

Scotland surveys its farm lands

(Halton's agricultural representative, Henry Stanley, recently returned from a visit to Europe where he received an insight into the farming methods of a number of other countries. Some of the European methods of conserving the vitally important farm land could be considered potential safeguards for this part of Ontario.)

By Henry J. Stanley

During my three-week tour of Scotland, June 1 to 21, along with the six Ontario Junior Farmer members, I had an opportunity to look at some of the land use planning taking place in that country. As of 1975, Scotland switched 32 County Councils to nine regional authorities taking in 49 districts. Each region is now preparing a regional report, to be completed by next May, assessing priorities in their region, etc. After the regional structural planning, each district will do its own planning. In five to seven years, development controls are expected in key areas of that country.

Soil survey and land inventory maps are now being prepared for all of Scotland. A new Community Land Bill empowers each municipality to purchase land required for future development from the owners at the agricultural value. No development in the future is to be permitted except on land purchased from the local authorities. This bill is designed to cut out competition for the agricultural land from speculators. Profits from the sale of development land will go to the municipality to be used by the community.

For several years, no new housing is permitted in the countryside of Scotland. After the last war, several small holdings of approximately 12 acres were provided to soldiers and others wishing to get into farming. As these are no longer large enough, several are being amalgamated into one farm unit. Excess houses in many cases are being torn down in an attempt to keep the rural areas free from non-farm encroachment.

New buildings must be located at least 80 feet from a main roadway. In some areas there are height controls and controls over the color of the buildings—light asbestos roofs are forbidden in some cases in favour of the landscape. Buildings only are assessed for municipal taxes while land is free from taxes.

Wildlife preservation is much more evident throughout Scotland than here in Ontario. Pockets of woods or streams are often managed by the owner or the government to encourage wildlife, in many cases for hunting purposes.

Scotland has some 6 percent of the population employed in agriculture, very similar to Ontario. However, about one-half of the farmers are farming on rented land. The tenure system gives just about as much security as ownership. If the tenant is doing a good job of farming the land, it is almost impossible to remove him from the property unless the owner can prove real hardship. Thus, many tenant farmers remain in farming until they die and then the farm is taken over by one of the children.

The target of agriculture in Scotland for the next five to 10 years is to increase annual food production by 2 1/2 percent per year. It is hoped that by doing this the country can eventually become self sufficient.

At the moment the farmers in Scotland appear to be in the same position as Ontario farmers found themselves about five years ago. They have death taxes, wealth tax which is an annual tax based upon their net worth, and capital transfer tax. The National Farmers Union, the strong farm voice in Scotland is fighting hard to have some of these taxes removed or lowered but success is questionable.

The farmer in Scotland receives considerably more subsidies than his counterpart in Canada. New buildings have been subsidized at 40 percent regardless of cost. However, now that Scotland is part of the European Economic Community, these subsidies are being phased down.

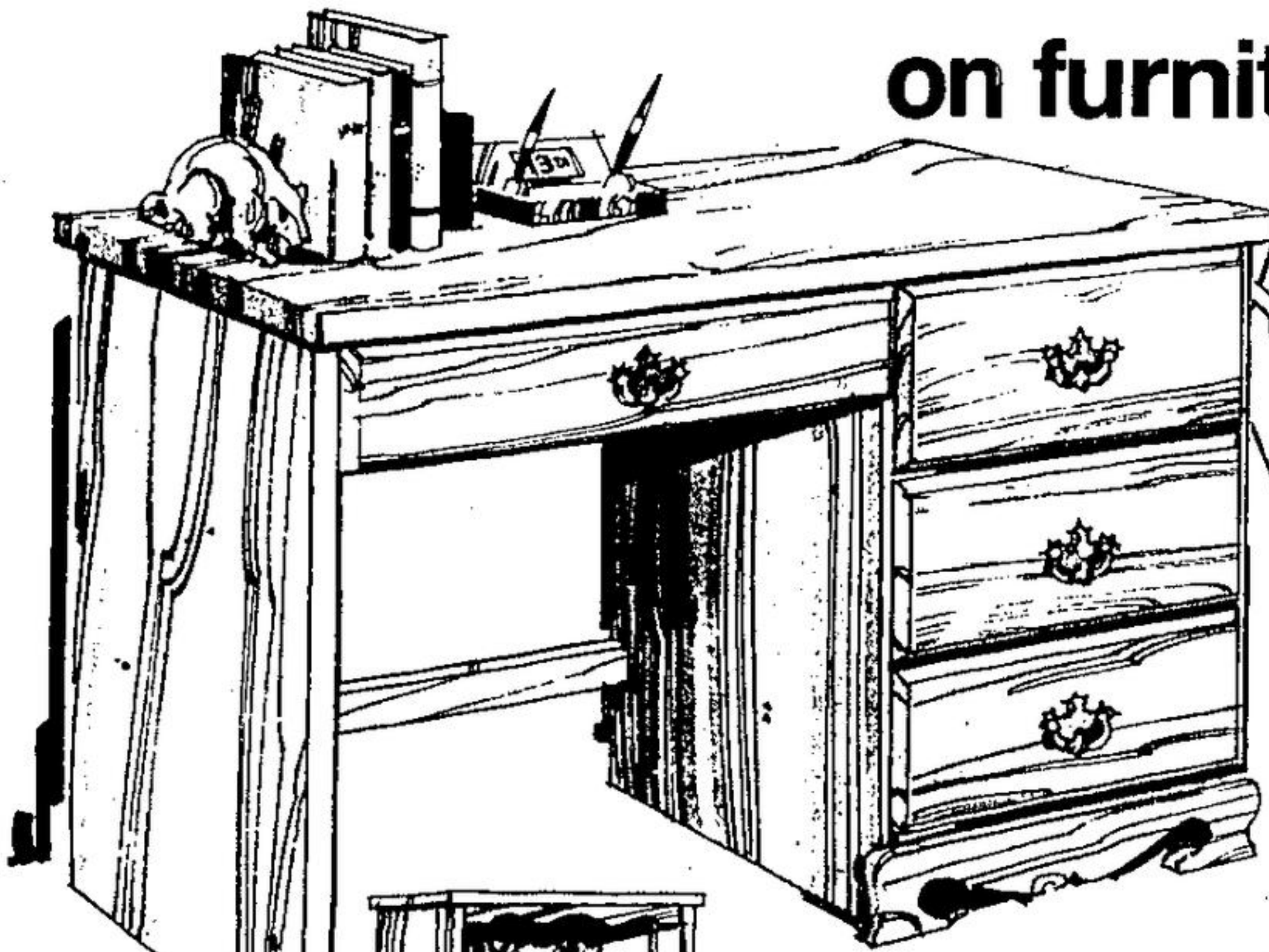
I was most impressed with the quality of farming in Scotland with yields of hay, grain and grass considerably above those in Canada. However, we in Ontario can boast of considerably higher milk yields from our Holsteins than is obtained from their Friesians. Milk prices in Ontario are also approximately \$1.50 - cwt. higher than in Scotland.



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Traditional Captain's Chair

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28⁹⁷



Knotty Pine Highboy Bookcase

b. Display your nice things handsomely on one of the three shelves, or store them neatly behind the sliding doors. Approx. 28"W x 10"D x 62"H.

52⁹⁷



Knotty Pine Dbl. Pedestal Rolltop Desk

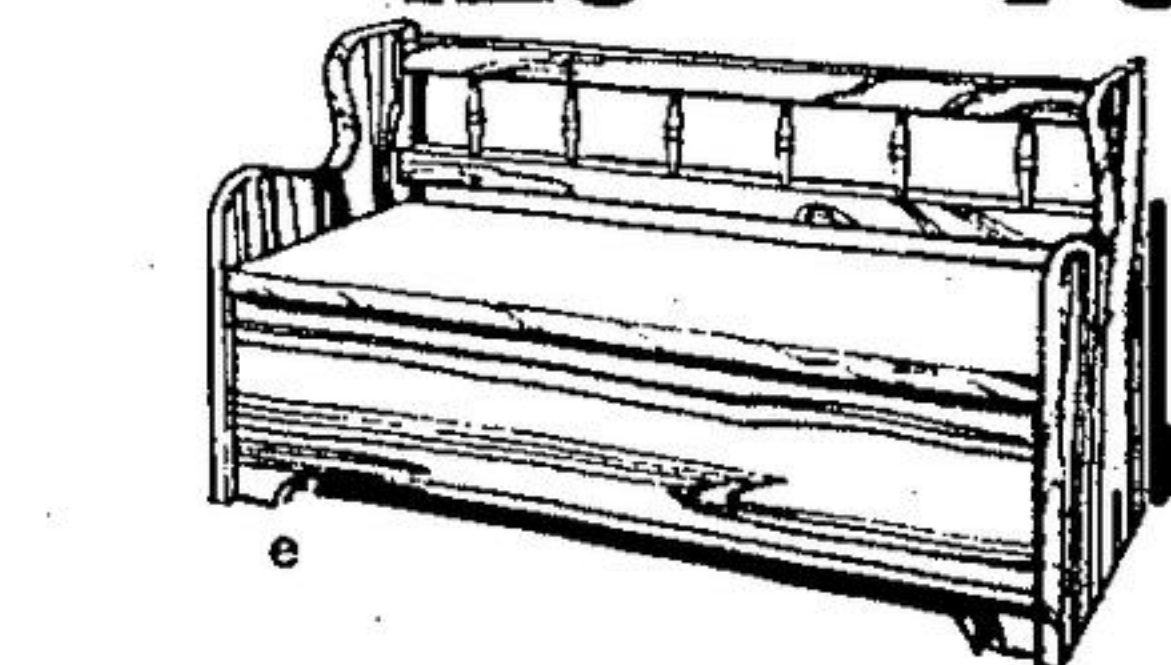
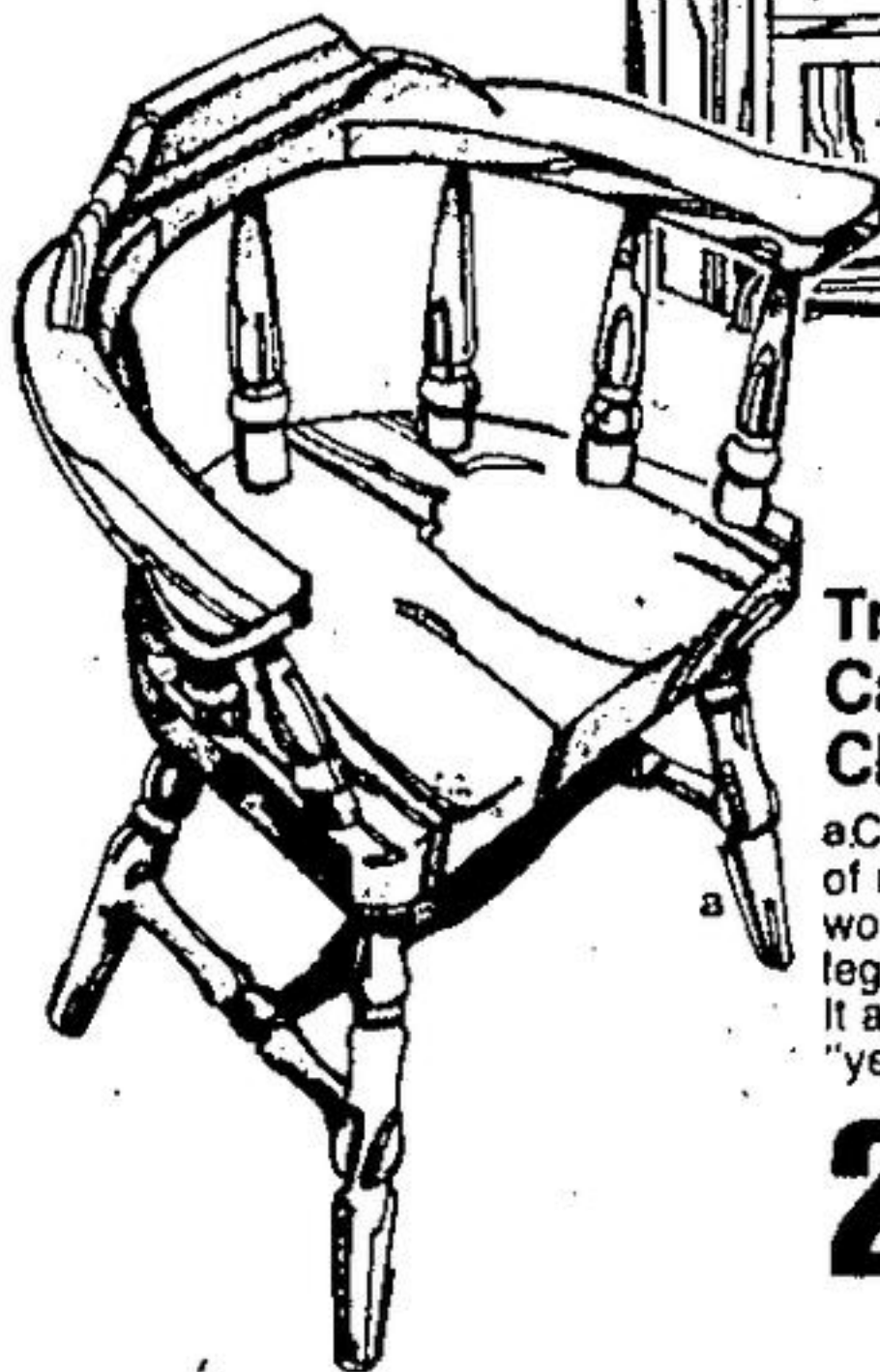
c. The authentic look of an older era at an economical price. Attractively appointed with brass finished hardware. Approx. 48 1/2"W x 24"D x 44"H.

129⁹⁷

Knotty Pine Trestle Base Rolltop Desk

d. Timeless simplicity in design, yet functional and economical. Antique brass finished hardware will complement the fine finish you give it.

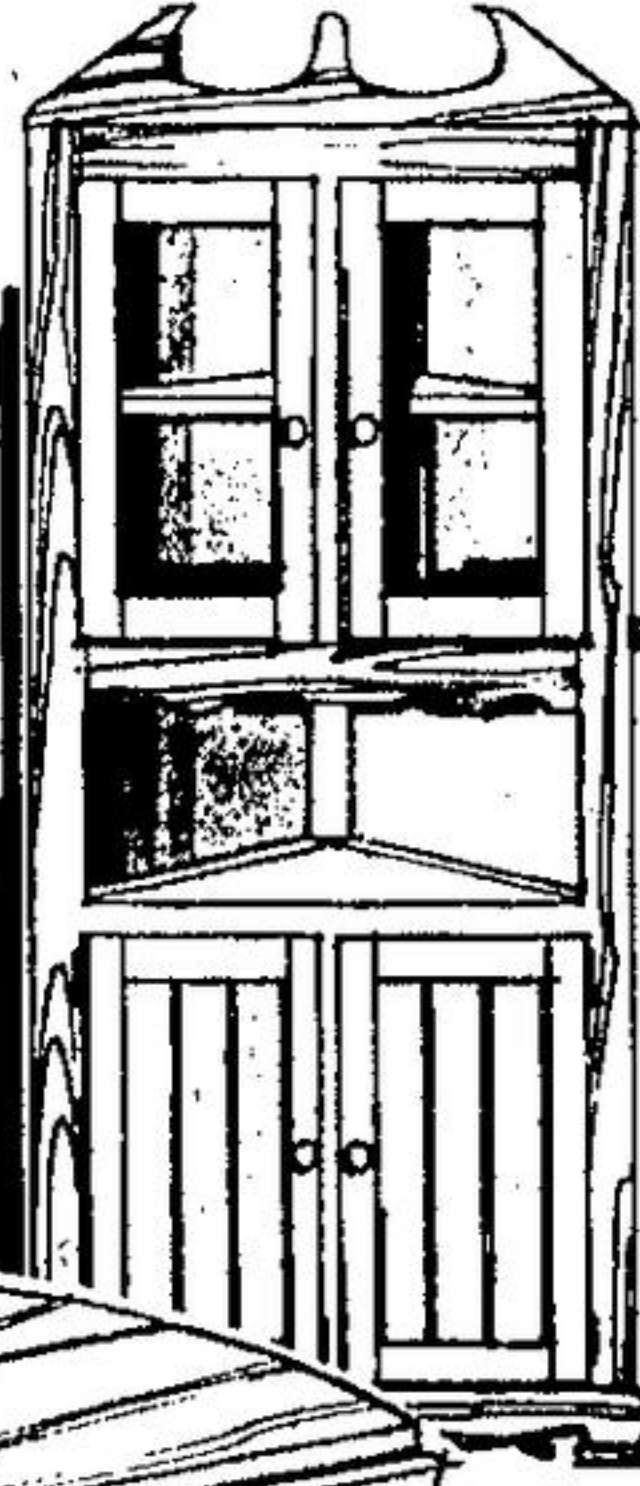
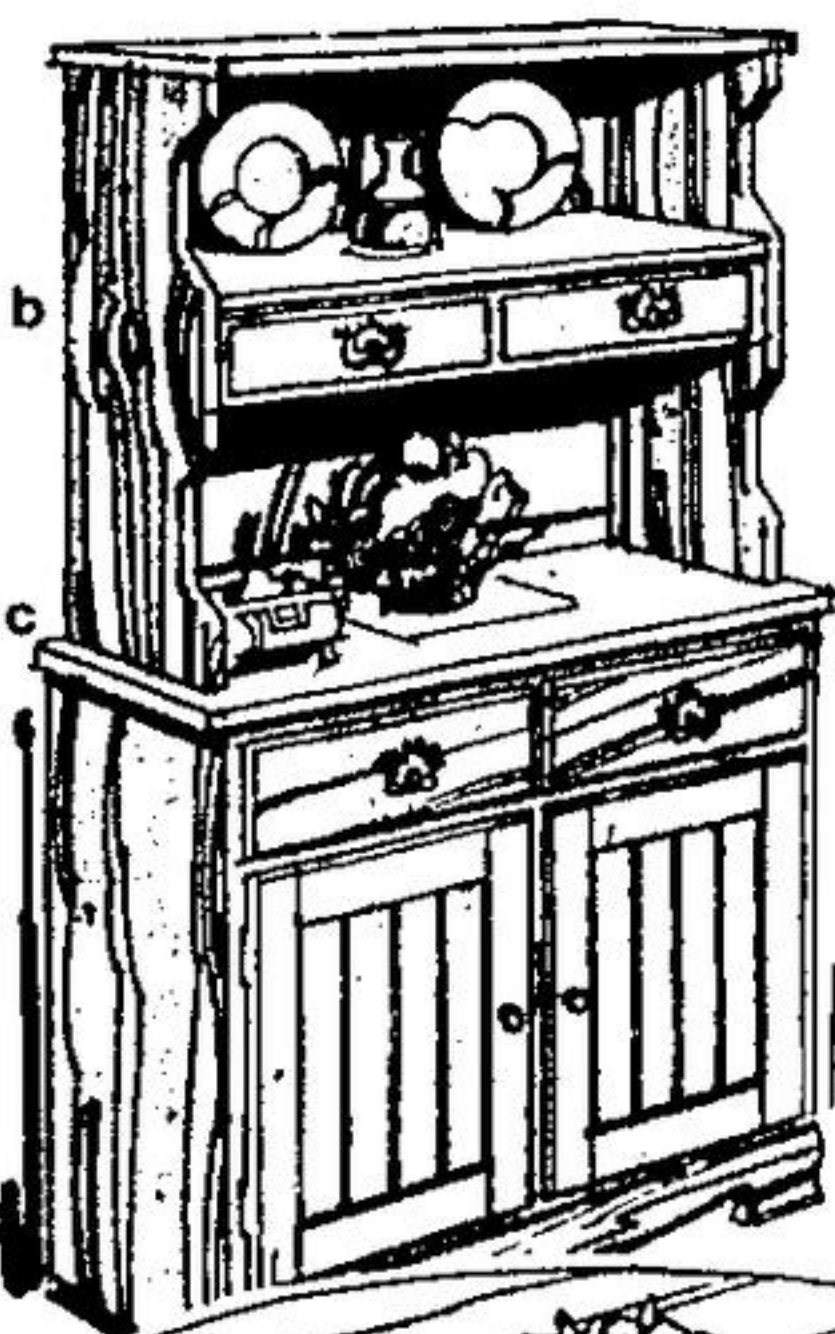
79⁹⁷ 41"W x 24"D x 42"H



Knotty Pine Deacon's Bench

e. Hinged seat 'hides' space for toys, boots, tools, etc. Easy to assemble, ready to finish. Approx 41" x 15" x 29".

36⁹⁷



Knotty Pine Corner Cupboard

a. An authentic-looking reproduction of the real thing at a fraction of the cost. 30" wide x 69" high.

59⁹⁷

35" x 12" x 34" Knotty Pine Hutch

b. Reminiscent of Canada's past in design, practical and economical to own. Add your personal touch for a fine display case.

37⁹⁷

37" x 15" x 29" Knotty Pine Buffet

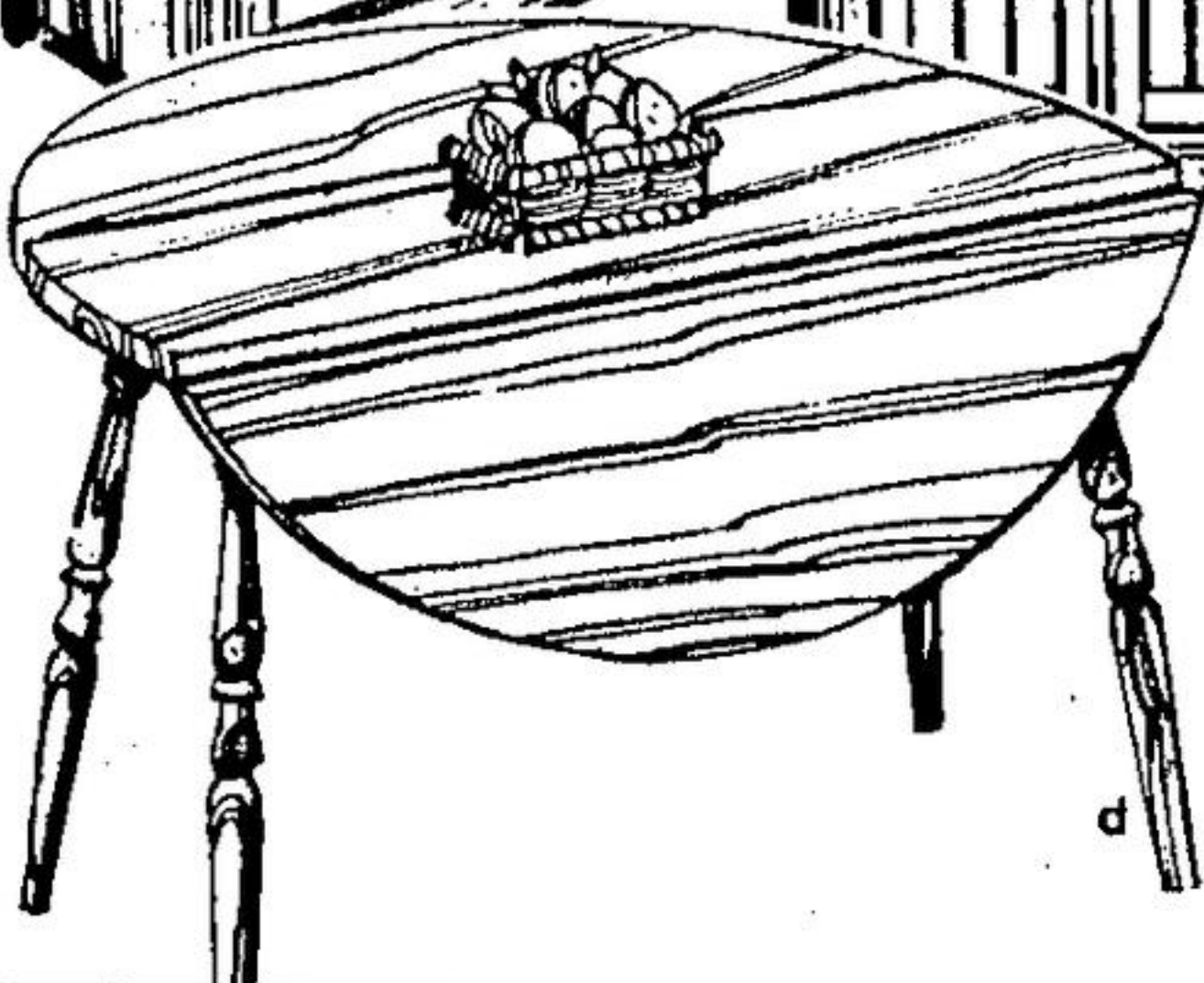
c. Teamed with the hutch it will make a fine accent piece, or add to other pieces for an attractive suite.

49⁹⁷

42" Round Drop Leaf Table

d. Sturdily constructed of ready-to-finish hardwood. Leaves drop to form compact 18" x 42" table.

55⁹⁷



Knotty Pine 3-Dr. Chest

e. In Knotty Pine to mix 'n match with other pieces. Attractive, functional, compact. Approx. 28" x 15" x 29"H.

34⁹⁷



Hardwood Mate's Chair

Fully assembled, ready to paint, stain or varnish.

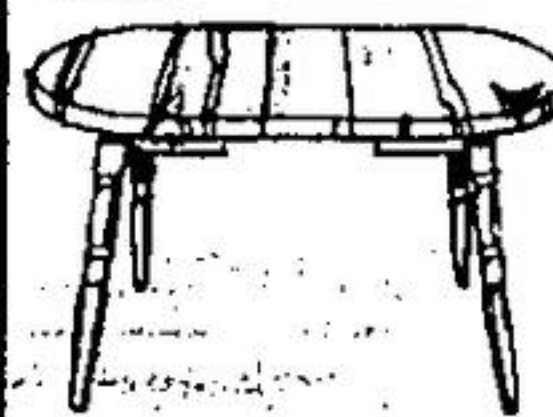
19⁹⁷



The Popular Ladderback

Attractively turned legs and back. Hardwood. 40"H.

28⁹⁷



36" x 48" Oval Extension Table

Sturdily constructed of hardwood. Extends to 60"

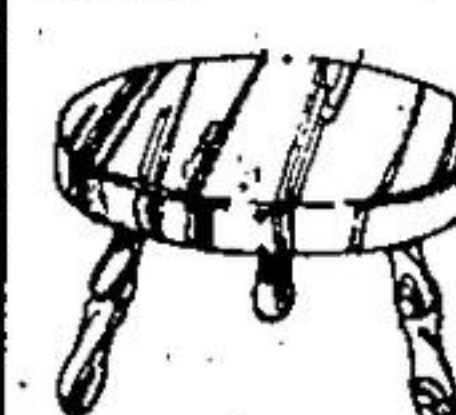
66⁹⁷



Knotty Pine Record Cabinet

Features handy storage shelf and sliding doors.

31⁹⁷ 28" x 15" x 39"H



10" Round Milkstool

Ever popular because of its many uses. Hardwood.

1⁹⁹



Knotty Pine Night Table

Features handy storage drawer. Approx. 15" x 13" x 25"H.

23⁹⁷



Knotty Pine 4-Dr. Chest

Short of storage space? Here's an economical answer.

39⁹⁷ 28" x 15" x 34"



10 Drawer Double Dresser

Lots of space for his 'n her storage. Knotty Pine.

74⁹⁷



6 Drawer Double Dresser

In Knotty Pine to mix 'n match with other pieces.

62⁹⁷



Knotty Pine 3-Dr. Chest

Attractive, functional, compact. Approx. 28" x 15" x 29"H.

34⁹⁷

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