

Antiquing with Joel Sater

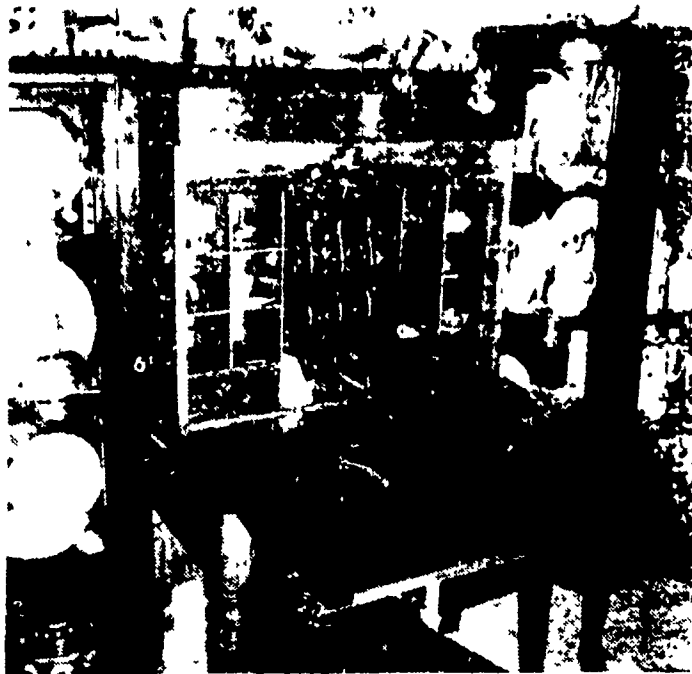
Some Tips On Refinishing
 Mrs. Joan McCall, South Kent, Conn. writes: "My own refinishing efforts are disappointing, while the antique pieces I buy have beautiful, natural looking patina. How does one learn to refinish? Is there literature I can buy?"
 Dear Joan When I was up in East Aurora, New York I sensed that there was an unusually plentiful supply of beautifully refinished antique furniture in the shops. Then, as I wandered

around the area I noticed that much of the refinishing was done by the lady shop owners themselves. Though I have found many excellent "female" refinishers, this usually seems to be the man's job. But not in East Aurora.

Then I met Mrs. Don Graves and I think I found the answer. The Graves specialize in beautifully refinished furniture, both husband and wife work at it together and Mrs. Graves teaches evening adult courses in furniture refinishing in the East Aurora schools. Result she has created a generation of "femmes" whose "fatale" is their expertise with steel wool, sandpaper, paint remover, varnish and shellac. She has taught dozens of women in her area how to refinish. Most do it for their own enjoyment, many have "the bug" and keep on and on and on and sell their production in their shops.

So Joan, I'm sure you can learn too.

Here are some tips from Mrs. Graves: Don't touch 18th century furniture until you're an expert and then only very, very (Continued on Page 31)



In the South they call this a "plantation" desk. Professionally refinished and displayed at Doris Lalley's Antiques in Binghamton, N.Y., it is an example of furniture that should be restored with care and experience. Water based paint removers could loosen the veneering. Lye could darken and run the natural patina. Fine hard woods, like these, once cleaned down, rarely need much sanding.

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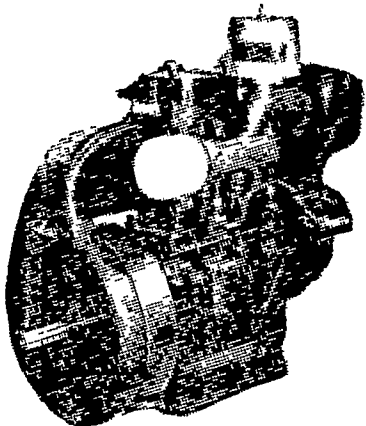
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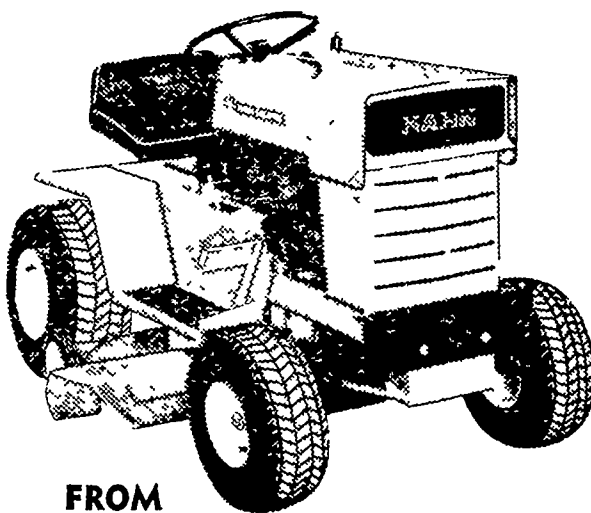
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