

Treasure from page 11D

that evolved in America. You'll note that the mirror near the top is a swing or tilt mirror for convenient adjustments. The white area is a removable wash or shaving bowl. The metal side bars, probably brass, are towel racks. The lower shelf is used for storage of the bowl and possibly a water pitcher. Also, it's very desirable to have a drawer for utensil storage. Yours has a very nice feature in that it has candle holders on either side.

If not a reproduction (there are a lot of reprints and we can only tell by personal inspection), yours is Victorian, prob-

ably late 19th century. Like most Victorian furniture, it was mass produced. We feel this could have been a Sears mail-order catalogue item.

To shave to the chase, taking all features of your stand into consideration, we feel that it could very well be priced at \$600 to \$1,200 in a retail antique shop. Let us know what your wife says.

P.S. As an interesting side note, we've had designers, photographers and movie production people call us to inquire if we knew where they could rent a shaving stand. May we give them your name and number?

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Decor, garden basics taught

The Community House winter class catalog lists a great selection of classes and activities for all ages and interests, including a variety of home and garden classes.

You may register in person, by mail, by phone or by fax. The Community House is at 380 S. Bates in Birmingham. Business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The phone number is (810) 644-5832; the fax number is (810) 644-2476. You may use your MasterCard or Visa.

Home and garden classes, which meet 7:30-9:30 p.m., are:

■ How to Hang Wallpaper — Learn about the basics: surface preparation, measurement techniques, types of wallpaper and adhesives and necessary equipment. The class meets Tuesday, Feb. 13. Cost is \$12.

■ Ceramic Tile Installation — Measuring, cutting, preparation and finishing of ceramic tile to beautify the kitchen, bath, foyer or any other room. Step by step explanation and demonstration. The class meets Wednesday, Feb. 14. Cost is \$16.

■ Perennial Gardening — How to select the best perennials for both sun and shade and how to use them in beds and borders all around the house. The four sessions are Tuesdays beginning Feb. 20. Cost is \$48.

INTERIOR MOTIVES

Arrange to show your best



NAOMI STONE LEVY

Quoted from Webster's Unafraid Dictionary: "Interior decorating is a matter of spending money you haven't got on things you don't want to impress people you don't like."

After reading this column you will keep the money you shouldn't spend, and

please the one who counts most — you! It will discuss a rearrangement of your present possessions to display them to their best advantage. Do be adventurous.

I deplore all furniture placed against the walls. Freestanding groups are so much more convivial. Try them. Use scaled paper cutouts on a scaled floor plan for beginners. Move the furniture with ease!

Robbing rooms

Assuming that you own a sofa and several chairs, a couple of endtables, a coffee table, assorted lamps and perhaps a floor lamp, let us do what a professional designer would do. Rob the

rest of your home of usable pieces. The robbery could begin in the dining area.

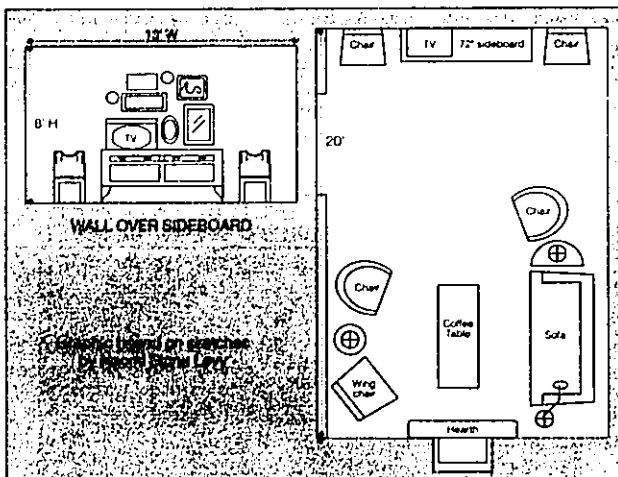
Is there a sideboard that would be used to better advantage in the living room? With a wonderful group of pictures above it, you have availed yourself of a significant focal point in the room. If the room has a fireplace, it might be a still more important place to concentrate the interest; that now becomes the center of activity.

Therefore, place the sofa at right angles to the hearth. Opposite that, site two chairs with a table in between. They can be a pair, or two of varying size. A winged model is appropriate to the fireplace.

Space permitting, the stolen sideboard could function well on the opposite side (see illustration). A pair of dining room armchairs might be ensconced, one at each end. They are light in weight and can be pulled up when required. Into this squared-off layout of your possessions your coffee table will find its new home.

Television always rears its ugly head. All groups bow to this dominating force. Does yours reside in its own cabinet or is it merely on a stand? Dictatorial,

See LEVY, 15D



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Figley from page 6D

TIMELY GARDEN TIPS

■ Check mulch around garden beds and shrubs to make sure they're still protecting the roots. Apply additional mulch if necessary.

■ When you water house plants, rotate them 90 degrees so they will grow evenly.

■ Order seeds and get in supplies. You can start pansies, snap and hardy perennials now.

■ Prune apple and other fruit trees.

■ Wash pots in a mixture of one tablespoon bleach to one gallon of water to get ahead of the season.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1859. Her fax number is (810) 644-1314.