

# 'Doing The Dishes' Isn't All That Bad

By PATRICIA BUREK

If you didn't receive an automatic dishwasher from Santa Claus, take heart. It may be a blessing in disguise. With the energy crisis upon the American scene we are all trying to conserve electrical power and with the rise of water pollution, we are endeavoring to preserve a precious natural resource. Let's look upon the present situation with optimism and a bit of humor. "Doing the dishes" is not all that bad, in fact some people are cheerful, if not ecstatic, about it.

Gerald F. Ford, our new Vice-President, was quoted in a recent news article as being no stranger to a kitchen sink. He earned his way through high school and college by washing dishes. He suggested the job can be helpful for all husbands, especially those who cannot cook. Helpful to busy wives and mothers, I would add, and a good example for children seeing their busy fathers take a turn with a towel. What's so awful about it? It can be time well spent, depending upon your outlook on life.

I recall the day one of our school's huskiest athletes was showing off his new wristwatch to a group of friends: "... and it's waterproof!" I asked him why this particular feature was so important to him, thinking perhaps he did scuba diving or some other exciting, adventurous, dangerous sport.

Smiling a bit, he explained easily, "Now I can do dishes with my watch on." This seemed a rather unusual admission for our hero so I inquired further into this domestic side of his nature. "I don't mind doing dishes at all. That's about the only time I have a chance to talk privately with my parents without my younger brothers and sisters butting in."

My teenager was clearing away the dinner dishes, I casually mentioned the possibility of purchasing an automatic dishwasher.

"No way! I LIKE doing the dishes! I can close the doors, turn the radio on full blast and sing as loud as I want. NO ONE BOTHERS ME!" I had to admit a machine might be hygienically superior and efficient, but can a machine sing? We didn't buy a dishwasher; we had one.

Out of the past a memory springs of happy times "sinkside" with my beloved Grandma who lived with us many years. My chore was to help her with the dishes.

As soon as my Mother was out of hearing range, Gram would wink at me and suggest in a conspiratorial whisper, "Play the piano and sing for me, honey. That's how you can help." What child would or could refuse such a request? Grandmothers are very special people, wise in the ways of the young.

My husband's mother educated her men well in keeping house. The work was done first, then time for football or baseball or the guy waiting outside. I am eternally grateful to her because as a young bride I was more adept at playing the piano than I was efficient in the kitchen!

In the early days of our marriage I had a seizure of baking madness, and soon became overwhelmed by a huge pile of unwashed dishes, pots and pans. I wept into the dishwasher. My beloved knight in casual attire appeared, pushed me firmly from the sink, and tackled the task himself. Through tear-filled eyes I thought I saw a halo of light surround him. A saint with soap suds up to his elbows!

Our "singing dishwasher" had a close friend who loved to use the telephone. She was a lonely girl and called often. Many times when my eldest said she was "doing dishes" and couldn't talk just then, her friend would offer to come and help and "chat." (Her family had an automatic dishwasher.)

Doing the dishes can be a rewarding experience. The quiet time brings about a closer harmony of thought between individuals at the sink, an awareness of spirit which oftentimes heals many wounds which more hurried times may have wrought. It is an opportunity to commune with our fellow man and all of nature around us. The joy of a simple task well done enlarges the soul.

Agatha Christie, well-known authoress of detective thrillers, adventure stories and romantic novels once said that some of her best plots for stories came to her at the sink. I'm not in her league but you can guess where I got the idea for this story!



## Tell Me Why



### What Is Color Blindness?

Win the New Book of Knowledge (30 volumes). Send your questions, name, address to "TELL ME WHY!" care of The Capital Times, 5271, in case of duplicate questions the author will decide the winner. Today's winner is: Frances Cipriano, 13 Waterbury, Conn.

All the colors can be made by mixing three primary colors: red, green, violet, or yellow, blue, and red. In the retina of the eye there are certain cells called cone cells. They are sensitive to red, green, and violet — so our eyes are able to reproduce all the colors in nature for us.

What happens when a person is color blind? Certain colors strike the eye and fail to create the sensations which they reproduce in normal eyes. For example, rays of red light strike the eye and not only stimulate the parts of the retina that are sensitive to red, but also stimulate those parts that are sensitive to green.

The green light acts in the same way. It also stimulates parts of the retina that are sensitive to red! What does a person see when that happens? He

doesn't see either red or green, but instead a sort of yellowish-grey. This is because when you combine red plus green, you get white.

Such a person is color blind only for red and green. He can still see blue, yellow, and violet. But red and green always appear as various shades of yellow-grey. In fact, a color blind person can use these shadings to tell red and green apart.

A person may be slightly color blind, and this can be unknown to anyone, including himself. A person who is red-green color blind can learn at an early age to tell the two colors apart. He doesn't do it by color, but by judging the tone and luminosity of what he sees. Red and green have quite different luminosity.

### FUN TIME

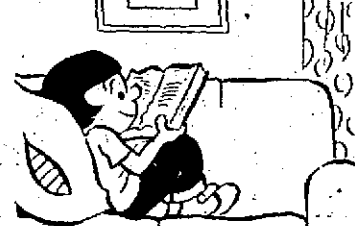
1. Two men played chess. They played five games and each man won three. How could this be? 2. If you had only one match and had to light a kerosene lamp, an oil heater, and a wood burning

stove, which would you light first?

### ANSWERS

1. They played other people. 2. The match.

Win a New Book of Knowledge Yearbook for Writing About "THE BEST BOOK I EVER READ."



Of all the books you've read, which do you think was the best? Write a letter about it and you may win a New Book of Knowledge Yearbook. Entries must be addressed "Book", Tell Me Why, and give your name, age, address.

Win the New Book of Knowledge Yearbook. Send your riddle, letter, or "TRICKLES, JOKES, TELL ME WHY!" The Capital Times, Zip 53701. Today's winner is: Beverly Alexander, 9 Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

## Know Your Antiques

### Various Antique Tool Uses Often Puzzle Collectors

By RALPH and TERRY KOVEL

Collectors of old tools often have to be detectives to determine the use of a no longer needed device. How many occupations no longer exist? There were tools used in the weaving of cloth, blacksmithing, ship building, and woodworking tools used in making roofing shingles or notch logs for cabins. Just think of the thousands of other tools that can now only be seen by the collector or in the hands of a craftsman.

One of the more usual tools recently shown was a wooden handmade tool of rollers and screws. Research showed that it was made to crush the straws that were used in braided straw hats.

Q. Is there an easy way to date a bottle? When we are digging, we often wonder if the bottles are 25, 50 or 100 years old.

A. It takes a little practice and some study to learn about any

type of antique. There are several quick ways to get a fair estimate of the age of a bottle. Examine the top.

Corks were used from the earliest times, but you will find that most plain cork-stoppered bottles made in the U.S. date from 1840-1900. Fancy corks with decorative tops were popular after Prohibition. The threaded top of the Mason jar was developed in 1858 and used after that date. The screw top bottle is usually late 19th or early 20th century. The Codd-neck stopper was used about 1870, although it was never popular in the U.S.

Metal clamps held glass lids on fruit jars after 1882. The Hutchinson stopper was first used in 1879. It sealed the bottle with a wire loop that held a rubber gasket inside the bottle. The crown cap which is the type found on today's pop bottles was invented in 1881.

Other ways to date bottles are by the type of lip, the mod lines on the size of the bottle, the type of bottom and even the composition of the glass.

(Protect Your Antiques.) It is unfortunate that today's collectors must beware of thefts. Art and antiques are becoming easier to sell so they are of greater interest to the dishonest. In the past few months, we have heard of several bold robberies.

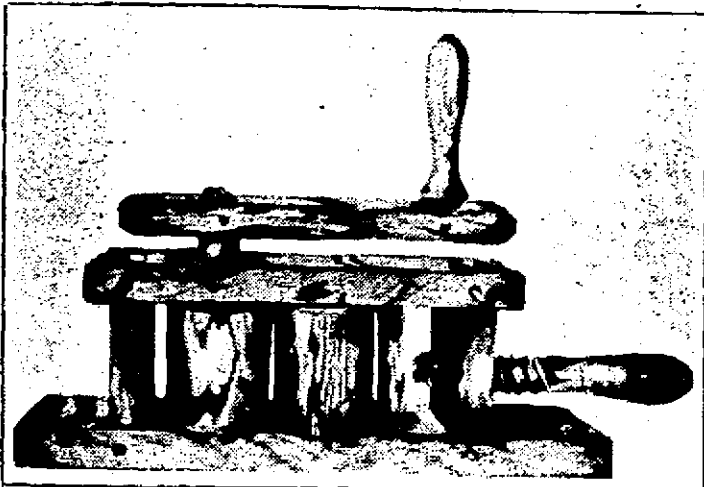
There was one where a moving van loaded with 2000 pieces of art glass drove away from a house while people watched. Another thief flew a helicopter over a New England barn and loosened the weathervane. Finally, a church in Cleveland, Ohio, discovered four large Tiffany stained glass windows had been professionally removed from the building.

Antique lovers should be careful not only to protect their collection with proper security precautions, but also to buy only from reputable sources.

### BOOK REVIEW

The revised second edition of "The Official Bottle Price List" by Ralph and Terry Kovel (Crown Publishers, \$4.95) is now available. Over 11,000 prices and 500 pictures tell the collector all about the current market for old and new bottles. Beams, Avons, fruit jars, bitters, miniatures, candy containers, and all other types of collectibles are included.

Knowing where to look for information on antiques can be hard. For a list of sources, ask for the booklet, "Books About Antiques." Send 5 cents and a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope to Ralph and Terry Kovel in care of The Capital Times.



Wooden screws and rollers make up this straw roller. It was used to flatten straw for use in braided straw hats. It was made in the Geneva Valley. (Index of American Design, Washington, D.C.)

## Looking Backward

by FRANK CUSTER



### Fifty Years Ago

The Board of Water Commissioners plans to ask the city council for a \$60,000 bond issue to finance enlarging of the well at Park Street and West Washington Avenue and wells on the east side and to obtain land near Sunset Point for a reservoir.

Harry Rosenthal, noted magician, in a talk to the Lions Club, says "I have duplicated every trick spiritualists are known to have executed and I also have performed tricks at seances that these spiritualists cannot even begin to duplicate," he says his life has been threatened because of a book he has written because he has exposed many of the stunts of some spiritualists.

### Forty Years Ago

Mrs. Claude Richardson is re-elected president of the Women's Society of Westminster Presbyterian Church; Mrs. Earl Roberts is first vice president; Mrs. O. C. Artman, second vice president; Mrs. Richard Campbell, secretary; and Mrs. Clifford Metcalf, treasurer. A large silk

flag which once flew from a staff of the battleship, "Wisconsin," will be displayed at the President's Birthday Ball in the Capitol; the flag was flown about 1904; it is 36 by 18 feet in size and has 45 stars.

James R. Quinn, son of Nicholas Quinn, announces he will be a candidate for Dane County Sheriff; he currently is a foreman on the Civil Works Administration project on Richmond Hill. "Young man wishes any kind of work in exchange for dental work," reads an ad.

### Twenty Years Ago

Officers of the Grieg Male Chorus are Lloyd Evans, president; Harry N. Lundberg, secretary-treasurer; Carl Hansen, vice president; Matthew Grosh, Carl Hommen, Ronald Perkins, Oscar Bratsen, Harold K. Petersen, Oswald Thompson and Joseph Anderson, board members. A Golden Age Club has been founded at Monroe, with Charles Stabbs, president; Charles Schutt, vice president; Mrs. Frank Hauser, secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Ella Hesse and Mrs. J. J. Kunder, co-chairman of a program committee; Spencer Bowen, 87, is the club's oldest member.

## Joni Enraptures Fans

By ROBERT LAFRANCA (Of The Capital Times Staff)

Joni Mitchell sings mainly two kinds of songs, love songs and star songs. She does them both very well.

In Tuesday night's concert at the Dane County Coliseum, she stayed close to her recorded repertoire of insights into the fleeting and slippery qualities of romance



and anecdotes of her reluctance to being a pop star. Performing for close to two hours before about 6,100 enraptured fans, she sang a selective retrospective of her tunes from "Woodstock" to "Raised on Robbery," which is now being played on top-40 stations.

She was in good voice, and duplicated her recent recordings with accuracy and energy. To the older tunes, she added vocal embellishments and occasionally some reflective lyrics to place the songs in historical perspective.

If it weren't for some substantial saving graces, Joni Mitchell might be just another sentimental folksinger. Her name has that ring to it — makes you think of a sort of Barbi-doll with long blond hair, a guitar, and an oversimplified social conscience.

Part of her salvation is the way she tests the limits of her

voice, dropping within a line from a quasi-falsetto down to her lowest register, then vaulting back up there in the next phrase and expanding the resonance. This odd, but compelling style is coupled with the most distinctive patterns of phrasing in use by probably any singer-songwriter today. The accents never fall where you expect them to. The line often starts early and slurs past the emphasis you expect to a sudden ringing high note, like breathless, almost delicious speech.

The origins aren't clear. She seems to embrace old English or early American balladry and nuances of the current phrasing of jazz improvisations. The jazz undertone is obvious in her backup band, Tom Scott and "L.A. Express" who opened the show with a series of improvisational instrumentals, including John Coltrane's "Dahomey Dance."

Although Scott and the band used a heavy rock-roll beat, all of ensemble work and their solos on guitar, keyboards or any of Scott's various reed or woodwind instruments were out of blues or jazz traditions. Mitchell has also taken to closing her songs with Scott's solos on saxophone, clarinet, flute or manzello.

Joni Mitchell's other great asset is that she is one of the very few songwriters writing lines that can pass for poetry. Her pure romanticism of a few years ago is now giving

way to a tougher, disillusioned, although still romantic set of perceptions.

She now follows patly sentimental lines like: "Oh, you're in my blood like holy wine, You taste so bitter and so sweet" with "I could drink a case of you darling and I would still be on my feet."

The best received songs of the show were "Big Yellow Taxi," a genuinely coherent social comment, and "Raised on Robbery," her current hit, which used the entire band at a volume and energy level heard nowhere else in the concert.

For most of the second half the band was idle and Joni accompanied herself on guitar, dulcimer or piano with Scott contributing only a few solos from offstage.

For one encore, Ms. Mitchell sang one song she had not written — "Twisted," a jazz standard recorded by Annie Ross in about 1960. The insertion of that song and her increasing use of a jazz-oriented backup band may suggest the direction her music is taking.

### Memorial Concert

Three performing groups will be heard in the annual Mid Winter Concert at Memorial High School Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for the concert, open to the public, will be available at the door.

## QUESTION of the day

By RON SVOBODA

The Capital Times will pay \$2 for each question used in "Question of the Day." Today's winner is Katie Landby, 414 W. Johnson St.

talinas, and I would rather have stuck with them, but Volvo has good gas mileage and is well made.

Harold Gliese, Prairie Du Sac, Retired —

### TODAY'S QUESTION

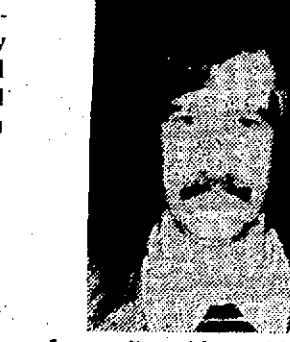
If you could have any car you wanted, what kind would it be?

### WHERE ASKED

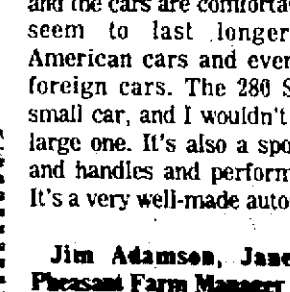
West Towne Mall.

### THE ANSWERS

Bill Randall, 1113 Regent St., Student —



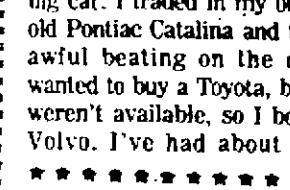
I used to sell cars — Oldsmobile, Rambler and Chevrolet — but I've always driven a Ford. I like Chevys — they're a nice car, but they don't have as good an engine as a Ford. Nowadays I might head toward a smaller car to save gas, but I feel a lot safer in a full-sized car where your nose isn't right up to the windshield. And bigger cars are easier to get in and out of.



Linda Bernard, 4706 Hammersley Rd., Student —

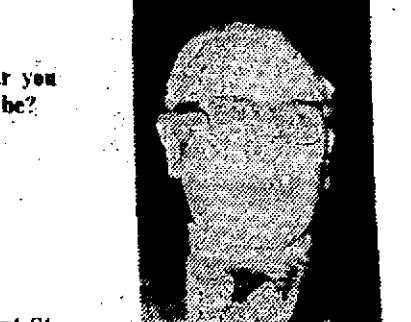


Jim Adamson, Janesville, Pleasant Farm Manager —



I like the Lincoln-Mercury Cougar. I just think they're really neat little cars, although I've never driven one. They look sharp and I think they perform well. I also like the Fiat 124 Sport Spyder. I've driven the Fiat and I like the way it handles. I like a car a lot on its looks and I like sports cars, but I also want a car that's well made so I don't have to have it repaired all the time.

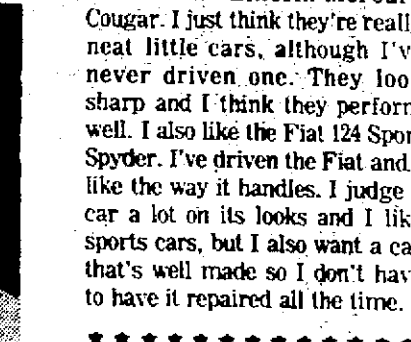
I just bought a new, and I'm not really very happy about it. I bought a small car, but I like a big car. I traded in my one year old Pontiac Catalina and took an awful beating on the deal. I wanted to buy a Toyota, but they weren't available, so I bought a Volvo. I've had about 10 Ca-



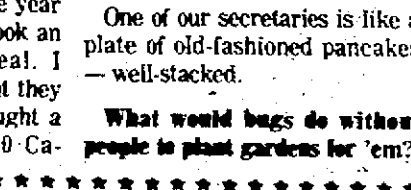
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Very funny, old buddy!"