

For Seniors...

The fourth quarter

By LESLIE HOLBROOK

"Good things come in small packages."

That may be a good slogan for the jewellery industry but it doesn't seem to apply to the grocery trade or restaurant business.

Mrs. A. B., Kitchener-Waterloo Record reader (a winner in our "biggest beef" contest) complains about it.

Living alone and requiring perishable, frozen and refrigerated items in small quantities to avoid spoilage and waste, she cannot get them most of the time.

You can't get pints of milk. Frozen juices often are not available in the smaller cans. Bread is usually offered in the large loaf, half sizes being hard to get.

Eggs come by the dozen (some stores will split a pack). Cereals are available in small packages (assortments) but are more costly per ounce (sorry, per gram).

Many other items are more per unit in small packs, out of proportion to the cost of extra packaging. For example, an eight ounce jar of instant coffee costs \$7.19; at the same time, the two ounce jar was \$2.19.

When sales are held they usually apply to the larger packages, meat for example.

Things can be — and sometimes are — different. In Florida some stores specialize in small quantities for couples and singles. This should be much more widespread.

Closely related to this is the "beef" submitted by Mrs. E.P.T. of Medicine Hat (another book prize goes out). She writes:

"As a senior consumer my biggest beef is the size of helpings offered to senior citizens in restaurants. We pay for food which we can't eat and suffer the indignity of asking for a doggie bag for an often non-existent dog."

"Restaurants should have smaller helpings available at, say, half the menu price. This would save us money but, just as important, it would avoid the terrible waste of food."

I vigorously agree with this but urge the Albertan lady not to be embarrassed about the doggie bag bit. Lots of people do this — many who can afford to pay for the waste but still hate to see it.

High class restaurants are getting used to such requests. And if the waiter does look down his nose at you, so what? It's your money and you are paying for the whole meal.

But, admittedly, it would be much better to be able to order smaller, lower-priced meals in the first place.

I am a roving reporter for Canadian Hotel & Restaurant — magazine of the hospitality trade; in my monthly column, I have been urging restaurateurs to offer such services — to older folk and

to others who want to curtail their calorie intake.

You get some queer reactions. One noon hour, I looked over a menu in one of our chain restaurants. The dish I fancied was available in a child's portion so I ordered that.

They told me they wouldn't serve the smaller order because I

wasn't a child. An appeal to the manager (without saying that I wrote for the trade's magazine) was to no avail. How crazy can you get?

Let's have your examples. Let's fight such ruddy nonsense!

Reader's questions and comments should be sent to The Tribune, c/o P.O. Box 1506, Guelph, Ontario, N1H 6N9.

Corn crop looks good

By A.A. Wall
Agricultural Representative

Our corn crop in York region looks really good, but it needs more hot weather to mature it properly. The weather is a big factor for everything now, of course — combining, planting wheat and silo filling.

The market for grain is bad this fall for growers. It is a situation where some form of stabilization is needed, and we are waiting final details on the programs coming up.

The stabilization price on last year's corn has been set at \$2.18 per bushel. There will be a payment from the federal government if the average market price for corn sold between September 1 last year and August 31 this year is below \$2.18. The average

hasn't been worked out yet, but we estimate that it will be very little below this figure.

This year's crop will be eligible for full stabilization — a combination of both the federal and provincial plans. The federal one will make up any difference between the average market price and the support price of 90 per cent of the average for the last five years.

The provincial plan adds a further payment to bring it up to 95 per cent of the same previous average. Growers have to enroll in the provincial plan and pay a fee to cover one third of the cost of the program.

Full details are not ready yet, but anyone selling corn now should have proper invoices made for future use.

Sales to the trade are acceptable, of course, and sales to other farmers may also be accepted in the provincial plan. Weights, dates and other details are very important.

Silo gas is a very serious hazard at filling time and for 10 days after. It comes from the fermentation and being heavier than air, hangs just over the silage and down the chute to feed rooms.

It can kill quickly and can also cause permanent lung damage. Feed rooms have to be well ventilated, and no one should enter a partly filled silo without running the blower for awhile first.

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