WEE PALS

by Morrie Turner

In Our Time

Casual Or Formal

Wood Paneling Is Versatile

This traditional and contemporary style is coordinated by Weyerhaeuser Forestglo Pecan paneled walls, French chateau style sets off fine Regence desk and chair and a collection of treasured bronzes and porcelains. Warm panelling contrasts elegantly with curtains and rugs (both green). Inspired by classic French, this room freely introduces furnishings from other periods.

Take a room, panel it with wood, and use it as a family room or den. It immediately assumes a casual and relaxed atmosphere. Now take the same paneling and use it in a formal living room. Your finest furniture and accessories take on a beauty that is heightened by the graciousness of the setting.

Wood, the universal material, adapts readily to any design. It employs nature's own colors and patterns, so it never clashes with man-made fabrics and color schemes.

What kind of paneling should you choose? A large manufacturer such as Weyerhaeuser Company offers over 50 different species and color tones. Each paneling is unique and individual, with its own distinct character, but each will blend with and enhance any decor you like.

Feel free to develop your own style. You might begin by taking a look at your furniture and decorative accessories. Collectively, they give an accurate picture of what you like and feel at home with.

Keep this picture in mind whenever you acquire new possessions. If they look right with each other (and your choices need not be governed by any one style), they'll look right when seen against the personally flattering background of wood.

There's a practical side of wood, too. Hardwood paneling produced by Weyerhaeuser is factory pre-finished to protect the surface from abuse, wear and tear. Maintenance is reduced to a minimum. Your walls will last the life of your home and never require anything more than a wipe with a damp cloth.

For more paneling and decorating ideas, you may secure a 20-page full-color booklet, "Decorating with Paneling", by sending 50¢ to Weyerhaeuser Company, Box B 4238, Tacoma, Wash. 98401.

RIDDLES

1. When may a person be said to breakfast before he gets up?
2. What table is all paper?
3. Why are lazy persons' bed too short for them?
4. What is the height of folly?
5. Why would it be better if needle were spelled with an 'I'
6. What is the surest way to double your money?
7. What is better than presence of mind in a railway accident?
8. When does a regiment undergo an operation?
9. When do broken bones begin to make themselves useful?
10. What gives a cold, and pays the doctor?
11. What is it when once lost you can never find again?
12. Why doesn't the clock strike 13?
13. Why is a colt like an egg?
14. Where was Solomon's Temple?
15. When is a plant like a hog?

ANSWERS:

1. When he takes a roll in bed.
2. A time-table.
3. Because they lie too long in them.
4. Spending your last dollar on a purse.
5. Because a needle is no good without an eye.
6. Fold it.
7. Absence of body.
8. When deprived of its arms.
9. When they begin to knit.
10. A draft.
11. Time.
12. It hasn't the face to do it.
13. It must be broken before it can be used.
14. On the side of his head.
15. When it begins to root.

AMY

By Jack Tippit

'I decided to go where the action is.'

Off The Record

By Ed Reed

'I'm a happily married man, yes—But I don't have to like it.'

'L-O-O-K, look; BEHIND, behind; YO — —'

75 YEARS AGO

THIS IS HOW IT STARTED

- The day was August 13, 1892.
- The man was John Henry Murphy, Sr.
- The task was monumental
- The result is the largest newspaper of its kind

By AL RUTLEDGE

'I have been a white washer, a soldier, a porter, a janitor, a postal employee, and a printer. Looks like I'll die a printer. But I almost didn't.'

Those words were written by John Henry Murphy, Sr. in a letter to his sons on Christmas 1920. The letter was to be opened on Christmas 1940. At which time the publisher would have been 100 years old.

FOR HIM destiny held great things and his death was that of much more than just a printer.

He was to become the head of the news firm that grew to be the largest and most influential periodical in the community of American minorities: the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers.

How under his guidance from the simplest of beginnings, this vast and complex enterprise grew and matured is the topic of one of history's epochs.

MRS. MARTHA HOWARD MURPHY — It was her faith and $200 that constituted the original investment.

MR. JOHN HENRY MURPHY, SR. — It was his courage and ingenuity that constituted the force that made it grow.

A Hero

John H. Murphy, in the spring of 1892, was 52 years old, a whitewasher, an ex-Union Army sergeant, Sunday school sperintendent, and the father of ten. He was discontent with his station in life and determined to make good for his wife, Martha's sake.

'A man,' he said, 'must be a hero in the eyes of his wife.'

Such a belief may well be responsible for the success of many great men. Whether he was a hero in the eyes of his wife is a question for the romanticists to decide.

We know only that history accounts him great.

He was born a slave and won his freedom doing battle against the armies of the Confederacy. He wrote that he was 'fighting with General Grant in the Wilderness . . . April, 1865, I was in North Carolina with General Sherman when he captured the rebel army of General Joe Johnston. Ours was the 30th Regiment, U.S. Colored Maryland Volunteers.'

This was a man ever bent on bettering his condition: 'I went in (the army) a chattel and came out a man with the blue uniform of my country as a guarantee of freedom, and a sergeant's stripes on my arms to prove it . . .'

Born Slave

He was also a man whose goals ever bordered on the impossible. The woman he chose to be his wife was the daughter of the well-to-do Father George Howard, who owned a 500 - acre, well stocked farm in Maryland's Montgomery, County.

Father George wasn't at all anxious to have his daughter marry a penniless ex-army sergeant who didn't have a place of his own.

Though it took about a year he won them both; the girl as his bride and the father's blessings. The couple was married on January 2, 1868.

During the following years the soldier became a middle aged father of ten. There were many jobs and much disillusionment but the family stayed together.

12 Years

In 1892 John H. Murphy was 52 years old; he had passed the period where 'life begins' by 12 years.

It was a time when only 5.7 per cent of the 215,657 colored Baltimoreans were considered literate; when only half of the 68,409 school aged colored children were enrolled in the school system (less than half of them attended).

At that period, when shoes were selling at $1.50 a pair; pants at $2.00; coils of a white backlash were strangling the political career of our only colored Congressman, the Honorable Henry P. Cheatham of S.C.

Jobs for black Americans were few even in the hard-labor market which at one time they nearly monopolized.

An 1890 census shows that in the U.S. fewer than 8,000 steel workers, 800 machinists and only 200 boiler makers were colored.

Racial Bars

The A.F.L. had officially prohibited colored membership.

There was an anti-colored clause in the Railroad Union Charter and it was universally accepted that a black worker was worth less in wage than a white one.

Such was the grip of the white hand on the black world when the ex-sergeant, ex-slave Murphy went to his wife and asked for $200 to use in the purchase of a newspaper.

The Auction

Her reaction was prompt and her first question was logical: Are you losing your mind?'

She soon became convinced that her husband was very much in control of his senses and that it was important that he have the money.

'If that's what you want' she consented, 'that's what you'll have.'

So like Alaska and Manhattan an empire was bought for a song.

The AFRO - AMERICAN was then owned by Rev. William M. Alexander who pastored Sharon Baptist Church. As a minister he did very well. But as a journalist he was something less than perfect.

He had to put the paper up for auction.

When John, Sr. traded his whitewash brush for the printer's apron he also became a publishing-editor, an advertising salesman, typesetter, lay-out and make-up man, who had to run a jobber shop to feed his family. The paper was sold at 2 cents per copy.

Success

Such was his task for 25 years. In 1917 he turned to publishing the newspaper full time and threw the job presses out. Success had shown its lovely head.

The first edition of the AFRO-AMERICAN was printed on 10 x 14 inch pages. How many were circulated is unknown; but its rise from this sheet to the sophisticated metropolitan paper it is today is due to the vision of a man who started life at age 50.

NEW JERSEY AFRO-AMERICAN
RICHMOND AFRO-AMERICAN
THE AFRO - AMERICAN
BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN
WASHINGTON AFRO-AMERICAN

THINGS PLANNED

'I became a porter, then ran a feed store and finally landed in a print shop as manager.
I had to make good my pledges to Martha and Father George.
Neither of them lived to see us do all the things we planned. I wish they could be here today as I should like to be around in 1940.

JOHN H. MURPHY, SR.
December 25, 1920

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COMING: A POCKETFULL OF SOUL