How Long Has It Been Since You 'Stayed Over'?

BY VERA MILLER

AROUND THE corner from every residential area today is a motel, auto-hotel or fashionable lodge for the traveler. And so, if Tante Bella or Nana calls that she's coming in from St. Paul...quick...call and make a reservation...because she'll have her comfort, but the meals she can eat with you. After all, where is she going to eat?!

In the family room is the television, in the 'red' room is the ping pong table and record player; the typewriter is in the study and the corner pot above is not good enough, even though you still haven't finished paying for the'sloanes' to make it possible in the winter.

REMEMBER when someone 'stayed over' Cousins stayed over because it was too cold to go home. Uncle stayed over if it was closer to the Shul for the holidays. Sisters stayed over between the sisters and Tante's stayed over because they weren't expected back in their home state until August.

When the children stayed over it was the grandest, mostest staying over there could be. Two and sometimes three little ones sometimes in the same overstuffed bed and covered with the oversized down comforter.

YOUNG ADULTS FAVORITED WHEN SOMEONE in the family went to the hospital to have a baby, the families were usually sent back to stay over. Young adults, generally privileged by the age, had the privacy of the icy-cold, or sweltering, enclosed back porch for their private domain.

And in every dining room... the day-bed! The day-bed! The day-bed! The flowered crotene cover. It wasn't exactly a day-bed either; it was more like one of the family. No one ever gave away a day-bed to a rummage sale and no matter how many times the dining room paper was changed, the day-bed with the crotene cover remained the same.

NO DOUBT the slendering studio of today patterned many of the exercises after the simple activity of opening the day-bed. To get it open, you laboriously took off the covers, taking care not to tear the fabric. In the metal corner, squatted, stopped, pushed and pulled.

This adventure was usually rewarded by finding such treasures as the old scooter cap Pa had been looking for. Delia's report card and last month's 'electrical bill. Besides in every home when anything was missed or was the most likely place for it to be found... behind the day-bed, of course.

IF MORE than one relative was to share this home away from home and you had to open the day-bed,