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Johnston from page 2D

turn to heavy saucepan and cook over low heat about 10 minutes or until mixture appears thick and coats the back of a spoon.

Remove custard from heat. Strain through a fine sieve. Pour into four individual five-ounce ramekins. Chill two or three hours.

Remove custard from the refrigerator. Put brown or superfine sugar in a sieve and sprinkle evenly on top of custard. Put custard under broiler until sugar caramelizes. You must watch it carefully so sugar

does not burn. Serve.

■ Tahitian Vanilla — originates from an Orchid — Vanilla Tahitensis. These beans are plump, soft and easy to work with. They're available through mail order from Tahitian Import/Export, Inc., P.O. Box 35327, Los Angeles, CA 90035, (213) 655-4895. Three vanilla beans are \$7, 10 vanilla beans \$22. Add an additional \$2 for shipping and handling.

RUTH'S VANILLA VINEGAR

1 four liter (16 cup) glass bottle with a cork or rubber gasket lid
10 Tahitian vanilla beans
16 cups white wine vinegar (good quality)
Assorted wine vinegar bottles to put finished vinegar in, and corks or lids

Split 10 Tahitian vanilla bean (pods) lengthwise with a small, sharp knife. Open the pod and scrape out the seeds and pulp. Drop into the glass jar along with the empty pod.

Pour the wine vinegar over the vanilla — seal the jar and let it steep in a cool, dark room for 4 weeks.

When the vinegar has finished steeping, strain the vinegar. Using a funnel, fill clean bottles and add one or two pods (if desired) before sealing with a cork or gasket top.

To add interest to the bottle, add a few sprigs of flat Italian parsley, make sure any herb you are using is well washed and intact.

Use Vanilla Vinegar with seafood or add to a vinaigrette for a new taste treat.

Ruth Mossak Johnston is an author and food columnist who lives in Franklin. To leave a Voice Mail message for Ruth, dial (313) 953-2047, mailbox 1002.



Presented by Carl J. Crespi & Mark Aronoff
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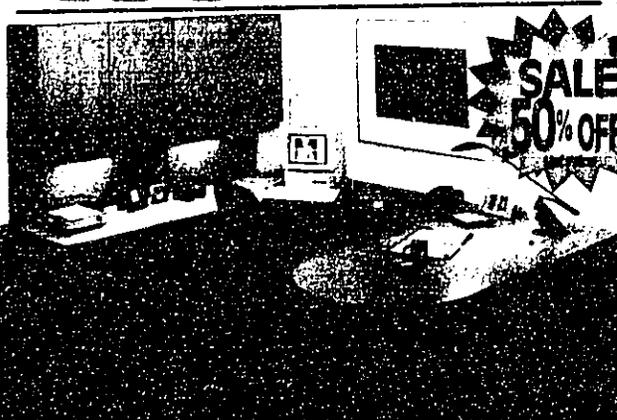
According to home building experts, the average American home is now 30 years old, with 37% of all homes in the United States being built before 1940. Often times, although solidly built, the kitchen and baths in these older homes lack today's modern conveniences and necessities. With our changing lifestyles, changing design tastes and a strong real estate market, now may be the time to thrust your home into the 21st century. At the minimum, replacing chipped, stained and scratched, counter tops and plumbing fixtures can give your kitchen or bath a whole new lease on life. Many homeowners, however, are now enthusiastically opting for total renovation of their eyesore rooms—replacing cabinetry, appliances, counter tops, flooring, and lighting. Prudent home renovation is still the best investment you can make in yourself, by increasing both the comfort

One of the hottest trends we are seeing now in kitchen and bath remodeling is the Shaker style cabinet. The simple clean lines of Shaker's Edward Lape, and Amos's Dorchester and Forman in cherry or hickory offer homeowners great versatility. Ranging from Traditional, Euro country, and Post Modern to Oriental or Arts and Crafts, Shaker cabinets can fit anyone's taste. To celebrate the new and appealing look, we are offering the Seasonal Shaker Cabinet Sale from February 1st through February 29th. Top your new cabinets with a DuPont Corian counter and you'll find refuge in the room you now hate. Visit the MODERN KITCHEN AND BATH design professionals at 610 E. Fourth Street or call us at 546-0660 and we'll help you realize the space you've until now only dreamed of.

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