

Fuel for suburban fireplaces

By Jean Adamczak
staff writer

There's nothing better than sitting before a crackling fire in the fireplace after being outside on a cold, wet, windy day.

Many people are planning to do a lot of that this winter, according to recent sales figures from three area firewood dealers.

"We've had a tremendous amount of calls for firewood this year," says Roy Hacker of Hacker Services in Farmington. According to Hacker, his firewood sales have been increasing slowly over the past three years.

Frank Baker of J.F.B. Trucking in Livonia says he usually goes through 400-500 cords of wood a year. "I could go through more if I had it," he says. C&R Firewood owner Bernard Roger says sales at his Farmington Hills location have increased "substantially" every year.

'I burn the same wood in my house, so it (the firewood he sells), better be good, seasoned wood.'

— Frank Baker
firewood dealer



Firewood dealer Roy Hacker inspects the merchandise in the Farmington woodlot he operates. Hacker's grandfather started the business in 1948.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Statewide, an estimated 3.1 million standard cords were consumed during the 1982-83 heating season, says Robin Bertsch of the Department of Natural Resources in Lansing. A standard cord of firewood measures four feet high by four feet wide by eight feet long.

"That's an increase of 9.7 percent over the previous heating season," says Bertsch. Major burners, those using wood for more than 50 percent of their heating, consumed 7.1 cords per household for the 1982-83 heating season, compared with 5.8 cords the previous season, according to Bertsch.

FOR THE 1982-83 heating season, about 32 percent of all Michigan households were heated wholly or in part by firewood, says Bertsch.

"Very few people fuel their home 100 percent with firewood," he says, adding that most firewood is consumed in fireplaces, not wood-burning stoves.

According to the area firewood dealers, Farmington-area customers burn their firewood for atmosphere, not warmth.

"My peak selling times are right before Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's, when people entertain and want to have a nice fire for relatives and friends," says Baker.

Unlike most people, Baker heats his three-bedroom ranch house entirely with wood, using a forced-air heater which blows the hot air through the

house from an air-tight wood stove.

"That keeps the house at a comfortable 75-80 degrees all winter," Baker says. "In fact, sometimes it gets so warm we have to open up a window or two."

Hacker heats his garage with a wood burning stove and says his firewood business is affected by the severity of

winter weather.

He recalls one year when the weather was so mild in Farmington that there was little snow all winter.

"There was not much firewood business that year, so my wife and I went South for the winter. It just wasn't cold enough for people to want fires in their fireplaces," he says.

For the hottest, longest burning fires, all three dealers agree that hardwoods such as maple, oak or a mixture of the two is the best.

HACKER SAYS his most popular wood is fruitwood, which gives off an aromatic scent as it burns.

"It's a sweet smell that people really seem to like, and it coals up real nice

too," he says.

Baker, who has been selling firewood for the past five years, cautions people to buy only seasoned firewood.

"A lot of people sell firewood as a sideline and will sell unseasoned wood as seasoned," he says.

"It's a sweet smell that people really seem to like, and it coals up real nice

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memory lane

Memories, memories . . . have we got the memories. And we'd like to share them with you. Using local newspaper files, we're dishing up generous slices of life in the Farmington community from 40, 30, 20 and 10 years ago.

NOV. 30, 1944 —
A BLACK 1941 Plymouth, reported stolen from in front of Conroy's Market in downtown Farmington by owner B.W. Fawcett, was recovered on Nov. 23 in Northville.

"THOSE PENCILS with the Farmington High School basketball schedule imprinted on them are not only attractive, but they're good pencils besides," noted an item in the Around the Block column on the front page of the Farmington Enterprise. "If you'd like to have some for your personal use, get them from one of the band members, for they are selling them in order to raise money for some badly needed uniforms."

WARNED ANOTHER Around the Block item, "Shopping may prove to be quite a job this year, since you are almost certain to be disappointed on some items. Just remember that a shortage here may mean that our boys over there are supplied — and be cheerful about it. The best remedy we can offer is for you to get your shopping done while

there is still a good selection from which you may choose, and then you have to make a quick substitution, you'll not find it so difficult."

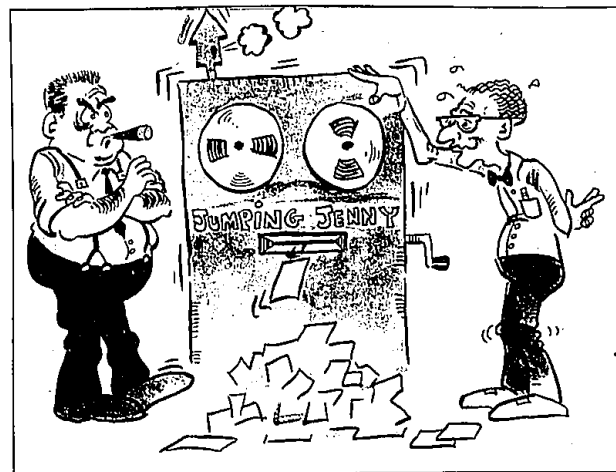
"FURLOUGH FRESHNESS," said the headline over the advertisement for Farmington Cleaners, 33208 Grand River. "Remember that dress — the blue one he always liked best? Why not drop it off here tonight, have it sparkling and cleanly pressed to wear when he returns."

CLASSIFIED AD: "LOST" — A gas coupon for license EF4034, taken from car at Eight Mile and Grand River. Telephone 1456-W or return to Enterprise office.

ANOTHER CLASSIFIED: "PERSONAL" — If you want to get married, write Box 358, Jullaetta, Idaho. Send stamp.

NOV. 25, 1954 —
FARMINGTON MAYOR Kenneth Loomis formally submitted his resignation in the form of a brief letter read at a recent city council meeting. Loomis, whose letter gave no explanation for the resignation, was out of town at the time of the meeting. Council decided to take no action until Loomis could be contacted.

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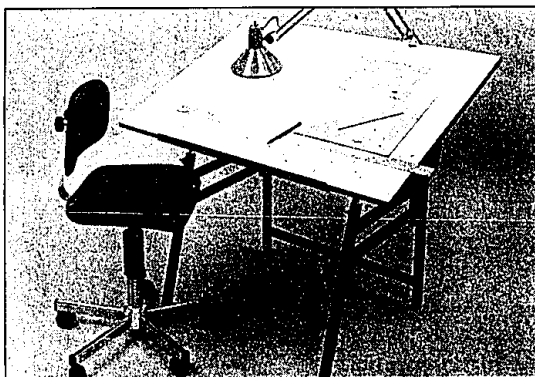


MARVIN TEEPLES

Jumping Jenny was primed and ready for the 1954 Farmington tax statements.

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Reg. 21.95. Drafting lamp with swing arm: 100 watt; in 8 colors. 356 units*

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