

## Blanket Editorial<sup>1</sup>

By Helen Olson

When my Dad moved home after service in the Coast Guard and Merchant Marines, among the items that came with him were two sturdy heavy wool blankets, one navy and one "army" green.

I suppose because of their almost indestructible nature, these two special blankets became our play blankets. When we were small they made picnic cloths on the back yard, tents when draped over a table or the clothesline (I confess that we punched holes in the corners for the stakes we made from sticks) and "rooms" when we played "house" out-of-doors. Since W.W.II was still raging, the blankets often lined our "fox holes" when we played war games. Wrapped around a pyramid of stakes, they became a teepee. Often we simply used them to bundle our "stuff" when we wanted to drag it all to a new location in the back yard or woods.

As teenagers we took the blankets to the beach, on hayrides, and to the lake when we skated. They also went to every single home football game played by Alpena and Alcona High Schools from 1945 to 1962. Once in a while, when we had so many overnight visitors that half of us slept on the mattresses and half on the box springs, they actually got to function as blankets.

I don't know what happened to them. I suppose that eventually even they disintegrated, but not before they gave warmth and shelter and "space" to four growing Olsons, and we all remember them with a certain fondness.

The blankets you will be buying on Blanket Sunday for \$5 apiece are like those blankets --warm, sturdy, unpretentious and hard to destroy. They'll also see a lot of the same uses, except they won't be "for fun"; they will be "for real" when they protect children and adults from the elements, provide warmth, and bundle their belongings. I hope you'll buy lots of blankets on November 12.

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<sup>1</sup> The *GoodNewsLetter*, November 1989. I was the editor of Northside Presbyterian's *GoodNewsLetter* 1985-1990. This editorial about our family play blankets was the one that seemed to touch people the most. It also helped collect a lot of money!