

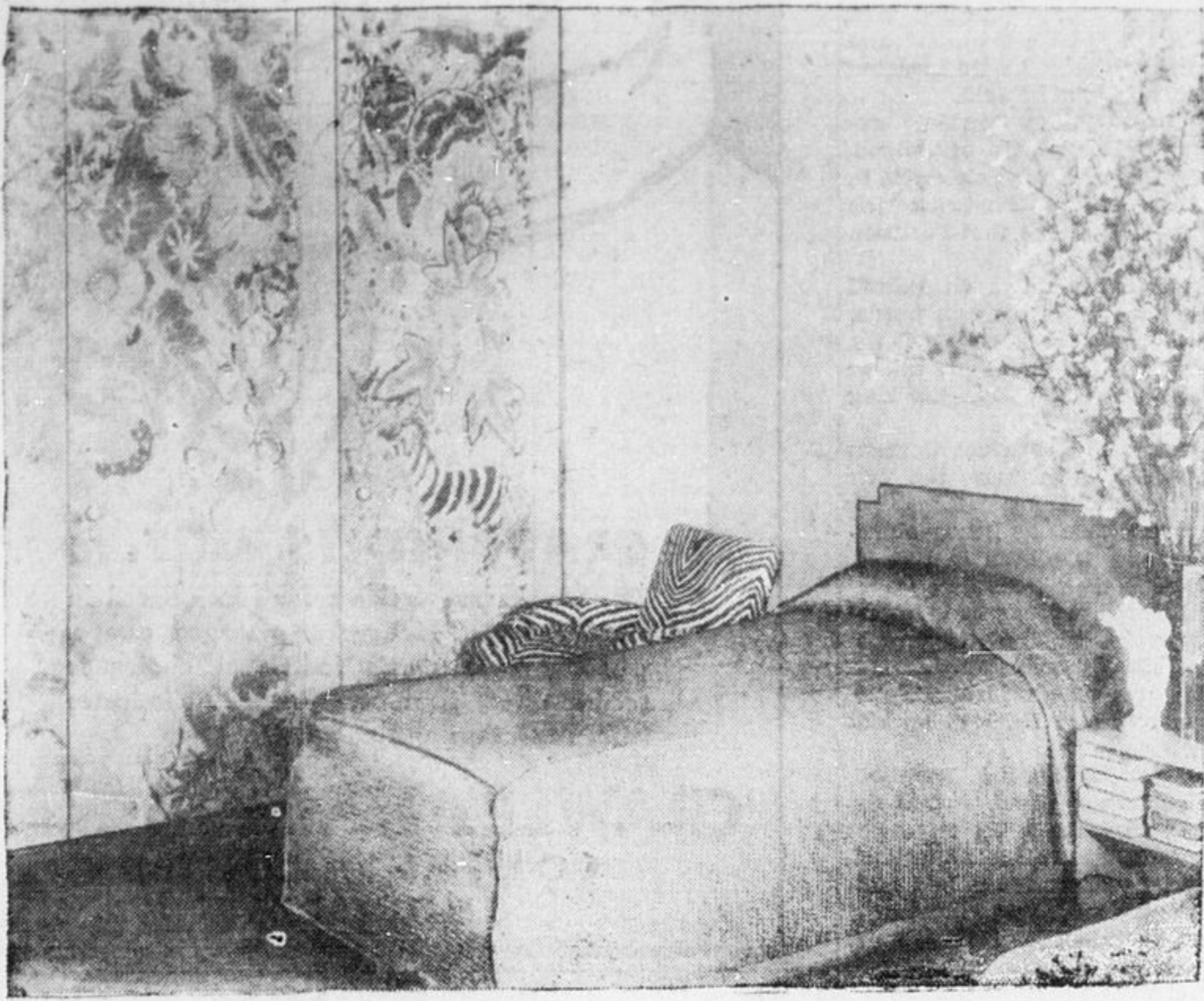


PLEASANT HOMES

by Elizabeth MacRea Boykin

PAINT IT YOURSELF

But Not by the Slap-Dash Method—Great Pains Required—Lacquers Important in the Style Picture—So are Bleached Woods



A tier of brilliantly painted doors make a distinguished design in Jessica Dragonette's bedroom. The walls of the room are pale yellow and the de-

something like the old Hitchcock effect—black painted surface with a stencilled pattern in gold or in some other colour.

If you can draw yourself, a design of this type should be simple enough to work out. Or perhaps you have an artistic friend who could outline the motif for you. But just because you haven't a flair for creative designing (or a friend who does) needn't discourage you from attempting such a job. The thing to do then is to find a pattern you want, trace it carefully and then paint it. If it isn't just the size you want, enlarge it by squaring off the original pattern and redrawing it in larger squares. Or get a pattern that you can cut out into a stencil. A great many of the peasant designs used on painted furniture are extremely simple and free in their designing, so you needn't worry about having to be too meticulously perfect and accurate. If you're at all uncertain, trace your design out carefully on a large sheet of paper before attempting to put it on the furniture — this way you'll know whether you have worked out the problems of scale and proportion and whether or not you might need little borders to join certain patterns together or extra motifs to cover awkward gaps.

For Peasant Furniture.
Often it is amusing to vary the usual ways with informal painted furniture. If you have a chest with drawers framed with molding to make panelled spaces, why not cover these panels with either chintz or wall paper. With ordinary flat drawers, paint a conventionalized design around the handles or the knobs. In digging up designs for peasant painted furniture, watch for any interesting motifs in chintzes and wall paper of Tyrolean or Swedish heritage—then trace them off on the furniture.

If you are buying unpainted modern furniture to use in an inexpensive and casual little home, you can be as bright as you like in choice of colours for this furniture. Personally we like the idea of leaving some of the pieces in plain waxed finish, then painting accent pieces in bright colours. Grey-green enamel, for instance, as a contrast to a pale honey toned wood finish for the bulkier pieces of furniture would be very effective. Or else paint all the pieces in pale grey with one or two accent pieces in burnt orange. Or paint them shiny white with yellow linings for shelves and yellow cushions for the chairs.

Don't be restricted in your plans for painting by actual furniture itself. Off-times panels can be painted on the wall to frame an incidental piece of furniture—scrolls, peasant leaf designs, draped swags, colonnades, vines all adapt themselves to this treatment. Or else consider the possibilities of making your doors serve as decorative panels in the room by painting them with congenial designs.

But doing over furniture doesn't mean painting it—the smartest furni-

Suggested Methods of Controlling Insects in the Home

How to Deal With Certain Insect Pests.

Like the farmer, gardener and fruit grower, householders frequently have to contend with outbreaks of insect pests. In one important respect the problem faced by the latter is more trying in that the pests may continue active indoors even during the coldest of winter weather. Generally speaking, however, household insects are most troublesome during the summer as a result of higher temperatures and greater relative humidity. This applies particularly to fleas which normally occur on cats and dogs. The tiny larvae of these pests develop in floor cracks and other places where organic matter may accumulate, and their development is accelerated to such an extent during the summer that they may, if suitable precautions are not taken, appear in large numbers and attack humans. To prevent this from happening, the Division of Entomology, Science Service, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, recommends (1) that pets be kept free of fleas by dusting them with pyrethrum or derris powder; (2) that floors, particularly basement floors, be cleaned at proper intervals, and (3) that a pyrethrum spray be used to destroy any adult fleas that may have emerged.

The psocids or "book lice," tiny, pale wingless insects, usually less than one-twelfth of an inch in length, also thrive in warm moist weather. These do not attack humans or damage household goods; in fact, they are quite harmless, but sometimes they appear in enormous numbers, especially in newly constructed buildings, and cause serious embarrassment to property owners. Fortunately they usually disappear when the buildings are dried out by furnace heat when cool weather arrives.

Cockroaches, to mention another all too prevalent pest, live comfortably in heated buildings all the year round. They are filthy, ill-smelling and potentially disease carrying insects, and should not be tolerated in the home. Sodium fluoride is the best all round remedy for these pests, and incidentally will also destroy the less offensive but sometimes equally destructive, silverfish. It is a poison and should be used with caution on that account. Sprinkle it lightly in the places where the insects are most frequently seen, also blow it into their hiding places with a "puffer" or dust-gun. These and many other household pests are dealt with in the 100-page Bulletin No. 642, obtainable at a small charge from the King's Printer, Ottawa. A 4-page circular on the same subject is distributed free on application to the Publicity and Extension Division, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Canada's Gold Production Not to Fall in Wartime

The Rouyn-Noranda Press last week had the following paragraph of special interest at this time:

"Canada's gold production will not be allowed to fall in wartime, it was freely stated around Canada's financial centres this week. One statement was that the Dominion government and some of the chief gold producers had reached an agreement that output would be decreased as it was during the last war owing to a labor shortage. Gold would be even more necessary in any future war than during the last because of United States "cash for armaments" policy. Canada's annual production of more than \$150,000,000 could be turned to good Imperial uses."

Globe and Mail:—Once more "the first 100,000" has reached France. The arrival is merely an indication that certain business is to be done over again.



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North Has Not Yet Lost All of the Adventurous

(From Sudbury Star)

Men of the north are still he-men despite the introduction of paved roads, electricity, radio and these other things which effete southerners had deplored as threatening the romance of the timberlands and the rock country where men are men, and most of them are proud of it.

Take the case of A. Dignard, foreman on a Elezard Valley farm, who was awakened Friday night by frantic bawling of the penned up cattle and the excited barking of the guardian dogs. That was a clarion alarm to Mr. Dignard, who knows his cattle as well as his dogs. He knew something was up, and was sure of it when he saw a big black object trying to fight its way into the corral where the cattle were penned.

With no weapon other than a pitchfork—a weapon incidentally which men of the soil have used right back through all farming history—Mr. Dignard attacked the big black shadow. A "whoosh" of pain soon told him his adversary was a bear. But did that phase the doughty farm foreman? Not for a moment. If anything the vigor of his attack was redoubled. So fierce was the onslaught, so repeated the prods from the tines of the pitchfork, that Mr. Bear lost no time in retreating to the shelter of a nearby poplar. There he huffed and puffed, trying to make Mr. Dignard retreat, but once in command of the situation Mr. Dignard was not doing any backing up. Each time the bear tried to come down the tree Mr. Dignard gave him another prod with the pitchfork, until finally Bruin decided that up the tree, out of reach of those piercing prongs, was as good a place as any to be.

Meanwhile Mr. Dignard's son, who

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had been sent to secure a rifle from a neighbour, returned, and it wasn't long until the bear was down from his perch, this time with a severe case of lead-poisoning. Three more bullets through his head and an end had been put to the career of an animal which had already taken toll of five pigs. The bear, one of the largest ever seen in the district, weighed a total of 478.

No romance will not die in the North—not while she still has men of Mr. Dignard's stamp, who are prepared to go out and engage in a hand-to-hand tussle with a bear the size of the one which will soon be a rug in the farmhouse, the corral of which it was trying to raid.

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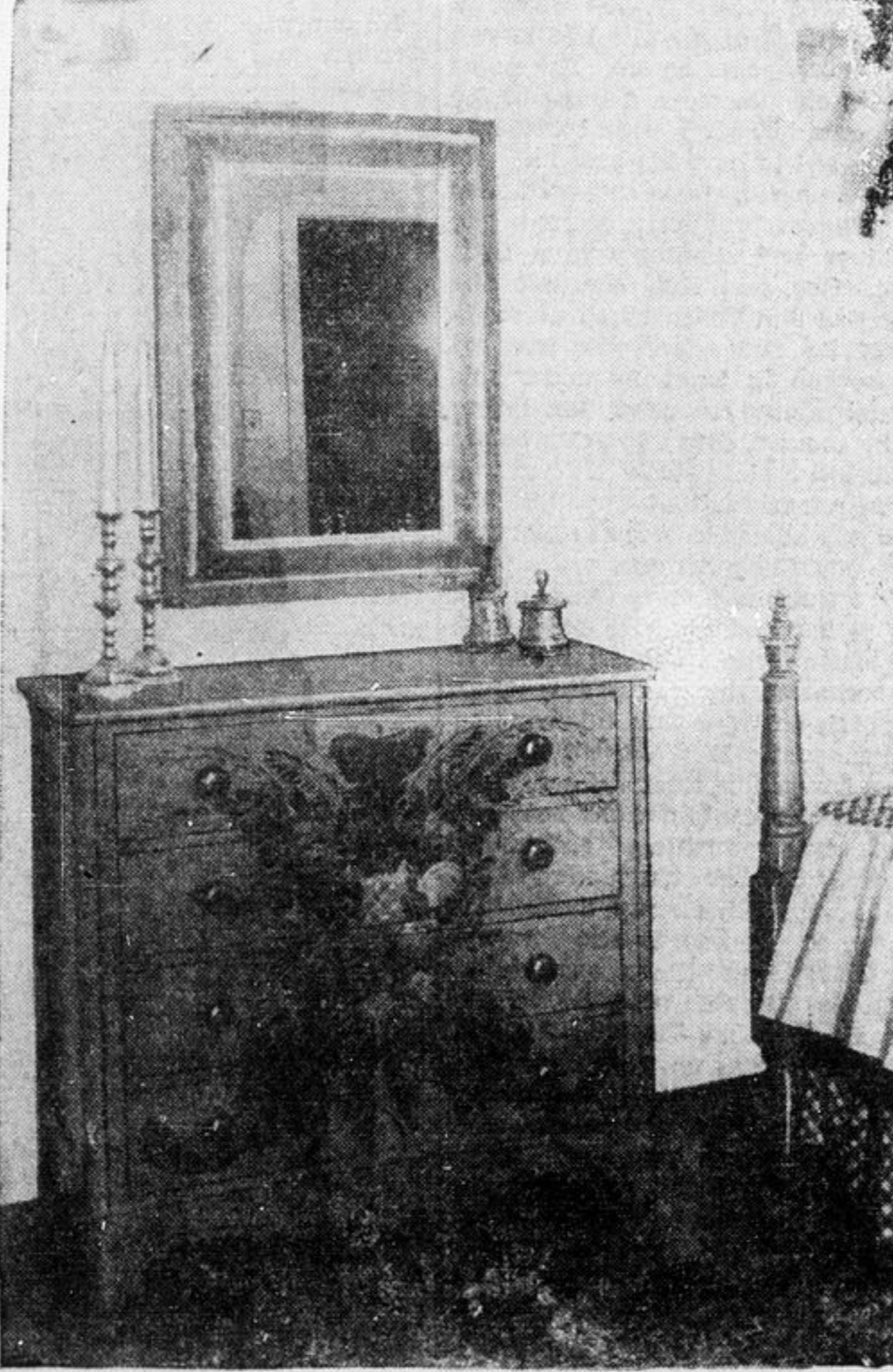
Painted furniture has been taken much too glibly of recent years. True, it is one way of taking an old piece of furniture and making it presentable in a hurry. But getting this by the slapdash method constitutes what we call the Greenwich Village school of decoration. Actually it takes a fine professional finish to make painted furniture worthy of formal use. It even takes self-respecting workmanship to give painted provincial furniture a dignified integrity.

And so it is high time we all shifted gears a little and stopped thinking about painted furniture as something we could toss off in an afternoon. Oh you can do a professional paint job at home all right, but think of it in terms of patience and infinite pains. Having made up your mind on this point, decide whether you want a formal or informal effect with the finished piece of furniture.

To Shine or Not to Shine
If the room is on the formal side, you still have some choices to make. Decide first between a shiny or a dull surface. If it's to be shiny you can select a smooth perfect enamel or a lacquer finish as your medium. If it's to be enamel, use a high gloss enamel, coats and coats of it. Or if you feel up to the task of a really fine lacquer job, tackle that — remembering that you can't put lacquer on top of ordinary paint nor paint on top of lacquer, nor can you mix the two. Make up your mind before you begin which type of finish you're going to give the piece of furniture, then clean all the old finish down to the raw wood and begin afresh. On the other hand, if it's a dull antique effect you want, use the same pains with your initial coats of paint, only finish off with a dull surface paint instead of a gloss. Then rub in a coat of amber and, with a rag, wipe it off, leaving enough in the corners and around any carving to give an old and weathered effect.

In painting furniture for more formal rooms, you have some limits in the number of tones that are suitable. Usually painted furniture in a dignified interior is in a dull off-white, antiqued with amber. However there are places where a pale old green antiqued in the same manner is quite appropriate. Occasionally a pale yellow cast is all right in furniture of this type and once in a while a pale powdery blue. There is a certain grey that is attractive on old furniture, but few dark painted finishes are suitable for formal furniture. If the furniture is to be dark, it is better that it is left in its natural wood grain. But don't feel too much hesitancy about covering up such fine woods as mahogany or walnut with paint. It has been done from earliest times by the best decorators. Much of the most beautiful French furniture was painted walnut and a great deal of 18th century mahogany is painted. Sometimes it is very effective to use a natural dark mahogany dining table with Chippendale chairs painted in a cream white with seats in either an off-white leather or in a brilliant color leather.

Porcelain Surfaces
It's quite another matter if you're giving this formal furniture the sleek glossy finish. Black lacquer is a very high style at the moment for furniture



A natural maple finished chest here has its design painted in colours applied directly to the natural wood grain. Note the way the design covers all the drawers instead of being split up in sections.

of this type; so is a deep old red lacquer. Emerald green in either lacquer or enamel is found in certain stylized rooms. Pale pink gloss finishes are also interesting, as are greys and beiges. Off-whites in porcelain type surfaces have a new smart look. But in attempting to do a piece of furniture of this sort for a dignified room, be sure you are very skilled to being with or are willing to take the great pains that will be necessary to achieve a result you will be proud of.

When the furniture you are painting is to be used in an informal or provincial type of room, you have much more latitude. Some of the finest old painted furniture has a coloured design painted directly on the natural wood instead of being painted all over first. A large fruit motif spreading all over the front of a chest instead of having the design divided into the three-drawer spaces is very effective on one old maple chest we're illustrating today. Some of the new natural grain modern furniture is also interesting when a bright provincial painted design is painted on the pale wood. Or else try

these days is bleached. That too is a job that can be done at home, even though you're a beginner confronted with an old dark red mahogany. Sometimes a single bleached piece in a room will make a pleasant accent among dark wood finishes. But here again the trick is a matter of care and patience.

(Released by Consolidated News Features, Inc.)

Barrie Examiner:—The smallest and prettiest feet in the world are said to be those of the Scotswomen from Edinburgh, Dundee and Glasgow.

Huntingdon Gleaner:—When the Rev. Theodore Koopmans, 26 years old, La Crescenta, Calif., Presbyterian pastor, was wed to G. Kathleen Mills, 19, of Whittier, recently, the Rev. Emmett Floyd Parks, Glendale Baptist minister, officiated. At the ceremony's conclusion, the Rev. Mr. Koopmans pronounced the vows as the Rev. Mr. Parks, 22, married Eloys Aloha Mills, 22. The girls are sisters. The rites were performed in a Christian church.

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