

Town of
Glover, Vermont



**ANNUAL
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Photos on front cover and above:
Glover Sewer Improvement Project
Photos by Charles Barrows

LOCAL FLAVOR

Liquid Kindling—A Moving Experience

by Loudon Young

.... In order to not think about the state budget or your income tax or the depression or the general decay of the economy, I've decided to write about something of great importance. You'll never guess what it is, so I'm going to tell you right off quick, so we can get on with it. It's kindling.

Kindling is not the name of a new TV game or a new federal or state agency. Instead it's a very necessary part of burning wood. It must be dry, preferably softwood, split quite fine and available.

Now that "available" is the sticker. By this time of the year your carefully guarded hoard of cedar shingles or rails or whatever you stashed last fall is gone. How, short of tearing the clapboards off the side of the house where the wind doesn't blow too bad, are you going to get anything that's dry? Honest, folks, I don't know, but if you find something that works, tell your neighbor, 'cause he's probably out, too.

If you're wondering why I've waited so long to talk about kindling, you apparently don't burn wood or you'd know. Most of the time in the winter you have a little fire left in the morning to start the next one with. But when the weather starts to warm up, if you fill that wood-eating monster, it will drive you right the dickens out. So you gauge the fire a little and come morning, it's dead out. So you need some kindling, don't you?

.... There have been several experiments conducted on how to get along without kindling. They all failed, but I must tell you about them anyway.

Kerosene was the first mistake made. You pour it over the wood and most of it drizzles down into the ashbox and then you use up four books of matches to get the kerosene to burn and you wind up with more fire in the ash box than anywhere else. So that's no damned good, is it?

After a few tries with kerosene you have a brilliant idea. Just a little gasoline will do it. Not much—just a little. So you drop the match and holy cripes! The stove lid hits the ceiling, the darned stove pipe falls right down, soot all over the joint and you have bald eyebrows. Not too successful, was it?

So as I mentioned before, kindling is a very necessary thing to have and you miss it even more when you're out. Happy kindling hunting to you all and thanks much again.

the Chronicle, March 27, 1975