

Wastebasket Part Of Everyone's Life

By JAMIE BUCKINGHAM

The wastepaper basket is an essential part of life's equipment. I rediscovered this last week when we moved into a new house.

An older friend had said that three moves equal a fire.

I believe it.

SOME OF the stuff we had been saving for two years — in unopened boxes stacked in the garage.

But as I sorted through it I determined much of it should be consigned to the trash.

Old cans of paint, long since hardened with age.
a bag of keys that we no longer had locks for.

PERSPECTIVE

JIGSAW PUZZLES with half the pieces missing.

Not to mention the precious, valuable things my wife had been saving.

Old Christmas cards.

Birthday cards from our 12-year-old son's first birthday.

AND THEN that huge box filled with those pre-tied ribbon bows — now smashed flat from months of storage under a smashed TV antenna.

There is an art, a necessary art, of throwing things away.

Every writer knows that at least half of his creative paragraphs will eventually wind up in the WPB — or under the editor's blue pencil.

EVERY KITCHEN cook knows a good portion of he most delectable goodies will be consigned to the trash or garbage disposal.

Even children have to learn that there comes a time to throw away old coloring books, dolls, toys.

Paul speaks about putting away "childish things."

AND TENNYSON had something to say about God fulfilling himself in many ways . . . "lest one good custom should corrupt the whole world."

God delivers us from "good customs."

Even in the church we find language, architecture and dogma with an archaic flavor.

Perhaps the atmosphere of antiquity makes for dignity, but it also makes for irrelevancy.

WHAT A BURDEN to have to carry centuries of useless (although sometimes beautiful) tradition around the back of the church.

Life is full of odd survivals.

My friend, Norman Vincent Peale, keeps a wastepaper backed beside the exit door of his counseling studio.

WHENEVER an over-anxious soul starts to leave, he has them pause by the door and figuratively "throw away" all the burdens of yesterday.

HE LIKES TO remind them of the promise of God in I John: "If you confess your sin, He is faithful and just to forgive your sin . . ."