

## Perspective – Cold Winters

Dixie and I were talking the other day about the cold weather. Out of curiosity I asked her some questions about when she was a kid and wintertime. I was fascinated by some of the things I found out. I was also surprised that I had never heard some of this before. I asked her if I could share this with the rest of the family to which she agreed.

I asked her how her house was heated during the winter time. The only heat was from a small stove. This put out very little heat. She said once winter started you were always cold. The only time you warmed up at all was when you went to bed. I asked how she kept warm at night while in bed. She said her mom would cover her and the other kids up with a bunch of old coats for use as a blanket.

As you can imagine there wasn't the insulation in her house that is in today's houses. She also told how along the baseboards there were open gaps to the outside, big enough for small animals to get through. You can imagine how this would let in the cold.

In the mornings she dreaded getting ready for school. To wash they used a basin filled with water. When they got up, the water in the basin would be frozen solid. They would put the basin on the stove to melt the water before they could wash up (and to think I remember complaining about having to run to the basement at the Grant street house).

I can only imagine how hard a cold week like this would have seemed in those conditions. We're all pretty fortunate.

So next time the grandkids complain cause mom or dad will only turn the thermostat up to 66 or when you see your heating bill or when you think what a pain it is to scrape that iced over car window, a guess you can take a moment and think maybe it's not so bad after all.

Thanks for the story mom; it certainly puts things in perspective.

Charley