century reenactment supplies, I get my linen thread, horn thimbles, and other well-made, old fashioned items from this resource, 2115 Ramada Drive, Racine, WI. 53406, or <http://wmboothdraper.com>, or 815-648-9048.
- Discount fabric, Guhl’s, 710 E. Main Street, Jackson, Ohio, cash only, closed Sundays.

Self-Sufficiency and Preparation Supplies

- Bathtub liner for 100 gal. water storage—Water Bob, from Way Safe Florida, Inc, 14175 Icot Blvd, Suite 100, Clearwater, FL 33760 1-800-966-8044, approximately \$25. Available on Ebay as well.
- Seeds to store, \$55 for small garden, non-hybrid—Baker Creek Seeds, 2278 Baker Creek Rd., Mansfield, MO 65704.
- Archery supplies—Obsession Archery, 8289 Burden Rd. Machesney Park, IL 61115, 815-877-1212
- First aid supplies—a number of professional-level kits from \$71 to \$415, First Aid Supplies Online, 1-800-874-8767

Remember, Remember, It’s Now September

Children are returning to school, the nights are getting cooler, the crops are in or getting in bit by bit. Canning and drying are in full swing to save the last of a dry hot summer’s offerings. We are still having 90-degree and 85-degree hot days of full sun, but look to the calendar and realize, Fall is only weeks away, and Winter right behind that.

It will not be long before we’ll need a scarf and mittens in the morning to fight the chill, frost will come and there will no longer be bare feet—we’ll be wanting slippers and socks!

The almanac is predicting widespread storms and frost for the third week in October. If God wills, that will be the start of our winter—and the predictions that we’ll receive enough precipitation to make up for our dry summer, well, you know what that means! Either there will be days of cold rains or we’ll be needing a second snow shovel, perhaps.

There’s no need to be uncomfortable. A warm home and changes of dry clothing right by the door, ready anytime you need it, instills a deep appreciation for shelter and board. A hot cup of mint tea and a cookie, staves off the dark afternoon and gives you a second wind to tackle evening chores. Lanolin salve keeps hands from cracking after a day of working with wet gloves. Put a fresh cover on that old tied comforter.

It still feels like summer out there, but now’s the time to get those heavy outdoor chores done, store away the goodness, stack up the wood.



Answers to the matching game:	
Medical Apron	Lead and Plastic
Cobbler’s Apron	Leather or Denim
Farrier’s Apron	Leather, buckles in rear, like chaps
Restaurant Apron	Waterproof Plastic, neck to knees
Painting smock	Cotton, buttons up the front
Barbeque Apron	Duck or Denim, large pocket
Masonic Apron	Embroidered wool or linen
Woodcarver’s apron	Cotton, with built in scoop
Nun’s apron	Linen, floor length
Welder’s apron	Flame Resistant
Fishmonger’s apron	Black rubber
Waitress apron	polyester, short, penholder in middle
French Maid apron	White with lace ruffle
Carpenter’s apron	Leather or canvas
Mother’s apron	calico, smells like cookies