

O, Give Me a Home

By Adelaide F. Barker
Oregon State Library

Springtime is nest building time for the birds and also for humans. About the time of year when buds are bursting into leaf and the countryside is a blaze of varicolored bloom, we feel the urge to get out into the country. We drive down lanes bordered with verdure and pause on heights to overlook broad expanses of green valleys. We admire the low rambling ranch house set in its grove of towering green firs and often, as we view the panorama unfolding before us, some particularly intriguing spot impels us to exclaim, "Oh, how I'd love a home of my own right there."

This year many of us are making our dreams come true and are building that long desired home. True, prices are high and will no doubt remain so for a long time. But after all there never has nor ever will be an ideal time to build. Perhaps the nearest we can ever approximate the ideal is the time when our need for housing is manifest and when our finances are in such a condition that we can obtain the necessary credit for the undertaking.

"To cut one's cloth to one's purse" has always been sound advice and especially so in building. It is most imperative here that we prune our dreams to pocket-book size. That of course does not mean that we should sacrifice quality of material or solid construction but rather that we do not permit our dreams to outweigh our common sense. If a four room cottage is indicated by the family budget, let it be a sturdy, well built four room structure, with plans for adding, at some later and more prosperous date, the wings to complete the dambing ranch house structure of our dreams.

Since most of us are amateurs in the building field, there are luckily many sources of information readily available to us. Most of these can be examined at and borrowed through

your public library. **How to Plan a Home** by Gilbert Townsend (American Technical Society, 1942, \$4.50) is written for the many people who are interested in how it is done. This is not merely a book of plans but helps Mr. and Mrs. Prospective Home Builder decide regarding style, heating and air conditioning equipment, plumbing, lighting, decoration and all other items involved in building a home. This is the all-coverage type of material that no layman should attempt to build without.

For the feminine members of the family the most important consideration is the plan and convenience of the home. To Mother and The Girls, **How to Choose, Plan and Build Your Home** by Helen Koues (Tudor, 1946, \$1.25) will be the object of many exciting perusals. Here are not only plans and views of homes but pictures of individual rooms in all their tempting loveliness. Perhaps the ladies of the family disagree. Mother loves traditional, while the Girls vote for streamlined functional. Mother will love **Houses for Homemakers** by R. B. Wills (Watts, 1945, \$1.00) while the sleek modern houses in **Homes for Tomorrow** by Williams (Murray, 1945 \$2.00) will send The Girls into delighted raptures. Incidentally both generations will find in some of these homes a happy blending of traditional and modern and a blessed compromise among the household's feminine contingent will often result.

Still another thrill for the ladies considers both interiors and exteriors. **Home Furnishing** by A. H. Rutt (Wiley, 1948, \$4.00) plans both the homes and its furnishings, even to the draperies at the windows and the pictures on the walls. Its many illustrations are a home planners delight and its carefully itemized budgets will show Father just how far he may safely let his women folk go. For the woman who dreams of that perfect kitchen

(Continued on page 30)