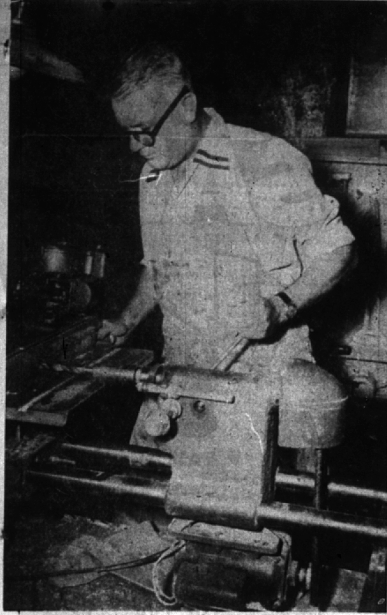
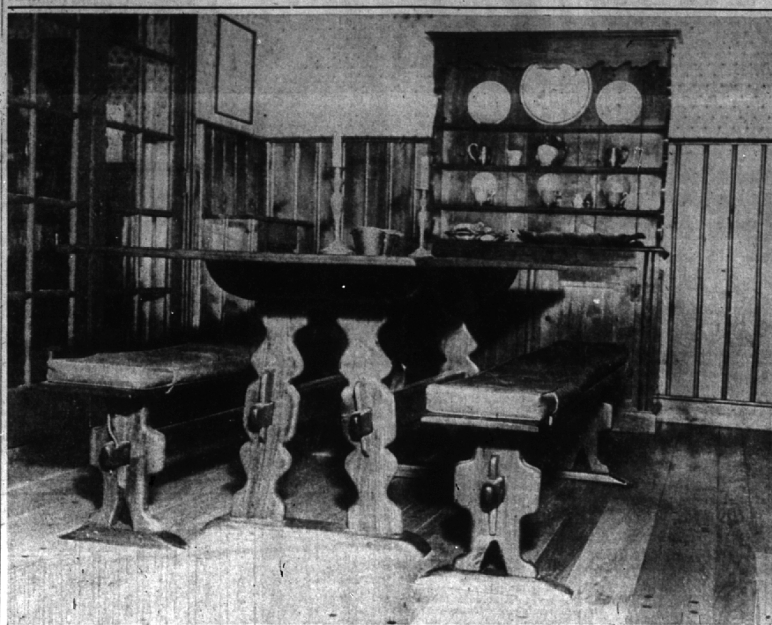


Indeed, there is so much that is free and beautiful for each of us, that I sometimes wonder only as many of us place emphasis upon material gain as the only pathway to personal happiness. Some of the happiest people I have known possess little of material wealth.



RALPH HOTCHKISS WORKS ON A PART OF NEW CHAIR
Basement full of all kinds of woodworking equipment.
(Eccentric Staff Photo)



THIS TRESTLE-TYPE DINING ROOM TABLE WAS MADE BY HOTCHKISS FROM A BLACK WALNUT LOG
It is an exact copy of the original in the Stokes collection.

Woodworking Is Favorite Pastime

By RUTH ANNE SILBAR
Special Writer for The Eccentric

Most men like to tinker and "fix-up" around their homes, but few men are master craftsmen like Ralph R. Hotchkiss of 844 Hazelwood.

An advertising man by vocation, working for Maxon, Inc., on the Gillette razor blade account, Hotchkiss' hobby is working in wood.

In his home within a period of three years, he has completely remodeled the kitchen, built a pantry, rebuilt the back porch, remodeled the dining room, made the dining room furniture and several pieces of furniture for the living room including a pair of handsome and spectacular lamps.

And all this in his spare time! The porch, which is really a room of many uses, has been paneled in cedar. He laid the asphalt tile on the floor using a coppery red and black pattern.

The color scheme of this room is in cheerful shades of yellow, red, orange with accents of cream

and black. A decorative touch is added to the walls by some colorful prints of Mexican Indian dances designed by Carlos Merida.

OFF FROM THE porch and separated by a charming Dutch door, (designed by Hotchkiss), is the completely remodeled kitchen. It is a cheerful and efficient room paneled in a mellow shade of cedar with plenty of cupboard space with indirect lighting which brings out the glow of the wood.

Next to the kitchen is a convenient pantry which Hotchkiss contrived out of a breakfast bar. This

too, is of cedar to blend with the kitchen.

The work Hotchkiss has done in the dining room is by far the most unusual. Several years ago he purchased some black walnut wood from a farmer in Virginia for \$76. The farmer had cut down the tree and not being very interested in the wood (Virginia farmers are more partial to pine, Hotchkiss says) stashed it away in his barn.

FROM THESE walnut logs, Hotchkiss has made his pieces of furniture and had enough left over to sell for more than his original investment.

The dining room table is an exact copy of a trestle type table (17th century Pennsylvania) found in the Stokes collection in Pennsylvania—the only one of its kind in existence.

It is put together by large pegs which are removable so the table can be taken apart and put up easily. Red leather covered cushions in the benches along the sides of the table and serve as the dining chairs.

There is a corner cupboard in the room which is of colonial design and on the other side of the room is an exact scale model of a "Fine dress" from Williamsburg, only in this case it is made from black walnut.

THE DINING ROOM is wainscotted in walnut stained cedar wood and the rest of the wall is

papered in a charming geometric colonial design. The lighting fixture is a copy of a colonial lantern style globe lamp with dark green glass shades.

In keeping with the colonial spirit, there is no carpeting on the floor so the beauty of the pegged wood flooring shows up.

In the living room stand two tall handsome lamps, also made from the black walnut on and tables made by Hotchkiss. These lamps stand about three feet tall

and have been given an antique rough finish.

In niches carved into the column of the lamps are unique and interesting hand carved Mexican chess pieces, bought during a Mexican trip.

While Hotchkiss probably has more wood working equipment than most men, his woodworking tools are still simple, in his basement workshop is a Shopsmith, a hand saw and hand tools and it is there he spends his spare hours

working on his hobby.

TO THE TOUCH, the furniture feels like satin. To get this "gun stock" finish, many applications of linseed oil are used and then the wood is smoothed and rubbed down with rotten stone. Lastly it is given a coat of wax.

With such big projects completed, Hotchkiss is not content to rest a while. He speaks with enthusiasm of the many things he still wants to "fix up".

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JOHN E. HARDY, SON OF Mr. and Mrs. Francis B. Hardy, 851 Hazelwood, has been commissioned a second lieutenant following graduation from the Engineer Officers Candidates school at the Army's Engineer Center, Fort Belvoir, Va. Lt. Hardy is a graduate of Michigan State College.

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Landscaping Will Add Still More To W. Maple
The city will continue to work on the new West Maple bridge and approaches through the fall, according to City Engineer L. R. Gare.
The work will be largely landscaping and removing the old bridge. When the old bridge is removed a check will be made on the footbridge just south of it and if it is possible the footbridge will remain where it is.
Gare and Jack Taylor, head of the construction company which built the road, are very pleased with the condition of the area after the road and bridge were completed.
Taylor, a Birmingham resident, said that every precaution was taken not to destroy any more of the fine trees and landscaping than was necessary.
The Detroit Edison Co. will spend the next two weeks putting in new steel street lights which will add still more to the overall effect.
Gare said that plans were underway to remove the old wooden light and telephone poles and that he hoped this would be done within six months.
The city will plant smaller trees along the road and will plant grass seed this fall. Gare hopes that by next summer the area will be more scenic than before.
A new view of Quanton falls is revealed to the passing motorist. Previously hidden by the heavy growth, the falls can now be seen plainly from the bridge.
According to Gare the city and the Taylor Construction Co. took great pains to insure that the beauty of the drive would remain. Gare said, "We think it's one of the most beautiful drives in the area."

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