

Why Not Build Yourself a Happy Summer Home?

How a Haileybury Family on Moderate Income Built and Established a Comfortable Home in the Woods to Visit at Any Time in the Year.

(By J. T. Leshman, Haileybury)
For the man with plenty of money and plenty of leisure time this story will hold no interest, but those who, like the writer, have to huddle along on a small income and with only very brief holiday periods, may get some useful information from the way in which we, a family of four, succeeded in a period covering three summers in establishing a fairly comfortable and pleasant summer camp with a very small outlay of cash. The scheme, which had been maturing in imagination for many years, was definitely started in the late winter of 1934 and now, it has been brought so near completion that we have a place of our own in the woods where we can visit at any season of the year with a surprising degree of comfort, even in the North Country where sudden changes in the weather are the rule rather than the exception.

We secured a site for our summer home by the expedient of staking a mining claim on the shore of a small lake in a section that was not at the time considered of particular promise from a mining standpoint. The cost was simply the five-dollar fee for a license and a similar amount for recording the claim, plus a small sum for the services of a prospector who happened to be familiar with the area and who accompanied us on the staking trip. The scheme worked very well in our case, as a mining concern wanted the claim a little on and paid the expenses of staking, gave us a fairly sizeable block of stock and left us five acres in the location where we had planned to build the camp. They also relieved us of any worry over the required assessment work on the claim. Since then the area has developed to some extent, but without at all interfering with our location, and the result is that now a drive by motor of 35 miles followed by a boat trip of less than a mile takes us right to the camp, which is well secluded.

The building gave us some difficulty at the outset. The crew consisted of one man with considerable earlier experience in the woods and two boys, aged 14 and eight. The claim was fairly well timbered, a log cabin was decided on and a start made, but to secure logs straight enough for proper building, and within dragging distance of the site, proved too great a task for that first summer. It was finally postponed, and revised plans called for the erection of a smaller cabin of lumber, which had at that time to be shipped in by small boat. A frame of poles cut right on the ground, enclosed with lumber and a cheap roofing and with mosquito net as a substitute for glass, made us a nice little temporary camp, which is still doing duty as a

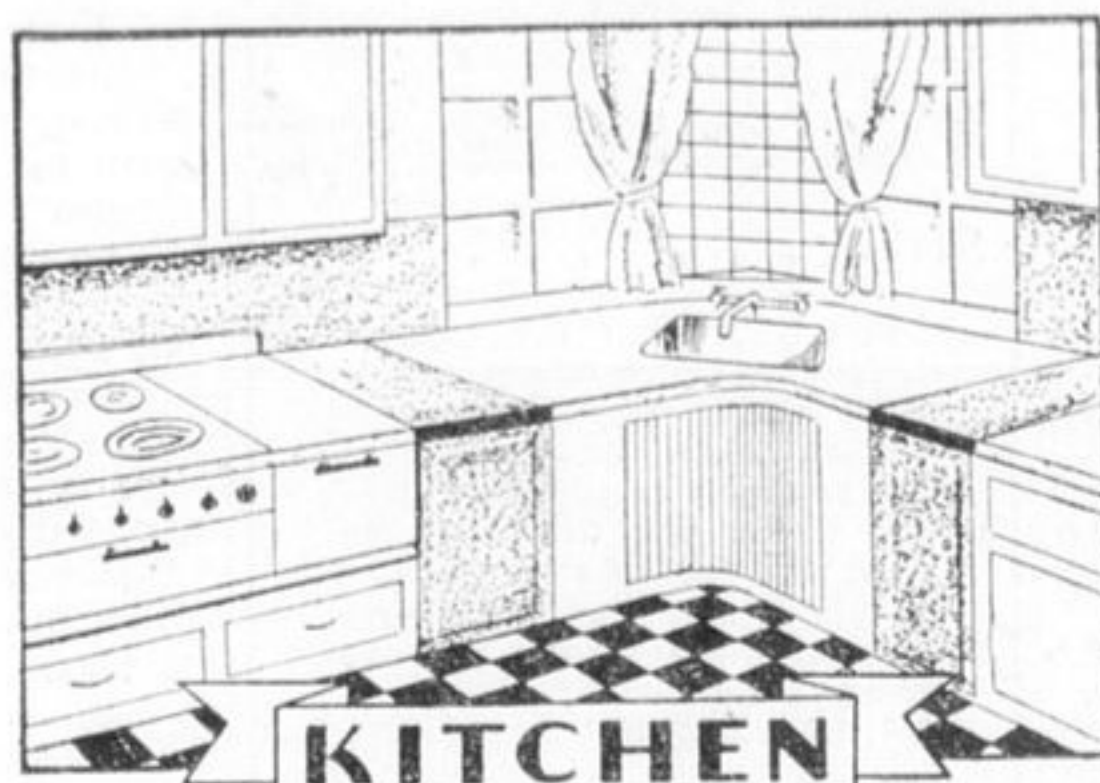
cookhouse. Plans for the log cabin were changed to suit the available timber. It was decided to stand the logs on end, with top plates and bottom sills, and by building a wall at a time, right on the floor, and raising it afterwards, the structure gradually took shape. Peeled poles made ideal rafters and joists. Just as they did in pioneer days, oakum was used to "chink" between the logs, and the floor, roof and a small amount of lumber used for door and window frames comprise the only materials not cut and manufactured right on the ground. The plan of putting the logs upright in the walls made it possible to use crooked trees by cutting them into shorter lengths and did not greatly detract from the appearance of the cabin.

The whole proceeding has been thoroughly enjoyed by every member of the family. The lady of the house, formerly a city girl, has taken just as much pleasure out of the undertaking as the rest and her help, even in the building operations, has been no small factor in the success of the project. It has entailed a considerable amount of hard labour, as can readily be understood when it is known that only week-ends and legal holidays, with an occasional "Thursday to Monday" off from the office, comprise all the time which has been available. A fairly thorough knowledge of country life, gained through a boyhood spent on a Northern Ontario farm, and a love of the outdoors, something of which we have been able to cultivate in the hearts of the boys, have given the whole project a most enjoyable aspect.

Not the least enjoyable part has been the knowledge that we have not only provided a considerable share of healthful recreation for the boys, but they have learned through these outings a love of nature and a sense of the responsibility that rests upon all of us for conserving and protecting our great natural resources. In our three summers work on the camp we have never been anywhere near letting a fire get away from us, although the operations have entailed quite a bit of clearing and burning. We have been careful at all times to cut only such timber as we could use, have observed strictly the game laws in a district where deer, especially, are plentiful and are often seen at close range, and in general have been as law-abiding when in the woods as we are at home, with the single exception that we have worked on Sundays during the building operations.

Finally, we are eagerly looking forward to this summer when, with the camp almost completed, we can take time off to loaf and do a little fishing. (Continued on Page Four)

"There's no place like home..." MODERNIZED!



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Add to Usefulness of Bathroom in Home

Some Suggestions for the Owner of a Small House.

The bathroom is often a dressing room in some homes and it should be made as attractive a room as possible.

In this day and age there are numerous products on the market that make it easy to modernize this oft-neglected place.

Funds for such modernization are available through the Home Improvement Plan, under which banks advance the necessary funds, and are guaranteed against loss by the Dominion Government up to 15 per cent. of the total amount advanced by them for this purpose.

Built-in shelves, similar to those used for books or glassware, add to the attractiveness of the bathroom. Bottles of lotions, creams and powders may be stored here, as well as fresh towels for the use of guests.

A large mirror over the basin is a boon to all members of the household, particularly when it is lighted by an adequate fixture which throws the light properly and does not permit a glare.

A recess tub adds to the illusion of grandeur and is a real convenience, making it easier to clean, and providing less of an opportunity for splashed walls and fixtures when the shower is turned on.

Walls may be tiled, papered with washable paper or any of a number of attractive composition coverings used. Floor and walls may match if the owner desires, or a blend of colour may be used.

Paul Kearney:—I like bowling because it's civilized man's last chance to make a helluva racket without apologizing to somebody.

Globe and Mail:—A woman attended a lecture on the Pilgrim Fathers. At the end of the lecture she said: "We have heard a lot about the Pilgrim Fathers. What about the Pilgrim Mothers who had to put up with the Pilgrim Fathers?"



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