

True Heart Of the Home Is a Hearth

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What is a home?

Well, to me it's more than just a place to hang your hat. It's the institution that binds the family into a unit of love and loyalty.

And what physical property of the establishment contributes most to this? It couldn't be golden faucets in the bathroom, could it? I set my mind to backtracking into the homes I have had the privilege of knowing in many lands—and then I got it.

The big fireplace in the living room with the blazing logs or coal or peat! That's it! There's the symbol of love and loyalty which makes the home.

America, of course, used to have plenty of fireplaces but central heating pushed them into the background. Still to you who have experienced them— isn't the fireplace one of the first things you think of when your mind reverts to the old homestead? Isn't it grouped about the fireplace that you see mother and dad and brothers and sisters? Sure it is.

It was while lying on the rug before the blazing logs that you had some of your grandest adventures. Remember how fairy castles and other wondrous images used to form among the embers? And how mother smiled with understanding as her knitting needles clicked, and dad said sure, he saw them too?

Romance, adventure and dreams of the future. Who knows but that young Abraham Lincoln as he did his lessons before the flickering fire, had his first visions of the White House and of the great work he was to do?

But that isn't all the open fire means. It also is an emblem of hospitality, and has been through the centuries, whether you find it in the mansion of the mighty or in the cottage of the peasant.

I think back to one of the tense nights of Southern Ireland's "Bloody Easter Week Rebellion" in 1916. As an AP correspondent I all but lost my silly life, and that of my Irish chauffeur, by inadvertently violating British military law at the height of the fighting. As we approached Kingstown at midnight, my driver said:

"It will mean certain death if I drive into the heart of Kingstown at this time of night. The place is filled with troops who will shoot on sight. I live here and I'm going to take you to my cottage by a back way. You can sleep there and give yourself up in the morning."

In due course we arrived at the driver's little two room home. His wife threw her arms about his neck with fervent repetitions of the "The Saints be praised," while two small girls

Luminous Ceiling Is Squint-Proof

A squint-proof luminous ceiling, designed to ease eye strain under artificial light, has been developed by Brown university and Massachusetts Institute of Technology engineers.

A translucent plastic ceiling diffuses a shadowless glow of illumination from concealed fluorescent lights. Its ease on the eyes is attributed to the lack of eye adjustment necessary under uniform lighting of all parts of a room. The eyes are not confronted with a variety of light intensities.

The cost of installation was estimated at about \$2 per square foot.

cling to him. Then they turned to their guest and, after the manner of the Irish, offered me all the hospitality their poor abode afforded—a place to sleep on the couch before the open fire of the living room.

That fire, built of sweet-smelling peat, was a godsend. It brought not only warmth of body but warmth of heart, for it was the symbol of a grand hospitality.

So my vote is for a fireplace—the bigger the better—in the living room. It is the heart of the home and a builder of love and loyalty and character.

Kiickoff Breakfast Opens Lebanon Drive

Lebanon—The Red Cross fund drive, headed in Lebanon by Delmar Clem, will open March 13 with a quota of \$4100 set for this community. Solicitors for the business section are being recruited from among merchants.

A kickoff breakfast for all solicitors, captains of women's groups, and rural workers was

served Friday morning at the coffee shop.

Besides the downtown solicitors, others will canvass mills and industries throughout the region, while still others will

The Red Cross effort will be make door to door calls. The first major drive conducted this year.

Since Delicious apples are plentiful you may want to use some of them in cooking and baking. If so, remember that their flavor benefits when lemon juice is added.

Sodality Presents Program of Amateurs

Sublimity—The first amateur program held for the students of St. Boniface school proved to be a huge success. First prize was won by Joanne Birkolz, who sang, "There's No Tomorrow." Second prize went to Marlene Odenthal, who played a piano solo. Third prize was won by Fred Farrell, who sang "It's Me, O Lord." The proceeds went to the Sodality treasury.

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