

Evolution of Ironing Device Is Interesting

Today's Electric Iron Far Cry from That Which Smoothed Ancient Roman Toga.

Roman togas and the feminine robes which were in style at the same period of civilization had to be washed. Further, they had to be smoothed and made fit for graceful draping upon the limbs of their owners. This need called into being the earliest form of ironing machine of which history gives us the "cochella."

The cochella was a smooth table, upon which the clothes were laid, and upon which a weighted cover was placed. This was used apparently without improvement for hundreds of years; the first record of progress traceable being that introduced by the early Dutch, who with their exquisite neatness of housekeeping methods improved that device by equipping it with a turn-screw, similar to that used in old-fashioned letter presses.

By 1800 the cover had been replaced by rollers that moved back and forth on the fabric to be smoothed. These were first of wood, fixed to the bottom of a box weighted with stones.

Gifts for Brides.

A quaint bit of sentiment attached to these early "mangles," especially those used in Norway, North Germany, Sweden, and the British Isles. These were made of wood elaborately carved, and were usually given as wedding presents. Thus they were highly prized by brides, and those of more elaborate designs came to be treasured heirlooms, cared for and used from generation to generation.

Wooden rolls became iron, with the natural step forward of introducing heat into these rollers. This was done by having the rolls hollow, placing in them heated iron cylinders.

These rollers were clumsy of operation; and the next transition was the contriving of stationary rollers working against each other as in the present wringers rolls.

What the Romans Missed.

Last of all, the perfecting of mechanism and the new application of electricity as heat made this modern incarnation of the ancient "cochella" the ironing machine known in its perfection today. This contrivance puts a gloss and a finish on the togas and the robes of civilized nations which would doubtless have given vast pleasure to the fastidious Romans of the early centuries.

The smoothing iron has evolved by a no less interesting process. One of the earliest forms of this implement known is a black glass contrivance, shaped like a large inverted mushroom, which is to be seen in a British museum. This was found in one of the early viking tombs, of about the 10th century. Similar implements were used in Norway, from whence these vikings made their way into the British Isles, until comparatively recent times. This article was polished smooth and rocked back and forth on the linen to be smoothed until wrinkles disappeared. It is five and one-half inches in diameter, with a stem seven and one-half inches long.

French smoothing irons came into being at the end of the 11th century. These were of iron, with an interior open shelf, on which either some burning charcoal or a bar of red-hot iron was placed. These improved slowly, until 16th century they were changed only in the fineness of finish given their metal; the heating process being carried on in the same laborious fashion.

Built-in Bathroom Fixture Demand Constantly Grows

There is a marked tendency among home owners, and those planning to build a home, to personally select all the plumbing fixtures. Demand for built-in bathroom fixtures is increasing, and for the average dwelling the built-in bath is highly desirable, because of greatly reducing the work of room cleaning. Not only can a built-in tub be obtained, but built-in showers can be included, along with bathroom "jewelry"—soap dishes and towel racks, cabinets and toilet paper racks that are easy to clean and keep clean. There is no handsomer improvement in the modern home interior than the up-to-date bathroom.

If an ancient Roman plutocrat could look upon a modern, sanitary bathroom, in its simple white elegance, he would be properly flummoxed at recollection of his marble and mosaic bath. Its attraction depended upon costly magnificence, but he was woefully lacking in convenience. In spite of the march of improvement, today's plumbing prices put a complete, modern bath equipment within reach of those in most moderate circumstances.

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Origin of Furniture Designs Offers a Romantic History

All the forms, shapes and even the decorations of all furniture had their inception in some human want or whim, passion or sorrow.

The history of every piece of furniture would furnish material for a story that would fire the dullist imagination.

From the hutch or chest of the 13th or 14th centuries there is a continuous and fertile growth. By itself it was a bed, seat, table or cupboard. Put upon legs it grew into a settle, settee, sofa or davenport. And by way of the davenport back to a bed again. With the ends lengthened and doors fitted it lost itself in the "clothespress" of our forefathers and the wardrobe of today.

Old Table Cloths Make Good Kitchen Table Covers

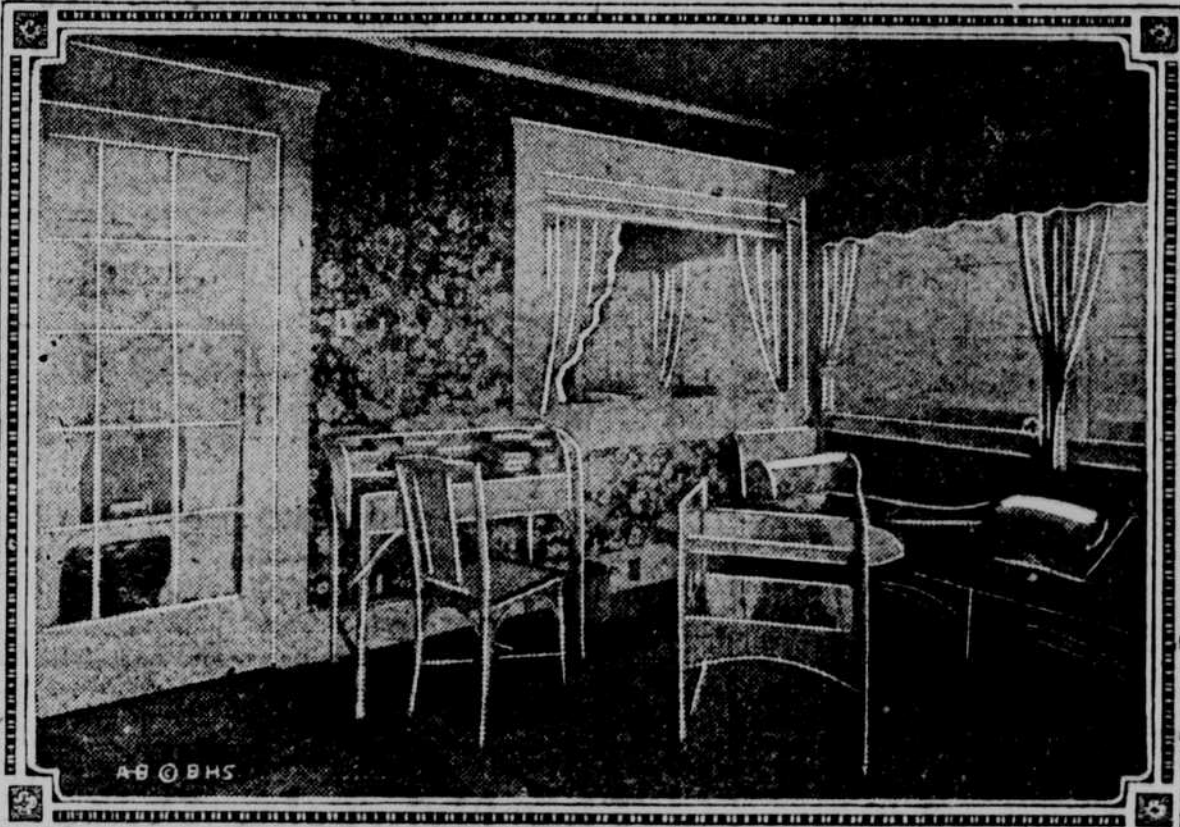
An old linen tablecloth, by cutting out the best part, can be easily converted into a pretty cover for the kitchen table. Hem it all around and then embroider a blue initial in the center and cross-stitch the corners with blue.

When completed you have a very attractive cover, and from a piece of cloth that otherwise would have gone to waste or never made to give its fullest value in bringing its last touch to the home.

The Compact Kitchen



All essentials within easy reach and unnecessary floor space eliminated reduces to minimum the labor in this kitchen.



Gay chintz paper makes this living porch a charming spot.

Real Estate Gossip

William C. Bergen, owner of the Bergen building in the Bronx, New York, is the only individual in the United States who owns a county jail. Negotiations are now under way for the purchase of the jail by the city. The county jail of the Bronx, with the bars and cells and all the accoutrements of the average penal institution, is housed in the Bergen building along with the register of deeds, the sheriff and the tax department.

A modern, completely equipped apartment was opened in New York last week on a monthly rental basis of \$9 a room. The building, owned by Phelps-Stokes fund model tenement. It is estimated that the building which has accommodations for 92 families will show a return of 8 per cent on the capital invested, even after 2 per cent has been set aside for depreciation. The significance of this completed project cannot be over estimated, students of housing conditions declare, when it is considered that local builders have so consistently maintained in recent years that it is impossible to build profitably modern apartment houses to rent for less than \$15 a room. More than 600 applications were received for the 92 apartments. The structure was built by Eyrich & Ward, general contractors, from the prize winning plans of Sibley & Fetherston in a competition conducted last year by the Phelps-Stokes fund under the auspices of the New York real estate board and other organizations.

New York City's Downtown league, which awards a prize each year for the best building erected downtown and for the best alteration downtown, last week awarded the New York Stock exchange the prize for the best building erected in 1922, and the D. F. Harris Hardware and Manufacturing company, Inc. the prize for the best alteration. In style the Stock Exchange building follows with certain necessary modifications the great Corinthian order of the present exchange, which is recalled by the plaster treatment of the Wall street front, indicating the extension of the board room floor. The Harris company building was converted from a dingy old five-story building into a modern six-story structure with handsome store fronts and excellent appointments.

Wrecking operations were started last week to make way for the \$5,000,000 Westinghouse building at Broadway and Liberty street, New York.

Real estate boards vary according to number of members from 813 in Chicago to three in several of the smallest boards, according to survey covering 228 boards. The annual dues range from \$2 to \$200. Majority of the boards have business or firm membership. Twelve boards have both kinds of memberships. Membership fees range from \$1 to \$100. The Minneapolis board is credited with

329 members. Annual dues are \$25, membership fees are \$50, and the membership unit is the individual.

Courses in bricklaying and plastering have been inaugurated by New York West Side Y. M. C. A., in an effort to meet the shortage of this kind of labor. The greatest building era in the world's history is menaced by the white collar, builders report. The New York school is the first of its kind in any Y. M. C. A. in the country.

New York home builders are planning to house more than 500,000 persons this year. Projects recorded in the last two months call for \$123,125,000 in new buildings and alterations, permits issued and contracts awarded showing close to 80 per cent residential.

The Chicago city council has added \$20,000,000 to the burdens of Chicago home builders in the last two years, according to a statement in the February Bulletin of the Illinois Society of Architects. More than two years ago the Illinois Society of Architects recommended changes in the code to lessen the cost of building without lowering the standard of sound construction. A check of building permits issued since that time shows that the excess requirements have cost the homebuilders approximately \$20,000,000, the bulletin stated.

The position of official city real estate agent, created by ordinance in Milwaukee, has been filled by Edward Grieb, a member of the Milwaukee real estate board. He has four assistants. This is the first instance in which a city has created an official position of this kind, according to Herb Nelson, executive secretary of the National real estate board. The action of Milwaukee is a clear recognition of the fact that the public is entitled to the services of a trained realtor in the conduct of its business.

The Tennessee real estate license law is having a stormy career. After having been declared unconstitutional

by the United States district court of western Tennessee, its validity was affirmed last November by the United States supreme court in the case of R. W. Bratton versus William C. Chandler. The opponents of the law were not content to let the matter rest, and undertook, in January, to obtain its repeal by the Tennessee legislature. The house of representatives refused to repeal the bill although the senate seemed to favor it. The measure is, therefore, safe for some time to come. The National Association of Real Estate Boards favors the adoption of real estate license laws in all states and provinces and its officers are gratified with the success of the Tennessee realtors in maintaining their law.

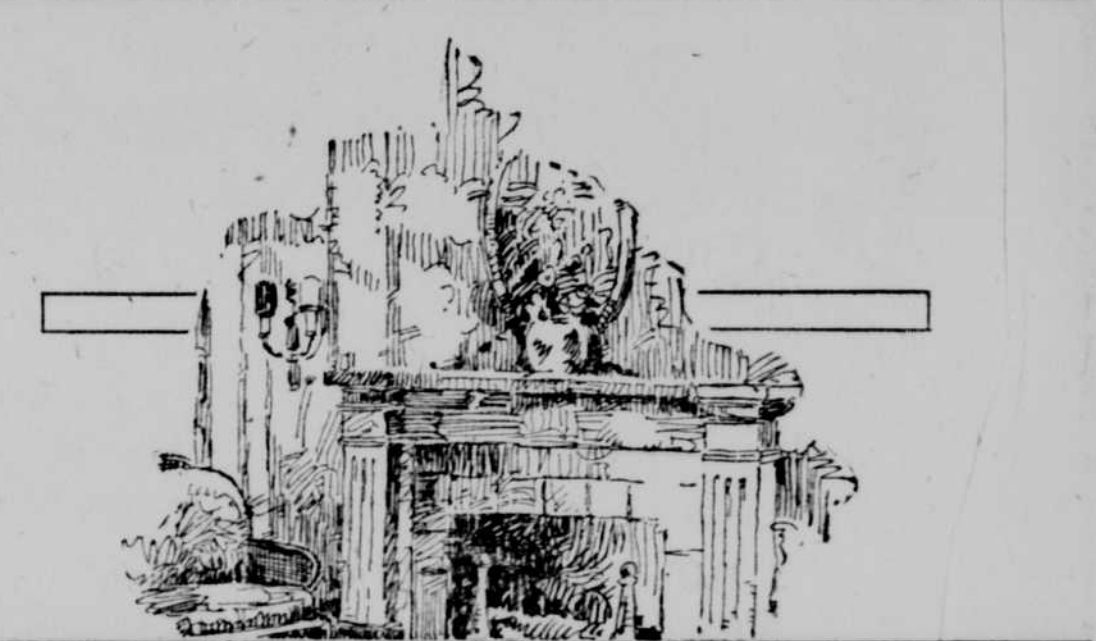
A few "realtor" certificates for 1923 are now being printed and will be issued shortly to all member boards of the National Association of Real Estate Boards for distribution to their active constituent members. The form of the "realtor" certificate has been changed somewhat by the "realtor" committee of which C. N. Chadbourn of Minneapolis is chairman. The certificate is in the form of a license authorizing the active members of the local board to use the word "realtor."

The St. Louis Real Estate Exchange has elected Bess J. Donaldson its first woman member.

A pamphlet describing real estate board committee appraisal methods and practices, the forms used and fees charged, has been started by the appraisal committee of the National Association of Real Estate Boards. Development of standardized methods of appraisal work and the stimulation of official real estate board appraisals throughout the United States and Canada is the object of the pamphlet.



This new well built modern suburban home, right on Dodge street, paved road with one or five acres of choice level rich ground located at 7th and Dodge streets, in Beverly Hills, restricted residence district. Three blocks from tenth grade school, fifteen minutes by automobile from Postoffice. In path of new Happy Hollow Country Club, West Pacific and Peay Park—high class—large additions just being placed on the market. Terms \$5,000 cash—balance suitable terms. Owner 818 W. O. W. Bldg. Pho. w Daytime JT 1348



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Visit our beautiful Display Rooms, where we will show you, actually installed—just as they would appear in your home—tiled fireplaces; an all-tile bathroom; Farfacts china accessories; porch, vestibule and sunroom tile. And, in addition, our cases are full of literally thousands of tiles that are available for use in your Home. Ask us to show you how economically tiles may be installed in your new Home or how easy it is to modernize an old Home by the use of tiles in the bathroom or for the fireplace.

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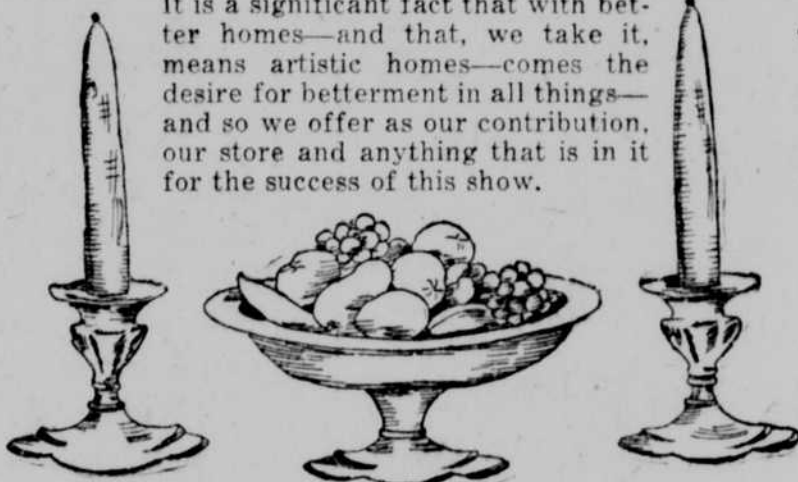
It is a significant fact that with better homes—and that, we take it, means artistic homes—comes the desire for betterment in all things—and so we offer as our contribution, our store and anything that is in it for the success of this show.



There is always a place for a small lamp, but not all small lamps accomplish their purpose—to give light and to beautify.

The one illustrated is small only in size and price—it looms large in beauty. Of black pottery with hand decorated silhouette parchment shade—it is harmonious anywhere. Complete—

\$3.50

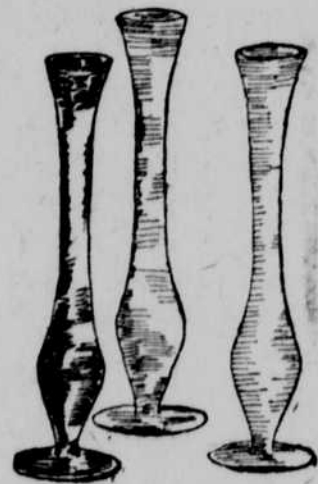


Sheffield Silver Plated Buffet Set

Complete with decorated candles and fruit as illustrated—

Special \$10.00

Handsome in design and of splendid quality, we offer this Silver Buffet Set with the knowledge that it can be readily placed and that it will give lasting service.



BUD VASES—with the approaching season of flowers good looking vases will be in demand. We illustrate some of colored crystal. These may be had in green, wisteria, gold or blue iridescent, at—

\$1.00



Torchers

Like lamps, may be had at any price, but the pair illustrated have silk brocade covered cylinders and are handsomer than usual—

\$30.00 the pair

Others at \$7.50, \$10, \$15 pair.



Wedding and Graduation Gifts

Here are gathered together on one floor the best in china, silver plate, crystal, lamps and art wares—making it comfortable and convenient for you to make a selection. And you are impressed constantly with the reasonableness of the prices.

Genuine "Old Spode" Ware

The table decorations of White Bone china, including fruit bowls and candle sticks, are famous. Many of the first pieces are to be found in museums and wherever there is a collection of fine china there also is to be found Old Spode. Many of our customers start their collection with one piece.

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