

SUMMER SPORT OF AUCTION HUNTING IS NOW ON; TOWEL RACKS A VALUABLE PRIZE

(Mary Watts in New York Sun.)

This year it is towel racks—old fashioned mahogany and walnut ones of the sort that used to be in all the bedrooms. When Annabel and Gertrude and all the other huntresses of the antique arrive at a country sale this season they immediately scout through the rooms looking for them.

If possible they conceal from everybody what they are looking for. Especially they try to conceal their real purpose from the dealers. For the dealer is the traditional enemy of all individual prospectors in the realm of the antique—the all decouring, professional monster who picks out the good things at a sale with unerring acumen while the informed antique lover who hoped to pick up some precious bit that none but herself would recognize looks on with a sinking heart.

The towel racks that Annabel and Gertrude are now pursuing in their summer sport of auction hunting used to be looked on with contempt by all devotees of the antique. Like the once despised wall bookcases and the old family casters they were once regarded as hopelessly middle period, something to be bestowed on a very poor relative or even the laundress at semi-annual house cleanings.

Having completed their survey of the auction offerings Gertrude and Annabel and all the other huntresses settle down in the room where the articles are going to be put up, wearing an aspect of general indifference.

"Looking for anything special?" inquires a neighbor of the summer colony.

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Beginning the 16th inst. permits for pupils to enter school will be issued at the Secretary's Office, High School Building, George Street, from 10 to 12 a. m. and 2 to 5 p. m. daily, (Sat. 10 to 12 a. m.)

Every pupil must present certificate of successful vaccination before any permit will be issued.

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Gertrude and Annabel shake their heads.

"Oh no, we just dropped over; shan't buy anything probably," they murmur.

It is everywhere the same. No one admits looking for anything special. Deep on their hearts, however, like "Calais" on the heart of Queen Mary, is graved the word "towel rack." They know that there are some to go under the auctioneer's gavel. They have spied three perfect "loves" of racks thrust back of larger articles in one of the rooms.

The auctioneer puts up a bed. It is an enormous middle period walnut bed, heavy, cumbersome, not at all beautiful—at least not beautiful in the present view of the antique hunter. Gertrude shudders as she remembers its ponderous proportions and heavy carving.

"An excellent set of springs and splendid mattress in good condition goes with this bed," intones the auctioneer. "You have here a very handsome piece of furniture; what am I bid?"

A hotel keeper indifferently offers five dollars. The auctioneer glares. Annabel, just for a joke—the bed would be so absurd for her tiny over furnished house, boosts the bid to six dollars.

"It's a good thing to appear to bid on something that you don't want," she whispers to Gertrude. "It diverts attention from what you're really after."

"Six dollars," cries the auctioneer; "six dollars! six dollars for this handsome piece of furniture; six dollars, six dollars; going, going, gone at six dollars."

He nods amiably at Annabel. "You have a bargain there," he congratulates her. Annabel is crushed.

"What will George say?" she gasps to the pitying Gertrude.

At last, after endless crying of imitation oak sideboards, old strips of carpet, cheap china and strictly modern bric-a-brac, the auctioneer comes to the day's quarry.

"Number 105, a walnut towel rack; in excellent condition and a well made piece."

Even the auctioneer seems to be working against them, Gertrude and Annabel feel.

"Fifty cents," murmurs Annabel faintly, still hoping by a small bid to divert attention from the precious piece.

A quite thin young man who has manifested no interest in the sale thus far speaks up briskly:

"Five dollars," he says.

"A dealer!" Annabel and Gertrude speak in chorus.

The dealer's bid is followed by many others. Brisk bids come from all parts of the room. "Ten, fifteen, eighteen dollars."

The dealer stops there. Annabel goes him one better.

"Nineteen dollars," she says rather faintly. There are no more bids. Annabel retires from the contest triumphant.

George is waiting for them when they get home. He assists them and the towel rack out of the car. He smiles pleasantly at them and even more pleasantly at the towel rack.

"Ah," he remarks, "that's nice. How much did you pay of it—a quarter? Can't put it in the bathroom can you? It wouldn't look sanitary. Tell you what, kid, I can hang my neckties on it."

"They make tables of them," explained Annabel, her eyes sparkling. This was her great moment; it would show George just what a thoroughly practical and economical wife he had especially as he didn't yet know about the bed.

"You see, George, you get a board and have the carpenter put it on top and you have a wonderful little table. You have the board stained and then you can use a runner of brocade or velvet so that the top doesn't show."

"But why not buy a regular table?" asked George. "Then you'd have a top and a table that went together. I see lots of regular tables in stores. Or if you just wanted to have some fun fitting tables and table tops together, it would be more sensible for Gertrude to buy a table and take it apart and sell the parts to you separately and then you could put them together and they would fit properly."

"But you couldn't buy a table for anything like this price with such lovely legs," clamored Annabel. "You never do appreciate lovely legs, George."

"Oh, I dunno," said George.

"Nora, I'd like to have you make chicken croquettes today."

"Yes'm, shall I take the cold veal or have you some hash left?"



Of Interest to the Women

Molded Cornstarch With Crushed Peaches for Monday.

3 cups milk
4 tablespoons sugar
3 tablespoons cornstarch
1-4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon butter
Peaches

Put the milk on in top of double boiler; when it comes to a boil add the cornstarch which has been mixed with a little cold milk. Boil three minutes; add the sugar, salt and flavoring to taste. Brush four custard cups with butter, pour in the cornstarch mixture; set aside to get very cold. Turn out in sauce dishes and cover with the crushed peaches.

Mash three cups of soft peaches with three tablespoons of sugar and serve around the cornstarch moulds. Be sure it is very cold.

Fried Tomatoes With Cheese.

6 firm tomatoes
1-2 cup flour
1 cup milk
1 tablespoon drippings
1 tablespoon sugar
1-4 teaspoon salt
Wash white pepper
1 cup grated cheese

Wash the tomatoes, remove the skin from top and bottom and cut in half. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and sugar; dip in flour. Put the drippings into frypan and, when hot, add the tomatoes and fry until light brown on both sides; add the milk and boil five minutes. Serve on mashed potatoes, sprinkle with the grated cheese and place in moderate oven until the cheese melts. Or tomatoes may be placed on pieces of toast, sprinkled with the cheese and place in oven until the cheese melts.

Pea Porridge.

1 pint shelled new peas
1 pint diced potatoes
1 tablespoon grated onion
1 tablespoon butter or margarine
1 tablespoon flour
Dash white pepper
1 teaspoon salt or seasoning to taste

Put the new peas and potatoes on in four cups of water; boil thirty minutes, add seasoning, milk and heat through; then add the butter and flour rubbed together until smooth and cook five minutes. Add the parsley, mint or scallion top and serve. This is a thick porridge.

Peach Sponge Cake.

1 cup sugar
2 eggs
1-2 cup boiling water
Pinch of salt
1 cup flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
Beat the yolks of eggs, sugar and salt until light; add the boiling water, mix and add the sifted flour and baking powder; then add the stiffly beaten whites of eggs and fold in very lightly. Bake in two jelly cake tins, lined with paper; bake in moderate oven twenty minutes. Wet the paper with cold water to remove from bottom of cake.

Put a layer of sliced and sugared peaches between and garnish top with marshmallow whip and peaches.

Peach Bavarian.

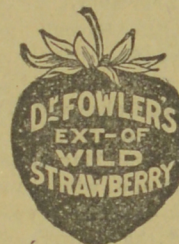
3 cups soft peaches mashed through coarse strainer
1 cup sugar
1 level tablespoon granulated gelatin
1-2 cup boiling water
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 cups whipped cream
Ice and salt

Soak the gelatin in two tablespoons cold water ten minutes; then dissolve in the boiling water, add the sugar, the crushed peaches. Set bowl in pan of cold water and when it is quite thick, fold in the whipped cream. Pour into mould that has been rinsed with cold water, and if you have no mould put into ice cream can; surround with ice and salt, using three parts finely cracked ice and one part salt. This may be made early in the day.

How to Unmould.

Dip the mould or freezer into warm water quickly; dry the mould or can and put on chop plate. Garnish with sliced or crushed peaches.

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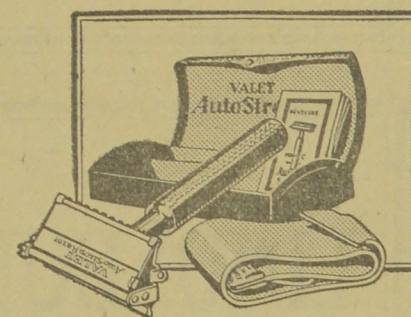
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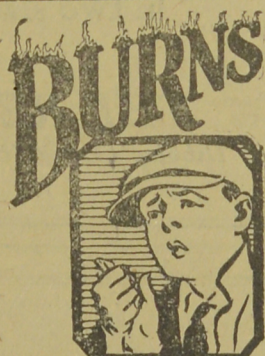
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