# Remedies We'd Rather Forget

## Straight from the Horse's Tail

WHEN AN EYELASH or other item got into our eyes, my dad used a homemade contraption to remove the offending object with no discomfort to us.

The tool was a black hair from a horse's tail, looped and then secured to a matchstick by winding sewing thread around the stick.

The looped horsehair could not be felt as it was pulled across the eye, removing any foreign matter. Take note that a white horsehair won't work.

Dad brought this remedy with him from Austria when he came to this country as a young man. I still have the original tool, and it still does the job.

—Michael Gabaly Jr., Cherry Hill, New Jersey

## Grandma's White Lightning

GRANDMA LESH would fix up a remedy that fixed anything. It even worked as a bug repellent (it smelled so bad that a bug wouldn't go near you).

Grandma mixed several things into a gallon container and shook it all up. I've misplaced her recipe, but I remember some of the ingredients a bottle of rubbing alcohol, a bottle of peroxide and 23 crushed aspirin tablets.

The clear, smelly mixture worked well for insect bites, earaches and toothaches. Applied to a splinter with a cotton ball, the concoction made the splinter pop right out.

If you had any ache or pain, Grandma would say, "Fetch me the jug of white lightning." In the '50s, I had a bad sunburn and couldn't

sleep. Grandma was soon there with her jug. The remedy burned terribly, but in a short time, the pain was gone. The sunburn never blistered or peeled.

At the lake, with so many of us kids, Grandma kept her jug and cotton balls close by.

—Cindy Pugh, Ossian, Indiana

## Jewel of a Rash Cure

THERE IS a wildflower that grows in lowlands called jewelweed—some call it “touch-me-not.” If you touch it when the seeds are ready to drop, there is a snapping noise, and the seeds blow into the air so fast that you can’t see where they go.

For poison ivy, we would break the stem of the jewelweed and let the sap inside drip on the skin rash. In a very short time, the itch was gone. It has really worked for me.

—Paul Keysor, Cato, New York