

June 12, 1931

## LIVING ROOM CONTESTS

The Bastrop County Living Rooms were judged for prizes with first place being given to Mrs. J. H. Dunk of the Grassyville Community in the class of those having spent less than \$50.00, and first place in those spending more than \$50.00 to Mrs. G. C. Scott, Wayside Club, McDade.

The following are the reports written by the winners:

### MY LIVING ROOM (Mrs. J. H. Dunk)

I really enjoyed the work I did in my living room. I now see how different and more interesting it is since I have finished it. I have always wanted to make an improvement, but just did not know where to start until I became interested in the living room improvement work conducted by our home agent. I have three girls who need an attractive room in which to entertain their friends. Having these things in mind I decided to see if the old room could be improved.

The house is the old Dunk homestead and has stood many years with very little improvement, and I am very glad we have brightened it up some. A little work with a paint brush, a can of varnish, stain, paint and new drapery can certainly do wonders.

The room had very dark looking walls painted in gray ivory color, with a ceiling of dark blue gray. The color was bad, but on top of this was smoke, dust and spots. A brush, water and some work soon had the ceiling and walls cleaned and ready for a coat of paint. Two coats of rich ivory paint on the wood work, walls and ceiling soon had the room looking much lighter and brighter. Dark days are banished from the room now.

The furniture was as old, disfigured and worn from use and poor care as the house. It certainly needed to be reconditioned. The big problem was to remove the varnish and lye paste, water and vinegar did the work like magic. A study table, organ, radio, three rockers and two other chairs went through the same operation and came out looking much improved. The love seat was made from an old walnut spool bed that belonged to my husband's mother. It was finished in ivory to match the former color of the room. I removed the paint and finished it in its natural color and upholstered it in a beautiful piece of printed crash of natural color. The predominating designs blend from red to gold. It is so pretty and different that I want to sit on it every time I come into the room. To make it more comfortable three pillows were added. An antique wash stand given me by my mother was similarly converted into a beautiful piece of useful furniture which makes a lovely table for our radio. A discarded book case was cleaned, stained and polished ready for service. It was placed over the writing table and some books arranged on the shelves. Near this was placed a magazine rack with the latest magazines in it. This arrangement completed the reading group.

The floor required very little work as it was covered with a very respectable linoleum rug that needed only a coat of shellac to freshen it. An oak stain and varnish on the uncovered part of the floor around the square gave the entire room a different appearance. To soften this a tow-sack rug braided to give a brown and tan color scheme was placed in front of the love seat.

Natural color scrim curtains were hung at the three windows. A hand-painted picture of a bluebonnet scene was placed over the love seat, and another nature picture was placed over the table. Some vases with flowers, a shelf for the old clock, and a hanging lamp completed the improvement of

my living room. To you it may seem little, but we adore it.

Our yard was improved by some trellises for vines and by some hedges of flowers.

The total cost of this improvement is:

Paint	\$3.50
Brush	.50
Varnish	2.50
Stain	.50
Shellac	.50
Lye	.10
Curtains	2.50
Crash	.80
Total	\$11.90

### HOW I MADE A LIVING ROOM (Mrs. G. C. Scott)

We live in an old house 65 years old. It is made of roughly hewn oak logs. The cracks were covered with unplanned cedar boards. The house has two large rooms, a shed kitchen and a porch. The main room has a rock fireplace, an old style crude structure with a large hearth and one board nailed above for a mantle. In this room was a bed, a sanitary couch, a table and a dresser. We used it for bed room and living room combined. It contained two doors and one half window nailed in without facings, therefore we had very little natural light. The doors were made of hand-planed pine boards with an old style barn door latch that did not fasten. From this crude old structure we have made a very attractive living room and a modern convenient bed room.

The old floor was taken up and replaced by a second hand flooring that had been stored away. We filled the cracks with crack filler and it was ready for three coats of dark brown paint, a braided rug and the furniture arrangement. It was some time however before the last mentioned was completed.

The log walls had the old cedar boards removed, the logs hewed smooth and made plumb so they could be covered with 6 inch boards ready for papering. Two full sized windows were cut in the side wall and a

middle door added. As light was still insufficient a glass panel was added to the outside door. Now that the walls, wood work and floors were completed, it was time to make them more attractive. The walls were covered with a heavy all-over designed paper of soft tints and the ceiling with a cream colored paper. The wood work was stained a dark walnut. The dark brown paint and shellac added to the floor completed the interior color scheme.

The fireplace was replastered, the hearth had some new bricks added, and a very attractive mantle in oak color with a long mirror above made a very attractive addition to the room. In front of the fireplace was a large braided tow sack rug in brown and natural colors.

The windows were in 12-inch walls hence the only thing needed to dress them up was glass curtains. Theatrical gauze of gold and rose, and a valance of a natural crash with small figures softened the light and gave a final finish to the windows.

The study table was refinished in oak and placed by the window. In the drawers you will find writing material. Placed on top are some books, magazines, and bowl of flowers. The chairs were restained, waxed, polished and arranged in convenient places. A day-bed to be used for a couch was added. It was covered with a natural color crash cover and some pillows. A chest of drawers was necessary for storage. It was placed near the center wall. A bowl of flowers brightens it up. Other accessories are three children's chairs which complete the furniture.

Since the old house was being reconditioned, the bed room was next attacked. Storage space was suggested by the home demonstration agent, and two large closets were built containing racks and shelves. A new window and floor were added, the walls were boxed in and papered with paper of bright design.

These needed improvements have made the old log house seem very home like and convenient. My husband and I did all the work and have enjoyed doing it. The total cost of my living room was \$64.08.

The following is an itemized statement of my expenses:

Picture frames	\$2.75
Mirror	6.00
Bed	19.25
Paint	5.98
Canvas	2.70
Varnish and stains	4.00
Shellac	.65
Nails	.50
Cement	.50
Curtains	5.00
Candle sticks and holders	.30
Door	4.25
Curtain rods	.50
Door and window facings	3.00
Chest of drawers	7.50
Total Expense	\$64.08