

Let's talk about
HORSES

By
Jennifer
Barr

Many of you have no doubt wondered about the treatment of the horses you see in Western movies being yanked down in spectacular falls and performing dreadful stunts. The following excerpts from Riding magazine may put your minds at rest.

"Some of the most highly valued members of the cast in any film in which they appear are the specially-trained stunt horses. The lot of the stunt horse has, happily, changed radically for the better during the last few decades. Before that the horses used for stunts were often cruelly mistreated, and their most spectacular contribution to a film, the head-over-heels tumble before the cameras, was often achieved by galloping them full tilt into tripwires.

Nowadays, however, such barbarous practices are a thing of the past, and the stunt horse is humanely trained to fall when his rider pulls a rein in a certain way at the same time as he twists in the saddle. A well-trained stunt horse is now a valuable item, and this economic reality alone is enough to ensure that his well-being is a matter of real concern, other considerations apart.

It takes many weeks of patient, skilful training before a horse will perform a good fall safely and securely, and fundamental to such good performance are the basic qualities of the animal itself.

Once the animal has been conditioned so that it goes and fits, it is gradually taught to fall on quite deep sand; the sand "bed" is used so that there is no possibility of the horse being hurt.

A strap is attached to the pastern of each forefoot, and a long rope is affixed to each strap. Then the ropes are crossed over from one side to the other just behind the withers by means of a special special surcingle; this allows a man standing on the left of the animal to raise its right forefoot by pulling on the end of the rope on that side; the left forefoot can be lifted by a man on the offside.

The next stage is to bring the horse to its knees by pulling in the rope attached to the strap on the other forefoot; the animal's knees are protected with pads, and after an initial struggle or two it becomes used to dropping to its knees on the soft sand.

The final lesson at this point in the training is to teach the horse to roll over on to its side. This is done by the man holding the reins; he reins the horse's head around to the right as far as it will go, and up, and eases the animal over, with much quiet, encouraging talk and caressing, until it is lying with its neck and its side on the sand. As it lies stretched full length, the trainer holds it down by means of the reins and "makes much of it".

The trainer sits astride its bare back and accustoms the horse to going down with a rider on top. Then the rope to the off pastern is removed, and the horse learns to drop to its knees, then lie down, in obedience to the combined aids of the rider reining its head around to the right and tilting it up, and the rope lifting its nearside foot.

The next step is to saddle the horse, take off the long rope and attach a shorter one instead. This shorter cord goes from the nearside pastern strap direct to the rider's left hand. To get the animal to fall on cue, the trainer lifts the nearside foot with the short rope at the same time as he reins its head around to the right and twists his body to the right. It doesn't take long for most horses to learn, and then their education can be taken further by teaching them to fall in this way at walk, trot and canter.

From then on it is just a matter of conscientious, skilled practice until the horse becomes completely accustomed to racing towards the sand "bed" at full speed and falling on cue."

BEAVER has more in **74**

everything you need to make it on your own.

BEAVER



Student Desk

Single pedestal with 4 drawers. Smoothly sanded knotty pine is ready to finish. Abt. 34" x 15" x 29" h.

43⁹⁷

Double-Pedestal Desk

As above, but with 7 drawers. About 45" x 15" x 29" high. (not shown).

64⁹⁷

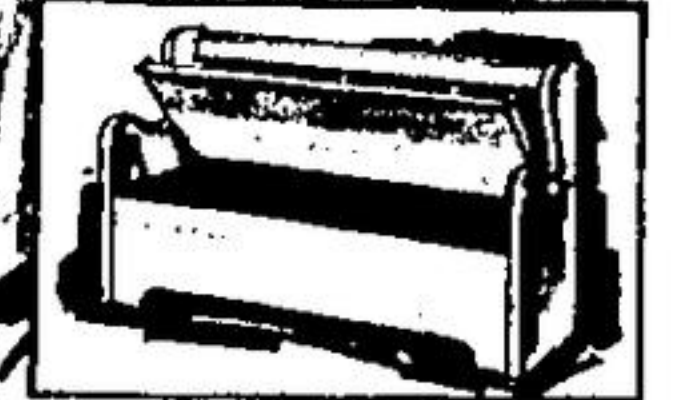
Deacon's Bench

Smoothly sanded knotty pine, ready to paint, stain or varnish. Hinged seat 'hides' space for toys, boots, tools, etc. Easily assembled. Abt. 41" x 15" x 29" h.

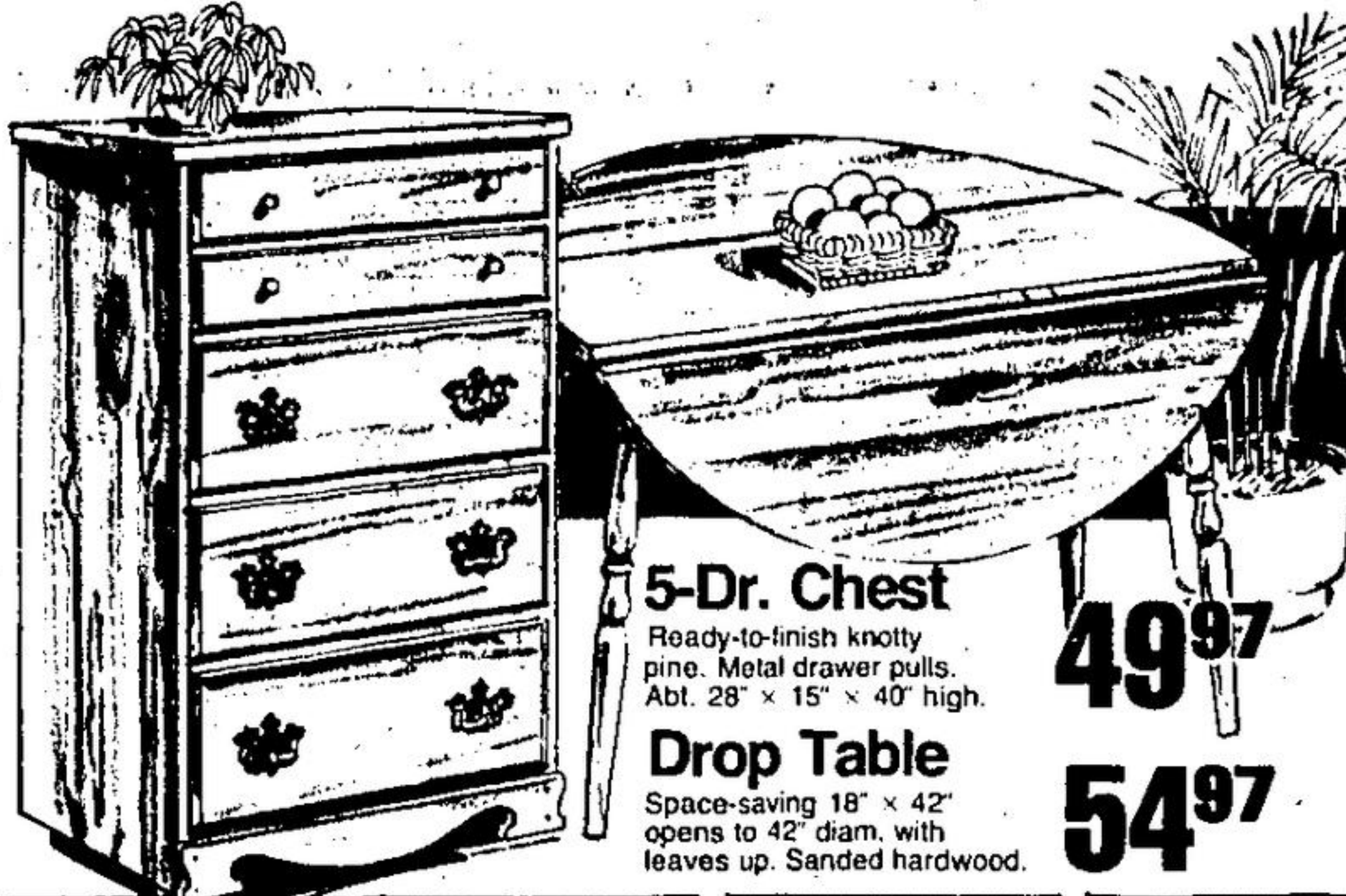
LOW BEAVER PRICE...

29⁹⁷

Finish it your way... paint, stain or varnish!



Handy under-seat storage.



5-Dr. Chest

Ready-to-finish knotty pine. Metal drawer pulls. Abt. 28" x 15" x 40" high.

49⁹⁷

Drop Table

Space-saving 18" x 42" opens to 42" diam. with leaves up. Sanded hardwood.

54⁹⁷



Buffet

You-finish-it knotty pine. 37" x 15" x 29" high.

62⁹⁷

Hutch

Use with buffet for display. 35" x 12" x 34" high.

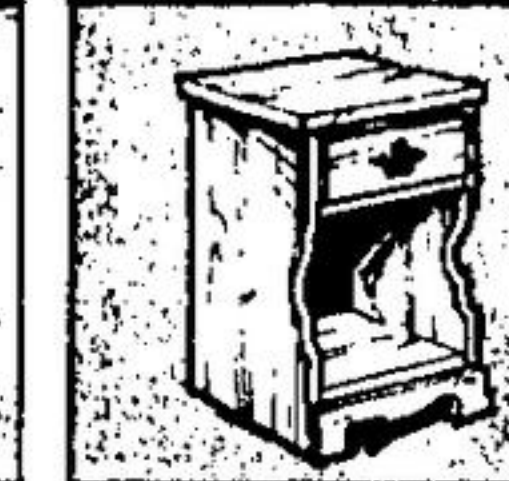
46⁹⁷



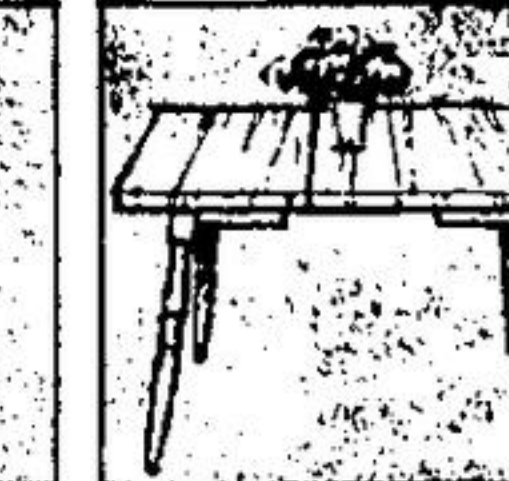
3-Dr. Chest
Unfinished knotty pine. Abt. 28" x 15" x 29" h.
39⁹⁷



10-Dr. Dresser
Smoothly sanded knotty pine. 42" x 15" x 34" h.
69⁹⁷



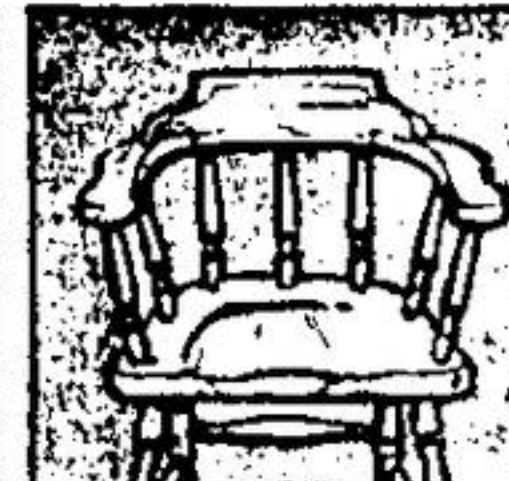
Night Table
Knotty pine, you finish. Abt. 16" x 13" x 25" h.
22⁹⁷



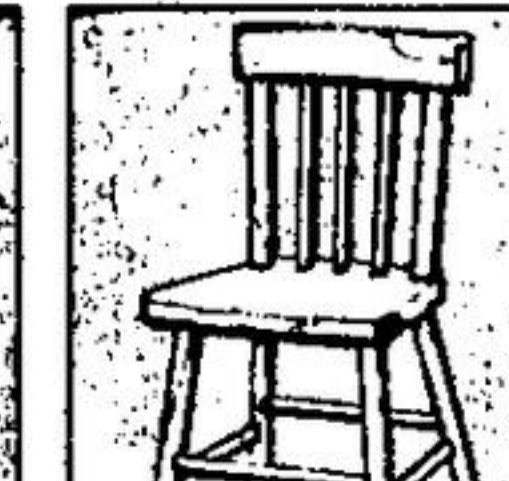
Large Table
36" x 48" extends to 60". Ready-to-finish.
62⁹⁷



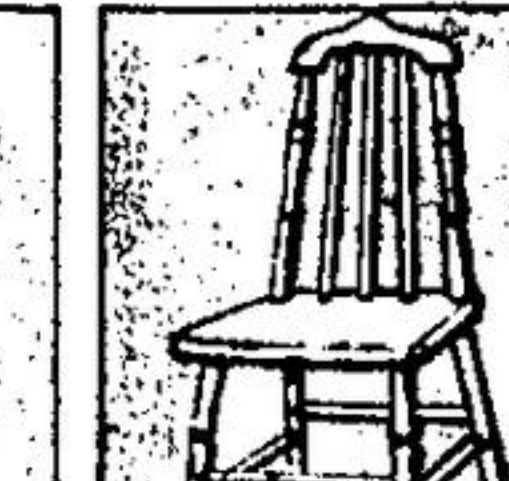
4-Dr. Chest
Knotty pine you finish. Abt. 28" x 15" x 34" h.
44⁹⁷



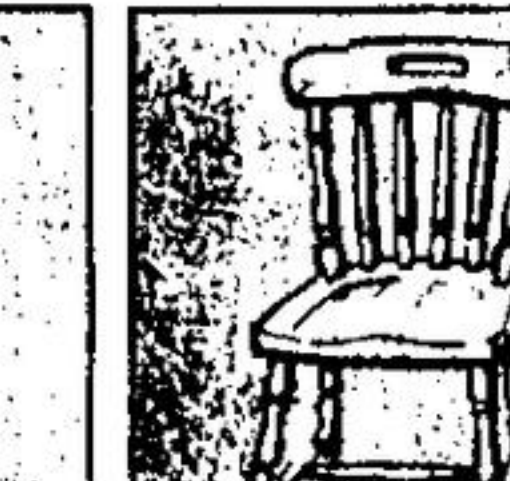
Captains' Chair
Smoothly sanded beech wood. All assembled.
26⁹⁷



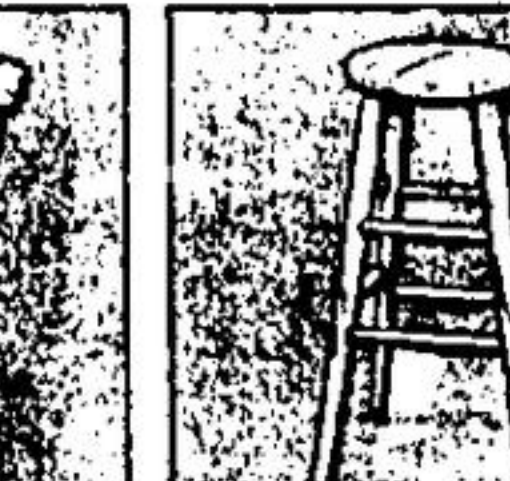
Utility Chair
Solid, sanded hardwood. Easily assembled.
9⁹⁷



Windsor Chair
Easily assembled, ready to finish hardwood.
10⁹⁷

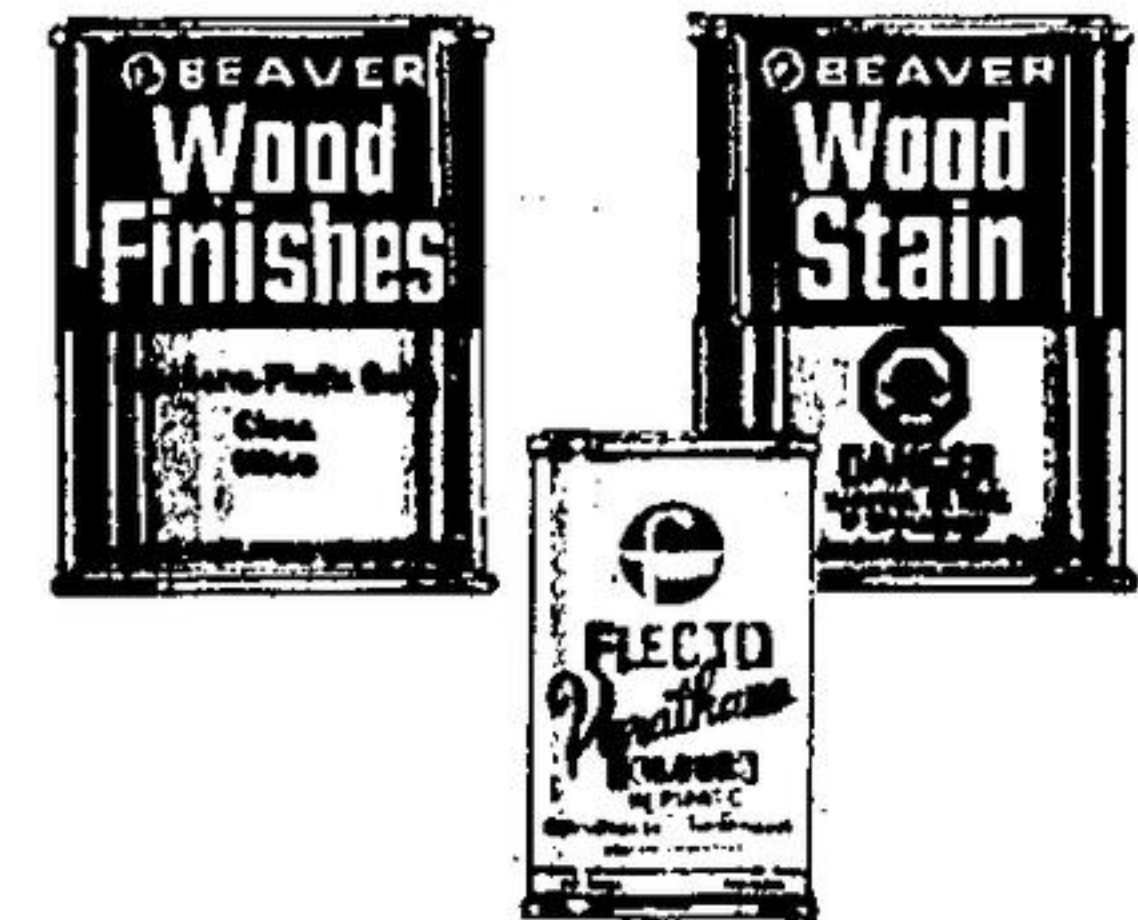


Mate's Chair
Fully assembled ready-to-finish beech wood.
21⁴⁷



30" Stool
Ready to assemble and finish. Hardwood. With back
14⁴⁷ 16⁴⁷

HERE'S HOW



Flecto
Colour and protect with Flecto Varathane Colours. A plastic protective finish for all surfaces. Superb wet look finish.
1⁹⁷ 1/2 pt.

Our Urethane
Beaver brand plastic finish for interior or exterior. Dries crystal clear. Hi-gloss, semi-gloss or low lustre.
1⁰⁹ 1/2 pt. **2⁹⁹** Qt.

Beaver Stain
Brings out the beauty of wood inside and out. Seals and protects in nine natural wood colours. Ready to use.
97^c 1/2 pt. **2⁵⁹** Qt.



Put It On!
Beaver pure bristle paint brushes for quality finish.
1⁷⁴ 2³⁹ 3⁸⁷

H.S. HOLDEN
OPTOMETRIST
34 Cork St. East
GUELPH
Phone 822-7150

POLLOCK AND CAMPBELL
Manufacturers of
High Grade Memorials
Memorial Engraving
Telephone 621-7580
GALT
62 Water St. North



OPEN

9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Friday
Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

316 Guelph Street E., Georgetown — 877-2234