

Dual Desk



A WRITING DESK in most compact bedrooms is a luxury that space will not permit. How about this combination installation? A writing desk, built of attractive west coast hemlock to match the walls of the bedroom, becomes a well appointed vanity dresser when the table top is tipped back. Full mirror fits into underside. Type-writer folds back into unit when not needed.

Farm Parity Index Slated

A nationwide survey authorized by the last Congress to help bring the farm "parity index" up to date got underway in eight Oregon counties early in February, reports M. D. Thomas, Oregon college agricultural economist.

This is the first time farmers have been interviewed on a national scale for this purpose. Information is needed on current costs of both farm family living and farm operations. Findings will be used not only for improving the parity index but also in studies of farm income and expenses, Thomas explains.

The parity index is used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to determine what Congress considers fair prices for farm products in relation to costs of things farmers must buy.

The survey will be conducted locally by the Oregon crop reporting service in Clackamas, Josephine, Lake, Lane, Marion, Tillamook, Wasco and Washington counties. About 40 farmers in each of the eight counties will be interviewed. Nationally, reports will be obtained from about 10,000 farm operators in 340 selected counties.

Individual reports will be held confidential and used only in combination with reports from other farmers to obtain regional and national totals. Final results will be used by farm groups and others concerned with farm spending and income.

The survey will obtain information on the buying habits of American farmers, both as to the kinds and amounts of goods and services. This information, used in revising and modernizing the parity index, will also include taxes, interest, and wage rates. Thomas points out that the hourly wage rate paid by Oregon farmers reached an all-time high on January 1 and is topped only by Connecticut and Washington.

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Experts Say Use Fewer Materials

"Use two building materials to provide delightful contrast on a home exterior, use three different materials if you know how to handle them properly, use four materials and you're sure to be in trouble."

That's the short but expert advice for planning home exteriors from Sylvia Harmon, color consultant for the Insulating Siding Association.

"The secondary material is like the seasoning in a well-cooked meal," according to Miss Harmon. "It's the touch that provides zest but it must be just a touch and must remain subtle to be effective."

A material remains subtle, says Miss Harmon, by not attempting

to outline the principal material on the outside walls of the home.

"Stone can be used effectively in a panel at the front of the home, at the picture window area, for example, or in a chimney, or for a decorative planter, or it can be used as the primary material."

"But some builders make the mistake of using too much stone as the secondary material on a small home. Then all you see is the stone. All it does is emphasize the smallness of the home. And despite the song writers' ecstasy about small homes, most people prefer to have them look as large as possible," Miss Harmon observes.

Miss Harmon pointed out that the maintenance and weathering qualities of the second material

should be considered. She cited the experience in Memphis, Tenn., where brick has long been the dominant sidewall material.

"Although brick was the main wall material, clapboard wood siding was frequently used on gable ends. In the years after World War II, there was widespread trouble with paint peeling off the wood. If the lumber had just a little moisture, there was trouble because the gable got the full impact of the sun's rays."

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