



Featuring a large kitchen, 16'-17" long including the nook this four bedroom design has larger than average rooms for a house of this size. There is ample closet space in all bedrooms. The living room has a corner fireplace and direct access to the terrace. Extra washroom is conveniently located close to the side entry and basement stair. The construction is brick veneer. In some localities house could be built on a 60 foot lot. A garage with a breezeway could easily be added to the left hand end of the building. 1548 Sq. Ft.

1548 SQ. FT.

**HOW TO OBTAIN DESIGN BOOK**

The latest design book entitled "101 Selected Suburban and Country Homes Designed for Canadians" is now available at the offices of The Guardian and The Evening Patriot for \$1, tax free. This new edition includes color selection, etc., plus over 100 popular new designs to choose from. Also included are full designs on how to order blueprints.

you'll find this a tremendous help. Putty powder is usually available at any monument yard where they use it to put a high polish on stones. (Note: All correspondence relating to home maintenance should be addressed to: Roger C. Whitman, Toronto Star Syndicate, 80 King Street W., Toronto 1, Ontario.)

**First Aid For Ailing Homes**

By ROGER C. WHITMAN

**STORMY SPRAY**  
QUESTION: The north side of our attic has an air vent louver high up near the peak. Whenever there is a windy rain or snow storm, spray comes in. How can I prevent this before enough collects so that it may work down and affect the ceiling underneath? That is, there will be a ceiling when my husband finishes a room he's planning.

ANSWER: If it were possible to rig a cover you could operate from below, by means of a cord and pulley, this would be excellent. You can pull the cover closed during storms, and open afterward. But if this is too much, cover the affected area with a layer of heavyweight aluminum foil. With luck, the greater part of any spray should evaporate within a day or two.

**CLEANING DOWNY PILLOW**  
QUESTION: I have some expensive down-filled bed pillows quite soiled. How can I clean these? I'm afraid to wash them for fear of ruining the down.

ANSWER: Turn the job over to the very best dry cleaner you know. Some laundries advertise that they can clean any type of pillow, without damage to the fluffiness. You might investigate this, too.

**MIRROR BACKING**  
QUESTION: I would like to make a table top from a nice old mirror in an antique frame. But first I would appreciate knowing how to remove the silvery backing. I'm afraid of using razor blade for fear of scratching the glass.

ANSWER: With paint remover, take off the coat protecting backing. Then cover the backing with a layer of salt, moistened with one part water and three parts cider vinegar. The effect will be to produce chlorine, which softens the silvering. In several hours it should be soft enough to be wiped off.

QUESTION: A roof leak has caused a large water stain on a plaster ceiling. It is a large light brown area. Can this be painted successfully?

ANSWER: It depends on how thoroughly the plaster has been soaked, and whether it will dry out. If the stain is recent, give it a month or so to dry before attempting the paint job. Unsoaked plaster never really dries properly. So keep this possibility in mind. It's best to use the type of paint which can be put on over a damp surface, the vinyl plastic latex type of paint. It's also assumed that the source of moisture has been found and the problem corrected.

**INSULATION JAMMED**  
QUESTION: While examining my roof (it's a new house) I noticed that the insulation is jammed tight against the underside. Is this right? Or should there be a space between it and the roof?

ANSWER: It's much better practice to have at least a 1/2 inch of air space between the insulation and the roof. Not only keeps the insulation out of contact with the roof, in case it becomes damp from a leak, but the air space adds insulation value of its own.

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**Search For New, Different Shrubs**

The search for new and different shrubs is more rewarding now than it was a few years ago, for nurserymen all over Canada, encouraged by the demands of the gardening public, are including more and more new kinds in their catalogues each year. Records taken in the Test Garden of the Plant Research Institute, where many of these plants are being tried out, show that a large number rate very highly, and are recommended for growing in all parts of Canada.

Of all the new plants tested the largest group is the Syringa or lilacs. Many of these come from Ontario, and some from New Hampshire. The most spectacular is Frank Patterson with huge blooms of deep purple. This variety has been under test in the Ornamental grounds with the other lilacs. James MacFarlane is a new Preston type, heralded as one of the best true pink lilacs ever to be introduced. Judging by its large flowers of deep rich pink hue and its bushy habit this might well be true. It is similar to Elnor, an older Preston hybrid, which has flowers that are a little bit darker before they open, but then fade to a medium pink. James MacFarlane does not have the exquisite fragrance of Elnor but has larger flower trusses, says Tom Taylor, with large panicles of double violet flowers, and Sister Justina, with pure white single flowers, are two very good lilacs from Manitoba Mount Baker, from the same source, has been introduced a little longer but is probably un-

known in the east. It produces abundant large trusses of pure white single flowers, and is rated as one of the very best of all white lilacs.

**WORTH ATTENTION**  
Two newer spireas are worthy of attention. One of these is the compact form of the Garland spirea (Spiraea arguta 'Compacta'), which forms a compact mound about three feet high and wide and is covered in mid-May with festoons of white flowers. It is a good background plant for tulips and excellent as an unclipped floral hedge. The other is Swan Lake, a more floriferous, compact, dwarf form of the three-lobed spirea (Spiraea trilobata). It blooms three weeks later than the Garland and has a similar floral effect. Many of us are already aware of the early spring beauty of the dwarf Russian almond (Prunus tenella), with its beautiful rosy pink flowers produced at the same time as the yellow forsythia. Firehill is an improved variety of this almond, with bright fiery-red flowers, a much bushier and more erect habit, and green willowlike foliage.

When it becomes more commonly available the 'Annabelle' snowhill hydrangea (Hydrangea arborescens 'Annabelle') is going to be planted in most gardens to replace the more straggly type from which it originated. Compared to the standard type, it has larger, more globular shaped heads of pure white blooms produced in greater abundance on more compact plants.

**EASY TO GROW**  
probably the easiest of all shrubs

to grow. They are adaptable to most soils and thrive well in very open locations. They will also withstand drought and salt conditions. Two new varieties are Arnold Red, with very dark red flowers on a plant that doesn't grow more than five feet high, and Hack's Red, with larger flowers of a similar color but on tall ten-foot shrubs.

The Tangerine potentilla has the deepest orange flowers of any variety of shrubby cinquefoil under test and also has the ability to produce them in profusion in May and to continue blooming, although more sparingly, all summer long. Then, as the weather becomes cooler in September, you can expect another spectacular display of orange flowers.

For a change of pace I would strongly recommend the Mother of Pearl snowberry, a new variety with bluish-pink, instead of pure white, fruits. Our specimens have grown into very bushy plants with light-green leaves and they produce a showy crop of fruits in the fall.

The final shrub I have reserved for those living in Eastern Canada, for I doubt that it would be very hardy on the Prairies. This is the Royal Purple smoke bush. A very versatile shrub which, once established, will do well in most soils. It not only gives you deep-rose clouds of smokelike fruit stems from June to October but is beautiful from the time its buds burst in early May until the frost takes toll of its leaves in the fall. It produces unique, round, clean, purple foliage that provides a delightful contrast in texture.

**STAR DIES**  
SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — During a 40-year career actress Julia Faye Merrill appeared in numerous films. Miss Merrill died Wednesday at Santa Monica Hospital. She was 72. Among her film credits were parts in both silent and sound versions of The Ten Commandments, as well as roles in The King of Kings, Union Pacific, and Till We Meet Again.

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