

'Country Kitchens' Staging Comeback

The American family is moving back into the kitchen! It's the best news we've heard in many an autumn moon.

In the kitchen, you're closer to the victuals—and far removed from the dreary twaddle of television.

But more than that seems to be behind this joyous journey.

Mother, the experts tell us, has lost her appetite for those gleaming-white, antiseptic kitchens.

This is not to say that Mother is forfeiting her right to any of those modern, labor-saving appliances which have made life in the kitchen so much easier.

Mother, the experts tell us, just wants to get some of that old-fashioned atmosphere back into the kitchen.

It's a return to the old Dutch kitchen—or, as it is known also, the country kitchen—where there is ample space as well as the facilities for family living.

The trend today in kitchen design is away from cold, white efficiency—and back to the rich, warm atmosphere of colonial day kitchens. The Dutch kitchen of today is a combination of the old and new. It is old in its friendly warmth—and new in its use of modern materials.

Its basic components are still there—the large, open kitchen area with a fireplace and a dining table and a decor of wood and brick. There is still a door from the kitchen to the outside.

Elsewhere there are changes. Modern flooring materials, for example, are being used—rubber, vinyl, asphalt or ceramic tile.

But to achieve warmth, increasing use is being made of the old standby materials—brick, stone, cheerful wall paper and wood.

Modern appliances, of course, continue to be added. However, even the appliances, themselves, have been discarding the white finishes in favor of color and texture.

For paneling and built-in storage space, knotty or clear western pine woods are becoming increasingly popular. A variety of new and interesting finishes have been developed. These increase the lustre and warmth of wood while still retaining the natural beauty of the many available grains.

There are new ways of treating wood, too, and the pine-paneled kitchens of today thus are clean and as easy to maintain as almost any other material.

With the accent on wood, a new concept in built-ins and storage space has been achieved. There are island counters with cabinets and drawers that open on both sides.

There are floor-to-ceiling cabinets for groceries and utensils. There are even high fidelity units built into a paneled wall, for an ultra modern touch.

Still, the important features of the earlier kitchens are there—especially the huge brick or stone

fireplace with perhaps a barbecue oven or grille added, and the open wooden beamed ceiling.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q. Can you tell me an easy way to cut ceramic wall tiles?

A. With a pencil, mark the glazed surface along the line of the cut to be made. If there are ridges on the backs on the tiles, make the cut parallel to the ridges, not across them. Now, using a ruler or another piece of tile as a straight edge, scratch the glazed surface along the indicated cut with a glass cutter. To break the tile, place it on the floor (glazed side face up) over a finishing nail. Line the nail up with the cut and step on both sides of the tile. The tile will break along the indicated line. Finish off the cut edge with an abrasive stone.

Q. What is a cavity wall?

A. This is formed by two brick walls built a few inches apart and connected with metal ties.

Hard Water Boosts Bills

Calcium and magnesium compounds are present in all natural water supplies and are the most important minerals. The Water Conditioning Foundation says.

Even a trace of hardness in water is objectionable, from the standpoint of home cleaning and maintenance. That's why the foundation classifies all water of half a grain and over as hard.

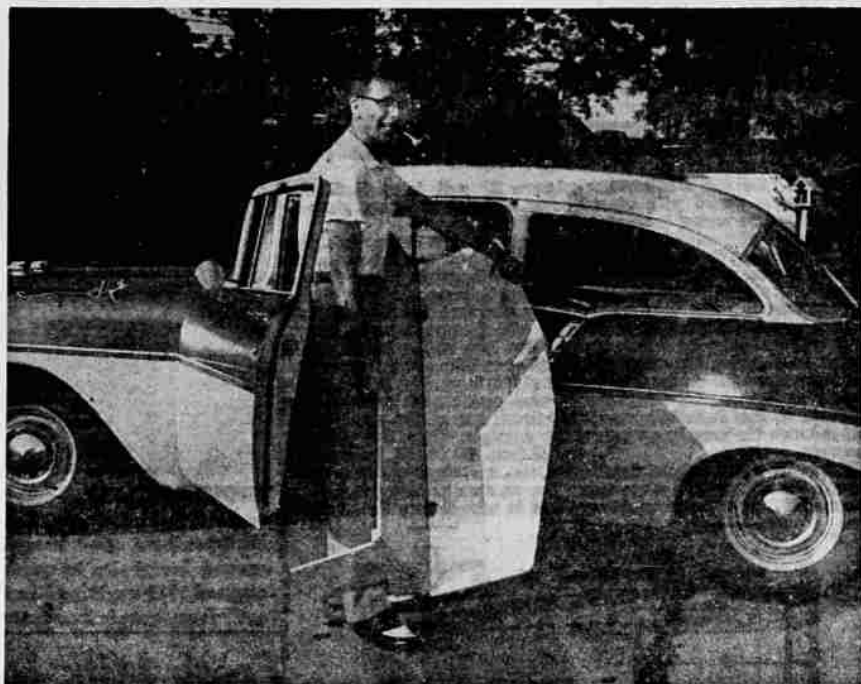
Actually, the gradation of hardness breaks down like this: half a grain to 3.5 grains, slightly hard; 3.5 to 7 grains, moderately hard; above 10.5 grains, very hard water.

If you know the grains of hardness in your local water supply, you can tell just how hard it is from this table. And from that, you'll be able to judge how much a water softener would benefit every member of the family in terms of better, more enjoyable living.

Water hardness adds to the cost of maintaining a home in many ways. One of the most obvious is in the waste of soap. Depending on how hard the water is, anywhere from 50 to 90 per cent of soap used in laundering, bathing, and cleaning may be wasted.

Soap curd formed in hard water leaves your hair with a lack-luster look. It's hard on your complexion, too, causing roughness and a tendency to blackheads.

The best way to control water problems is with a household water softener. Softeners may be purchased outright from a dealer in plumbing-connected appliances, or rented by the month from a water softening service organization.



HERE'S A FATHER who has figured a way to transport his children in comfort on lengthy trips. Folding base provides support for crib mattress or blankets, enabling children to utilize entire back seat area for sleeping. It's easy to build.

If You Take Children On Trips Build This Back Seat Bed Unit

Taking small children on a long automobile trip can be quite a strain on Mom, Dad, and the kids. Under most conditions, there isn't enough room for children to nap on the rear seat of a sedan. There is the danger that sudden stops may jolt them to the floor. They are also hard to reach for feeding or diaper changes.

This transportation bugaboo can be eased with a back-seat crib mattress unit that's so simple you will wonder why you haven't thought of it before. A base for a crib mattress or a blanket is easy to build. You just hinge two pieces of fir plywood together so they will fold up for easy installation or removal. Once the base is in place over the back seat, it provides a sturdy foundation for mattress or blankets and the youngsters have the entire back area for naps.

Dimensions vary according to your automobile, but construction steps are about the same for any two-seat vehicle. The entire unit can be cut from one 4x8 foot panel of 1/2 inch fir plywood.

Cut one piece approximately the size of the back seat itself. Nail two wedge-shaped diagonals on the bottom of this piece to compensate for the incline of the seat. Then, cut another piece of plywood to span the area between the rear seat and the backs of the front seats. Add plywood legs to this piece to hold it level with the back seat. Then hinge the two

flat pieces together to allow for easy folding when you want to remove the unit.

The approximate dimensions for most car bed units are: Legs, 12 inches high; flat, hinged mattress base, five feet long, 30 inches wide. Another "plus" feature of this unit is that it allows storage of small luggage and traveling gear on the floor in the back seat area.

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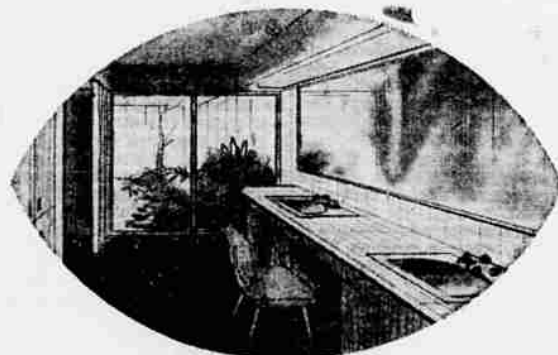
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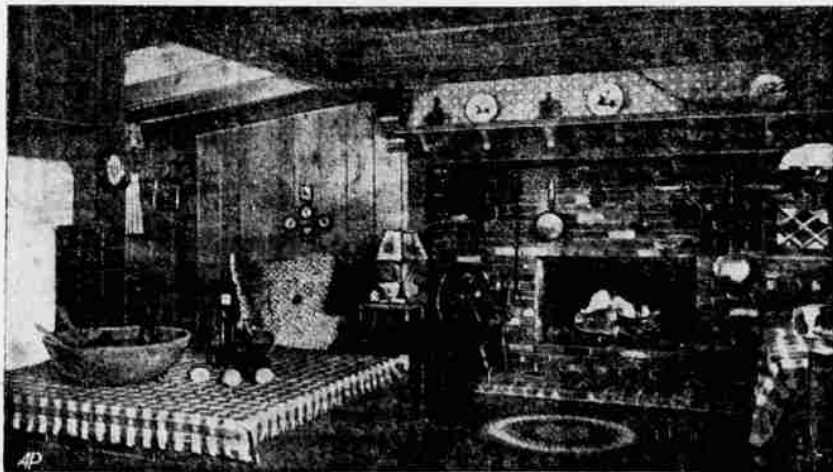


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A MODERN VERSION of an old Dutch kitchen. The flooring is tile and the appliances are the latest, yet the warmth of earlier kitchens is retained by the use of exposed wooden beams in the ceiling and pine paneling on the walls. Today's designers are enlarging kitchens in order to take in more elements of family activity—eating, relaxing and informal entertaining.