

## Decorator Works With Rare Stones

By GAY PAULEY  
UPI Women's Editor  
NEW YORK (UPI) — Helen Snyder has built a rare business on the rocks.  
The Milwaukee-born woman, who semi-precious stones and minerals are both a livelihood and an artistic satisfaction, says she is "part pioneer, part engineer, part miner, part architect, part designer."  
The pioneer title comes from the fact she calls herself the first interior designer to use the numerous varieties of minerals such as fluorite and quartz and semi-precious stones such as

amethyst and aquamarine in home decoration.  
She said she's still unique in her role as a "decorator-decorator," running up custom order stone items for other decorators around the nation who want everything from wall sconces to fountains created for their clients.  
**Great Variety**  
In Miss Snyder's shop on a busy New York street, there are "at least 1,000 types of minerals and stones" on display. And the lively, blonde-haired, blue-eyed woman said she knows the name of each—the quartzes, galeas, agates, garnets, opals, ad infinitum.  
Trained in interior design and architecture, Miss Snyder began her career with decorative items for the home. She will design, and she and her assistants Rose Rossi and Eddie Gaglio will run up smoothly polished tops for coffee or occasional tables, polished or smooth desk pen holders, paper weights, murals, lamps and what have you.  
They've done entire floors for some homes. The day I visited the shop, Highlights, a mass of assorted stones had been shipped and sealed together, to form a four-foot fountain for a New York penthouse dweller. Her two assistants were busy piling small, irregular shape stone upon stone of rock crystal for lamp bases.  
Lamp bases are one of the major parts of her business, and to give you an idea of their cost, one New York shop is selling some of rock crystal for \$300 each. But her stones go to private collectors, to museums, and often industry will call on her for a large order of a mineral.  
**Harder Than Steel**  
When stones are cut, a diamond saw is used — "Jewelry stones are twice as hard as steel," said Miss Snyder. But she wouldn't disclose how she makes them stick together in, say, a lamp base except to explain that the material used "always is of the same density as the stone."  
Helen Snyder, 65, is the daughter of E. J. Snyder, 93, a Milwaukee who has devoted a lifetime to art. He has gathered collections for a number of private clients and museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, she said.  
Miss Snyder was graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in art and economics, was graduated from the Parsons School of Design, New York, and traveled Europe studying art and interiors.  
She opened a decorating shop in the 200's in New York and built a clientele which included a lot of Wall Street brokers and what she called the "poio playing set." She decorated Averell Harriman's home at Sand Point, N.Y. During World War II, she worked for the War Department in its engineering division in Washington.  
**Creative Desire**  
After the war, I knew I didn't want to go back to decorating as such," she said. "I thought the time had come to be more creative, to make things for other decorators."  
A weekend visit to the Bear Mountain, N.Y., museum, filled with items including minerals of the Hudson Valley, led to her interest in stones. Since, she has roamed the world looking for the unusual, the colorful.  
One of her richest sources are the mountains of Mexico, where she spends about five months of each year dealing with miners of the minerals and semi-precious stones.  
For the last 10 years, she has owned a house, built of adobe and native stone, at Guanajuato, which is a five-hour drive due north of Mexico City, she said.

Guanajuato is a tiny mining town—"the last real colonial town in Mexico," she said. "And I found it because it is my business to go to mining towns."  
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**WELCOME ABOARD** — A half-ton boulder rolled down a hillside in Altadena, Calif., and through the kitchen door, narrowly missing Mrs. Mary Otero, shown here holding her son, Jose, and her daughter, Maria, 3, leaning on rock. The huge rock apparently loosened by the recent rains, left a 50-foot path down the steep hillside. Mrs. Otero said that it was the third such stone to roll into her house since she and her husband occupied it two years ago.  
— UPI Telephoto

## U.S. Studies 16-Month Mars Trip

WASHINGTON (UPI) — U.S. scientists are studying a possible space mission which would take six men on a 16-month round-trip to the planet Mars.  
Sen. Clinton P. Anderson, D-N.M., chairman of the Senate Space Committee, told the Women's National Democratic Club Monday it was too early to determine the size of the Mars spacecraft, the number of its crew, or whether it would have built-in gravity, but that such a mission was under study.  
"The journey to an orbit about Mars would take 140 days," Anderson said. "Forty days would be devoted to exploration of the planet. The return trip would take 240 days, or 110 days longer than the trip out."  
"The Mars ship would comprise three main sections: A command unit to protect the astronauts during launch and a return through the earth's atmosphere, a mission unit containing the crew's living quarters, and a landing craft," Anderson said.  
In preparation for eventual interplanetary travel, Anderson said, valuable experience will be gained from long-duration flights in the Gemini and Apollo spacecraft. These are seen as the successors to Project Mercury which has placed astronauts in orbit around the earth.  
"Two men in the Gemini capsule will spend several weeks in earth orbit, and three men in the Apollo spacecraft may stay aloft as long as two months," Anderson said.

## Civil Rights Backers Assail Administration

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Kennedy administration was under fire today from civil rights supporters in the Senate for seeking to water down civil rights legislation in the House.  
A Democrat and two Republicans attacked the administration strategy over the weekend. They were Sen. Paul H. Douglas, D-Ill., Jacob K. Javits, R-N.Y., and Clifford P. Case, R-N.J., all strong civil rights backers.  
Douglas indicated he felt the administration unwise had offered concessions on the House bill before they were necessary. Javits accused the administration of a policy of "retreat, retreat, retreat" on civil rights and other key measures. He said "appeasement" of southernners would do no good.  
Case said that "to water down the bill before it even reaches the floor of the House or Senate is to play into the hands of those who want no, or at best token, legislation."  
All three senators were referring to Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy's efforts last week to persuade the House Judiciary Committee to pull some teeth from its proposed civil rights bill, which is much stronger than legislation requested by for a softer bill was seen as a bid for crucial Republican support, without which the measure faces tougher sledding in Congress.  
The committee, headed by Rep. Emanuel Celler, D-N.Y., meets in closed session Tuesday to resume drafting a final bill for House action.

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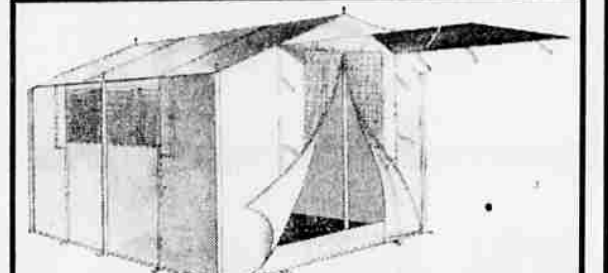
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