

JANE S. M'KIMMON WRITES ON HOMES

Former Scene Of Drudgery Can Be Changed Into Attractive "Work Shops"

By JANE S. M'KIMMON
Raleigh—No matter what outside interest calls to a woman, her home from the road to the attic is her main concern.

"Last year in McDowell county it was the kitchen," says Miss Anne Tucker, home agent.

This year it is other parts of the house; last month it was pictures and this month it is table and mantel arrangements. One cannot separate pictures and tables from the rest of the room nor can she separate a living room from the whole house and the principles of art in house furnishing are not different from the principles of art in clothing or in nature.

In 1938, women in 34 counties of North Carolina selected one phase or another of home management as their major project and 4-H girls in 22 counties chose room improvement. Because they spend so much time in kitchens women very generally desire to make them colorful and pretty as well as convenient and comfortable. Many kitchens in old farm houses are large and the family gravitates to them in cold weather for their warmth and for their inviting cheerfulness as well.

In fact nothing has so changed the attitude of the housewife toward what she formerly classed as drudgery as the efficient attractive work shop she has learned to evolve.

"My kitchen was a dreary place in which to work before I became a home demonstration club member," said Mrs. Homer Ledbetter of McDowell county. "There were no windows and we had a wornout floor and a big cat hole in the door letting in cold air.

"There was a big old fire place that was not used because the stove stood in front of it with

the pipe in the chimney and more soot and ashes could blow down in a minute than I could clean up in half a day.

Remodeled Kitchen

"We set about remodeling and rearranging that kitchen and I now have a new floor covered with linoleum; four new windows, letting in the sunshine and light; a breakfast corner which all of us enjoy; running water, a new flue that goes straight up and does away with soot and dirt, and built in cabinets instead of the old fire place.

"I also have a sink which is a great help, and nice painted walls which we all love and the rearrangement gives me about 10 square feet of working space with plenty of room for everybody else.

"The cost has been around \$200 but that can't begin to pay for the joy I get out of it.

"It may seem funny to say that the improvement of my kitchen began in the chicken house but it did. About a year ago Miss Tucker explained to us the plan for kitchen improvement in this county and my aim was to improve mine if I could."

Chickens Pay The Bill

I had read what a few women had done with chickens and eggs," said Mrs. Fate Ledbetter, "and I decided to see if mine would help me fix my kitchen. My husband built me a chicken house and I sold enough hens by the first of March to buy three hundred baby chicks and for the next three months it was a pleasure to watch those chicks grow. I could see in them new windows and cabinets and possibly some of the other things I had longed for. About the first of June I carried a lot of my chickens to market and from the sale I bought my new windows. The next week I took more to market and bought lumber enough to build a cabinet which holds all my meal, flour, salt, lard, meat, etc., which I needed for cooking.

"By the 19th of August my first pullet laid and it was not long after that before I had saved enough to build a sink and build

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another cabinet and then came my painting problems. My hens were paying me \$1.00 a day and the eggs for one week bought my paint, and my daughter and I did

the work. Now my kitchen has a new floor, covered with linoleum, my walls are painted cream and we have three cabinets, a sink, pretty curtains at the windows, and other conveniences.

"The whole family wants to stay in the kitchen all of the time and my husband fancies the new wood box so much that he wants

to sit on it."

Saving Steps

In Iredell county the home agent spent a month discussing guides in buying small kitchen equipment with the housewives and how to arrange it. Many of them said they had pots that danced on the stove, pots with handles that were not safe and

it looked as if very few were bought with efficiency or arranged to save time and steps for the worker. Consequently, without hurting any one's feelings, the agent asked for the use of the kitchen in the home where the club met that she might demonstrate to those present what well arranged good equipment could mean in the preparation of a meal.

In cooking fried chicken the housewife, because of the inconvenient arrangement, was forced to take 585 steps before she placed the chicken on the dining table and after discussions and questions, suggestions for rearranging what was in that kitchen proved to be one of the most interesting and profitable lessons given during the year.

There were 5,287 kitchens reported rearranged and improved in 1938 and many of the 34 counties involved arranged visiting hours to the best kitchens that each woman might see how her neighbor had succeeded in making her improvements.

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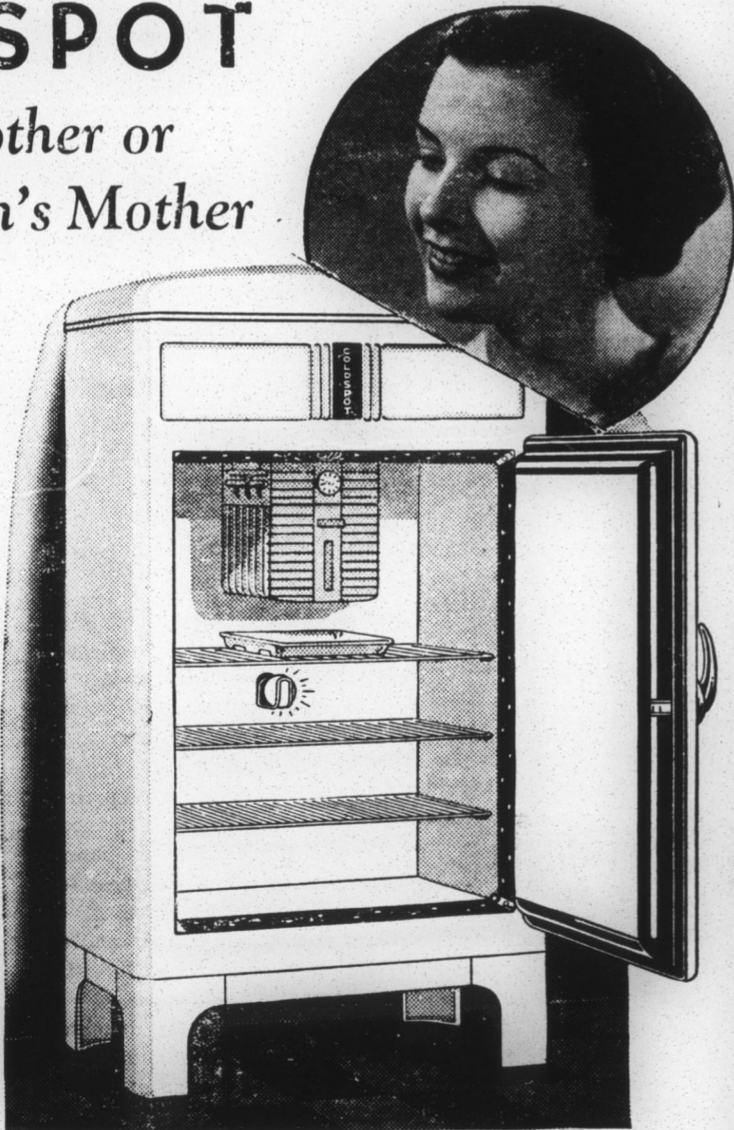
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