

WAY
BACK
WHEN



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' Nachama 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 sleep?

In the family room is the television, in the 'rec' room is the ping pong table and record player; the typewriter is in the study and the enclosed patio is not good enough, even though you still haven't finished paying for the jalousies to make it livable in the winter.

REMEMBER when someone 'stayed-over'? Cousins stayed over because it was too cold to go home, Uncles stayed over because it was closer to the Shul for the holidays, sisters stayed over to help with the children 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, noisiest staying over there could be. Two and sometimes three little ones were bunched in the same oversized bed and covered with the oversized down comforter.

YOUNG ADULTS FAYORED

WHEN SOMEONE in the family went to the hospital to have a baby, the families were usually sent intact to 'stay over'. Young adults, generally privileged by their 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 with the flowered cretonne 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 cretonne cover remained the same.

NO DOUBT the slenderizing 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 cover, taking care not to tear the fabric on the metal corner, squatted, stooped, pushed and pulled.

This adventure was usually rewarded by finding such treasures as the old woolen cap Pa had been looking for, Delly's report card and last month's electric bill. Besides in every home when anything was missed where 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,

so what if it meant rearranging the room? Moving the lamp to another table, ("Yudele waves the arms so when he sleeps"), putting the end table in a bedroom, putting the damask upright chair in the front hall and taking the gold fish into the kitchen . . . anything for the 'gast'.

Ma and Pa, the kids and the boarder all made room for whoever was staying over.

AND IT REALLY isn't so bad having someone stay over. Besides, if the teen-agers want to take the car for the evening . . . let 'em. If the 'gast' stays-over you won't need the car anyway to pick them up and bring them.

Do you remember when Tante' Bella came to your house. Wasn't it she who listened patiently to your problems or presented your side of the story to Ma and Pa, who usually then agreed to your thinking? Besides when a 'gast' left, you can bet your bottom dollar your income that week was on the plus side . . . You never did tell Ma and Pa or the rest of the kids that, did you?

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