

PLEASANT HOMES by ELIZABETH BOYKIN

THE ROOM THAT GROWS WITH THE BOY

PLAN ROOM TO GROW WITH THE BOY

In its first stage (at left) the nursery age room has wall paper of Noah's Ark design that should make life interesting for a wee one. The same motifs are cut out and mounted on the screen. The same room for a grade school boy (at right) is papered in sailor design, an older bed is added; basic furnishings are the same.

SOME TIME ago we ran a story on this page about a room that grew up from nursery age to college, using the same basic furnishings. It made quite a hit — with mothers of little girls, that is. But the mothers of little boys wrote and said—

“Why don't you have a story on a room like this for a boy?” It seemed like a very good idea. So we went to work, and here is the result. In its first nursery stage, the walls are papered in Noah's Ark wall paper with all the animals a little boy could wish marching around and around on a cream ground. The alcoves of the room are papered in a soft deep blue, and the rug on the floor is a lightish blue twist-weave broadloom.

The rug investment was a tidy one because this will last throughout the four stages in the development of the room. The furniture for the first stage includes a chest of drawers, painted cream, that will grow up through high school, an easy chair in red that can have various coverings as the boy grows older, a low play table that can be an end table later. Even the lamps can grow up if they last that long! The specific

things for its baby stage are crib, play-pen and screen.

Stage Two in the story of this little boy's room is its grade school era. The crib has been replaced with a child's bed, painted white and decorated with cut-outs of the jolly sailors that appear in the wall paper. This wall paper is in pale blue with deeper blue, red and white. The furniture now has a fresh coat of white paint with knobs painted red. The curtains are new and white this time, but the red chair remains. There's a table for the electric train added and a blackboard with a built-in toy cupboard below.

Stage Three in the story of this room is its high school age. A clipper ship wall paper dominates the scene now—the ground of the paper is pale yellow, the pattern in soft blues and brown and reddish orange. The blue rug still looks very fine here, though we must confess it's been to the cleaners in the interim. The alcoves are painted in plain soft yellow, the chair is covered in tangerine denim. The new addition to the furnishings is a painted desk stained maple color. The chest of drawers has been re-

finished in a natural wood tone, and in the alcove are double-decked maple beds. Curtains in white with yellow dots, bedspreads in yellow with brown rope cord finish in the seams, a new map design lamp shade, book shelves where the blackboard used to be, and there you have a pretty fine harbor for a high-school boy.

Stage Four when he's ready for college, he has modern ideas, so his room gets a striped wall paper, rather bold and rather sophisticated, in beige tones with olive green. It's put on vertically on the side walls and horizontally for the alcoves. The same beds do very well in this incarnation of the room, but the chest and desk have been handed down to a younger member of the family, and in their place is a very slick ensemble, modern as tomorrow, in bleached wood with brown enameled drawers. A modern chair for the desk, a snappy new desk lamp and a drawing board, and if your young man wouldn't like that, we give up! The easy chair is now covered in olive green and the rug has been dyed brown. Bedspreads and window seat are in olive green.

WINTER PREPARATIONS FOR SPRING GARDEN

NOT A LITTLE of the pleasure of a garden, like the pleasure of a vacation, comes from the planning in advance. This is the season when there is not much to be done except in planning and preparation for later on.

There are, however, a few things that should be taken care of during the winter, and some things that will save time later on when there are so many other things that you'll have to do.

This is the time to go over all garden tools, cleaning them thoroughly. Paint the metal parts with a mixture of equal parts of crankcase oil and kerosene. This will prevent rusting and prolong the life of the tools.

Important at this time of the year is to see that evergreen trees are kept free from heavy snow. Before the snow has a chance to turn into a coating of ice, shake it off the trees. This is good insurance against the

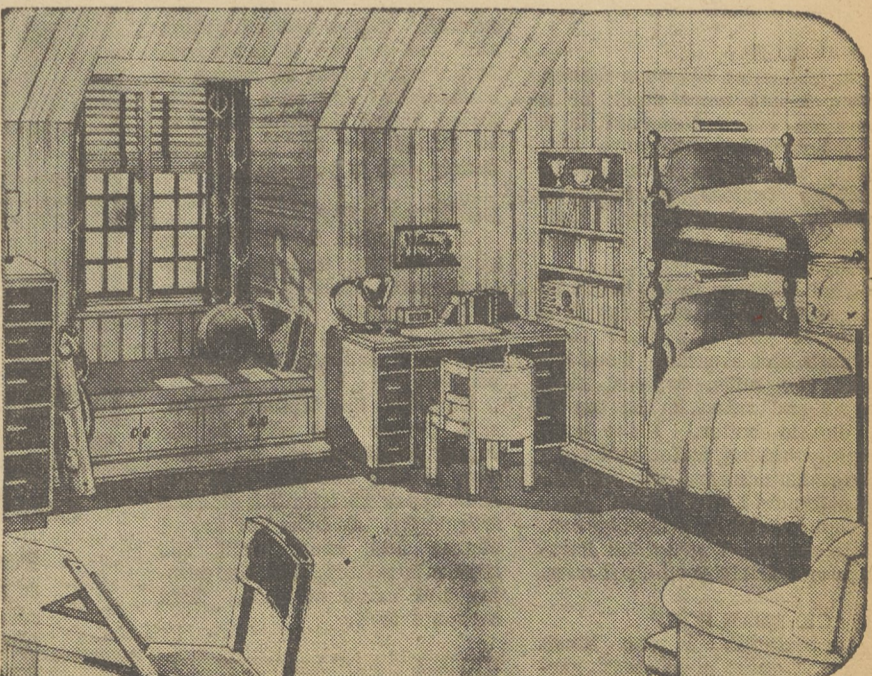
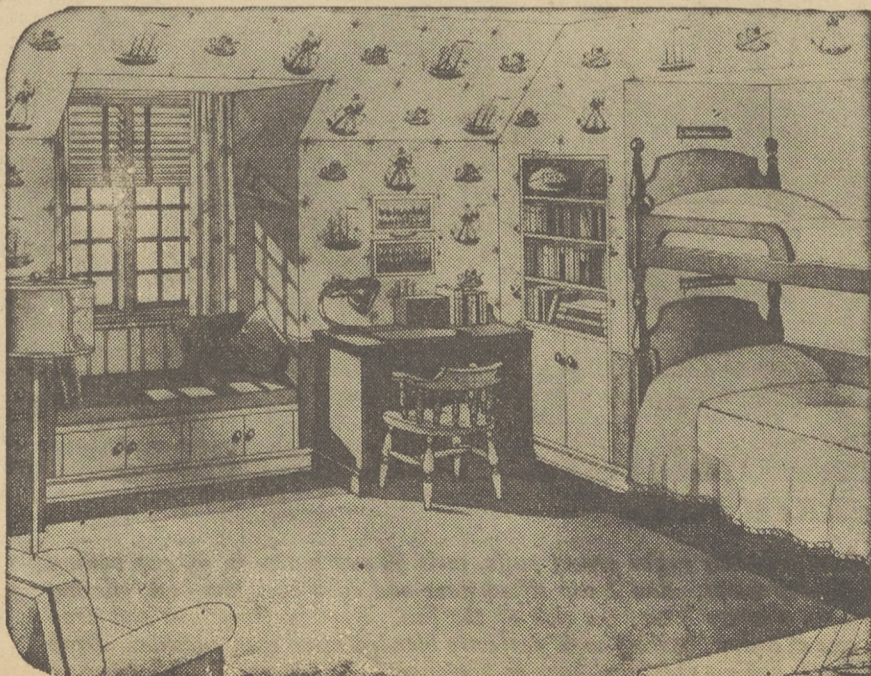
ice breaking off the branches of the trees.

Take occasional walks through your garden to see if everything is all right. Look over your perennials to see which of them need to be pushed back into the soil. You will probably find places where mulch has blown away and may find some small tree needs staking.

Look over your fruit trees for any damage by mice or rabbits. Wire netting at least 12 or 15 inches above the snow level will keep them off.

Now, while the ground is frozen, is a good time to move large rocks for your rock garden. These rocks are difficult to reach later on, in the spring, when the ground is soggy.

Having these things done now while there is little else to do will prevent getting caught short later on. In case of an unusually early spring, there will be lots of things to take up your time.



THE ROOM FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE AGES

For its high school years, this room (At left) for a boy graduates to sailing ship wall paper and maple double deck bunks. A flat top desk has been added and the other things are painted in a more grown up finish. For the college age young man, the same room (At right) is done in striped wall paper, running both vertically and horizontally. The whole room has a very modern look and the furniture is as modern as himself.