

## Obituaries **Beginner's guide to buying firewood**

**JOHN WILLIE TUCKER**  
John Willie Tucker, 65, died Sunday, Nov. 13, 1971. He was the husband of Mrs. Jessie Mitchell Tucker.  
Services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 16, 1971, at Pryor Ave. Funeral Home, Elizaville. Burial in Elizaville Cemetery.

### Vets qualify for GI Bill

At least one out of ten Vietnam-era GI Bill students has received monthly checks for refresher deficiency courses taken to qualify them for higher education under the GI Bill's "free entitlement" provision.

The VA reports that more than 700,000 persons have taken advantage of the training opportunities without using any of their basic GI Bill eligibility. The training represents more than 11% of the 7 million persons who have trained under the current GI Bill since 1966.

Eligible GI Bill students may receive full benefits while training for high school completion. Others who have completed high school but need refresher or remedial courses for entrance into training, also may take the necessary courses on a free-entitlement basis.

This training is not charged to the maximum of 48 months educational assistance available to all veterans during the 10 years after release from active duty, but not later than Dec. 31, 1969.

A special outreach effort by VA benefits counselors during the past year was credited with a 23% increase in free entitlement entitlements. Respected contacts are made with veterans with less than four years high school in an effort to interest them in training.

Complete information on all VA educational assistance programs is available at any VA office or a veterans' service organization.

### Unemployment drops slightly

**FRANKFORT** — Unemployment in the bluegrass region dropped slightly in September from 3.6 percent in August to 3.1 percent according to figures released today by the Department for Human Resources. Nicholas County's September unemployment rate was listed as 2.9 percent.

Robert MacDonald, chief labor analyst for the state said "The drop is due to increased hiring by area employers." The bluegrass has the lowest unemployment rate of any region in the state.

According to the figures Lincoln County had the highest unemployment in the region at 6.4 percent with Woodford County recording the low at 2.1 percent.

Statewide unemployment dropped to 4.1 percent, the second lowest figure this year (3.7 percent in May) and is 2.5 percent lower than the national rate of 6.6 percent.

How much wood could a woodworker cut to pack a pickup truck with wood? Hard to say. Let's see, the truck bed is so big and the wood is piled up so high. That's how much.

Well, is it a bundle, a cord, a face cord, or a rack? It's not a bundle, that's for sure, because you can't "pick it up and carry it conveniently". The only way you'd know if it's one of the others is to unload it, stack it, and get out the yardstick.

A standard cord measures 4 feet high by 4 feet wide by 8 feet long, according to Jim Newman, foreman with the UK College of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service.

A face cord, rack or short cord are all 4 feet high by 8 feet long by the stack length. That usually makes less than half a cord, because most firewood is cut from 16 to 18 or 20 inches long.

Newman suggests you get assurance from the supplier that his truckload of wood will stack out to be an agreed-upon amount.

Green or Seasoned Wood  
Green wood has two advantages. It's cheaper and it's more readily available.

Seasoned wood starts to burn fairly easily, gives off very little smoke, makes quick heat, and burns more efficiently than green wood.

If you want a fire to burn low all night in a closed-down heating stove, large chunks of seasoned wood will stay lit, burn long, and burn cleaner than green wood. They'll deposit less soot and creosote on stovepipe and flue.



Green wood, left, shows tree-growth rings and rows of roughness from chainaw teeth. Seasoned wood cracks open as it dries, and bark starts to split off.

How can you tell if wood is well-seasoned? Look at it, says Newman. The ends of logs darken as they dry, and cracks radiate out from the center. It's lighter weight than the same wood green, and the bark is often splitting off.

Green wood is about twice as heavy because of the high moisture content. The ends of freshly-cut wood will show roughness from the chainaw teeth, and you can clearly see the tree-growth rings.

If you're not sure, knock a piece of wood with another log. A dull thud means it's probably green or wet. Seasoned logs have a different, "crisp-cr" sound.

Wood is usually cut into firewood lengths before seasoning because it dries out faster that way.

Which Woods Are Best?  
Almost all kinds of wood make useful fuel, but they'll burn differently. Popular, hickory and osage orange, for instance, pop out more sparks as they burn. Osage orange is hard to start. Apple and pine and cedar smell good as they burn.

**First Choice**  
Dense hardwoods offer the most heat. This group includes: apple, white ash, beech, burrwood, oak, dogwood, rock elm, locust, hard maple, hickory and pecan.

White ash is the best of all woods to wood will stack out to be an agreed-upon amount.

Newman estimates that a cord of these high-density seasoned hardwoods will give out from 20 to 25 million BTU's of heat. That's as much as you could get from about a ton of substitute coal or 200 gallons of No. 2 fuel oil.

Count on using one cord to keep a well-insulated 12 by 14 foot room warm for the winter. If Kentucky has another super-cold winter, it might take more.

That estimate is figured around a reasonably-efficient heating stove. If you're feeding logs into the average wasteful fireplace that sends 80 to 90 percent of its heat up the chimney, you'll use more wood. If you're relying on a well-managed straight wood furnace or stove, you'll use much less.

**Second and Third**  
Next best in heat output are the medium-density hardwoods: black ash, soft maple, soft elm, river birch, sycamore, hackberry, red and black gum, sycamore, elm and gum are all very hard to handle, so buy small-diameter logs or pre-split sticks to burn.

Low-density hardwoods shouldn't be left out. Poplar, cottonwood, willow and basswood all make good firewood, too. The higher the density of the wood, the higher the cost. Usually.

**Good Kindling**  
What about the conifers — often called softwoods — such as pine, cedar and hemlock?

They're easy to split and make excellent kindling, says Newman. But used alone as fuel they burn quickly, which means they won't hold a fire well. They also build up more soot in the chimney than the hardwoods. Burn them along with some hardwood for the best results.

**Your Firewood Dollar**  
You can spend anywhere from \$20, the lowest price we've heard quoted for "a truckload of any kind of wood you want, cut to your order," to \$60 or more for seasoned high-density hardwoods. This price includes delivery.

Beware of very light weight, decayed or "punky" wood. It won't give much heat. If it's lying around free, you might as well pick it up, dry it out, and burn it. Just don't pay good money for it.

If you have a truck, check the come-and-get-it ads. "Seasoned firewood and kindling, \$10 per pick-up load" sounds like a good deal. You could hardly cut it yourself for that price, says Newman.

The worst time to buy wood is from January on. So stock up now, and do it earlier next year.

**Engineer's**  
Continued from page 1

absorbed on a v-shaped plate which forms small triangular ducts through which air flows to be heated. The panels, designed to fit into the roofs of homes or industrial buildings, are 12 to 20 feet long and 2 to 4 feet wide.

Similar collectors require two air ducts for each radiator space, but Parker has designed his panels so that one supply duct and one hot air duct run through an attic and down through one house to a storage unit in the basement.

Parker says his collector can also be used on older buildings if there is sufficient roof area with a southern exposure and a 45 to 60-degree slope.

"Although the optimum angle for a collector during the heating season would be sloping south at an angle of approximately 30 degrees, slopes of 45 to 60 degrees and with an orientation as much as 20 degrees from south are the approximate limits for good solar heating systems in Kentucky," Parker said.

Parker, who has been working since 1970 on his idea, tested three kinds of solar plates—a flat surface collector, a v-corrugated collector with a selective surface, and a v-corrugated collector with black paint. Both the v-corrugated designs collected from 10 to 15 per cent more solar energy than the flat surface collector in Parker's test.

"The University is willing to work with manufacturers in the development of a solar heating system utilizing this new solar panel," Parker said.

November is "Heating Month" — Heat For Bargains in THE MERCURY CLASSIFIEDS

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Swift's 10-20 lb. avg. <b>Butterball Turkeys</b> lb. <b>79¢</b>	Fischer's Hams Quick-Cut lb. <b>\$1.69</b>
Armour 4-8 lb. avg. <b>Turkey Breast</b> (2 lbs. 12.57) lb. <b>\$1.19</b>	Ground Beef fresh lb. <b>79¢</b>
<b>Webber's Sausage</b> lb. <b>\$1.29</b>	Armour's Hot Dogs 12 oz. pkg. <b>69¢</b>
<b>Jonathan Apples</b> 3 lb. bag <b>65¢</b>	Armour's Bacon lb. <b>\$1.19</b>
<b>Campbell's Cream Mushroom Soup</b> 10 3/4 oz. 4/11	<b>Yams</b> 2 lbs./49¢
<b>Keebler Snacks</b> Several Varieties 8 oz. <b>59¢</b>	<b>Family Size Dial Bar Soap</b> 43¢
<b>Nabisco Premium Saltines</b> lb. box <b>59¢</b>	<b>Folgers Coffee</b> 1 lb. can <b>\$2.99</b>
<b>Parkay Margarine</b> lb. qtrs. <b>49¢</b>	<b>Heavy Duty Reynolds Wrap</b> 66¢
<b>Philadelphia Cream Cheese</b> 8 oz. <b>59¢</b>	<b>Paramount Wyrub Kosher Dill Pickles</b> 32 oz. <b>79¢</b>
<b>Kraft Miniature Marshmallows</b> 39¢	<b>Ky. Food Store Ice Cream</b> 1/2 Gal. <b>89¢</b>
<b>Coke, Tab, Sprite</b> 8 pk., 16 oz. w/Bits. <b>\$1.19</b>	<b>Green Giant Sale</b>
<b>Green Giant Sale</b>	<b>K.S. &amp; F.S. Golden W.K. &amp; C.S. Corn</b> 16 oz. 2/59¢ 17 oz. 2/59¢
<b>Green Beans</b> 16 oz. 2/59¢	<b>Hot Peas</b> 17 oz. 2/69¢
<b>White Corn</b> 12 oz. 2/59¢	

**Thanks!**  
I would like to express my thanks to all of you who supported me in the City Election. I will endeavor to do my best to help our City growth in the next four years.  
Please feel free to call me anytime on any matter that I can be of help.  
Thanks again,  
**Bill Power, Mayor**

Send one... Take one home.  
Our **FTD Thanksgiving Bouquet**.

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