

12-1933

Enjoyable Jobs for Leisure Hours

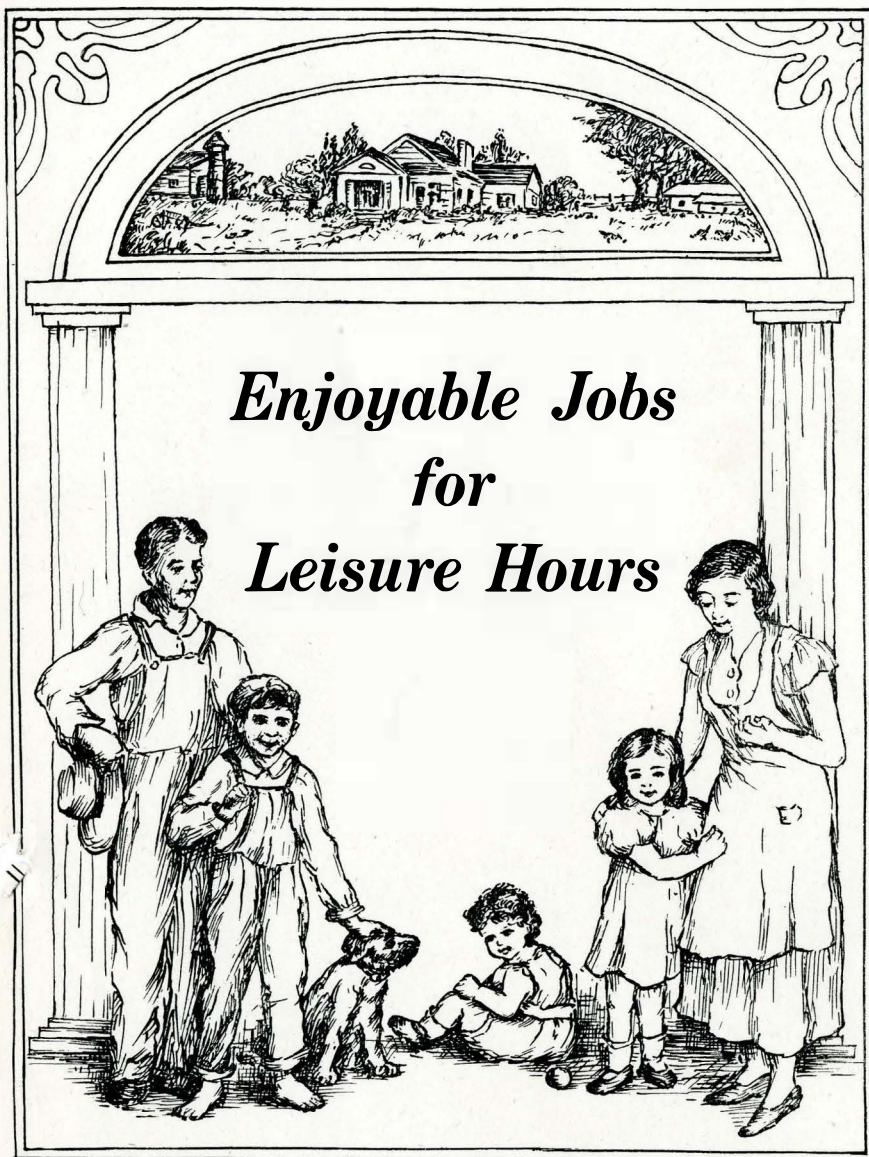
Mary A. Covert

Follow this and additional works at: http://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension_circ

Recommended Citation

Covert, Mary A., "Enjoyable Jobs for Leisure Hours" (1933). *Extension Circulars*. Paper 339.
http://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension_circ/339

This Circular is brought to you for free and open access by the SDSU Extension at Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Extension Circulars by an authorized administrator of Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. For more information, please contact michael.biondo@sdstate.edu.



*Enjoyable Jobs
for
Leisure Hours*

**Safeguarding South Dakota Homes Program
Making the Family Happy**

**SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE
EXTENSION SERVICE
Brookings, S. D.**

Enjoyable Jobs for Leisure Hours

By Mary A. Covert
Extension Specialist in Home Management

Leisure in the home is not so much a matter of wealth or time as it is a matter of attitudes. It must be recognized as one of the essentials of homemaking if it is to share a place of relative importance in the home program. All work and no play does more than make one dull. It robs one of physical poise and beauty. It impoverishes the soul. Time spent in playing and doing interesting things outside of essential work recreates both soul and body. It gives a feeling of personal growth which is essential to contentment. It builds a storehouse of memories which lightens routine tasks and makes home life colorful, alluring and happy. It binds family ties through multiplied possibilities of comradeship between parents and children.

The family members never have time in which to play together or ride hobbies unless they deliberately cooperate in planning leisure hours for each member in the home program. Leisure time like money must be saved before it is spent and its use must be planned if its spending brings permanent pleasure.

The Family Fun Hour

The simplest beginning in home recreation is the family fun hour—that hour set aside on the same evening each week for the parents and children to enjoy themselves together. This hour should be considered so important a part of the family life and be made so interesting that nothing short of emergencies is permitted to interfere. It should not be considered a duty by the parents, but entered into with a spirit of fun and good sportsmanship. The children will be glad to take a share in the planning. Plans for family fun night may be made at the family council. Various members may take turns sharing the major responsibility for each night.

It is well for father and mother to contribute largely to the first program, their attitude will help to establish the hour. It will vouch for their support of the new movement. The games which they played long ago will probably be new to the children. Stories about what the parents or grandparents did when they were little or what the children themselves did before they were old enough to remember, are always met with appreciation. The program might close with some old song which father or mother will teach the group.

Hobbies

Hobbies are fundamental to personal growth and family development. Every one needs time, place and space to pursue his own individual interests in the home. He should have privacy for his hobby material. His personal rights must be respected if he is to live fully. Yet he needs the sympathy and understanding of other members toward his pet interest. It must be more than tolerated or endured. It must be recognized and duly appreciated.

Hobbies develop a tolerance for the tastes and enthusiasms of others. They foster the spirit of sharing and increase the individual's ability to give as well as to take.

Hobbies may extend from the collection of poems to the building of an airplane. They may include all of the activities of the farm and home. The doing of a thing is work or play depending largely upon the attitude taken toward it and the conditions under which it is done. Hobbies are usually considered individual, but the family as a whole may become interested in some particular project and find much pleasure in developing it together. Reading aloud or silently

together often affords much pleasure; music in the home, family dramatics, family picnics and camps are other shared pleasures.



Fig. 1.—Making toys is an interesting hobby.
Courtesy—"Home Craftsman."

Woodcraft

Woodcraft is a hobby which may challenge the interest of the entire family as well as individual members. Many useful things can be created from scraps of lumber, old furniture and wooden boxes. Father and the boys often assume responsibility for the construction part, but mother and the girls help with designing, finishing, and decorating the articles.

A work bench is essential to the farm home. Around it many interesting hours are spent in repairing and making of useful things. It is the place where initiative is developed and comradeship is built.

The woodcraft center like other centers of interest in the home should be placed where it can be conveniently used. The family has more time for this craft in the winter, so the center should be moved to a warm spot if it is not located in a place which can be heated. A compact center like the one illustrated in Fig. 2 takes up little room and can be hidden by a folding screen which may add rather than detract from the room's furnishing. A drop sheet made from old material will protect the room from litter.

Some families find woodcraft a means of adding to their income. The conveniences, the toys and games which they make are so distinctive that they sell themselves to those who visit their home. Every little boy and girl who sees the camel illustrated in Fig. 1 wants one to ride.

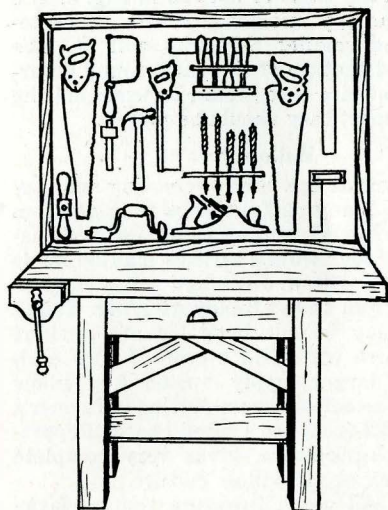


Fig. 2.—Woodcraft center for the home.

is no reason why needlecraft as a hobby should be confined to women. Some types of needlecraft are too delicate for the average man or boy to make, but other types are not. Candle wick tufting is very simple and quickly done. The men members of the household may find it fun to help make some large tufted piece which would take mother or sister a long time to finish.

Candle wick tufting is an old art developed in colonial days. It is being revived and at present is considered the latest thing for bedroom and living room ensembles. The foundation material must be loose enough to permit the candle wick to be drawn through and firm enough to hold the tufts. Unbleached muslin is generally used. It is frequently dyed, pastel tints being preferred for bedroom furnishing and medium grayed color tones for the living room. The candle wick is dyed also to carry out one's favorite color harmony.

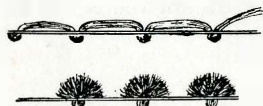


Fig. 3.—Detail of tufting stitch.

The beauty of candle wick tufted articles is dependent upon the design and color harmony. Simple geometrical designs are considered most effective. Both bordered and all-over designs are used.

The muslin should be washed free of starch before it is dyed. It is left unironed. The crinkled effect is preferable for a background. The design is stamped in place (dots where the short stitches are to be placed). A frame or hoop is not needed. The material may be held loosely on the lap while the design is worked with simple running stitches.

Metal Craft

Metal craft will particularly appeal to men members of the household. There is a wide range of interesting things which can be made from scraps of tin, galvanized iron, zinc, copper and brass salvaged from unused things around the home. Attractive waste baskets, book ends, letter holders, candle holders, racks for kettle covers, stands for plants, serving trays and many other things can be made with a little time, a pair of metal shears, a hammer, some solder and rivets.

Needlecraft

Needlecraft has been the hobby of women for ages. However, back in early history we find that men did the sewing for the family. Men have continued to be professional tailors and dress designers. There

Those on top should be about an inch long and those underneath as short as it is possible to make them. If the underneath stitches are too long the tufts will be imperfectly formed and they will not hold. After the design has been outlined as described, the long stitches are cut in the middle, forming fluffy tufts or dots as in Fig. 3. The shorter the top stitches are, the closer together and smaller the tufts will be. The design and texture of the background determines what size tuft should be used and the distance apart they should be placed.

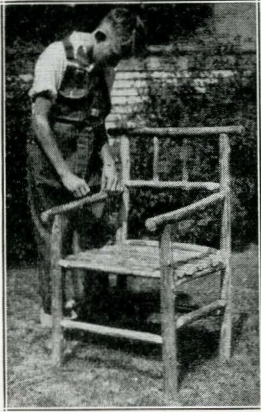


Fig. 4.—Willow furniture is not difficult to make.

The design. A slow but easy way to obtain a supply of curved rods is to bend branches and twigs, tie them securely and allow them to grow permanently curved. The straight chair shown in Fig. 4 was designed and made by a fourteen-year old South Dakota boy.

Rods used for furniture are frequently left unpeeled. Peeling is necessary for finer work such as basketry. Sap peeling is preferable because it leaves the rods satiny white. The rods should be cut when the leaf buds begin to appear. They should be stored immediately and left until the leaves begin to come out, then they are stood in a pit containing shallow running water until they are to be peeled. A stripper such as shown in Fig. 5 is attached to a solid foundation at a convenient height. It is made from a four foot iron rod which is about one-half inch in diameter and bent as shown. The willow rod is grasped by the large end and pulled through the stripper, then reversed and the other end pulled through. The bark comes off with little difficulty. The rods are allowed to dry on a rack for a few days then sorted according to size and stored in a dry place.

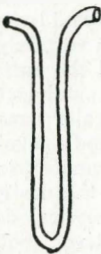


Fig. 5.—Willow rod stripper.

Willowcraft

Willowcraft is a very interesting and useful hobby. Many useful things ranging from porch and lawn furniture to all sorts of baskets, and other woven articles may be made from native willow. Rods and whips may be obtained from trees already growing. Young willows may be cut back leaving a short stump which will yield a crop of rods each year. If a larger supply is needed, a willow hold may be set out from cuttings. Farmer's Bulletin 622 from the United States Department of Agriculture, gives very complete information about willow culture.

Lawn and porch furniture require large rods. Curves and knots often add interest to

Basketry

Baskets may be made from the native willow rods or from other commercial materials such as reed, raffia, and fiber rope. The process of weaving each is very similar. The weaves illustrated in Fig. 7 may be used with any type of weaving material.

If willow rods are used they must be soaked in water until pliable and wrapped in a damp cloth. Cut the spokes for the base about 2 inches longer than the desired diameter. Make a slit through the center of three of the spokes using an awl as shown in Fig. 6 (A). Push the other three spokes through the slit (B). (A more simple, but less desirable method is to place

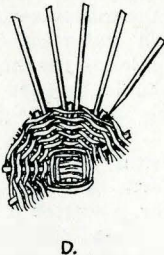
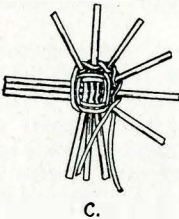
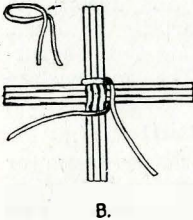
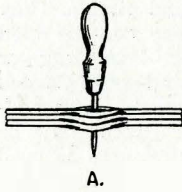


Fig. 6.—Details of starting basket.
Courtesy—"Capper's Farmer."

the three over top of the other three and tie in place.) Begin weaving by bending and doubling a weaver at the middle and looping it over the upper group spokes (C). Weave the ends over and under each group of spokes until three rounds have been made, then separate the spokes and continue weaving until the base is the desired size. To lengthen weavers, start or stop a rod behind a spoke or stake. Taper the ends so that the splicing will not be bulky. Keep the spokes spaced evenly while working. The base should be slightly concave so that the finished basket will stand firmly. Cut the projecting ends of the spokes off square.

For the sides, select twice as many rods as there are spoke ends in the base. If willow is used, taper the large end of each. Insert the tapered end of the rods into the weaving on each side of every base spoke. Push the rods well up toward the center. Space the rods evenly (D). Bend the rods or stakes upward sharply for the sides of the basket. They may be tied together near the top during the first courses of side weaving. Make a three rod coil around the base, untie the stakes. The weaving from this point may be any type desired. An uneven number of stakes is often used for the simple weaves. An extra stake is inserted with the others in the base. The need for the extra stake may be overcome by starting a new course each time around. The new weaver should be placed an odd number of stakes to the left of the previous starting stake. Keep the tension uniform for each course. The shape of the sides may be altered by drawing the stakes in or out as the weaving progresses.

The top may be finished in various ways, Fig. 7. The following is simple and satisfactory. Wet the stakes so they will bend sharply. Assuming that the stakes are being numbered toward the right, select any stake as No. 1. Bend it down behind 2 and out between 2 and 3. Bend 2 down behind 3 and out between 3 and 4. Bend 3 down behind 4 and out between 4 and 5. Then bring 1 forward in front of 3 and 4, back of 5 and out between 5 and 6. Bend 4 down behind 5, and out between 5 and 6. Finish stake No. 2 the same as stake No. 1. Continue around the top in this manner. Remember that the longer weaver of the two is the one to be continued

each time. When the top has been completed, trim the remaining ends close to the basket with a slanting cut.

Woolcraft

Woolcraft is a hobby which interests the entire family. Father and the boys contribute their share in the project by shearing or skinning the sheep, tanning and curing the pelt and by helping to card the fleece. When the pelts are properly processed they become very soft and pliable. They make nice caps and mittens or lining for coats. The fleece may be dyed and the pelts made into lovely rugs or used for coat collars and cuffs. Carded fleece makes the cheapest warm bedding obtainable. The fleece may be dyed and made into roving to be used as filler for hooked rugs. The carded fleece may be home spun and crocheted or knit into attractive warm clothing. Direction for curing and dyeing the skins, washing and carding the fleece, and making the roving will be furnished upon request. The processes are all simple and involve little expense.

Cement Craft

Lawn furniture, flower boxes or pots, tiles, bricks, walks and other interesting things for the home may be made from cement. Old pans and boxes may be used as forms or special forms may be constructed.

Fine sand, cement, coloring materials and water are the ingredients used. The mixture varies from 1 part of cement to 2, 2½, 3 or 5 parts of sand. Addition of gravel strengthens the concrete. The dry mix process is used for things which are tamped or modeled, into shape. The dry ingredients are mixed thoroughly and enough water added to make the mass like wet sand. Avoid too much water; if too wet, the mixture will stick to the mold. The concrete mass should be used at once as the hardening process begins immediately.

For finer ornamental work which can be left in the form or mold for twelve hours or longer, a wetter mixture is preferred. For general use after thorough mixing the concrete should

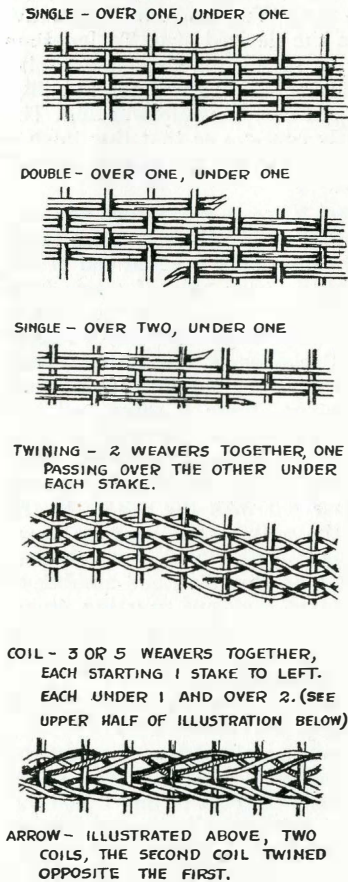


Fig. 7.—Basketry weaves.
Courtesy "Capper's Farmer."

be wet enough to form a thick pasty jelly-like mass. It should be too thick to flow easily. All surfaces of the form to come in contact with the cement must be painted with asphaltum varnish. Before each pouring of cement,

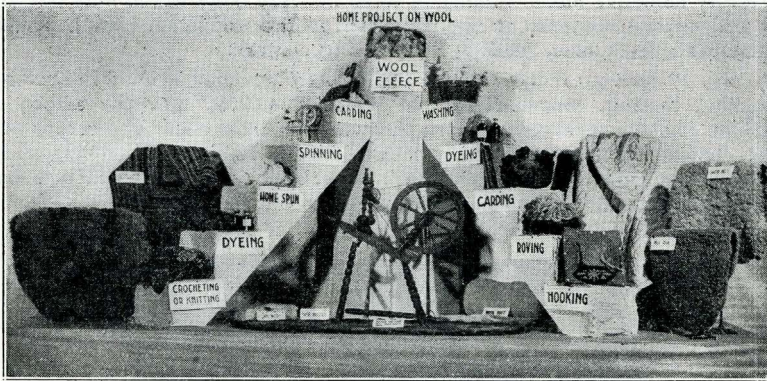


Fig. 8.—From Brown County booth at State Fair.

the form must be cleaned and a coating of ordinary axle grease or liquid soap applied to the inside.

Concrete is reinforced by placing short lengths of wire at various angles in the form while it is being filled. Care must be taken that the wires do not extend to the surface. When gravel is used in the concrete a flexible piece of metal or a trowel is run around between the form and the concrete to force the pebbles back producing a smooth surface. This process is called "spading." The concrete is leveled with a sharp straight-edge of wood passed across it. A metal trowel should be used sparingly as it has a tendency to draw the cement to the surface, which may cause the surface to crack. The form may be removed at once or after a short period of time when the dry process concrete is used but the wet process cement should harden at least 12 hours before removing the form.



Fig. 9.—Flower pot made from cement.
Courtesy—"Home Craftsman."

The process of hardening the concrete articles is called "curing." When the article has hardened sufficiently that it retains its shape and can be handled without marring the surface, it is dipped in water a few minutes each day for three or four days. The chemical action of the water will make the concrete hard like stone. The article should be wrapped in wet burlap and not allowed to dry out during the curing process.

Interest Centers in the Home

Each member of the family should have a center for his particular hobby, a handy place to store the materials and a convenient place to use them at times undisturbed by others. If the family is large this is a problem which challenges its best thinking and cooperation. The home which

is really homelike has a number of fixed interest units which may be used by the various members at any time such as the woodcraft center already illustrated, the music, reading and resting centers.

Fig. 10 shows a center which lends itself to a number of interests—reading, resting, conversation and “coffee” or “tea” for the afternoon callers. It also serves as an extra bed when one is needed. The center section consists of a braced frame made of strong lumber and supported by braced legs made of 2"x4" material. A vertical coil spring mattress and pad, 3 pillows and figured denim cover complete the section.

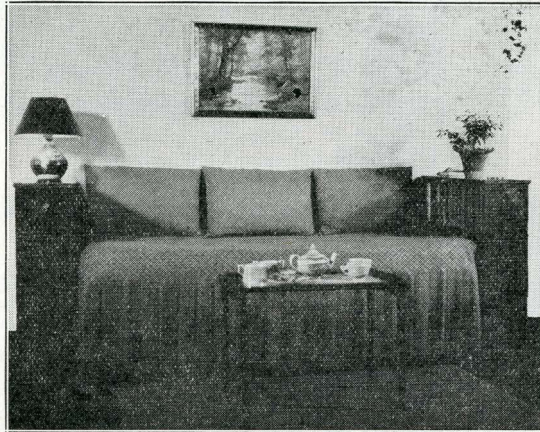


Fig. 10.—A diversified interest center.

At each end of this section is a case, the top of which serves as an end table. The ends of the cases are finished alike so that the cases may be reversed if the unit should be moved to an opposite wall. There is a one-shelf compartment for books on the side next to the couch. On the other side, Fig. 11, there is a two-shelf compartment which may used for books or hobby materials. Curtains or doors may be added to these compartments if desired.

The coffee table is 21 inches high. It is made from an old tray. It might have been made from an old picture frame. The legs fold so that it may be stored easily or used as a tray when serving a large group.

Sharing the Home With Friends

Another need of the individual is a place to take one's friends and know that they are welcome. One wants friends to share things which give personal pleasure such as hobbies, possessions, the family itself and the home. This calls for perhaps the highest type of cooperation and planning if the family life is to remain balanced and personal rights respected, but the richness in living which it gives compensates for any personal sacrifice made and for all personal effort expended.

A home which holds the interest of family members will be found interesting to their friends, but certain provisions in the home program and certain features of equipment require special attention and careful planning if others are made to feel at home. The occasional guest or the neighborhood gang does not upset family life or necessitate a lot of extra work in the well organized home.

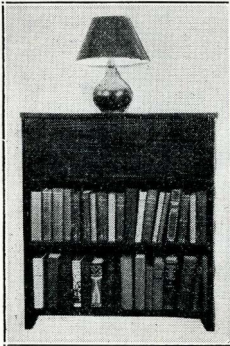


Fig. 11.—End case—View of outer side.

The family which lives fully spends much time together out-of-doors. Its members share interest in beautifying and equipping the yard so that it too is an interesting place in which to live and share with friends. Such a yard does much to build personal and family pride. The material value of the farm is raised and the family itself is held in higher esteem by the neighborhood.

The back yard offers many possibilities for happy living. The bird house, dog kennel and children's play equipment are essential but they need not monopolize it or mar its beauty. One shaded corner removed from the children's play center should be reserved for an out-of-doors fire place (made from old bricks, stones, cement and a few iron rods for grating) a bench, a table, several stools or lean-to-chairs. Such a center invites one to bring work or hobby and sit near by while the children play. Picnic meals are simply managed with such a convenient center at hand. In the evening it becomes the congregating place for the family and their friends. The evening fire, songs and stories of personal adventure have a power which hold and bind families and communities together.

Extension Service

South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts Brookings, South Dakota

Published and distributed under Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914, by the Agricultural Extension Service of South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Brookings, A. M. Eberle, director, U. S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.