

A Concise Story of the Nature and the Value of

"Pecky" Cypress

as a

Decorative and Utility Wood

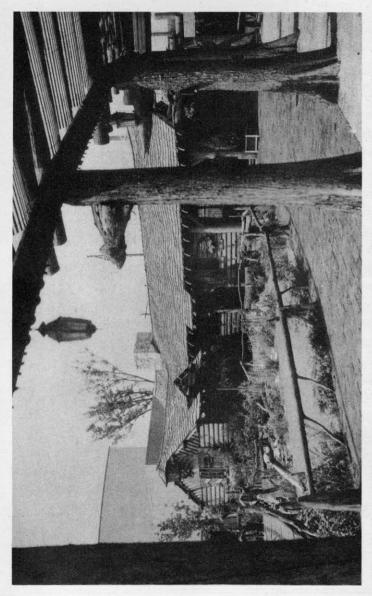


Also contains craftsmen's working drawings for making eleven original and distinctive furniture pieces.

Compliments of

SOUTHERN CYPRESS MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

Jacksonville, Florida



Mr. Murray D. Hetherington sociation, Jacksonville, Florida The Cypress Exhibit Cabin at A Century of Progress Exposition, Chicago, 1933-1934. ago. Free Architectural Plans upon request to the Southern Cypress Manufacturers As

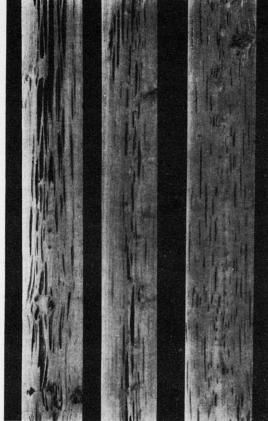
"Pecky" Cypress What It Is

So Many people have asked what is meant by the term "Pecky Cypress," that we are issuing this little booklet in the belief that the information given, regarding the practical and artistic uses of this grade of "the wood eternal," will prove both interesting and valuable.

"Pecky" Cypress is not a different species from the wood commercially known as "Tidewater Red Cypress," but is the name applied to the wood cut from Cypress trees which have been infected with a fungus commonly called pecky, peggy, or botty. This fungus enters the living trees through broken branches and tops and follows down through the heartwood of the branches into the heartwood of the main trunk of the tree, which it honey-combs in varying degrees. leaving pockets in the wood from a quarter of an inch to an inch in diameter and often several inches long. These pockets are filled with a brown powder, a deposit from the fungus, anticeptic in action and which in time apparently arrests the further progress of the fungus itself. Another peculiarity of this fungus is that it stops working as soon as the tree is felled and never again attacks wood sawn from these infected trees. Not to exceed ten per cent of Cypress is "Pecky."

Durability

This "peckiness" of the living tree is not entirely injurious as it acts as a further preservative upon the sound wood which remains—vaccinates it as it were. It is a popular saying in the Southland that "pecky cypress never rots" and



"PECKY"
FOR
FINISH

To get the desired effect, "Pecky for Finish" should be selected as to type. The three boards illustrated are a fair representation of the individual types obtainable in "Pecky."

Figure 1—Shows coarse, or "heavy," Peck.

Figure 2--Illustrates Marginal Peck (sound edges).

Figure 3—Depicts Fine Peck.

practical experience has demonstrated that it will last as long as Cypress heartwood which has been unaffected. Instances where "Pecky" Cypress has shown its resistance to decay influences are so numerous that they will be met with on every hand throughout the Southern states. Tests made upon "Pecky" Cypress over a period covering fifteen years, even where exposed to conditions conducive to decay in

ordinary lumber, have failed to bring to light any evidence of decay in the "Pecky" Cypress timbers and boards under observation. A "Pecky" board which had served in a fence on a Louisiana sugar plantation for some forty years, or more, was found, upon planing off the weathered surface, to be as bright and the wood as sound as the day it was first cut from the Cypress tree. This presents a unique condition, wherein wood which looks decayed at first glance can be most successfully used for purposes usually conducive of decay in nearly all other woods. "Pecky," and all other heartwood grades of Cypress, is especially valuable for uses where the wood is alternately wet and dry, and can be counted upon to render life-long economical service under all climatic conditions.





This charming little radio cabinet, by Phileo, was built especially for the Cypress Exhibit at A Century of Progress. It shows a new use in the adaptability of "Pecky" Cypress for cabinet work to secure antique effects.

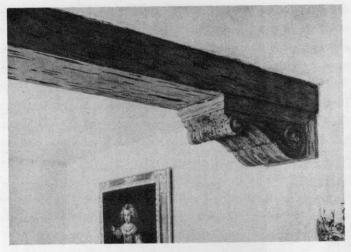
Uses

A T ONE time the uses of "Pecky" Cypress were limited, being largely confined to planking, railroad cross-ties, fencing, foundation timbers and such other structural and industrial purposes where its proven resistance to decay were the primary considerations. Today there is no other type of



Here is "Pecky" in its element. It offers long-life under conditions which would induce rapid decay in a less rot-resistant wood. Wherever moisture is present, there you should place your faith in "Pecky" and the other all-heart grades of "Tidewater" Red Cypress. The log siding gives a rustic appearance to this boat-house which is in harmony with the surroundings.

wood having more diversified uses than "Pecky" Cypress. It is equally attractive for use in the most costly mansions, churches, the lowly shack on the river bank or the summer cabin in the mountains or on the lake shore, and for reproductions of ancient buildings where antique effects are desired.



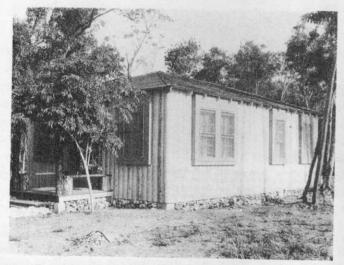
A splendid example of a carved ceiling beam in "Pecky" Cypress, illustrating the many ways in which this centuries-old wood can be applied to achieve beautiful interiors.

Strength

THE only way in which "Pecky" Cypress differs from ■ other heartwood grades of "Tidewater" Red Cypress, aside from appearance, is in its strength and yet it is really surprising how strong "Pecky" Cypress is. Tests were made several years ago on the crushing strength endwise of sound and "pecky" cypress. The sound specimens showed an average breaking load at a pressure of 7,000 pounds per square inch. A "Pecky" block, three inches square with fourteen holes visible on the surface, withstood a breaking load of 5,200 pounds and three other extremely "pecky" pieces ranged from 3,300 to 5,100 pounds per square inch respectively. While these tests revealed that "Pecky" Cypress varies in strength according to how many, and how close together, the holes or pockets may be in a given piece, they likewise show that "Pecky" is strong enough to withstand many strains where its other qualities fit it for practical use.

Home Building—Exterior

One of the most popular uses for "Pecky" Cypress today is in the manufacture of Log Cabin Siding to secure rustic effects. This Log Cabin Siding is usually made from 2x6 inch, 2x8 inch and 2x10 inch material, rounded on one side and with a lap for weather-tight construction. This siding gives the appearance of the old time log cabin built of round logs, but is more attractive, economical to erect and more satisfactory in every respect. The "pecky" pockets in this siding contribute to the rustic appearance of the mountain-side, lakeshore or woodland cabin erected with it, an effect that is not obtainable in any other wood. Our exhibit cabin at A Century of Progress Exposition is an excellent example of this type of cabin construction.



This placing of "Peeky" Log Cabin Siding vertically on this cottage, is one of the many adaptations to which this versatile log-siding lends itself for artistic effects. And, of course, "when you build with Cypress you build but once"—no after repair bills to plague you.



This exquisitely carved door, and paneled walls, reveal the wide range of treatments to which "Peeky" for interior woodwork is adapted. In this well designed room the architect, Mr. William G. Massarine, has achieved charm and an appearance of venerable age.

For Beautiful Interiors

THERE is no end to the number of effects and designs which can be worked out using "Pecky" Cypress for interior panelling and decorative woodwork. It is most suit-

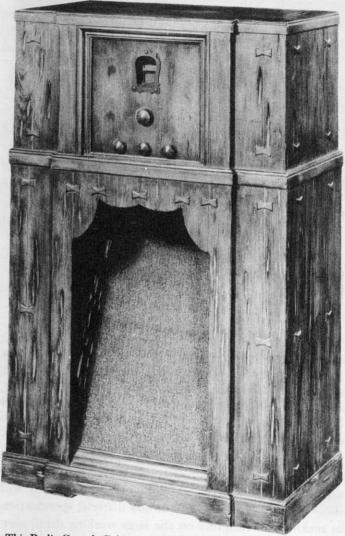
able for half-timber work, panelling, beams and other interior woodwork where an aged or antique effect is desired. The natural irregularities, or pockets, in the wood present an artistic effect of a unique character. Architects and builders especially are invited to familiarize themselves with the possibilities inherent in "Pecky" Cypress to secure unusual interiors.



In this ceiling of "Pecky" Cypress, the architect has created a very unusual and pleasing effect. In this case, boards of random lengths and very "heavy peck" type were employed.

Distinctive Furniture and Fixtures

"Pecky" Cypress is also becoming popular for the manufacture of artistic and unusual furniture and built-in fixtures. It is especially suited for use in the construction of furniture of simple design having large flat wood surfaces—benches, chairs, tables, desks, coffee tables, chests, beds, etc.—where the effect of the "peckiness" and the distinctive Cypress grain, under natural and transparent wood stain



This Radio Console Cabinet of "Pecky" Cypress, by Philco, fittingly combines the most ancient of American woods with one of the most modern of inventions—truly illustrative of "Centuries of Progress," and throughout which period "the wood eternal" has served the utilitarian and artistic requirements of a constantly advancing civilization.



The bar in the Victor Vienna Cafe, at A Century of Progress, Chicago, shows an interesting and rapidly increasing use of "Pecky" Cypress, combining beauty with enduring utility.

finishes, contrive to produce intriguing antique effects. "Pecky" is likewise becoming a favorite wood for tavern furniture and fixtures. It is particularly adapted for camp, porch and garden furniture as its great resistance to the elements assures durability and its rustic appearance fits in naturally in such surroundings.

In the following pages we illustrate a number of the more popular designs in "Pecky" Cypress furniture, all of which can be easily made at home by anyone who is handy with tools. You will find instructions and material specifications for making this furniture on the large working detail sheet in the back of this book. Manual training instructors will find in "Pecky" Cypress a wood that will intrigue their students' interest and stimulate their ingenuity and natural artistic ability.

Garden Fences, Walks, Driveways and Terraces

DURABILITY and rustic appearance account for the increasingly large use of "Pecky" Cypress for artistic fences, gates, etc. In recent years, paving blocks of "Pecky" Cypress have been successfully and attractively used for terraces, driveways, and garden walks. These blocks are usually cut from 3x4 inch, 3x6 inch and 4x6 inch material. They are laid ends up and are placed from half an inch to an inch apart, soil being securely packed about each block. In a short time soil will also work into the "pecky" pockets,

An artistic
"Pecky" Cypress
gate, Miami
Beach, Florida.
The "peck" marks
and special finish
give to the wood
an antique appear-



or holes, in the wood itself, thereby making possible a growth of grass not only between the individual blocks but also on the surface of the walk, terrace, or driveway, giving the whole a most unusual but attractive appearance. For use in driveways, these blocks should be four to six inches in thickness, depending upon whether supporting foundation is wood, concrete or cinders. For terraces and walks a depth of three inches will suffice, the blocks ordinarily being laid directly on the earth or over sand to secure drainage. In this use the greater the honey-comb, or "peckiness," of the blocks the more attractive will be the final result.



There is resiliency and charm to Garden Walks and Driveways made of "Pecky" paving blocks laid-on-end to be attained in no other wood. You will observe that the grass grows not only between the blocks but in the honey-comb of the wood as well.

Greenhouses and Cold Frames

PECKY" Cypress has been extensively and most satisfactorily used for many years in greenhouse construction. It has an enviable record for service in its use for benches, partitions, flower and large plant boxes. It is particularly adapted for the side walls of cold frames, where it is constantly in contact with the moist soil and compost. Such frames constructed of "Pecky" Cypress and fitted with sound Cypress heartwood sash, will never require any repairs.

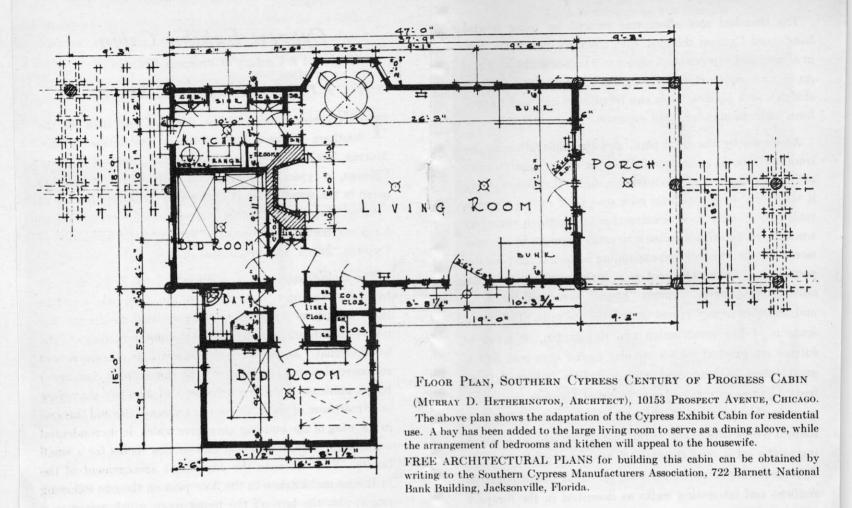
at A Century of Progress, Chicago

Proves Rustic Charm

The Cypress Exhibit Cabin, designed and built for the Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association by Mr. Murray Hetherington, Architect, 10153 Prospect Avenue Chicago, is typical of a mountain lodge or rustic vacation cabin in the woodlands. It exemplifies an interesting use of "Pecky" Cypress Log Siding in combination with actual logs for posts, corners and brackets; with a liberal utilization of Cypress "knees" for ornamental effects.

The main feature of the cabin is its large living room, 18 by 27 feet and open 13 feet high to the ridge pole, which in this Century of Progress building is used to display the numerous exhibits proving the everlasting durability of "the wood eternal," as well as to demonstrate its decorative and commercial uses. The inner wall of this room is dominated by an immense limestone fireplace and chimney conveying an atmosphere of cheerfulness and coziness. Beyond this and in the wing of the building are spaces which, in its residential adaptation, provide sleeping and service rooms for a small family. You will note the convenient arrangement of the bedrooms and kitchen in the floor plan on the two following pages; also the bay off the living room which serves as a dining alcove.

The "Pecky" log cabin siding used for the exterior of this exhibit building was made with a one inch chink and 5% inch overlap. It was milled wet and with dull knives to secure a roughened surface, given a finishing coat of thick gloss oil and scratched down with a wire bristle brush to give the



gray appearance of age and the "pecky" pockets highlighted with white outside paint to further accentuate this effect. To duplicate this exactly it will be necessary to order this "Pecky" Log Siding specially manufactured to conform with the milling process described above inasmuch as in ordinary manufacture this siding is run with a smooth surface finish.

We would, however, recommend that you permit the wood to weather naturally to a beautiful silver gray rather than employ the artificial method to which we were put to impart such an effect within an exceedingly brief space of time—let Mother Nature do the work and it will save you money and effort.

The thatched roof effect was secured by using special hand-rived Cypress shingles, with thick ½ inch butts, laid in a varigated exposure of 3 inches to 9 inches to the weather. As an alternative, if desired, regular machine-rived Cypress shingles with ½ inch butts can be utilized and laid to conform with the standard roof exposure.

As shown by the floor plan, and the illustration in the front of the book, a characterful pergola, constructed entirely of Cypress logs, leads up to this cabin and in the lawn fronting it there is a delightful little rock pool built over a Cypress tank (particularly good construction in Northern climes as winter freezing will not cause it to crack as might be the case were concrete or other non-expanding materials used for the pool base). Over this pool is a little rustic foot bridge entirely of Cypress. Cypress "knees" were used for posts and branches from Cypress trees form the rails. The rustic fence is of like construction and the garden, or lawn, is further embellished with a circular roofed over seat and a great totem pole adorned with gargoyles fashioned from freak Cypress growths. Large inverted Cypress tree butts provide this Century of Progress Cabin with the largest natural flower pots in the world. The paths and walks leading to the cabin, and the terrace, are paved with "Pecky" Cypress paving blocks laid on end, providing one of the most resilient and interesting walks as described in the forepart of this booklet. While all of the material used in the construction and embellishment of this Cypress Exhibit is not regularly carried in stock by lumber yards your dealer can order all these items from any Association mill. Our Jacksonville office will gladly assist you if you encounter any difficulty in securing any of the material desired.

COZY FIREPLACE FEATURES THE CYPRESS CENTURY OF PROGRESS CABIN



In the cool of the evening can you imagine greater joy than to occupy this easy chair before a blazing wood-fire in the huge stone fireplace which graces the inner end of the large living room in this Cypress Cabin. All the furniture shown is of "Pecky" Cypress, as are the exposed roof boards and rafters, according perfect harmony with the ruggedness of the great stone chimney.

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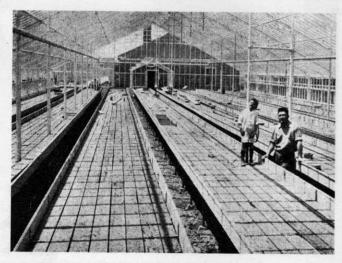
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"Pecky" On The Farm

"Pecky" Cypress is right at home on the farm where it has had an illustrous service career since the very beginning of American civilization. First employed only for purposes where resistance to decay was the primary requisite—in contact with soil as for foundation timbers, for fence posts and fence rails, barn and shed lumber, and in all of which uses it gives long and economical service by averting repair bills—it is today being used to secure artistic effects in the farm home, as well as in urban residences.

"Pecky" Cypress paving blocks are now being recommended for flooring in barns and especially in dairy barns. Here it gives a resiliency not to be found in floors of solid concrete and other hard materials. Properly laid, such a "Pecky" wood block floor will last indefinitely because of the high anticeptic content of the wood.



TYPICAL "PECKY" CYPRESS GREENHOUSE BENCHES

More "Tidewater" Red Cypress is used in the construction of greenhouses than of any other
wood. Here it is supreme because of its high resistance to rot influences induced by the
warm humidity.

Just a Word About Industrial Uses

INDUSTRIALLY, "Pecky" Cypress is admirably suited for a multitude of exacting requirements. It is extensively employed for the construction of large commercial mushroom houses and for which purpose no other wood will give equal service.

The railroads of the South use vast quantities of it for railroad ties, right of way fencing, etc. Highway engineers use it for bridge planking and culverts. It is used in large quantities for river and harbor docks, for sewer and irrigation boxes, and, in Southern cities, for sidewalks, curbing, platforms and the like.

In the fabricating industries, "Pecky" Cypress is utilized wherever an easily worked, non-decaying wood is required. It is commencing to find favor for making unusual furniture in antique effects as illustrated elsewhere in this book.

Those interested in more technical details can secure such complete data by addressing the Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association, Barnett National Bank Building, Jacksonville, Florida.



Very economical construction was attained here by the use of "Pecky" Log Cabin Siding, leaving the flat side of the siding exposed, procuring an interior of simple rustic charm. It is particularly appropriate for cottages that are only occupied but a few months of the year. See pages 22 to 24 for recommended finishes.

Methods For Preparing And Finishing "Pecky" Cypress

Exterior Finishes

Note: It is not necessary to paint or finish "Pecky" Cypress as it will weather naturally to a beautiful silver gray, but for those who desire to do so we list below the accepted finishes for this wood.

"Pecky" Log Cabin Siding: Clean thoroughly with a wire brush to remove all of the loose powder from the "pecky" pockets. Then apply one coat of thick gloss oil to the entire surface. When dry, scratch the surface down with a fine wire bristle brush to give the gray appearance of age, an effect which can be further accentuated by filling the "pecky" pockets with outside white paint.

For exterior use under eaves (or for beamed ceiling), paint Cypress with one or two coats of whitewash colored as desired. The second coat may be slightly different in color.

Paint Cypress with lead and oil paint, a light bluish-green. Wipe surface, adding white in spots to give a slight variation in the color.

Interior Finishes

"Pecky" Cypress Ceiling—Rough Boards: (planed on one side and shiplapped exposing rough side of board to room). Clean thoroughly with a wire brush to remove all loose powder from the "pecky" pockets. Use two colors—an orange and a green. Brush each color on separately and lightly with brushes which carry only a small amount of

color so as to give only a faint trace of color to the wood. Lastly fill the "pecky" pockets, or holes, with white paint.



This view shows how economically your "storage room," or attic, can be converted into a very attractive recreation room by the artistic employment of "Pecky" Cypress for all wood trim and fixtures.

"Pecky" Ceiling—Rough Boards: (installed as described above). Clean thoroughly with a wire brush to remove all dust and powder from the "pecky" pockets. Then paint the entire surface with one coat of thin flat white paint. When the paint is nearly dry, scrape the entire surface with an ordinary steel scraper. Fill in the "pecky" holes with three colors in pastel shades.

Driftwood Effect—Walls: Clean out the "pecky" pockets thoroughly with wire brush. Apply one coat of hydrated lime to the surface and then rub down with burlap. Then wax the surface. This gives an antique effect.

Natural Finish: Brush out the "pecky" pockets thoroughly. Apply two coats of clear dull lacquer. Or, apply one coat of linseed oil, one thin coat of shellac and one coat of wax, either liquid or paste and rub down.

Clean out "pecky" pockets thoroughly. Apply one coat of white shellac, followed by one coat of hydrated lime rubbed down. Then wax the surface. This gives a background of brown with the "pecky" pockets highlighted.

After brushing out the "pecky" pockets with a wire brush, sanding and cleaning the surface, apply very thin walnut asphaltum stain (thinned with gasoline). Before the stain has time to dry, go over surface with powdered pumice and water. This is best applied freely with cotton waste, rubbing vigorously to bring out highlights. Allow to dry thoroughly, then brush off the surplus pumice with a soft brush or cloth. Finish with prepared wax and polish when dry.

For an Antique Effect: Paint the woodwork, after brushing out the powder in the "pecky" pockets, with two thin coats of lead and oil paint in white or light color. Over this apply an oil stain, wiping off slightly. If a glossy finish is desired apply a coat of shellac and varnish.

After brushing out the "pecky" pockets, give wood a coat of yellow alabastine. When dry apply dark asphaltum stain. This gives a very old appearing finish, but is likely to chip off.

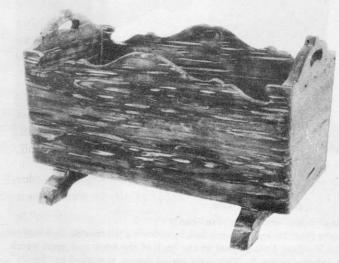
For Another Antique Effect: First clean out the powder in the "pecky" pockets. Then take one tablespoon of floor wax to a half-pint of rotten stone, dissolving the same in a sufficient quantity of gasoline so that it will paint freely over the surface. This permits the rotten stone in the solution to penetrate the checks and cracks, giving the surface a weathered effect which is very attractive in some cases. When dry wax the surface.

"Pecky" Furniture —You Can Easily Make

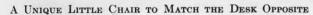
(Designs by Courtesy Florida-Louisiana Red Cypress Co., Jacksonville, Fla.)

"Pecky" Cypress possesses an individuality all its own that lends itself wonderfully to the creation of furniture of rare distinction. Below and on the three following pages are illustrated five of the many pieces that can be effectively fashioned in this wood, all of which can be easily made by anyone handy with tools from the explicit working details supplied on the large sheet in the back of this booklet. In working with "Pecky" Cypress always keep in mind that you are working with a wood of unlimited possibilities in craftsmanship. As is shown by the illustrations, here and elsewhere in the booklet, "Pecky" will reward you for all the ingenuity you can put into its fabrication, both in style

THE CRADLE WOOD BOX



Here is a piece which would grace any fireside. It is constructed of "Pecky" Grade Cypress and can easily be made by anyone handy with tools. It is No. 1 on the Working Detail Sheet in the back of the book.

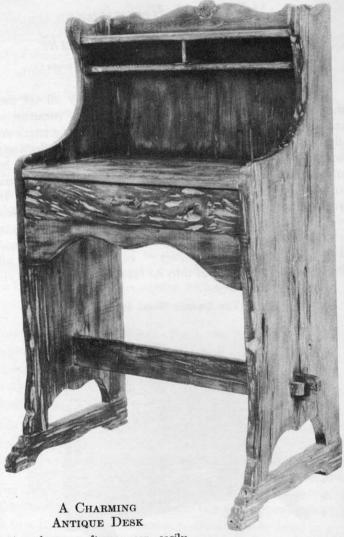




and life-long service. It will take all finishes but the physical character of the wood adapts it especially to antique effects as described on the large working detail sheet.

"Pecky" Cypress furniture is particularly appropriate for the den and for the complete furnishing of the rustic woodland cabin or a mountain lodge.

All of the material required for the construction of the pieces illustrated can be obtained from any lumber yard carrying a representative stock of "Tidewater" Red Cypress. Should you experience any difficulty in getting what you want, write the Association office and we will gladly assist you.

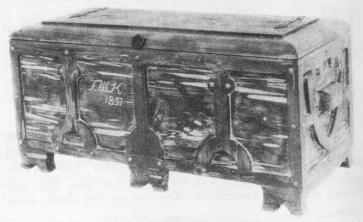


Any home craftsman can easily make this "Pecky" Cypress desk by following the concise drawings on the Working Detail Sheet in the back of the book and upon which it appears as No. 2. This early period design, if worked in "Pecky" and finished according to directions will have every appearance of a genuine antique.

MAGAZINE RACK AND READING TABLE (Designed in "Pecky" and is No. 4 on the Working Detail Sheet)



SPANISH CHEST (Designed in "Pecky" and is No. 5 on the Working Detail Sheet)

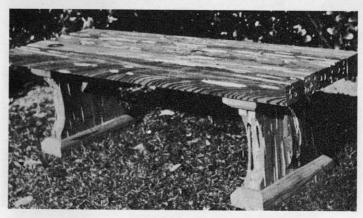


Modern In Design—Antique In Appearance

As has been mentioned in the forepart of this booklet, "Pecky" Cypress is admirably adapted for making unusual but none the less comfortable and serviceable garden, porch and lawn furniture. Its extreme resistance to decay influences when exposed to the weather assures life-long service in such use while its rustic appearance makes it fit in harmoniously with such surroundings.

Through the courtesy of the Brooks-Scanlon Corporation, Foley, Florida, we are able to present you with the working details (see large sheet in the back of this booklet) for making all the pieces shown at the bottom of this page and on the two following pages.

The garden bench shown in the illustration below is an exceptionally good example of "Pecky" furniture construction—simple in line and depending solely upon the physical appearance of the wood to give it character and appeal.



A "PECKY" CYPRESS GARDEN BENCH

Here is something out of the ordinary and distinctive in appearance, whether left to weather naturally to a beautiful silver gray or stained rustic brown. Easily made and is No. 11 on the Working Detail Sheet.

For the rocker, and the other pieces shown in the group ensemble, the customary specification is "clear-heart" grade, or No. 1 common "all-heart" grade, of "Tidewater" Red Cypress but for the many who prefer a more rustic appearance "Pecky" Cypress (also an "all-heart" grade) can be used with exceptionally attractive results. For anyone desiring lawn furniture of rare distinction, the pieces illustrated in this group can be recommended and they have the added advantage of being easy to make from the working

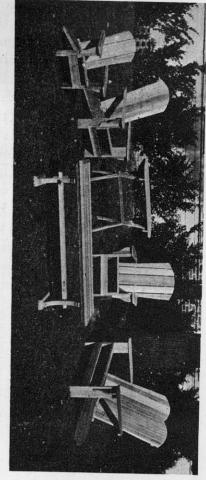
A UNIQUE ROCKING CHAIR FOR PORCH OR LAWN Can be made of either "Clear Heart" or "Pecky" grades of "Tidewater". Red Cypress. No. 6 on the Working Detail Sheet.

details shown on the large sheet in the back. latter will also be found instructions relative to the finishing of Cypress furniture any of which methods will produce excellent results but you can save time and money too by letting Cypress weather naturally to an exceedingly beautiful silver gray and safely too because whether painted or unpainted Cypress lasts and lasts and lasts.

Grade "Tidewater" Red Cypress, these pieces can also be attractively produced in "Pecky" arrangement with the Brooks-Scanlon Corporation of Foley, Florida, we are able to present Here is shown a group of unusual lawn furniture.

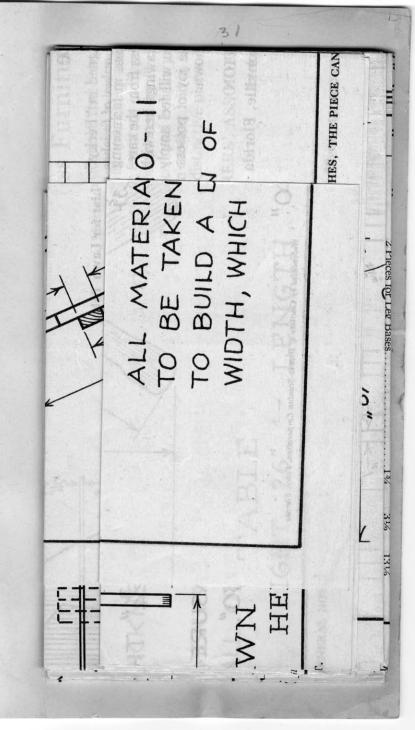
COMBINE BEAUTY, STRENGTH AND COMFORT Its simplicity of line, sturdy construction

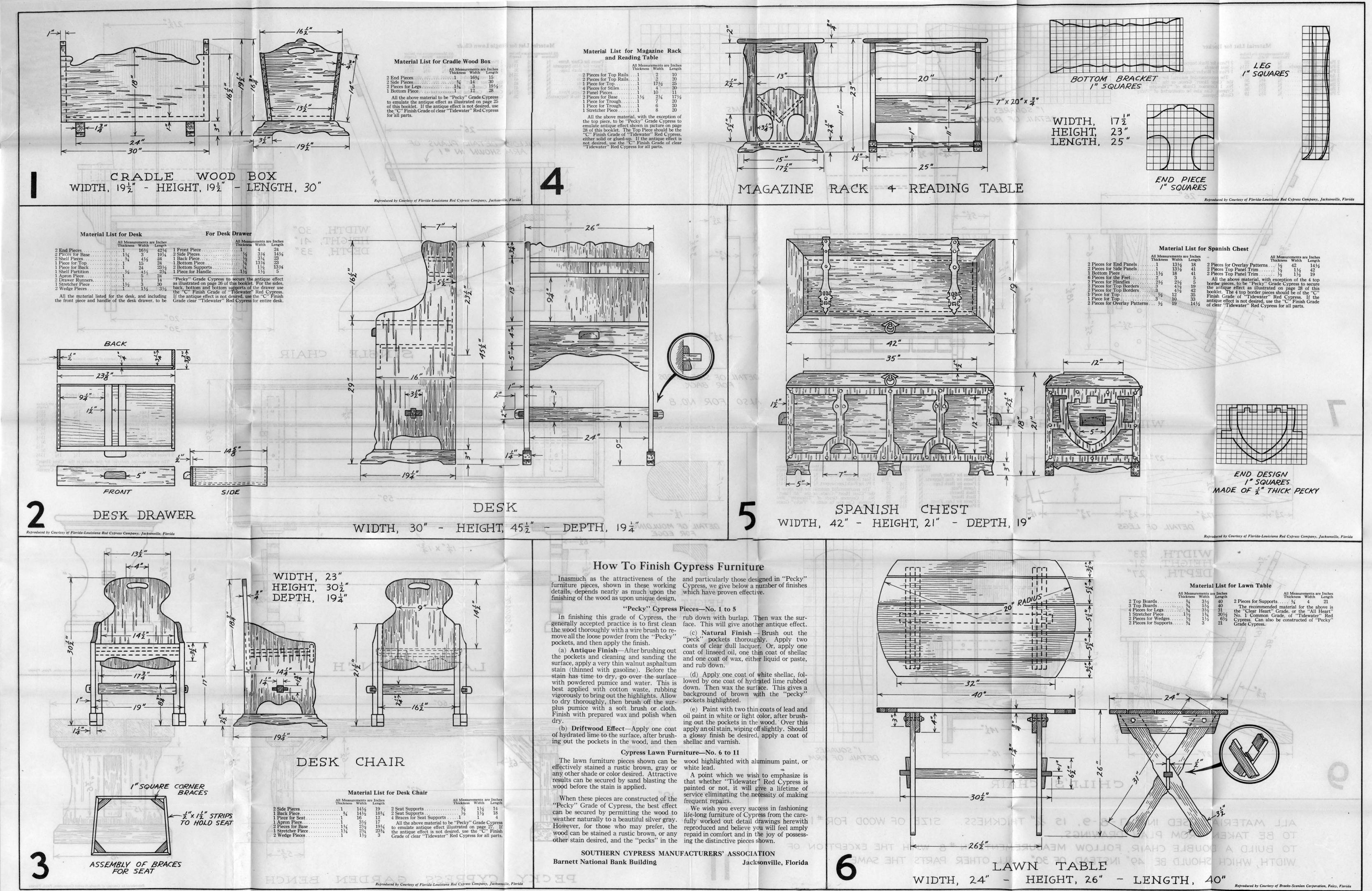
"Tidewater" Red Cypress have resulted in a wide appeal. By special

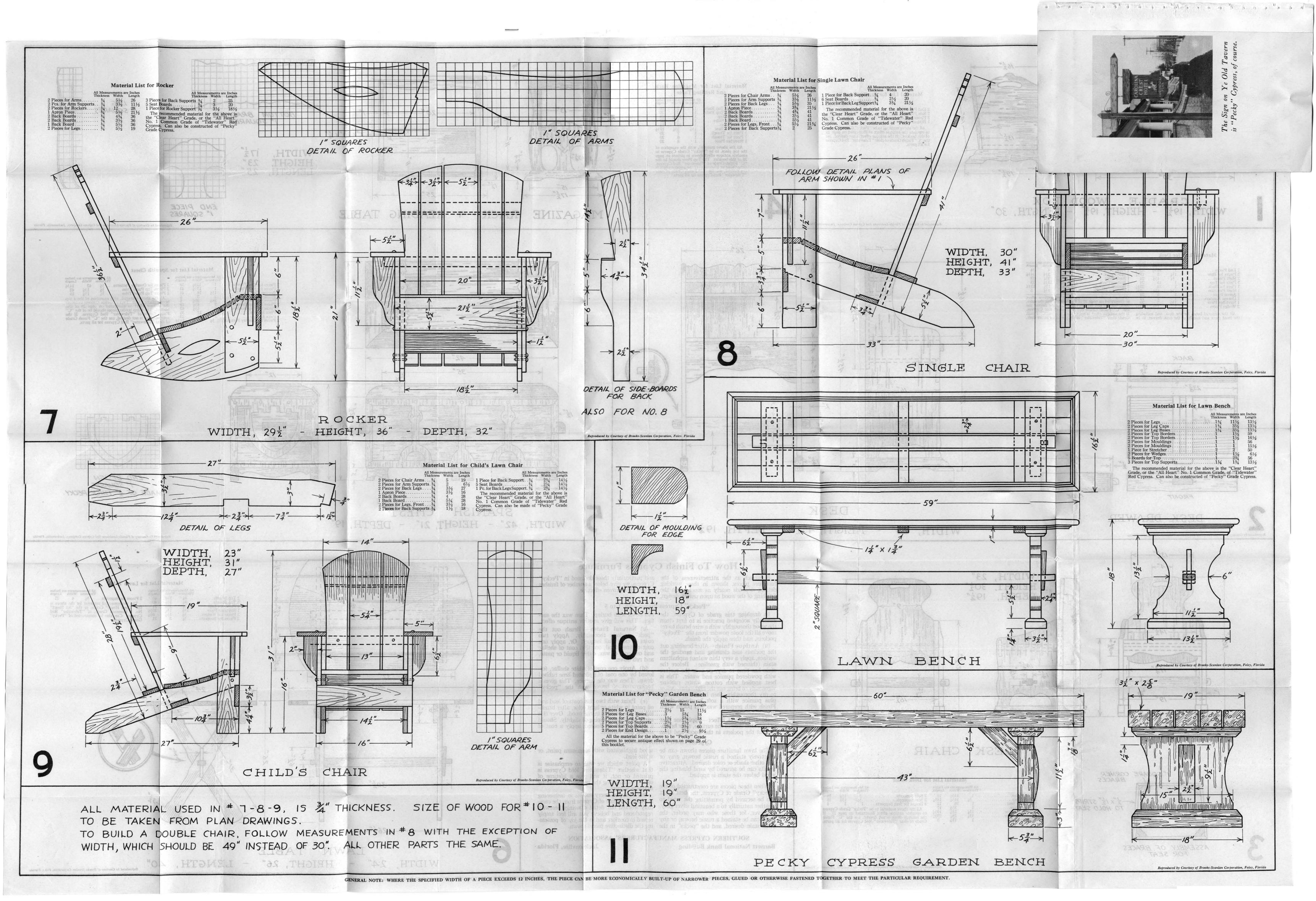


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Whether you are planning to Build a Bungalow, a Mansion, a Garage, a Barn, a Chicken Coop or just a Garden Fence, remember— "With Cypress You Build But Once." It Stops All Depreciation at the Source and Eliminates Costly Repairs. Nature Has Accomplished for Cypress—Grown a Natural Preservative into Its Innermost Cell—What Man Attempts To Do when He Injects Creosote, or other Chemical Preservatives, into the Surface of other Woods.









The Sign on Ye Old Tavern is "Pecky" Cypress, of course.