



TWO KLAMATH COUNTY potato growers, Elmer C. Lemler of Merrill (left) and Ed Stastny of Malin (next to Lemler,) look over some of the seed potatoes planted for testing for disease in the potato greenhouses at the Oregon State College. Certification officials George Clark (pointing) and H. E. Finnell point out some of the disease symptoms on this test planting. Lemler and Stastny are Klamath County representatives on the Oregon Potato Commission. The test planting service for uncertified seed potatoes will not be available after February 1.

Experts Advise Simplicity In Modern Home Decorating

Today's most important trend in making a home attractive and comfortable is to eliminate clutter, keeping furnishings and color schemes simple. This doesn't mean that we must discard favorite knickknacks and hide the family photographs in a trunk just to keep up with decorating trends. Indeed, no family treasures have a place in every home, but they should be out of harm's way and where a daily dusting isn't required. When hung on a wall, our treasures are safe and a decorative asset as well.

So often we put a great deal of thought in planning a color scheme, in selecting rugs, fabrics for draperies and slipcovers, in choosing lamps that are the proper height and style and in placement of furniture. Then, exhausted by our efforts in plotting, planning and stitching, we leave the walls bare and uninteresting or hang one lonely picture on a large expanse. Walls can be made to integrate a decorative scheme, to point up conversational groups of furniture, to give balance and proportion between various elements in a room.

Shelves for keepsakes may be alternated with plants set in brackets. Pictures may be hung in a grouping that has real importance.

Family photographs may be groups around a clock or a mirror. An arrangement of photographs in frames that are different in size and shape can be arranged so that the effect is one of pleasing unity. It is quite easy to experiment with a wall display by cutting pieces of paper that correspond to the size and shape of the picture frames and sticking them to the wall with masking tape. Thus, they may be rearranged until the right balance is found before a single picture hook is hung. Perhaps the arrangement is needed to unify the wall space over a sofa that is separated by tall lamps on end tables; framed pictures can do this most successfully. Space over a desk or chest can be made more appealing to the eye with a family gallery of keepsakes and portrait photographs.

In many contemporary homes with an open floor plan, the wall space is limited, particularly where there are large expanses of windows. Here a room divider or a portable screen can perform the dual function of separating room areas and as a place on which to put knickknack and picture. The effect will be most decorative and arrangement can be changed very easily.

Type Of Finishing Is Key To Beautiful Wood Walls

The real secret in getting the most in beauty and attractiveness out of your wood paneled walls is in the finish, advises H. O. Stroberger, wood finishing expert.

Attention to detail at time of finishing coupled with proper materials, Stroberger says, can make

even a dub look like a master craftsman. The trouble is, he said, too many people don't like to put in the extra elbow grease to get a really first class job and sometimes settle for a cheap job that will always look cheap.

The softwoods available today at most retail lumber yards in the country, Stroberger says, take every conceivable kind of finish. The final appearance of walls, builtins and other installations of Douglas fir, west coast hemlock or western red cedar are limited only by the tastes and desires of the home-maker, he said.

These popular softwoods, he said, can be finished to retain their natural grain, texture and colorings by varnish, rez, lacquer or wax finishes. They can be stained, painted, enameled, or antiqued. There are dozens of variations to each one of these individual finishes. For instance, where it is desired to retain the texture and grain of the wood but to change the tone in some manner to fit with color or other decor, an almost endless variety of stain, paint and rez may be painted on and then wiped off immediately, leaving tints or color shadings.

Here are just a few of the many ways fir, cedar and hemlock walls may be finished by the above method: walnut stain, lead blue paint with chrome green pigments, walnut with chrome yellow in oil added, driftwood rez, oil stain, mahogany stain with chrome yellow, sage rez, chrome green with burnt umber. The combinations, inflections, shadings are endless.

Stroberger lays down certain dogmatic rules when finishing fir, hemlock or cedar or any of the other softwoods. All wood surfaces must be sanded with 4-0 sandpaper or buffed smooth as a starting point. Proper sanding is important in obtaining the most perfect possible finish. Next step is to stain, rez or paint on color—if this is desired—then wipe off. A coat of lacquer sealer is next suggested and when thoroughly dry it should be sanded with No. 300 sandpaper. Subsequent coats of shellac, varnish, rez or lacquer may be applied depending on how much depth and patina is desired, and each must be allowed to dry thoroughly and each coat must be sanded smooth before another is added.

Fix The Home This Year

Home improvement work in Oregon is expected to increase sharply in the coming year, according to J. Guy Arrington, director of the Portland office, Federal Housing Administration.

The increase should have a favorable effect on the industries involved in this work and on the labor market.

Although complete figures for 1955 are not yet available, the loan insurance handled by FHA in this state in 1950-54 reached \$52,684,000 according to Arrington. The number of loans was 92,300.

On the basis of data released by FHA Commissioner Norman P. Mason, the volume of FHA insured home improvement loans nationally, over a 20-year period, is nearly \$9 billion. The number is 19 million loans.

The operation is entirely self-supporting since FHA charges a small sum for its insuring service. The charge also provides insurance reserves which now approximate \$67 million for home improvement operations.

Reason for the anticipated increase is the fact that the building and home construction industries are undertaking a nation-wide home improvement campaign on an unprecedented scale. In turn this will be tied in with local community and civic programs to fight blight and encourage neighborhood rehabilitation.

The campaign received its official send-off on January 16 when by the direction of President Eisenhower, Administrator Albert M. Cole, of the Housing and Home Finance Agency proclaimed 1956 as Home Improvement Year.

Designated name for the campaign is Operation Home Improvement.

The official slogan is "56 the Year to Fix."

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