## How to Focus Creative Mix



By Sarah Child

I have enrolled in another interior decorating course at the YWCA and yesterday I came home with a list of "Secrets that Go into Making a Successful Room."

Always eager to put into practice the advice of our teacher, a charming lady and a most reputable interior designer herself, I immediately came home and inspected our living room.

Number one rule (I had written in my notebook) was that a successful room always exuded a sense of warmth. It should appear roomy and it should say "welcome" to all those who enter it.

On this score, I am satisfied. What our room lacks in spaciousness, it obviously makes up in its "make yourself at home"

This room makes people feel so welcome that they come in and take off their shoes. And, in the case of the kids, they even shed their other clothes, as testified by the striped T-shirt you may find balled up behind the sofa cushions, or the socks tucked decoratively on the third row of the book shelves.

The second rule deals with impressive focal points. Every room needs one. It can be a fireplace or an unusual picture wall or an interesting window or an etagere cabinet or well you get the idea.

As I stood there gazing around the room, I had a difficult time deciding just what was our most impressive focal point.

In terms of sheer whimsy alone, I decided it had to be the yellow laundry basket. It was still behind the brown chair where I had been folding the baby's diapers before I went to

My husband probably would have chosen the hassock where rested Sunday's New York Times which one can't reasonably throw away until it's all

been read; tear sheets from other papers containing stories one or both of us wanted to save and file, plus between the 10 to 15 Dr. Seuss books the kids pull out every night in hopes that the greater the number of volumes brought out, the greater the number that will be read to them.

On the other hand, maybe our most impressive focal point is neither the yellow laundry basket nor the hassock. Maybe it is the book shelves which hold (besides the customary books, ivy and decorative articles) one camera, one film in need of developing, three Beechnut baby food labels, one halfdone crossword puzzle, one slightly used Easter basket and two baby rattles.

I cannot make up my mind and go onto the next rule, It says that an absolute decorator touch can be achieved by repeating a pattern.

This one I don't even have to give a second thought. The same fingerprints — small and grimy appear throughout: on the door, on the walls, on the television screen and on the windows. The pattern has not just been repeated. It is redundant to the point of inanity.

And finally there is the rule for the "creative mix."

It says that contrast is exciting. New furniture should be mixed with old, modern with antique, formal with informal.

I had not realized just how "with it" our living room was. Ancient copies of McCall's dwell cozily with the most recent Time Magazines, homemade gouges contrast excitingly the professionad distressing of the rocker's wooden arms and one table lamp projects formally and upright into the air while its companion tips drunkenly out of kilter.

Ahhhh, the joy of it all. I don't believe this course is for me after all.

# COURIER / RECIPES

Penny-wise cooking for a family is a challenge; you must not only meet the budget but please family tastes as well. Here is the dish to do both; a generous and hearty beef and macaroni casserole that combines favorite food deliciously, attractively and inexpensively.

In Beefy Macaroni Casserole, two 12 ounce cans of roast beef with gravy, bolstered by the addition of cottage cheese, provide eight hefty protein servings at pennies a serving. The dish is fine eating, too, being flavored with parsley, Worchestershire and thyme, while bright green peas and tender mushrooms add additional color and flavor interest. A garnish of tomato wedges and bread crumbs adds vitamins and color.

#### BEEJFY MACARONI CASSEROLE

- 1 package (7 oz.) elbow macaroni
- 1 cup creamed cottage cheese 2 cans (12 oz. each) roast beef with gravy
- 1 package (10 oz.) frozen peas, cooked
- 1 can (4 oz.) sliced mushrooms, drained
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley 2 teaspoons Worcestershire
- sauce ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- ½ teaspoon salt 3 tomatoes, peeled and sliced
- ½ cup buttered bread crumbs COURIER/2

Cook macaroni according to package directions; drain. Press cottage cheese through food mill or strainer or beat until smooth. Combine roast beef with gravy, cooked peas, mushrooms, cottage cheese, parsley, Worcestershire sauce, thyme and salt. Fold in macaroni. Turn into a shallow 2-quart baking dish. Top with tomato slices. Sprinkle with bread crumbs. Bake in a 350 degree oven about 25 minutes or until hot.

Makes 8 servings.

Partially thawed frozen raspberries with luscious golden canned cling peach halves and a few fresh grapefruit sections make a beautiful fruit bowl.

Make a fruited ice wreath for a party punch bowl using colorful canned fruit cocktail. Arrange a few springs of mint in the bottom of a ring mold and top with 1½ cups canned fruit cocktail. Freeze solid; fill remainder of mold with water or lemonade and freeze, Unmold and float in punch bowl.

## Secretaries Set 'Week' Events

Flower City Chapter of the National Secretaries Association will honor Isabella Schuetz as its "secretary of the year" at a brunch Sunday, April 19, at Oak Hill Country Club.

On Wednesday, April 22, at a

#### WOMEN COURIER /

banquet at Logans, the chapter will present two scholarships to second-year students at RIT and Monroe Community College.

Mrs. William Lamb and Miss Eleanor Slack are cochairmen of arrangements for the National Secretaries Week obser-

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