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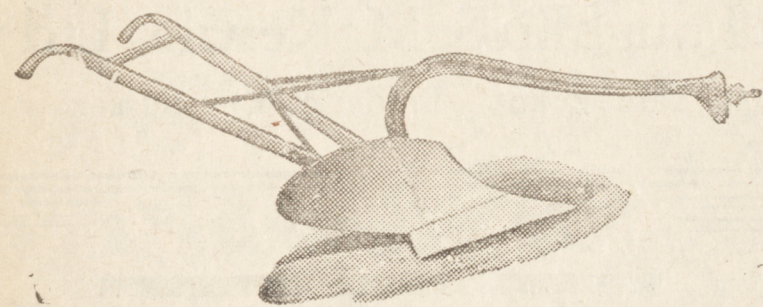
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Interest to Women

CLOSING A HOUSE FOR THE WINTER IS A TOUGH JOB

Preparedness Against Squirrels, Field Mice And Human Marauders; And Don't Forget That Dampness Doth Corrupt

(By Jean Cowles)

After you lock the door of your summer camp, log cabin, or farm house for the long winter months, the demons of destruction step in. Field mice, squirrels, dampness, and sneak thieves are all too apt to consider your possessions their legitimate prey while the house is closed. Mice and squirrels can chew to pieces your pillows, towels, curtains, and even soap supplies if they can get at them. Dampness will loosen corners of picture frames, and chintz or paper covered lamp shades. It will also tarnish brass and copper accessories, and rust your stove. Sneak thieves who make a practice of riding empty houses operate more boldly all the time, and seem to be especially on the lookout for electrical equipment like radios, vacuum cleaners, or electric irons since all these have a resale value. It is comparatively simple for these men to carry anything like this out of a summer home if it is at all isolated. Rugs, too, can be easily rolled up and added to the loot.

How then shall we go about protecting our property so that we may find it intact in the Spring?

Tightly Shut

In the first place, put everything away in dresser drawers, trunks, or chests that can be tightly shut. There is no use putting linen, soap, or pillows away in any container made of paper, even heavy paper cartons, because the mice and squirrels can gnaw straight through it and have a good meal of its contents. Bed linen, pillows, towels, blankets, and even curtains and slip covers should be put away clean in some kind of container that can be shut absolutely tight. Sometimes a dresser drawer that is left open just a crack can be worked open little by little by a rat or squirrel who is looking for a warm home for the winter. I usually put a heavy weight like an iron or a door stop on top of any container whose cover is not strictly air-tight. Putting moth balls around the house is said to discourage mice. It is hard to check up on this, but mousetraps always tell their story.

If you have any good pictures or framed photographs, it is best to put them away in some air tight place, or at least to wrap them up well in order to keep the dampness from loosening the frames at the joints. The same should be done with the lamp shades. I have learned this after finding several of mine mildewed and the covers loosened from the frames by the dampness of winter.

The Radio

If you leave a radio in your sun-parade where no mouse can chew mer home for the winter, it should be put on a shelf in your driest closet, and wrapped in heavy paper. Dampness is very bad for the parts, either summer or winter.

Kitchen stoves and kerosene room heaters will look much better in the spring if they have a protective coat of some kind of light grease or oil on them through the winter. Just a smearing is all that is necessary. If you put it on too thickly, it will become hardened through the cold months and be very hard to remove in the spring.

The Rugs

Rugs can be left on the floors, but mice sometimes chew them too. I have had one old hand hooked woolen scatter rug completely finished up in one winter when it was left on the floor. If there is any real danger of thievery in your locality, it is better to send them to some rug storage house for the winter. The charge is nominal, and the protection far better than that of an empty, isolated house. Used rugs have a resale value known to those who make a living out of stealing, and it is too easy to roll them up, slip them out on a back window to be picked up later on by a truck under cover of darkness. Small scatter rugs can be put away if you have anything large enough to hold them.

They are then a little less accessible to any prowler. No really valuable rug should ever be left in an empty house, unless you have special insurance to cover it. And if it is an antique or in any way not replaceable, it should be sent to storage or to your winter home. As far as that goes, nothing that is not replaceable should ever be left behind you if you value it.

Leave No Matches

For safety's sake, go around the house the last thing before you turn the key in the front door and make sure that all boxes of matches are on them and start a fire. They will be too damp to be usable in the spring anyway.

And after you do all these things to protect yourself, there is still the problem of the human prowler. Unfortunately, there is not much to do to keep him out if your summer home is away from other houses, except to put on shutters which can be fastened from the inside, and to increase your burglary policy. If you are anywhere near a State Police barracks, you should notify them when you close up the house, and ask them to patrol it in their regular trips. They are glad to give this service, and while it is no surety of protection, it is apt to discourage prowlers if word gets around that police are in the vicinity.

COTTAGE FURNITURE ADAPTED TO ATTIC

Cottage furniture is particularly adaptable to an attic room and the homeowner who modernizes might bear this in mind if she plans to convert a part of the attic into a useful room.

Slanting ceilings and the dormer windows frequently found in the top floor of a house can easily be made a cozy setting for simple furniture. In the absence of dormer windows a small-paned window may replace one of the ordinary type to carry out the general trend. This is one of the many improvements that can be made under the Home Improvement Plan.

One attic, which was made into a room for the son of the family who was a high school student, had a dado of pine panelling. The walls were covered with a scenic wallpaper. A composition covering which looked like red tiling, was used on the floor.

A nondescript window which rattled in the winter winds and was stubborn about being raised was replaced with a leaded window. A bookcase was built in one wall, surrounded by a scalloped moulding. Electric light plugs were placed where they would be convenient to the main pieces of furniture. Beside the bed and over the desk old coach lanterns were used in place of regulation fixtures.

A trestle table placed in the window alcove served as a desk and the person sitting at it could get the best possible light on his work. Most of the furniture was maple but a chair and a table were painted dull blue.

SHABBY ROOMS CAN BE MADE ATTRACTIVE

A housewife had a problem on her hands with a living room that not only had grown shabby, but that was hard to heat as well. Stairs to the upper floor went up from this room making it difficult to heat. She decided to have repairs made that would correct the faults.

The fireplace was rebuilt to give heat without smoking. Then composition wall and ceiling board were put over the old walls and ceiling. This was attractive, looking like panelling, and in pleasing contrast to the outside and stair walls, which were papered.

Drafty windows were corrected and a new door was hung, leaving no crack underneath for wintry winds. The woodwork was given a fresh coat of paint and the floors were refinished.

The old rag rugs and colonial furniture took on a new lease of life with this rejuvenated background. Funds for repairs are obtainable under the Dominion Government's Home Improvement Plan.

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BREWING TEA IS A FINE ART

There are very few household concoctions which are more familiar to the American housewife than tea, and a great standing joke is that the female newlyweds "at least knows how to make a cup of tea."

But that particular newlyweds joke simply does not belong.

The fact remains—or has just been undeniably established—that too few of even the kitchen's old-timers, let alone the lace-aproned youngsters, have ever permitted either swain, husband or guest to savor the insides of a rich, honest-to-goodness cup of tea.

The inhabitants of the United States drink some 19,000,000,000 cups of tea each year. In order to determine how that vast sea of vintage beverage is consumed, a cross-section survey involving personal interviews with 5000 housewives in five representative states has recently been conducted by a New York firm.

In essence, the survey found that eight out of ten persons were tea drinkers, but that four out of five tea drinkers were literally throwing the tea away, drinking, instead, a mere shadow of what they started to make, or might have had, or wanted to drink.

The proper recipe for a good, balanced cup of tea, according to American tea experts, is one measured teaspoon for each cup, with a full five-minute brew.

The survey revealed that housewives were either using far too little tea or they were brewing it for so short a time that not the greatest benefits of the essential oils and vitalizing factors in the tea-cup.

Furthermore, it was found that almost no one measures tea by the teaspoon, and that almost no one times the steeping process. Many of the housewives who were asked how much tea they used gave the following typical answer: "Just a pinch!" About so much in the palm of my hand"; "I cover the bottom of the teapot with a thin layer of tea"; "We put in a lot—two or three tablespoons—and then keep pouring boiling water on it until every one has had enough."

C. N. R. OFFICIAL PRESIDENT SUPTS DINING CARS

MONTREAL, Que., Oct. 13.—W. W. Swinden, general supt. of sleeping dining and parlor car service, Canadian National Railways, has been elected president of the American Association of superintendents on dining cars according to word received here today from Washington, D.C., where the 37th annual convention is just concluding.

Last year when the sessions were held at Toronto and J. F. Finnegan, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, was made president of the association. Mr. Swinden was elected president.

One of the best known sleeping and dining car officials on the continent, Mr. Swinden began his railway work as a clerk in Winnipeg in 1907. Two years later, he became chief clerk as accountant of his department. He was chief clerk in the Toronto office from 1919 to 1923 when he was transferred to Montreal as assistant to the general supt., he became general superintendent in 1934.

SECOND FLEET OF PLANES TRANS CANADA AIR LINE

MONTREAL, Que., Oct. 13.—Flown from Vancouver where it was delivered last Friday, the second of the fleet of new planes for the trans-Canada Air Lines arrived in Winnipeg Tuesday. Like the first which remains at the coast it is being used for training pilots. A third plane expected from the builders any day now, will also be taken to Winnipeg according to Philip G. Johnson, vice president in charge of operations.

The planes are Lockheed Electra 10's capable of carrying 10 passengers a pilot and a co-pilot. They have a wing span of 55 feet, an overall length of 38 feet, seven inches and weigh 10,500 pounds fully loaded. Maximum speed is 205 miles an hour, with cruising speed of 183. Fuel capacity is 207 gallons.

Installation of three ground radio stations at Winnipeg, Regina and Lethbridge is proceeding Johnson stated.

They will be equipped with ten channel sets, 500 watts transmitters. Two way voice communication will keep the pilots in touch with the ground and enable them to receive weather reports and spiral directions.

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GIVES BLOND HAIR CREDIT

PARIS, Oct. 15.—Mrs. Edythe Rogers Dahl, blond bride of Harold E. Dahl, admitted shyly today that she had used "all the sob technique learned during my years on the stage" to save her aviator husband from death before a Spanish insurgent firing squad.

"Spaniards like blondes," she said. "That must have influenced the decision to spare Harold's life."

On two occasions Mrs. Dahl, who once sang "torch" songs with Rudy Vallee's orchestra, won reprieves for her 28-year-old husband after he had been sentenced to death by court-martial.

She wrote tearful appeals to Generalissimo Francisco Franco of the insurgents pleading with him "not to take away the only happiness I have ever known." She enclosed a glamorous theatrical photograph of herself. Despatches from Franco's headquarters at Salamanca said some of the Generalissimo's aides got possession of the picture and were reluctant to surrender it.

COOLER DAYS STIMULATE INTEREST IN APPETIZING AUTUMN MENUS

Crisp and sparkling days bring greater appetites—so be on your toes to plan meals that will be satisfying and in tune with the season, and plan desserts that will top your meal off in the best possible manner.

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