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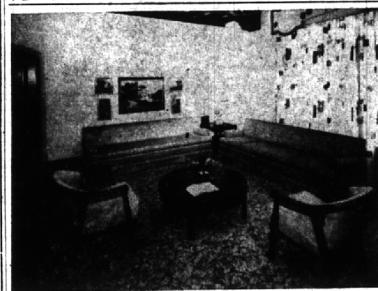
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## Old World Atmosphere

The cozy conversation-grouping in newly decorated lounge at Birmingham Country Club features twin button-back sofas in beige, with gold print pull-up chairs and low cocktail table. Wood pieces in lounge are oak to blend with ceiling beams.

## B'ham Country Club Refurbishes Interior

In anticipation of the season ahead, the Birmingham country club has refurbished its interior with 250 pieces of new furniture along with pictures, wallpaper, draperies, carpet, and soft beige paint.

The somewhat austere English manor house styling has been softened and enlivened with a golden glow of warm colors. The unusual wood pieces are of "feudal oak"—heavy, hardy pieces in a natural oak finish with occasional embossed carvings, reminiscent of the great halls of feudal barons.

A BEAUTIFUL round oak cocktail table stands in front of the English fireplace. Also in the lounge are beige sofas in conversational groupings with gold pull-up chairs.

The ballroom has new mural-size pictures of Javanese dancers. One seldom-used archway was redesigned and has been blocked off to form a trophy case on the reverse side.

THE DINING ROOM has new provincial chairs set off by a newly designed carpet. Mural wallpaper showing old plantations and lush foliage gives the room a garden freshness.

Drapes of a beige casement material were used throughout by the Triangle Furniture Co., which did the decorating.

## 'Good Time to Buy' Says Local Realtor

Like the growing number of people elsewhere in the country, residents of the Birmingham area feel that this is a good time to buy homes, Owen E. Hall, of Hall & Young, Inc., president of the Birmingham Board of Realtors, declared recently.

Hall explained that the most recent (March) national survey of consumer buying intentions by the University of Michigan revealed that 49 per cent of the persons contacted said that this was a good time to buy a home, compared with only 38 per cent that gave a similar answer in October and November of 1959.

Of those queried in January and February this year, 28 per cent expressed some uncertainty, and only 23 per cent said it was a "bad time to buy."

"WHILE WE DO not have the facilities to make a detailed survey of the home buying intentions of Birmingham area families, reports from the realtors who make up the membership of our board clearly indicate that Birmingham is in step with the national trend," Hall said. "Virtually all of our members report a sharp increase in the number of families who have entered our local housing market."

The Birmingham board is affiliated with the National association of real estate boards, whose members use the registered term Realtor.

Hall assigned three reasons for the growing national and local conviction that this is a good time to buy a home.

THE MAJOR REASON for the

public's favorable opinion of the wisdom of making more purchases now unquestionably is the recent moderating trend in the interest rates charged on mortgage loans," he said.

"This is shown by the fact that last fall, when interest rates generally were advancing, only 38 per cent of the survey thought that the time to buy a home. Now that the money market has achieved a greater degree of stability, 49 per cent of the people consider this a good time to purchase," Hall stated.

HALL SAID that in local terms, the advent of spring and the knowledge that the local sales inventory offers a wide range of choice at attractive prices also account for the increasing briskness of the housing market.

"After a winter of comparative inactivity, people are more willing to move around with the advent of favorable weather," he explained.

It was in view of this increased interest in house-hunting that the realtor executive board offered what he termed a "time-saving suggestion."

"Families interested in finding a new home will save themselves time and frustration if they will call upon the realtor of their choice

at the start of their house-hunt," he said.

"ALL OF OUR members have extensive listings and even photographs of homes that are for sale in this area. If the prospective buyer will tell his realtor the price range, neighborhood, and type of home in which he is interested, the realtor will be able to offer specific suggestions and arrange quick inspection visits, thus saving hours of possibly fruitless 'driving around'."

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