

At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends
by Dwight D. Eisenhower

p. 32

“Her household problems were, I realize now, monumental. The least of them was to provide comfortable beds for six boys in three rooms. She skillfully assigned us to beds in such a pattern as to minimize the incidence of nightly fights. She rotated our duties; helping with the cooking, dishwashing, laundry (she never had reason to miss the assistance usually provided by daughters); pruning the orchard, harvesting the fruit and storing it for the winter; hoeing the corn and weeding the vegetable garden; putting up the hay in our immense barn; feeding the chickens and milking the cow. By rotating chores weekly, each son learned all the responsibilities of running the house and none felt discriminated against. The total task of making life happy and meaningful for a family of eight took insight, imagination, and managerial skill.”