

Ladies, Have You Heard? . . .



Nostalgia Is New Trend

Have you noticed all the interest in nostalgia recently? Nostalgia is the longing for something far away or long ago. Broadway shows, films, clothing and other reflections of public opinion are showing this trend.

Collecting folk art has also gained public interest. Folk art is an expression of ideas through symbolic devices such as weather-vanes, quilts, decoys, samplers, carvings and tradesmen's signs.

Most folk art was created between 1720 and 1875. Some people have been collecting folk art for years, but dealers and antique shoppers have become interested only recently.

Folk art items are on display in the Pennsylvania Historical Museum and Archives Building in Harrisburg and other historical museums throughout the state. Consult the Pennsylvania Calendar of Events for the location of museums and folk art displays near you.

Not only is folk art becoming a favorite collector's item, but

people are interested in doing the handicrafts themselves. Many such handicrafts are being revived.

Dried-apple art is one such example. Carving an apple and letting it dry has been a popular handicraft for generations. Bodies can be whittled from sticks or corncobs. The figures are dressed with fabrics, reflecting the time period.

Macrame is the ancient art of tying knots. A wide range of age groups can enjoy the craft. The knots make beautiful necklaces, headbands, belts or even exquisite wall hangings. Any type of yarn can be used but some cords lend themselves to particular patterns.

To study a craft carefully and do it as expertly as possible can

be a rewarding experience.

Directions for many of the handicrafts are available in needle work or women's interest magazines and in libraries.

How about giving it a try? You may find it very rewarding and discover another talent within yourself.

Today's emphasis on ecology has made us aware of all forms of pollution. But perhaps you're unaware of "pattern pollution" in your own home.

With so many home furnishings sporting brightly colored patterns, you can easily fall victim to pattern pollution. Geometrics, plaids, abstracts, florals and stripes can get jumbled together to cause panic instead of pleasure.

Each time there is a change of color, line, form, and strongly contrasting textures, pattern is formed. Individual items may be attractive, but what will the total picture be with patterns on the floor, walls, furniture and decorative accessories?

There are several guidelines to follow in interior design to avoid "pattern pollution."

First, let one pattern be dominant over all others. And avoid using too many patterned fabrics in one room.

About one-fourth to one-third of the total surface area in a room is enough to treat with pattern. More than this becomes confusing. But little or no pattern in a room makes it dull or uninteresting.

Color blending is important in tying together all the patterns in a room. Also, avoid great textural differences. They tend to divide the area.

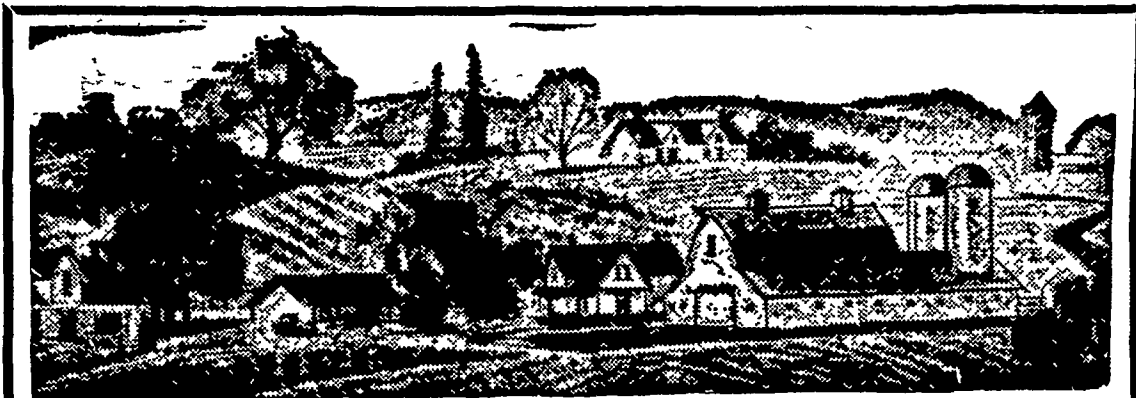
Look around your home. Is the decor pleasing to people who live there—or is your decor an example of "pattern pollution?"



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Ida's Notebook

We've just returned from a journey back to wintertime weather

My husband and I visited our daughter who lives in Rochester, N Y. She showed us the Intensive Care unit at the Genesee Hospital where she works.

When we came out from a show, we found the cars and ground covered with snow.

In fact, there were snow flurries through the mountains as we traveled home and watched for deer. It was almost dusk and one of the best times to see them feed at the edge of clearings.

Our children emphasized the difference in weather by telling us of their activities while we were away. Besides milking the cows and doing their regular work, they managed to go fishing and boating. Philip caught his first fish and kept it alive in a tub of water for us to see.

The seven and ten year old were left alone a few hours while their sister babysat for a neighbor.

They surprised her with a big batch of sandtarts which they mixed, rolled and baked. She had the kitchen to clean up.

Every year I look forward to seeing the first flowers come up in our meadow and wood land.

In years past, I took my younger sisters and now I enjoy the company of my youngest children on these walks.

We hunt for hepatica with their blue, white, pink or violet flowers. And we really must hunt, since sheep pastured in the meadow almost destroyed



By Ida Risser

them. Dutchman's Breeches, bloodroot, dogtooth violet and bluebottle are some of my favorite early wild flowers.

On these walks we usually see turtles and snakes slide off logs, where they've been sunning themselves, and hear their little splash as they fall into the creek.

Some day I hope my children will take their children on a Spring walk, and enjoy together the rebirth of God's earth.

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