

## Today we're gonna take up "Sheet-iron, wood stove."

The sheet-iron, wood heater was the poor man's stove. As the name implies they were of sheet-iron construction — not cast iron — and usually lasted only one winter.

Wood heaters put out the most soothing heat during the dead of winter, when you are housebound fending off a blizzard. They take extra moisture out of the air that is always present in the wintertime. A simmering coffeepot sitting on the stove kept the humidity just right.

Dad liked me to keep the stove stoked full of wood, if the thing wasn't cherry red he wasn't happy. The cold air coming in through the cracks had to be warmed and the hot air coming from the stove didn't like the cold air that came in through the cracks so it escaped the house as soon as it could. When the stove danced on its feet Dad was happy ... there was the rub. The drawback to wood stoves, is keeping them fed with a two-man crosscut saw and a chopping ax.