

Builtins Of Lumber Give Room A Colorful Boost

An open, uncluttered feeling is sought in today's decoration but it makes good sense in any age or period. Perhaps we find clean and simple lines attractive and relaxing because our lives seem to grow more complicated. In any case, to achieve this effect one needs adequate storage space, and an answer to this need is builtins.

Lumber builtins should be designed not only to make storage room but also to fit into your decor. You can treat your units with wood stain, a clear or pigmented finish, or paint. The Western Pine Association points out that all these finishes are fine, but the first three choices allow the natural qualities of the wood to show through whereas paint hides much of its charm. The pigmented stains are especially nice

because they allow you to match your builtins to other colors in the room and still have the grain and knot formations show through. These stains can be thinned-down paint, applied with a brush-on, wipe-off technique, or standard commercial mixes.

When it comes to selecting the wood for your job, consider the kinds of Western pine region woods. They are economical, easy to work with and readily available. Your lumber supplier can advise you on which to use from the standpoint of color, grain and knot formations.

The kitchen is a good place to start planning your builtins since it is an important work area that needs much storage room. Here, lumber can do a lot for you in cabinets below your counters and in cupboards, closets, and open

shelves. It is wise to set aside certain spots for bulky, heavy, or frequently used equipment, where you can get at it easily. Drawers on rollers and Lazy Susan cupboard shelves are a help in this respect. If you like a clear finish and prefer a light-toned wood you might use Idaho white pine, ponderosa pine or Engelmann spruce. If you want a darker color good selections would be incense cedar or inland red cedar with their distinctly reddish cast.

The living room, family room or den are other likely spots for builtins. One of the first ideas that comes to mind is a music center. Cupboards can house your radio-phonograph, speaker, tape recorder, television set and so on. You can also hide a roll-up movie screen behind a moulding or valance at the top of the unit. You

might select larch, with its fine uniform grain, or sugar pine, which machines beautifully. Other Western pine region species that would work well are lodgepole pine, white fir and Douglas fir.

The bedroom affords a chance to combine dressers and wardrobe type closets in a single unit and, if this is a child's room you're working on, you might also include a desk as well as cabinets and drawers for books, toys and the inevitable accumulation of junk that "has to be saved."

Bathrooms are the latest locations for lumber builtins. The Western Pine Association does not recommend wood where it comes in direct contact with splashing from tub or shower, but it does suggest using it for shelves,

cupboards and paneling away from the tub area. It should, however, be carefully treated with a good commercial sealer before installation and before your finish goes on.

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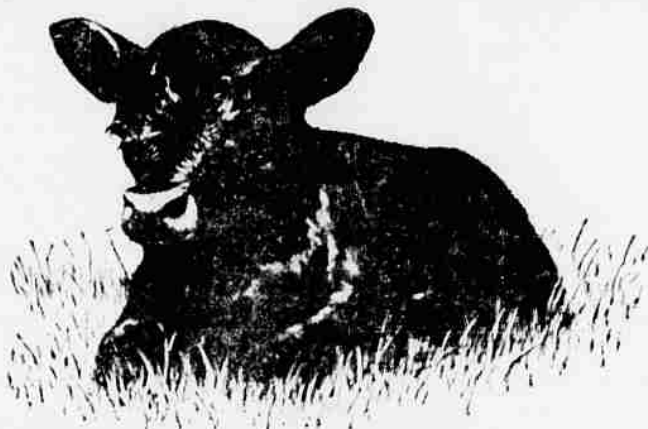
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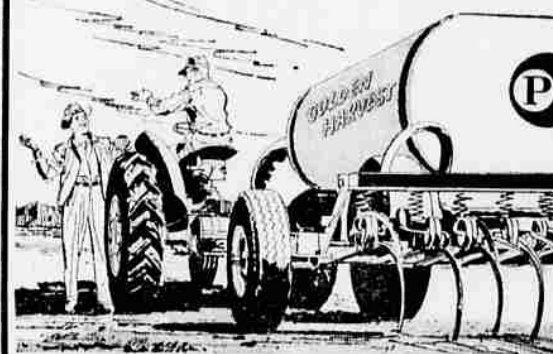
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