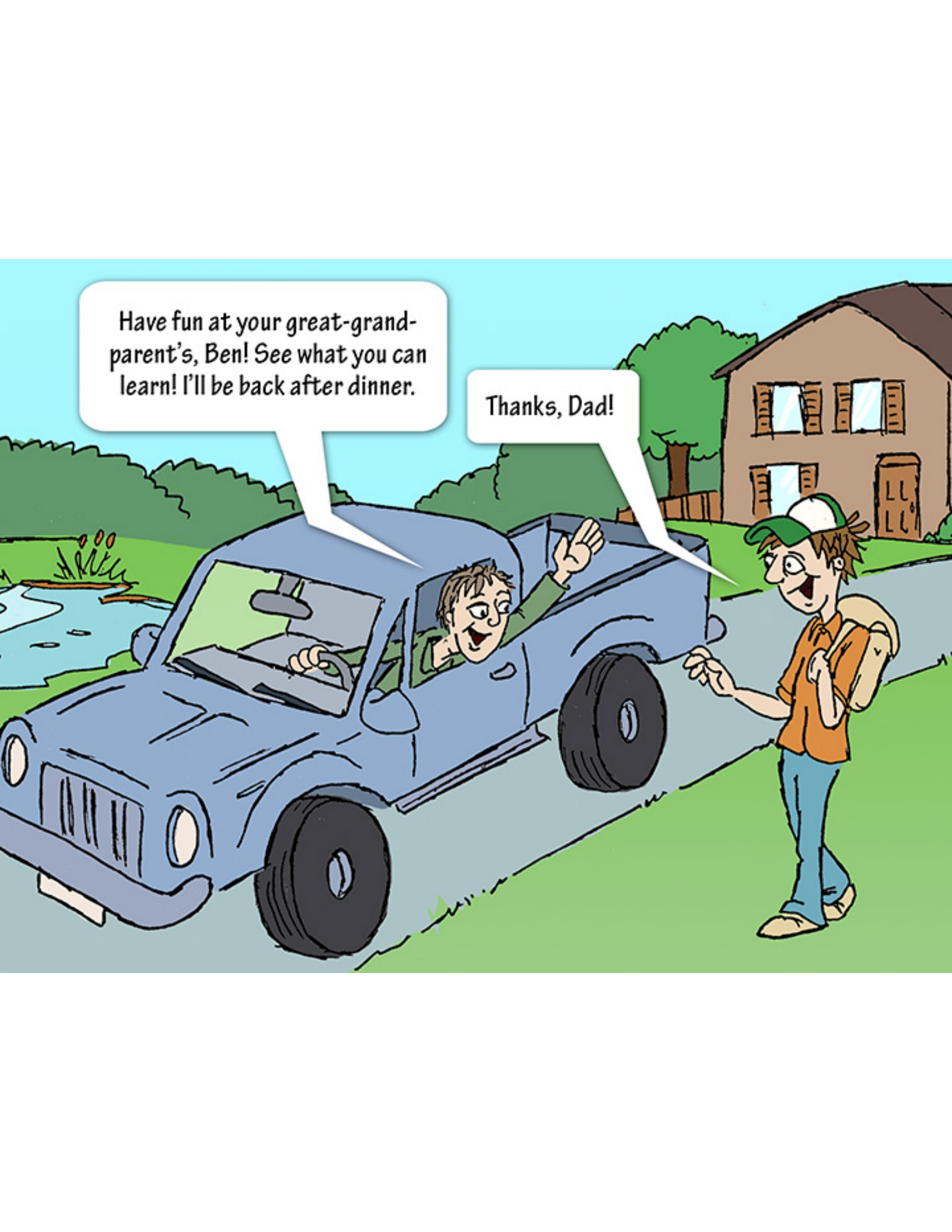


Benjamin P. Farmington in

Lights Out!




My
American
Farm



Have fun at your great-grandparent's, Ben! See what you can learn! I'll be back after dinner.

Thanks, Dad!



Your dad tells me you have a school project. What's it about?

It's about the history of energy. Could you tell me how energy has changed since you were my age?

We didn't get electricity until 1945. Some people had it earlier. We just couldn't afford it.

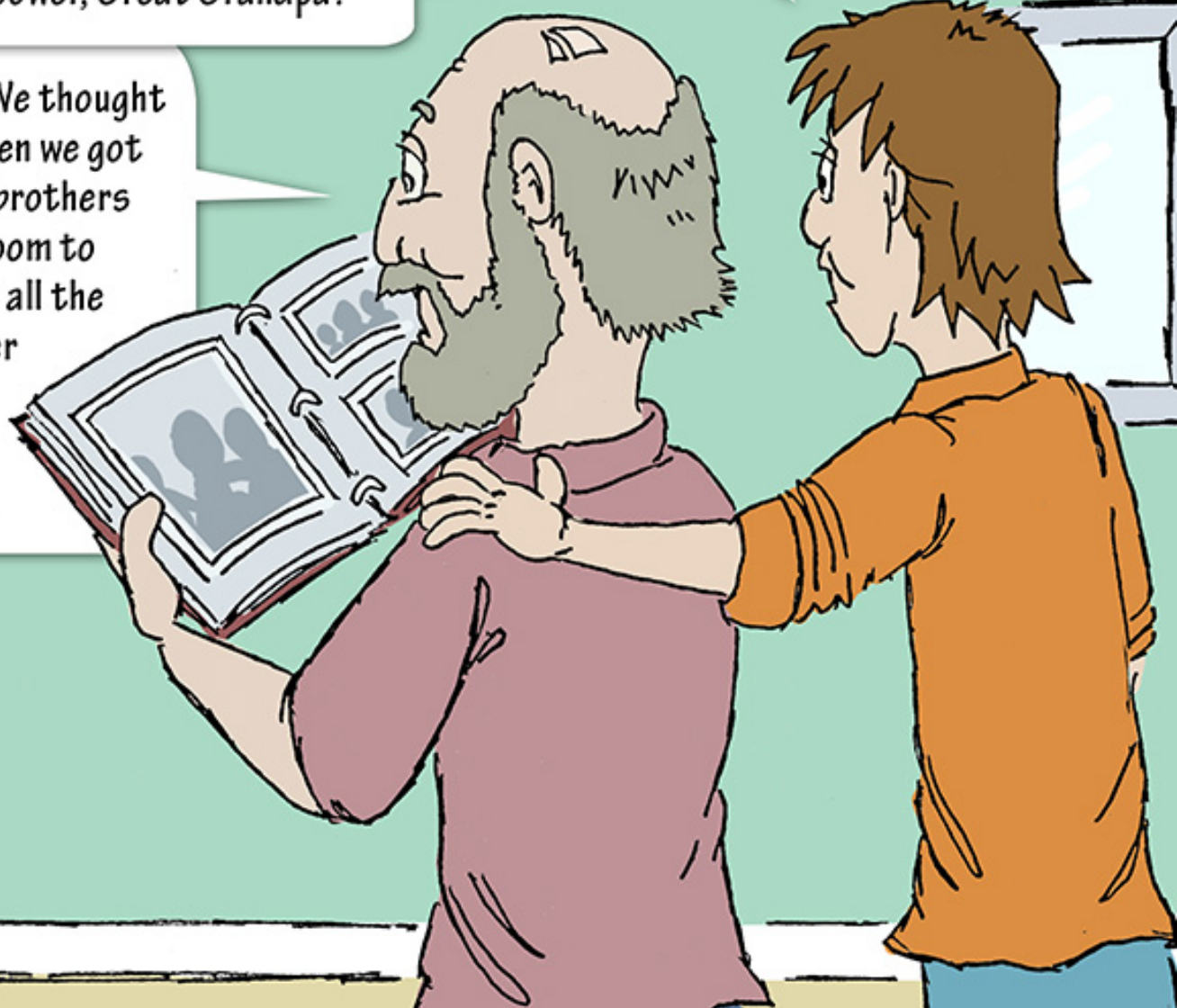
How did you see at night if you didn't have electric lights?

We had kerosene lamps, like this one.



Do you remember getting power, Great Grandpa?

I do, Benjamin. We thought it was magic when we got electricity. My brothers and I ran from room to room turning on all the lights. My father wasn't happy when he got his first bill!



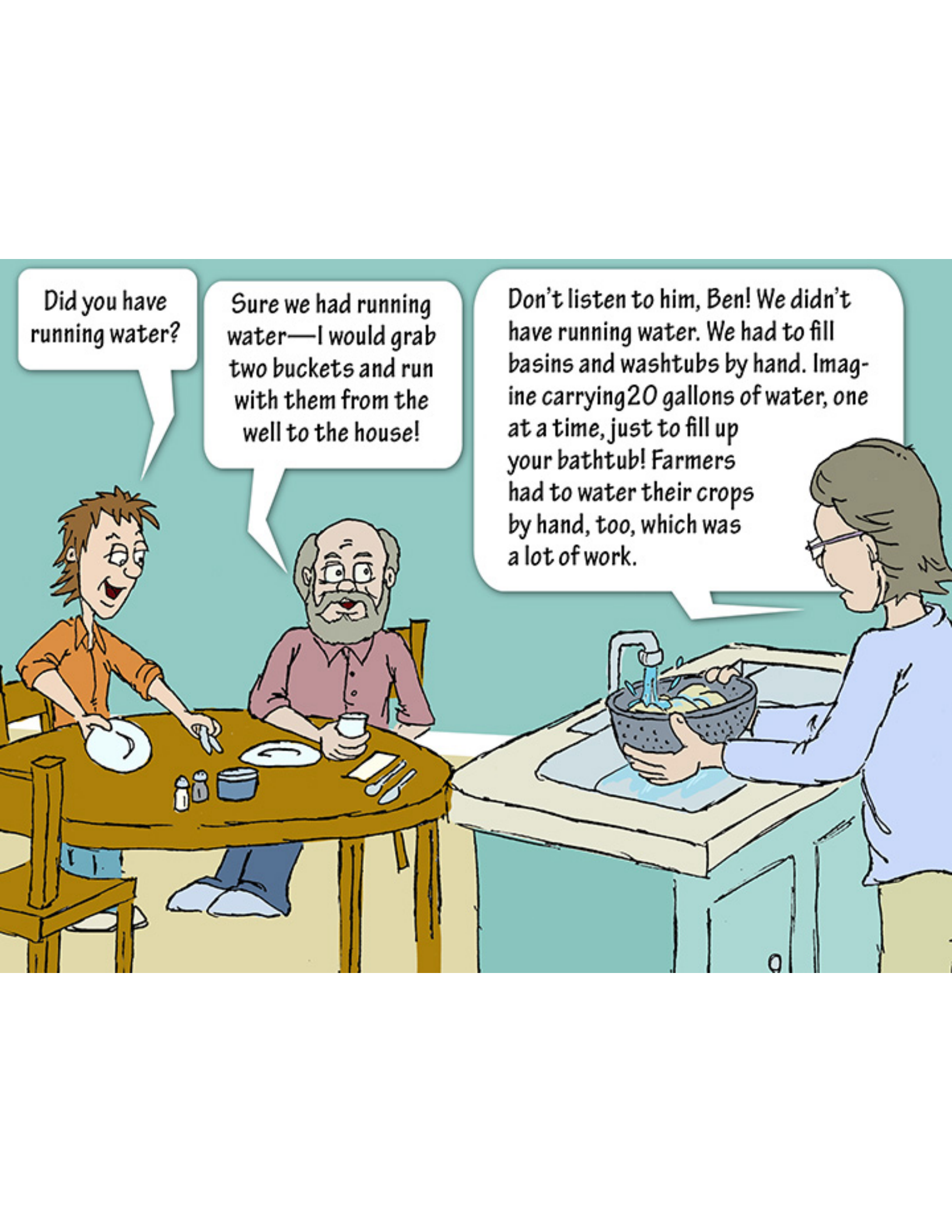


It sure made our lives easier. We didn't have to use our iceboxes and wood stoves. We could use an electric washer instead of hand-washing our clothes.

How did you keep your food cold before electricity if you didn't have a refrigerator?



That's what the icebox was for. The iceman would come around every day with his wagon. We would buy a 100-pound block of ice from him. The same man brought coal for our furnace in the winter.



Did you have running water?

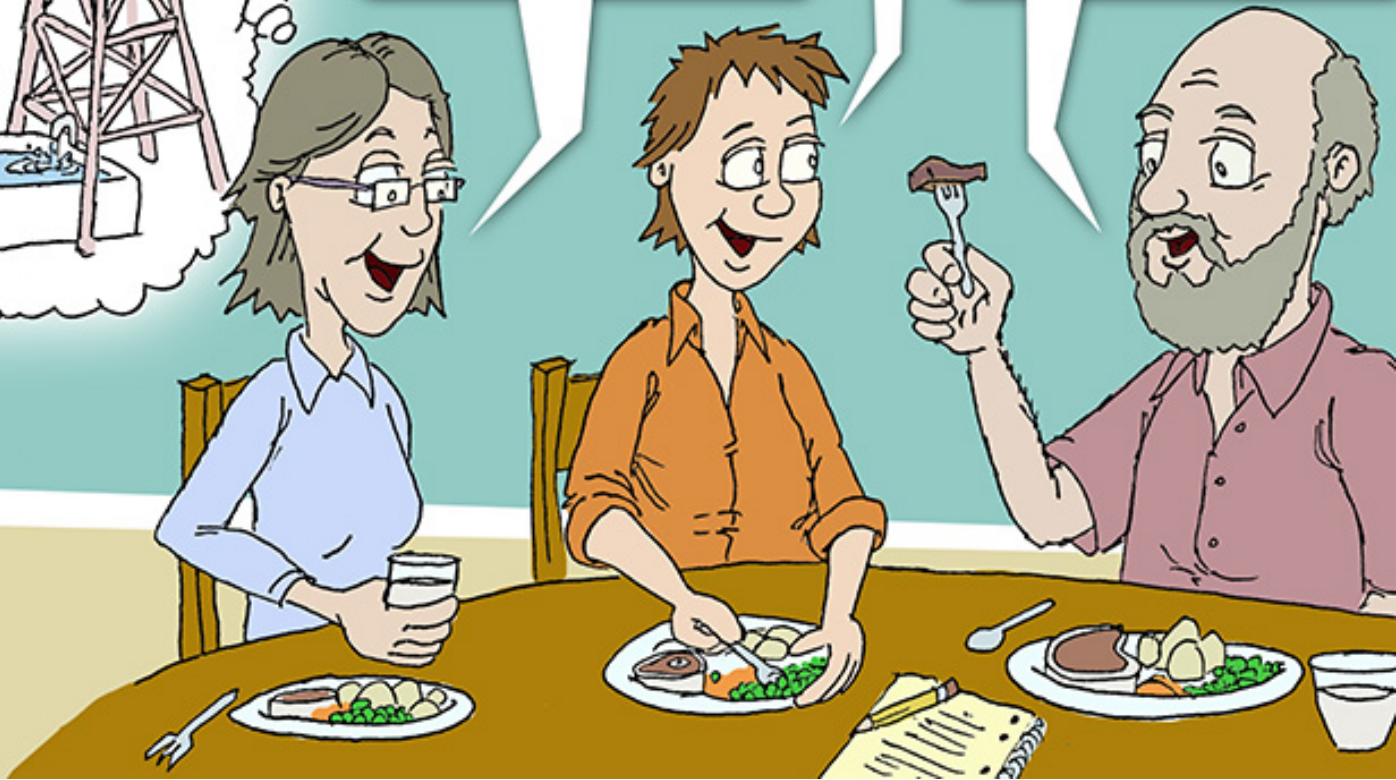
Sure we had running water—I would grab two buckets and run with them from the well to the house!

Don't listen to him, Ben! We didn't have running water. We had to fill basins and washtubs by hand. Imagine carrying 20 gallons of water, one at a time, just to fill up your bathtub! Farmers had to water their crops by hand, too, which was a lot of work.

How did farmers get water to their animals?

We used windmills to pump water when I was young. When the wind blew, the water filled the trough for the animals.

We still use wind for energy today. We call windmills *wind turbines* now, and they make electricity!



What happened?

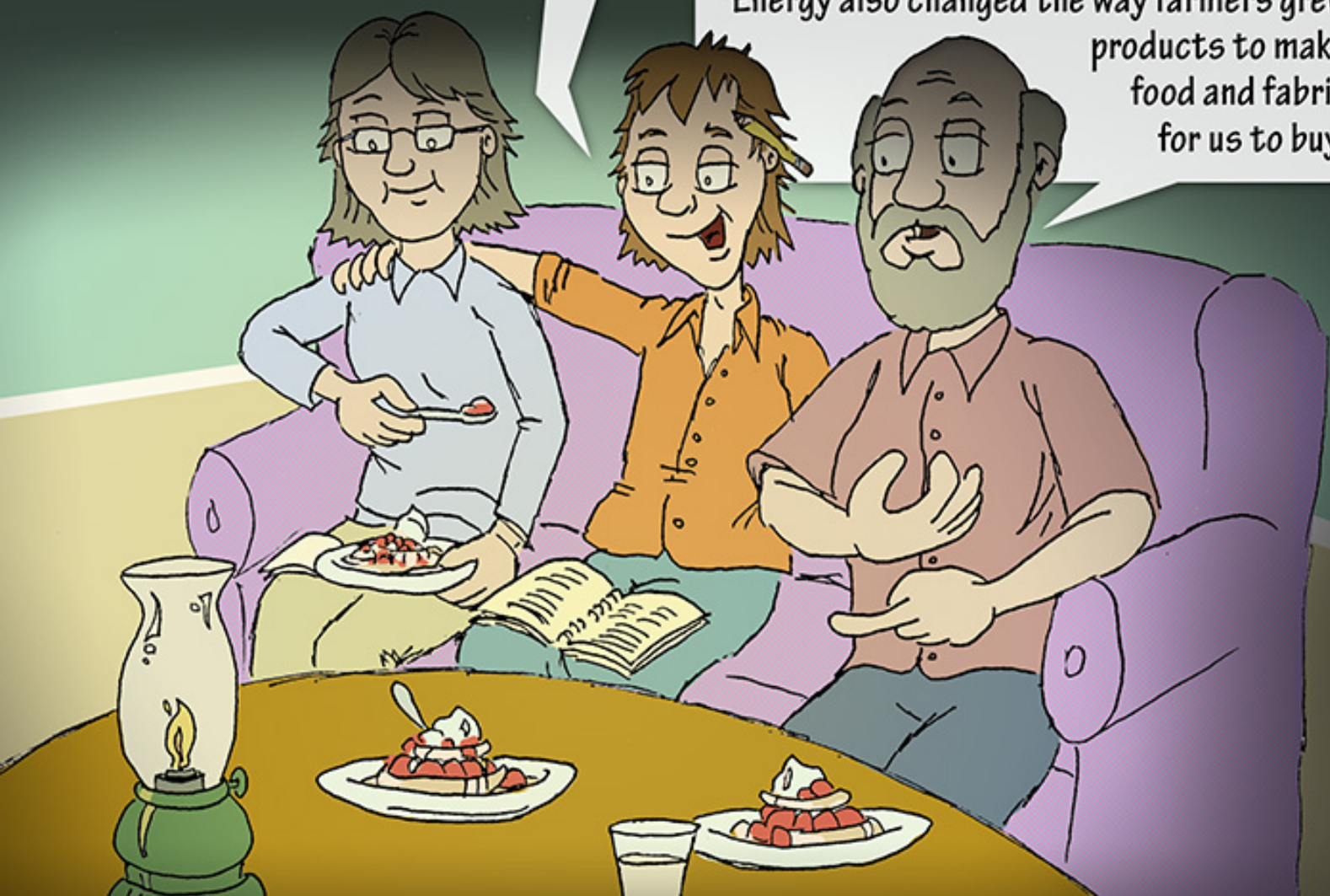
Looks like we lost power. Must be a line down somewhere.

Looks like this old thing still works! Now you're getting a real history lesson. This is what it was like for us as kids!



Do you think energy use was the biggest change you saw growing up?

I sure do. Refrigerators and washing machines changed the way people lived. Energy also changed the way farmers grew products to make food and fabric for us to buy.



Well, the power is back on. The people who work for the energy company sure work fast!

I kind of liked it—it was like being a kid!

You wouldn't like it when you were ready for your hot shower though!

Looks like my dad is here. Thanks so much for teaching me about energy. It sure has changed a lot, and now I know how much we depend on it every day!



