

## Creative Living



Monday, April 4, 1988 O&amp;E

(C)1E

organizing  
Dorothy  
Lehmkuhl

Q. I want to hold a garage sale, but keep putting it off. Any suggestions for motivation?

First ascertain if you will earn as much from a garage sale as you would from a tax deduction by giving what you don't need to a charitable organization. That could save you lots of work.

If you want a sale, mark your calendar for the specific date to hold it. A vague "this spring" won't do. If there are no openings on your calendar, then you won't be holding a sale, will you?

Holding a joint sale with a friend or neighbor will provide additional motivation. This can add more fun to your venture and help them get organized, too.

If holding the sale alone, enlist someone else's help and ask them to block out that time on your calendar.

Next, call your favorite charity that provides pickup service. Find out the first time they will be in your neighborhood after your proposed sale date. Make a commitment that they get either what is left from the sale, or everything if you haven't had the sale by then.

Make a file folder entitled "garage sale," clip a pen to it and establish a special place for it. File everything pertaining to the sale in it. So far your work has been minimal but you'll feel the date is "written in concrete."

Chart your preparation timetable. Rough draft your newspaper advertisement and file it with your time chart. Mark your calendar for the date to submit the ad. (Some papers require advance payment.)

At the office supply, buy pricing stickers, using different colors for items owned by different people, along with garage sale signs to direct traffic from major streets. (Don't forget to remove the signs immediately after the sale.) Visit other garage sales to get pricing ideas.

With your folder and a box or bag in tow, systematically search your house. Price each item to sell right then and place it in the receptacle, moving full containers to a specified place.

Make a master list of items. For merchandise too large to move until the last minute, price the item, noting its description and location on your master list. On sale day have plenty of signs, newspapers, boxes and change on hand.

One key to accomplishment is to set aside a specific time to achieve it; otherwise it probably won't happen. Another key is to be positive, discovering how much fun your sale can be and how you can benefit from dejunking your home.

designing ways  
Eve  
Garvin

Question from a reader: We purchased an older home. We love the area it is in but are unhappy with the old look in our kitchen and bathrooms. We want to start our remodeling with our bathrooms first. Have you any suggestions as to what we can do for cabinets, lighting—anything to give us an updated look? Our furnishings are a mix of everything.

In your powder room or master bath, shop the antique shops for an old washstand. This will serve as your cabinet in that room.

This piece does not have to fit end to end. It should look like a piece of furniture. These old pieces usually have tile or marble on the counter and back splash. You would recess your sink into the center or the side, depending upon which is more comfortable for you.

The entire wall in back of the piece can be mirrored. If you have a soffit over the cabinet, that could be mirrored as well. The soffit can be a good place to house your lighting. Use a bevel where the mirror sections but one another.

For a more contemporary look, use a brushed chrome mica for your cabinet. Leave six to eight inches open on either side. Recess your sink into the center, which is curved a radius of 24 inches tapering to 18 inches on the sides.

The cabinet is suspended eight inches from the floor. The brushed chrome with a taupe sink and lucite and polished chrome faucets is a great look. Again, your mirror may cover the entire wall, or try using a mirror the width of the cabinet with the depth 36 to 38 inches.

Add a mirror frame around all sides overlapping the mirror itself. Use a bevel at the inner and outer edges of the mirror.

FOR ANOTHER CABINET, you may consider the waterfall top. This can be made of mica. An interesting look would be using the same color of mica but different finishes. Use the suede mica on the counter top and back splash with your doors in the shiny or wet look mica. You may use the brushed or polished chrome mica in your trim.

Tile is another surface you may consider. Any number of designs are available. A visit to any tile company will give you some ideas. If you are working with an interior designer, ask to visit the Virginia Tile Co. showroom at the Michigan Design Center.

IN RESPONSE TO MY recent column on Wood-Mode cabinetry, dealers in the area include Royal Oak Kitchens, 548-8994 on N. Woodward in Royal Oak and Kitchens by Jensen in Birmingham. There are others as well.

## GRAND • OPENING



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## Antique acclaim

Vintage furnishings and collecting made easy

AP — For most of us, there's something slightly scary about a truly superb 18th century drop-leaf table.

A modernist collector might be just as intimidated by a supremely simple (and technologically revolutionary) Charles Eames bent plywood chair.

They are pricey items, yes, but more often it's the challenge of securing a "good buy" in a highly specialized field that robs us of confidence.

But there's nothing really mysterious, say the better antiques dealers and vintage furniture shop owners, about their love for the furniture.

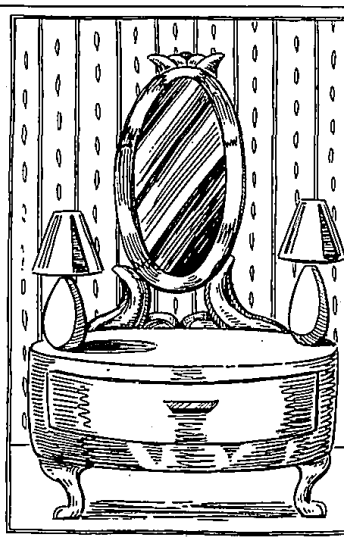
Most are enthusiasts as well as merchants. And, whether their inventories include very old, hand-crafted mahogany pieces or the simple chromed tubular-steel vintage items from the 1930s and '40s, most dealers are happy to share their knowledge with a potential customer.

SO, FOR OLD World charm or retro chic, the experienced dealer is an invaluable resource. Herewith, tips from the dealers to aid your collecting search.

Don't be intimidated by antiques or vintage classics. On this the dealers are almost unanimous. You should buy something only because you love it and can really use it.

Don't be mesmerized by age alone. "Old for old's sake," is how the dealer describes this lamentable syndrome. He adds that "there were perfectly dreadful things made in every period, just as there will be some perfectly beautiful things created in this century, which will always have value." Age, alone, is not enough.

Know that limitations exist. Remember that 18th century designs were revived and reproduced throughout the 19th century, and that knockoffs of 20th century clas-



sies (like the Marcel Breuer chair or Mies van der Rohe's famous 1930 couch) are widely available, the best defenses against outright frauds is to work with a reputable dealer and to know what you're looking for.

glad to take "want" lists, if you don't see just what you're looking for. Also, don't be afraid to ask questions, to ask for advice, to ask about alternatives in your price range. Ask, too, if your purchase will have trade-in value should you want to upgrade later.

Perforated "as is" treasures. Ask the dealer about a back room or warehouse where he might be stor-

ing pieces that have yet to be made ready for sale.

IF YOU SEE something you like that hasn't been refurbished, you may be able to discuss choices of color or fabric with the shop owner. For the vintage furniture collector, some dealers keep rolls of mint-condition vintage vinyl to use in upholstery.

Also, you'll not be deceived by something called a "Chippendale sideboard" — it's a simple fact that 18th century cabinetmakers did not make sideboards.

For 20th century collectibles, the scholarship is thinner, but some good books are available. No matter the period, read up on it, and become familiar with the distinguishing characteristics (markings, patterns, places of manufacture) that other collectors prize.

Adapt and use antiques. Since most of us are not museum curators, many dealers suggest we loosen our purist respect for antiques and make sure we can really use them in the home. Case in point: Lamps made from the many Chinese porcelain vases that were imported into England in the 17th and 18th centuries. "How many vases can you use?" asks one dealer. "But you can never have too many lovely lamps."

Cultivate the dealers in your collecting field. Since most antiques shops and vintage furniture stores are small, private businesses owned and operated by a family or individual, part of your shopping fun should come from chatting with the proprietor. Make use of this conversation.

For example, most dealers are

## short takes

DURING THE WEEKENDS of April 9-10 and April 16-17, more than 5,000 Easter Seal sales associates representing 256 offices throughout Michigan will go door to door collecting dollars for Easter Seals.

More than \$3.5 million has already been pledged by the nationwide system of Century 21 offices in 1988 — the largest Easter Seal contribution ever made by a corporate sponsor.

ENGLANDER'S HAS ADDED a 5,000-square-foot Henredon furniture gallery to its Birmingham showroom, bringing its total number of Michigan galleries to six. The Henredon gallery features a highly diversified offering of fine furnishings ranging from 18th century traditional to the latest in contemporary designs.

SOLOMON PROPERTIES announces the occupancy of River Oaks Club, a newly opened two-story clubhouse serving the River Oaks Apartment and Township Community in Rochester Hills.

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