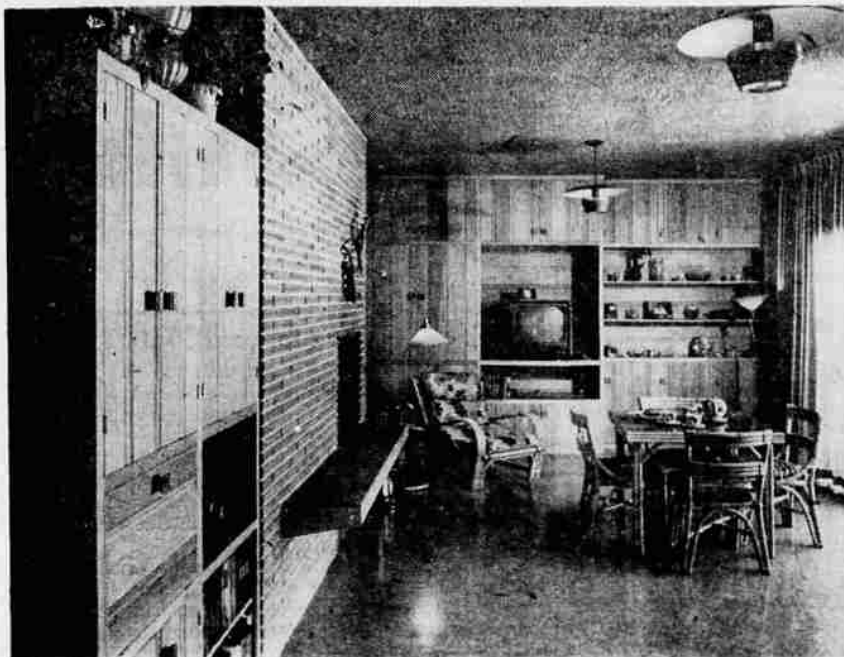




PANELING SETS A TONE — This liveable family room owes its personality to its wall paneling. Note how the soft wood tone of the white fir sets off the brick fireplace and also the highly polished floor. Lumber from the western pine region is particularly suited to family rooms such as this because there are ten species to choose from and all are easy to find and work with.

House Hunting? Here's How The Experts Say To Go About It In Best Way

WASHINGTON (UPI)—A house is probably the biggest, most expensive, most important thing you will ever buy.

If it doesn't fit or doesn't work right you can't take it back and get a refund. You probably couldn't afford to chuck it out and buy another one, either.

So, in buying a house, you want to be especially sure you get the right one—the one you can enjoy, afford and take pride in.

That means you must have some expert knowledge about what you're buying—knowledge of your own or someone else's. Usually some of each is necessary.

One thing you can tell better than anyone else is whether the house—either a new one or one that's been previously occupied—is suitable for your family needs.

Does it have enough bedrooms, both for the family today and for any planned newcomers? Is it so designed that it can grow with the children? Can this year's nursery be made into a teen-age rumpus room in a few years?

Are the rooms big enough and laid out in such a way that your furniture will fit in an attractive way? Is there adequate closet space for your clothing, linens, dishes and enough shelf room (or potential) for books and bric-a-brac?

Whether you'll enjoy living in the house will also depend on the neighborhood it's in. Pick one where there are neighbors you would probably like—folks who are of similar economic circumstances and may share some of your interests. If you have children, they must be considered in the same way, with special emphasis on age. You can tell something about this in advance by walking around the neighborhood a bit and observing it for yourself. Local bankers, real estate agents, merchants, or almost anyone else who's been around a while would be good people to inquire of.

A very important feature of the neighborhood is its schools. Are they within walking distance of the house you're considering? Or, if not, is there safe, reliable, inexpensive transportation for the youngsters? Is the school a good one—and the kind your boy or girl will like? If you plan to keep the house a long time and your children are of grammar school age, bear in mind that they'll be in junior and then senior high school before long.

If you're a one-car family and

that car goes downtown to work every morning, better check carefully on the distance from the house to the shopping center. Is the public transportation close enough and scheduled so as to meet the needs of the wife and children for going downtown, to the doctor, movies, friends, club meeting and bank?

Is there a church of your denomination close by? Do you like the pastor and the way it's run? Another about the neighborhood to consider is whether it has been improving or deteriorating recently. After all, besides buying a place to live in, you're making an investment—whose value might just as well go up as down.

Zoning laws and regulations have a lot to do with how a neighborhood fares. They guarantee—where they exist—that a residential section is not likely to lose its desirable qualities through the introduction of industrial or commercial activities.

A readily available clue to the neighborhood's future is whether its residents keep their buildings and property well maintained—painted, repaired, trimmed, polished or debris. If the houses look unkempt and decaying, you can be pretty sure that property values are in danger.

One of the biggest worries for people buying a house—especially their first—is: How do I know I'm not being gypped?

Well, there are several things you can do to make sure you don't pay too much for your house and/or that it's not chock full of defects not immediately visible.

One thing is to know the market. Look at and price many houses to get an idea of the going rates. A real estate agent may be able to tell you what to consider a maximum to pay for a house of the size, style and location you desire.

If you're considering a newly built house, compare what different builders are offering. Besides price, check such points as size, number of rooms, equipment (range, dishwasher), insulation, heating system, quality of workmanship (are there hammer marks on the woodwork?), plumbing and drainage. Ask folks who bought houses from the same builder two and five years ago how they are holding up.

If you're going to buy a house that's already been occupied, it might be a good idea to hire a professional appraiser to give it

College Paper To Moscow

AMHERST, Mass. (UPI)—Students at the University of Moscow are now up-to-date on the problems of American colleges.

The Amherst Student, undergraduate newspaper at Amherst College here, published and sent to Moscow a 16-page edition of the paper. Written in English, except for an editorial in Russian, the issue contains articles on the impact of Sputnik on American education, the crowding of U.S. colleges, what they teach and their financial problems.

The newspaper's chairman, senior Paul Dodyk, of Hamtramck, Mich., a Rhodes Scholar, said arrangements for delivery of the paper were made through the Committee of Youth Organizations.

New Steering Wheel Made

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (UPI)—A new automobile steering system is being developed which may give drivers the same quick, direct control over their cars that Grandpa was able to achieve with the old-fashioned tiller.

Another benefit from the new "variable ratio" steering system, engineers, will be the possibility of redesigning the steering wheel to improve the driver's vision of the road and instrument panel. They said the wheel could be replaced with "handle-bar grips" or a half-wheel similar to that of an airplane.

What may make all this possible is a combination of power steering with a mechanical device that automatically changes ratio as the wheel is turned from straight-ahead to the right or left. This should result in more direct, positive and quick control of the car, according to the Bendix engineers, reducing the distance the steering wheel must be turned before the automobile's wheels respond.

WINE TIP

NEW YORK (UPI)—Add a tablespoon or more of any table wine to apples while they are baking. The alcohol will cook away, leaving a delicate fruit flavor.

the onceover. That's probably the soundest way to guard against overpayment or getting a "lemon."

Family Room Fancied-Up With Modern Paneling

Just as the family room is a gathering place for people, it is a meeting place for ideas. In many homes it's the idea room of the house since most family activity is centered there. Being a room that expresses so much, it should be attractive and functional and express its owners' personalities.

A family room can be located anywhere in the house though the basement or first floor seem to be the most convenient. However a formerly "useless" unconverted attic can be brought to life as a family meeting place and extra guest room.

Whatever its location, when it comes to remodeling for a family room or building a house that includes one, the Western Pine Association suggests that you think first of what use your family expects from this new room. Will it be used as a game room? Then include storage space for card tables, shuffle board equipment, ping pong paddles and the like. Will you eat some meals in the family room? If so, give some thought to building a service pantry or sink unit in one corner if you're not near your kitchen. Will you use it for a hobby? If you plan to, then try to work your hobby interest into the decor—a gun rack on one wall, your favorite wood carvings on open shelves where your guests may enjoy them, or, perhaps, you're a sailor and a nautical theme can be brought into the room. Whatever you decide on, you can be fairly certain that the room will come in for some pretty rough treatment, so build for lasting beauty.

Paneling, as many people have discovered, is the perfect answer for such a room. It is extremely varied today and particularly in respect to color. Pigmented stains have brought about a near-revolution in wall paneling. With brush-on-wipe-off finishes, paneling is turning virtually every color of the rainbow, yet these eye-catching colors allow the natural characteristics of the wood to show through.

Lumber from the western pine region lends itself particularly well

to these exciting new color finishes. First of all there are 10 species of wood from this area and all are readily available and easy to work. Best of all, they take any finish yet devised by man. Furthermore, these 10 varieties vary in their natural colors so that if you wish to leave your paneling natural one of these woods is sure to suit your taste.

Another of the great attributes of paneling is that it will go well in any setting. It can be as formal or informal as you want depending on the choice of wood, the pattern, and the color we've already mentioned.

Beyond this western pine paneling goes beautifully with other materials. It will set off the texture and color of a stone fireplace, it will bring out the warmth and softness of a drapery fabric, and it will make a rich and mellow backdrop for furniture of any period. This is probably why so many people have almost instinctively chosen paneling for their family rooms, and no wonder when it does so much for a room.

COLD FIGURES

FRASER, Colo. (UPI)—This chilly Colorado mountain town became—actually if not yet technically—just an "also ran" in the coldest-spot-in-the-nation derby when Alaska became the 49th state.

In the same category are Big Piney, Wyo.; Cut Bank and West Yellowstone, Mont.; and International Falls, Minn., all of which have also recorded the nation's lowest temperature from time to time.

The U.S. Weather Bureau, however, hasn't decided yet whether Alaska is technically part of the "nation" and says the 49th state won't be considered in figuring "the nation's low" for the time being.

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