Over the Back Fence

Smoke House

ONE DAY, when our parents left to go see a movie in the city, my brother, Joe, and I had several kids over for a card game.

All of us were pretty young, but someone produced cigarettes and we all lit up. We were happily puffing away, playing cards and eating green apples.

I was really showing off and tried blowing smoke rings, and I was also sitting where I could be seen through the front windows.

I remember how mortified I was when, about half an hour after they had left the house, my mom and dad opened the door and announced that the car wouldn't start. They'd been sitting outside watching us the whole time!

—Frances H., Tara, Ontario

Blond Ambition

HARRY: "I can't believe he's in the hospital. Why, only yesterday, I saw him out with a blond."

Larry: "So did his wife."

—George K., Edwardsville, Illinois

Short Ditty on Shorts

A THEORY is contemplated by Myrtle D. of Apple Valley, Minnesota, who asks:

When wearing shorts
Brings whistles no more,
Could it be because
I'm eighty-four?

Tough on Teachers

IN 1915, the teachers were always changing, unless you were to become an old maid. These rules were strictly enforced:

"You will not marry during the term of your contract. You are not to keep company with men. You must be home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless attending a school function.

"You may not loiter downtown in ice cream stores. You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have permission of the chairman of the board. You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.

"You may not smoke cigarettes. You may not dress in bright colors. You may, under no circumstances, dye your hair. You must wear at least two petticoats. Your dresses must not be any shorter than 2 inches above the ankle.

"To keep the schoolroom neat and clean, you must: sweep the floor at least once daily, scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water, clean the blackboards at least once a day, and start the fire by 7 a.m. so the room will be warm by 8 a.m."

—Ann L., Le Sueur, Minnesota