

Antiquing with Joel Sater

The Shenandoah Valley stretches about a hundred miles roughly from Hagerstown, Maryland in the North to Roanoke, Virginia, to the South and a bit westerly. This is the home of the 19th century Shenandoah potters all of whose work centered around the influence of the master potter, John Bell. John, courisously, though born in Winchester, Virginia, did his important life's work, not in the Valley, but in the little town of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania about ten miles northwest of Hagerstown.

In 1767 Captain Peter Vell settled on farm acreage near Hagerstown. He evidently did more than farm, however, because when he died his estate showed that nearly everyone in the Shenandoah Valley owed him money, but no one knows why. Regardless of that fact, his truly important contribution was to produce a son named Peter Jr. in 1775. Peter became a potter.

Three things seem to be necessary to make pottery, the right clays, a plentiful fuel supply and talent. The valley provides the first two. And Peter must have been born with last requisite. Hagerstown was the pottery center of the region in the early 1800's. Besides Peter Bell's pottery, Daniel Reichard, John Snively, and Henry Adams also operated their own potteries. No marked pieces by any of these potters is known to have survived. But a list from Peter's journal shows that he made and sold at least 45 different items from smoking pipes to chamberpots, from 1805 through 1844.

Meanwhile, his son John moved to Waynesboro to pot on his own. His brothers Solomon and Samuel settled in Strasburg, Virginia. The three during their lifetimes, exchanged ideas and materials constantly and "it was thus that they produced pottery that is

not only beautiful but unique," says A.H. Rice, writing in 1929. They continued to do this for seventy-five years until all three brothers had died in the 1880's. The sons, John W., Upton, Samuel Jr., Richard and Charles carried on 'til 1908. Luckily for collectors, much pottery by the various Bells was signed. But much was not. Collectors today fight especially over the pieces which were both hand signed and stamped.

Strasburg, Virginia eventually became the most important pottery center of the valley, producing works bearing the stamps of Baecher, J. Eberly, S.H. Sonner, J.H. Sonner, J. Keister, J.M. Hickerson, W.H. Lehw, Geo. W. Miller, L.D. Funkhouser, W.H. Christman, and W.B. Kenner. Most of these firms began after 1870 lasting into the early 1900's. The Bells fathered the industry.

To Catherine Whisler of Waynesboro, who lectures on Bell and Shenandoah pottery, I must give the credit for educating me about the high collectibility of this Virginia-Maryland-Pennsylvania earthenware and stoneware. Her records show that an 1825 inkwell by John Bell sold in 1963 for \$300. A glazes, green 8" water pitcher by S. Bell & Sons. \$48.00. A yellow, brown, green glazes washbowl and pitcher set, \$65.00. A pair of 6" boy and girl figures, \$65.00, and the big rooster which was the weather-vane on the Bell pottery in Waynesboro, complete with bullet holes, brought a whopping \$580.00.

(Always happy to receive reader's stories about antiquing and collecting. Material sent becomes the property of this column and cannot be returned. For free list of hundreds of books on antiques send 9 x 12 self-addressed envelope with 12 cent stamp. Write c-o this newspaper.)



Choice collection of Bell Pottery, mostly signed pieces, showed good cross section of Bell-Shenandoah 19th century pottery.

parents expected at Misericordia

Over 1000 parents of College Misericordia students are expected to arrive on the Dallas campus this weekend as the college holds its annual Parents' Weekend, it was announced by committee co-chairmen, Marybeth Cavanaugh of Garden City, N.Y., and Eileen Pustizzi of Vineland, N.J. The two-day affair will consist of a full schedule of activities designed to welcome parents to the College Misericordia community.

Beginning Saturday morning with a picnic on campus, the parents will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of entertainment provided by the stu-

dents. Included will be a "Wild West" variety show and a dance Saturday evening with music provided by the George Reavy Quartet.

Parents can meet with members of the college's faculty and administration at a coffee hour and attend a general meeting of the McAuley Guild-Parents' Association, Saturday.

There will be special Masses for the students and their parents, Sunday. Concluding the weekend will be Freshman Investiture ceremonies in which all Freshmen symbolically become part of the life and tradition of College Misericordia.

Lehman couple wed 50 years

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gensel, Lehman, observed their Golden Wedding anniversary Oct. 13. They celebrated the occasion with an open house at their

home Oct. 11 from 3 to 5 p.m. The couple were married in Wilkes-Barre. Mrs. Gensel is the former Florence Nafus, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Nafus of Trucksville. Mr. Gensel is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Pete Gensel of Shickshiny Valley.

Seminary Homecoming set Nov. 7

Wyoming Seminary's Homecoming-Parents' Day is set for Nov. 7 beginning at 9 a.m. John E. Morris III, Class of 1958, is chairman. Charlotte Davis Wentz, Class of 1946, is president of the Parents' Association.

The Gensels had seven children, six of which are still living. They are William, Palm Bay, Fla.; Edward and Roland, Lehman; Mildred Spencer, Lehman; Helen Stuart, West Wyoming; Gloria Iney, Swowersville. A daughter, Betty, died in 1945. They also have 17 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Shown at rehearsal of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" are left to right: James Miller as the huntsman, Berta Johnson as the evil queen, and Elizabeth Becker as Snow White.

remodel old homes without prohibitive costs

High construction costs and increased interest rates, which have depressed the building of new dwellings, have encouraged the remodeling or making-do with middle-aged and even older houses. Remarkable transformations can be accomplished in such houses with good planning. These changes can be made without being prohibitive in cost.

However, such houses are usually plagued with architectural faults which have to be coped with in interior architecture and decoration. While such problems occur more frequently in houses, old apartment buildings are also heir to badly placed windows, ugly beams and columns, ceiling beams and occasionally exposed pipes. Apartments built in the '20s usually run to small rooms and often need to have partitions removed to provide spaciousness.

When remodeling a house or a cooperative, a study of the architectural idiosyncrasies should be made and solutions worked out before you begin. The master bedroom in the accompanying sketch is on the second floor of an old house in the country. Nothing could be done about the sloping walls which flank the dormer window, without redesigning the entire second floor and changing the roof line. To add to the problem, the straight windows at right angle to the dormers are short and do not match the window height of the dormer.

Seminary Wives' Club present fashion show

Faculty Wives' Club of Wyoming Seminary will begin its fall and winter activities with a fashion show in the Petebone-Dickson Student Center on the school campus. The evening program of exciting fashion concepts will be held Oct. 27 at 8 p.m.

Miss Daley will act as commentator for the event. Models from the student body will participate in the program which will include a preview glimpse of styles for the upcoming holiday season.

Proceeds from the event are earmarked for the annual art award which is presented each year to the student who demonstrates outstanding promise in art work. The public is cordially invited to attend.

manmade fibers shortcomings

Fuzzy little balls or lint that may form on a garment is an indication that most likely a manmade fiber, such as nylon, polyester, or acrylic, has been used for the garment, explains Ruth Ann Wilson, extension clothing specialist at The Pennsylvania State University.

Fiber strength is one of the virtues of manmade fibers. In some instances, it also is a shortcoming. Abrasion that a garment gets during wear, laundering, or drycleaning produces a lint on the surface of the fabric.

Since the sloping walls could not be changed, I decided to feature a hem, and to base the window treatment on the same fabric.

Overcurtains of the differing windows are made of the wall fabric, with a simple valance, and the overcurtaining of the straight windows was devised to go from ceiling to floor as with the dormers. I planned the glass curtains in a split level arrangement. The top curtain extends down far enough to cover the heading on the bottom curtains on both the straight windows and the dormers. The top level remains stationary and the bottom level of the glass curtains on both sets of windows traverses. This way the hiatus between the window head and the ceiling is concealed and the long lengths of glass curtains merge as one optically when the curtains are pulled. The narrow window being similarly treated unifies the diverse windows.

When choosing fabric or wallpaper for a sloping wall it is important to try out colors and patterns before you buy. Since you may not be able to obtain samples you can Scotch tape to the sloping wall, get several rolls of shelf paper in the colors that interest you and tape them to the sloping wall so you can really see the effect.

Buy rolls of cheap wall paper with designs in the scale you want to try—one large scale and one small scale—so that you can really see how that wall will look. Pick up remnants or mill ends of fabric to experiment

with in color, scale and style of design, before you make final choices. A sloping wall has a different optical effect than a straight wall and the only way to know for sure about designs and colors is to look at them on the wall.

In furnishing rooms with sloping walls, make a study of the headroom available. If you place a chest against a sloping wall, you cannot hang a mirror above it. When situating chairs, sofa or chaise longue in such a room, see that they are placed where a person rising from the chair or sofa will not bang his head against the sloping wall. Study the traffic pattern and do not place furniture so that it will impede entrance or exit doors or closet doors. Try to position beds so that they do not face morning light.

Pictures can rarely be used satisfactorily in rooms with sloping walls, so that color and design must emanate from fabric or wallpaper. This usually encourages one to use rather bold designs, but in choosing such patterns, try to get a large enough sample to try out before you cut into expensive fabric or hang wallpaper. This will save headaches later. If you use small, all-over designs, it is usually better to have the design over all the walls and sometimes over the ceiling.

A professional designer can be of invaluable assistance in helping you to camouflage architectural defects. His experience will have been much wider than yours and his services will represent a sound investment.

Mercy Auxiliary's annual party in Dallas Oct. 21

The Back Mountain Branch of the Mercy Hospital Auxiliary will hold its annual dessert-card party Oct. 21 at 1 p.m. at the Castle Inn, Harveys Lake Highway, Dallas.

Mrs. John Konsavage and Mrs. John Thompson, co-chairmen of the affair will be assisted by the following committee members:

Table prizes—Mrs. Thomas Breslin and Mrs. Philip Jones; door prizes—Mrs. William Gallagher; tickets Mary Weir; tables—Mrs. Joseph Yenason; publicity—Mrs. Paul Menapace.

Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded. Tickets can be purchased from any member of the auxiliary or at the door. Players are requested to bring their own cards.

Officers of the auxiliary are president, Mrs. Ted Popielarz; vice president, Mrs. Thomas Breslin; secretary, Mrs. Philip Ansilio Jr.; treasurer, Mary Weir; asst. treasurer, Mrs. Michael Clark.



Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Wright

Wrights observe 40th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Wright, RD 2, Tunkhannock, observed their 40th wedding anniversary Sept. 6 with a party at their family home near Vernon.

The couple were married Sept. 6, 1930, at the Montrose Methodist Church by the Rev. Wilbur Dodge.

Mrs. Wright is the former Marie Labar, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Labar of Evans Falls. Mr. Wright is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Emory Wright of Vernon.

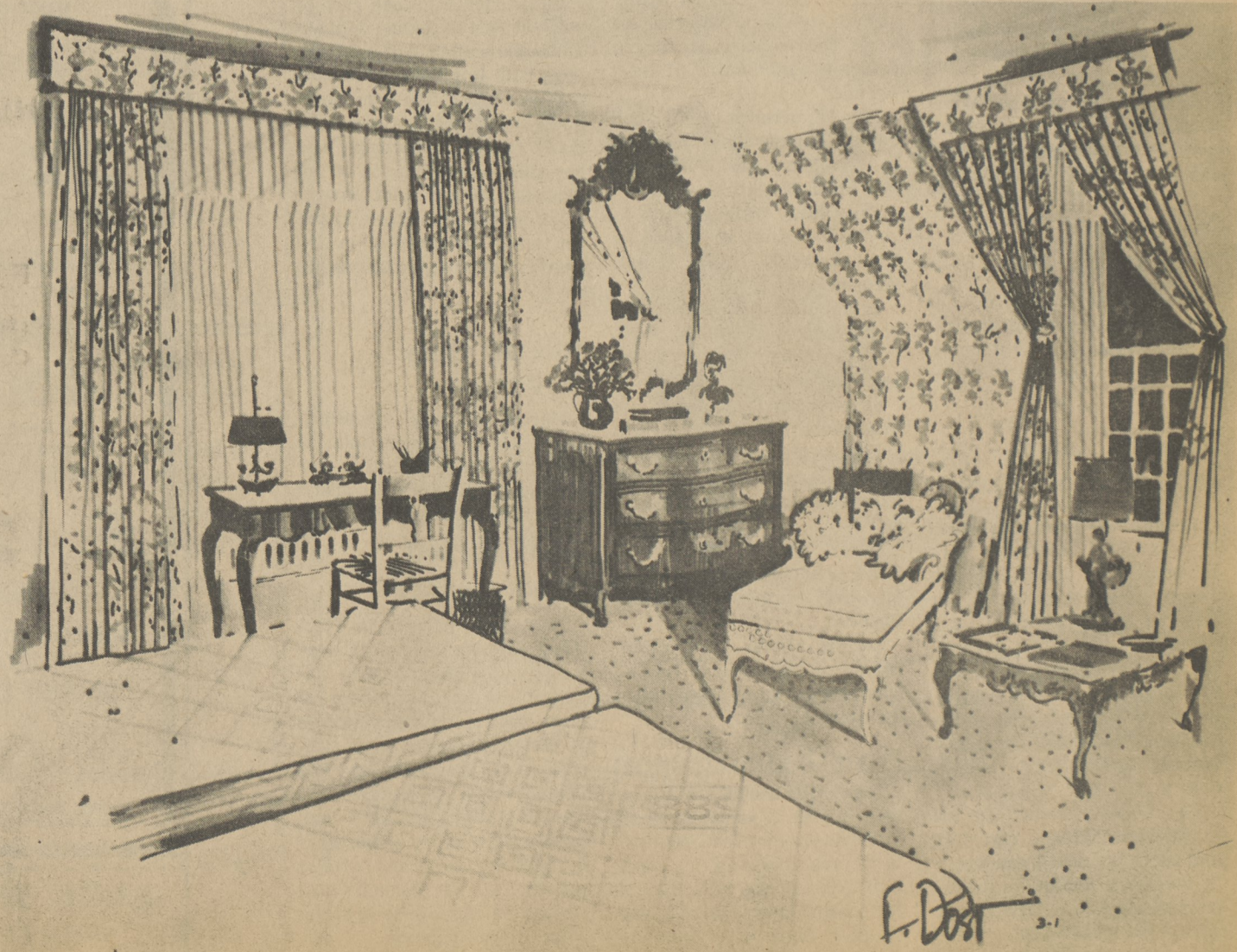
The Wrights have five children: Sgt. Arnold Dana Wright, of Mary Ester, Fla.; John, RD 1, Noxen; Eldridge, South Waverly, N.Y.; Mrs. Robert (Emily) Peacock, Pitman, N.J., and Dale, who recently returned from Sayre to the farm at Vernon, the fifth generation to reside on the property. The couple also have 12 grandsons and four granddaughters.

Mrs. Wright operates the Wright's Rest Home. Mr. Wright is employed at the Irem Temple Country Club at Dallas.

Guests at the anniversary celebration were: Rena A. Bailey, Alice Hill, Lewis Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Eldridge Wright and sons, Tom, Bob, David and Steve; Mrs. Albert Race; Ethel Montross; Mr. and Mrs. Dale Wright and sons, Eric and Scott; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Laing and sons, Jamie and David; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Smith and son, Evan; Mr. and Mrs. Leland Gay; Mr.

church women go to Talbot Hall

The Women of the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church will motor to Talbot Hall in Jonestown, Oct. 21, where they will tour the Diocesan Institution. All women of the church are invited. Those interested should contact Jane T. Thompson, 696-1438, and meet at the Prince of Peace Church at 9 a.m. Oct. 21.



An unusual wall treatment made necessary by a steeply sloping roofline and dormer window.