

The Foot Warmer



In March 1999, the talk of the town in Bung Hollow, West Virginia was Betty Sue Dinklaker's foot warmer. She'd seen it advertised in the newspaper right before Christmas and, after getting permission from Earl, had ordered it from McGillicuddy's. After all, their little pot belly stove barely kept the cabin above freezing during the winter and she was always cold. The temperature never bothered Earl, of course, because he was an Adelie penguin. Mail order was still slow in those days, and spring arrived before the foot warmer did. But Betty Sue was not about to complain, no matter the company sent her the wrong size and she had to scrunch up her toes to get them into the foot warmer's slots. Because the device really did keep her feet toasty warm – up to 310 degrees Fahrenheit! And how her neighbors envied her! That is, until the time that Betty Sue tried to use the foot warmer while taking a nice, leisurely bath. At least after that misfortune, Earl could, in good conscience, lower the thermostat to a more comfortable level.