impossible to maintain a comfortable temperature in any part of the house in cold weather. How well I remember those winter nights when cold air came through holes in the floor and around the doors and windows. The small space heater couldn’t keep even part of the living room comfortably warm so we would move our chairs as close as possible to the stove. There were plenty of times when the fronts of my trouser legs got so hot they almost blistered my shins and at the same time my calves were so cold they ached. On those coldest nights we often went to bed soon after supper just to keep warm.

Going to bed those cold nights was merely the better of two bad options. We knew that we couldn’t be comfortable if we stayed up but we also knew that, even though we would be miserable the first few minutes we were in bed, we could soon be as snug as the proverbial bug. The ordeal of going to bed on wintry nights was sometimes made much more miserable if we first had to make a trip to the out-house. Under each bed was a large porcelain "potty" so we didn’t have to run outside during the night but they were to be used after we had gone to bed.

Two of us slept in each bed, so when both bed-partners were ready for bed we stood as close to the stove as possible until both were thoroughly warm. Then we ran to the bedroom, jumped into bed and cuddled as closely as possible until we got the sheets warm. Mom kept us supplied with long flannel night gowns which helped immensely. We always had a good supply of quilts and comforters, most of which my mother made. Getting out of bed the next morning was as much of an ordeal as going to bed. We usually dressed in the living room where Mom and Dad had the stove going full blast.

There must have been a telephone in the old house when we first moved into it. Of course our telephone system, known as the "party line", was vastly inferior to those in use today. Our telephone consisted of a long wooden box attached vertically to an outside wall. On the right side of the box was a crank. An insulated wire about 6 feet long extended through a hole in the left side. An ear-phone was attached to the end of this cord and, when not in use, it rested in a saddle attached to the box. This saddle served as the on-off switch. The mouthpiece was mounted on a rigid metal arm attached to the front of the box and which pivoted up or down and could be adjusted to a person’s height. The telephone was powered by a large 12-volt, dry-cell battery.

Turning the crank caused any other phone attached to the same line to ring. The "central" or switchboard was located in the home of the person who owned and maintained the system and who