

TREASURE SEARCH

Stand by instincts



NANCY AND FRANK BOOS

Dear Nancy and Frank:  
I bought this washstand this summer at a garage sale and my wife thought I was crazy.

Don McC.,  
Livonia

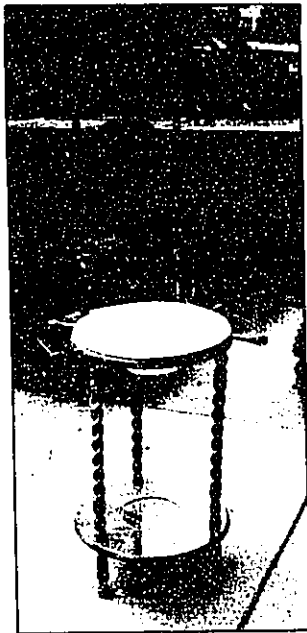
Dear Don:  
Crazy like a fox!  
Place some bets with your wife before she reads this article.

A washstand is a table or cabinet-like piece of furniture that provides areas for wash bowls and for storing washing utensils and accessories. There were also cousins to the washstand called shaving stands.

The shaving stand was obviously developed more particularly for men's grooming needs. For instance, unlike your washstand, shaving stands have shelves very close to the mirror, which makes shaving less messy in terms of the wet, lathery razor's travel distance between wash bowl and chin. These stands were developed in the late 17th century in Europe and the early 18th century in America.

True to American ingenuity, more versatility was developed in the stands

See TREASURE, 14D



Cleaning up: This washstand has such versatile features as a swing or tilt mirror, a removable wash or shaving bowl, towel racks and candle holders.

BOOK BREAK

Fisher tells of struggle



ESTHER LITTMANN

Mary Fisher is only 5 feet 1 yet stands tall in the eyes of AIDS activists everywhere. Her third and most recent publication, "My Name Is Mary" (Scribner, 1996, \$24), is an attempt to counter complacency or false assumptions about a disease that draws no distinctions between black and white, rich and poor, straight and gay. Fisher should know: She carries the AIDS virus.

Quoting her speech at the 1992 Republican National Convention in Houston, the author writes, "My call to the nation is a plea for awareness. If you believe you are safe, you are in danger."

Yet Mary Fisher's memoir is more than a book about how a heterosexual woman, educated at an exclusive prep school and sheltered by one of the wealthiest and most prominent families in Michigan, became HIV positive. "My Name Is Mary" is also the story of a

personal struggle that originated in childhood, a struggle between lofty aspirations on the one hand and grim reality on the other.

"All my life I've wanted to be good," Fisher writes. Goodness, she believed, was about pleasing others: helping, organizing, taking charge, regardless of the emotional cost.

An unstable childhood didn't weaken her resolve. Parental divorce, adjustment to a new environment and family when her mother remarried, a supportive but preoccupied stepfather (business magnate and philanthropist Max Fisher), and a loving mother who used alcohol to combat loneliness forced Mary to ignore her own needs and become "Mommy" to three younger siblings. In school Mary was everybody's friend and elected class president for four consecutive terms.

Looking for identity

Premature adulthood eventually took its toll when Mary dropped out of the

See LITTMANN, 13D

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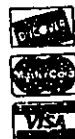
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