



This small home, with its unique arrangement and spacious rooms, is a fine example of what can be accomplished by proper planning. The separate entry hall leads into a large living room which includ-

es bookcases built on either side of the fireplace. There are lots of extra closets and a pleasant and roomy kitchen in the front corner of the house with entry to the basement or side door. Construction is a

combination of stone veneer and vertical boards but could be built in all Brick Veneer or Frame. Design suitable for electric heating. Could be built on 50 ft. lot—60 foot with an attached garage. 884 Sq. Ft.

**First Aid For Ailing Houses**

By ROGER C. WHITMAN  
SHOCKPROOFING METAL

**QUESTION:** Since getting a metal table and chairs, my family finds life is now a series of shocks during cold weather. When anyone walks across a carpet then touches the metal, a shock results. Of course the same thing happens when touching a metal switch-plate, but we're used to this. Is there any trick for insulating the metal?

**ANSWER:** Up until the past flood of Christmas catalogs, I would have said very little can be done beyond raising the humidity of the house air. But I read about a spray for de-shocking metal, which sounds as though it would be the answer to this annoying problem. I did not send for any, so I cannot vouch for its effectiveness. But the description made good reading. If you have any of those shopping catalogs still around, look in them. Also you could ask auto supplies shops, large

hardware stores, houseware section of big department stores.

**CRACK ABOVE FLOOR**  
**QUESTION:** A crack has opened up between the floor and the bottom of the wall baseboard. I would like to know how to close this space, as I am sure it is a real dust-catcher.

**ANSWER:** Don't try to fill it; the space may open again even wider. Instead, nail quarter round or cover molding over the joint. Fasten it to the floor, not the baseboard. Then even if the space does widen, it won't show, because the lower edge of the baseboard will still be covered by the moulding, which will still be anchored to the floor. In fact, the space would have to open up even wider than the width of the molding before it would be noticed—and this is highly unlikely.

**DENTED LEATHER**  
**QUESTION:** Some time ago you ran an item on how a lady could remove dents caused when

a heavy object was left on a leathertopped table. I did not keep it, but I sure wish I had, because this is just what happened in my house. Will you please repeat what you said will take out such dents?

**ANSWER:** Best dent-remover is one of those old-fashioned nail buffers, rubbed back and forth over the dent. If it goes back too far for you, wrap a piece of soft chamois over the bowl of a spoon, and use this as the dent-smoother-outer.

**SPACKLE - SCULPTING**  
**QUESTION:** My wife was left with ornate frame. Before repainting it with gold paint please tell me if it is possible for an amateur to replace the pieces of ancient plaster which have fallen out of the carved frame.

**ANSWER:** A very possible

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job, even if you're no closer to sculpture than an occasional visit to the museum. All you need is some spackling compound, and a few short nails. If a fairly large chunk is missing, carefully drive a few nails partially into the wood, which will serve as an anchor for the sculpting. Then simply press a blob of this plaster-like material over the spot, and gently shape it, using a toothpick or nail file. You'll be surprised at how easy it really is to come quite close to the original shape. For small spots, it won't be necessary to drive in the anchoring nails. When thoroughly dry, go ahead and paint. Spackle requires no coat of sizing.

**CHIPPED BATHTUB**  
**QUESTION:** The bathtub in the fairly old house we bought is chipped in several places. Is there any way to hide these black spots?

**ANSWER:** When porcelain is chipped clear down to the black metal, there is no true disguise. All you can do is to make a spot repair, which greatly lessens the prominence. And up until the development of epoxy finishes and adhesives, there was no material which could make a patch to stand up under constant exposure to water, soap and detergents for any length of time. But you can at least get a small can of enamel containing epoxy at any paint store and touch up the defects. Be exceedingly careful to remove every trace of soap film first.

**THAT VERSATILE EPOXY**  
**QUESTION:** If I paint my basement floor with epoxy concrete paint, will it be possible at some later date to lay down a tile floor covering?

**ANSWER:** All correspondence, relating to home maintenance should be addressed to: Roger C. Whitman, c/o Toronto Star Syndicate, 50 King Street W., Toronto 1, Ontario.

**WATER DRAINS NEAR HOUSE**  
**QUESTION:** As a result of excess water draining down close to my house, there are large puddles of rain water which collect close to the foundation. If they work down, then seep into the basement. How can I carry this drainage away from the house and prevent the damp basement problem?

**ANSWER:** Connect the lower end of the downspout to an underground drain. This should lead away, at a slight slope down ward, to connect either to the municipal drain pipes in the street, or to a dry well at least 15 feet from the house. Perhaps you can subsidize a back-hoe owner to save you the effort of digging the ditch.

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**Controversial Vinland Map Is Scrutinized By Experts**

By ARCH MacKENZIE  
WASHINGTON (CP) — The controversial Vinland Map, purporting to be conclusive evidence that Leif Ericson and company found North America long before Christopher Columbus, has been subjected to two days of professional scrutiny here.

The little that has emerged from the closed discussions suggests Italian-Americans, Spaniard and other skeptics will continue to argue that the whole thing is a savage and fraudulent attack on the Columbus record.

The discussions were sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute in an atmosphere reflecting the political and academic conflict. No new opinions or conclusions were revealed in the brief communique issued Thursday.

However, the map itself went on public display at the Smithsonian for a month. It is a parchment 11 by 12 inches, now in possession of Yale University and attributed to a Swiss monk about 1440—or a full 90 years before Columbus set sail, bankrolled by Queen Isabella of Spain.

The map shows a slice of land west of Iceland and Greenland which bears a resemblance to Labrador, Newfoundland, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and some points farther south.

**QUESTION AUTHENTICITY**  
The authenticity of the map itself is the principal issue at stake for scholars. Offered as proof, among other things, are matching wormholes through the pages of the book to which the map is said to belong.

At the Smithsonian seminar, one panelist was Laurence Witte, the New Haven, Conn., book dealer who brought the map to the U.S. in 1937 from London.

Experts from the British Museum and Yale pored over it for eight years before making it public as a bona-fide map last year on the eve of Columbus Day.

Witte retraced his discovery of what he took immediately to be a missing portion of a second volume.

He contends the owner of the original volume in 19th-century England took out the map and another section and had them rebound individually. He says the map can be fitted back into the original volume, of which the origin is known, because of the matching wormholes, ink, penmanship and other details.

The Smithsonian says eventually the record of the two-day discussion will be published. One observer was T. E. Layne, head of the map division of Canada's public archives at Ottawa. Layne withheld comment because of the Smithsonian's caution but suggested "this debate is going to be around for another two generations."

**NOT SO HUGE**  
The famous Plymouth Rock, where the Pilgrim Fathers landed in America in 1620, is a boulder originally eight feet by six.

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