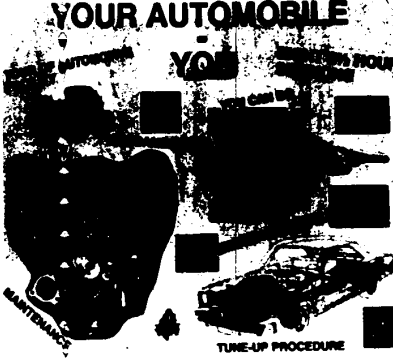
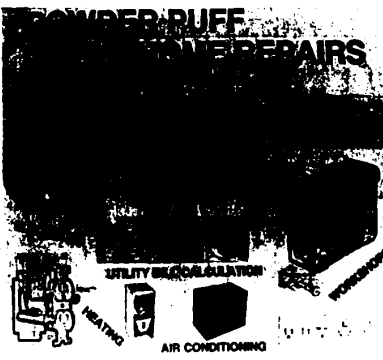


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Mr. Fix-It shares know-how

By LORRAINE McCLISH

When Gene Kleeman walks into his classroom, he often brings an odd assortment of household or automobile pieces and parts. On one occasion, he even brought the proverbial kitchen sink.

For five years, he has been teaching two practical repair classes, "Your Automobile and You," and "Mr. and Ms. Fix-It." He will bring both classes to the Farmington Community Center the end of this month.

Women often outnumber men in Kleeman's classes. Last year he taught and eight-year-old boy, and some students are retirees. The majority come, he says, "because at one time or another, they have felt as though they have been cheated on repair bills."

"I have seen some unbelievable bills," he added. "One girl showed me a \$489 bill for brakes, exhaust and tune-up. I'll never forget that one. I believe my students can save the cost of the class fee before the eight weeks are up. One woman got an estimate for \$47 to install some fluorescent lights and did it herself for \$17."

KLEEMAN'S COURSE on automobiles is designed to allay a feeling of helplessness when something goes wrong under the hood, and to develop confidence in dealing with garage mechanics. It covers basic hand tools and hardware, investigates mechanical systems as well as safety and good driving habits.

He describes it as "hints on how to better enjoy your car." For younger people, he says it is a

"good basis for advanced automotive courses. Some of our young students have gone on to training as automotive mechanics with Chrysler MOTEC in Lyons."

Beginners will learn how to do their own tune-up, change oil and filters, adjust an idle, and "a few have even changed ports. But most of all, they learn how to ask intelligent questions," he said.

class," Kleeman says, "learning about grounding, voltage, fuses, resistance, and poor connections."

All students are invited to bring in something from the home to repair in class. "We've done everything from fixing a door chime to converting a one-way lamp to a three-way lamp. One woman won a night on the town from her husband who bet her she couldn't fix an electric drill," he said.

Kleeman has a master of automotive engineering degree from Chrysler Institute of Engineering and has been employed with Chrysler for 24 years in various engineering and staff-executive positions.

"Your Automobile and You" will begin Thursday, Feb. 5 (7:30-10 p.m.). "Mr. and Ms. Fix-It" will begin Saturday, Feb. 7 (9:30-11:30 a.m.). Registrations are being taken now, in the center.



EUGENE KLEEMAN

Decorator strives for a little pizzazz

By LORRAINE McCLISH

A woman who has been a professional interior decorator for the past 17 years will tell classes in the Farmington Community Center the why's and how's of the "put together" magazine model rooms.

Kay Isola believes most people are uptight about being "too perfect." They worry about a table being too small or too high so they end up being very safe. No one criticizes their room but no one can say it has any pizzazz. It just won't have any character."

Ms. Isola has designed both offices and homes as well as worked as a design consultant, and has been teaching classes for the past two years.

She describes the "best house" as one that "is mixed up. One that is personalized, one that has a lot of memories in it that mean something to you."

She carries this feeling to her

clients, she said, by getting to know them, and getting to know what the room is to be used for. "I want to know if they have pets, how much do they entertain, does the husband fall asleep on the sofa watching television. How can I answer a question like what should I do with my windows when I don't know who is using the room?" she asks.

STUDENTS WILL get personalized help in her classes, but it is unlikely they will get any hard and fast rules. "There isn't a design rule known that hasn't been broken and there are no formulas, but I have some guidelines that if used, can't miss," she said.

Her overall goal is to shake-up her student's way of thinking. She says she finds it a little amazing that a woman can dress herself beautifully mixing and matching, yet be so unsure of herself when she is working on a room. And by the same token,

"she will know about new cars, the new skirt length, keep up with the times, but we won't know a thing about new ways to light a room."

Three field trips are included in Ms. Isola's 20-hour course: to a store that specializes in lighting fixtures, a wallpaper store and a furniture store. "I could talk forever about down lighting or up lighting, or that a piece is too small for an entryway, but you almost have to see it to understand it," she said.

Another service she gives is telling where some sought after items can be found. "If they want to pay \$35 a roll for wallpaper, that's all right with me, but I can recommend where good inexpensive paper or fabrics can be found and I can do this because I am not connecting with any store or company."

SHE WILL ALSO tell students how to "work in" an old favorite chair or

any other oddity that just doesn't seem to fit in with anything else in the room. "I always tell my students that if the decorator tells you to throw out something, it is time to throw out the decorator because a mix makes a home relaxed. Being all French is being all perfect and that's too tight. You have to be a little of the gambler," she said.

To sum it up, she says, "I want them to learn a new way of looking at a room, looking at model homes, and pictures of rooms in magazines. I want to open their eyes to what they've been seeing all along and help them know how it all got put together."

The textbook for the class is one issue of one current decorator's magazine.

Students will use the same magazine for ten weeks going over each model shown, comparing and critiquing lighting, patterns, scale and balance.

Class loads are limited to 15 so each student may get personalized attention. Registration information is available through the center.



KAY ISOLA

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