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## He puts firefighting experience to work cleaning chimneys

By CAROLINE PRICE

He wears a swallowtail coat and a high top hat, both in basic black. If you meet him, shake his hand. Invite him to your wedding. Or give him a job. Paul Glass is a chimney sweep.

He is also a Livonia fireman named Paul Biskner. His sweep's name is borrowed from Joseph Glass, who invented special chimney clean-ing brushes in the days when sweeps were commonplace.

who invented special chimney cleaning brushes in the days when sweeps
were commonplace.

Biskner is new to a profession as
old as fireplaces and almost obsolete,
the thinks sweeps will be making a
comeback because people are using
their fireplaces more often to offset
beating costs.

He learned the trade from August
Miller, one of the few sweeps in the
country. "When I first became interested in being a sweep, is started look
ing around for information. There's almountry in the started in t

top hat." Biskner says.

THE PROCESS of chimney cleaning is much the same as it was 100 years ago. "If I clean it from the inside. I take the grate out of the fire-place and vacuum out the soot. Then I check the damper, remove it, add put the brush up the chimney. My brushes are larger than the flue, so they scrape off all the soot and creosote that accumulates."

If Biskner cleans the chimney from the inside." He charges \$40 to clean a fire-place to clean at from the inside. He charges \$40 to clean a fire-place that accumulates are considered every evens if a fireplace is used frequently. Otherwise, the creosote and soot that accumulates can cause a fire.

"Creosote is danaerous stuff, it's "Creosote is danaerous stuff, it's "Creosote is danaerous stuff, it's "Creosote is danaerous stuff, it's



Paul Glass—a new face in an old profession.

worked as a Livonia firefighter have helped in in his latest endeavor. "It doesn't hurt to have fire science

beiped in in his latest endeavor. "It to have fire science knowledge."

He thinks chiriney sweeping will become a profitable profession. "It think last winter was the first time people were really using their fireplaces. This winter people are going to realize that they will need the chirineys. Blastoner's wife, Barbara, is all for his new job. "It may be a little dangerous when he gets up on the roof, but I worry more about him being a firefighter" she says.

The couple also has a daughter named Deama and a pet skunk named Stinkey.

As the song goes. "Chim-chim-anee, chim-chim-chee, a sweep is as lucky as lucky can be."

Biskner will agree.

## Madar, Collins **Equality Day** speakers

Coalition of Labor Union Women president Olga Madar and state legislator Barbara Rose Collins are two of the speakers to be featured at the fourth annual Women's Equality Day of the Speakers to be featured at the fourth annual Women's Equality Day on the Move-Eughty Day on the Move-Eughty Now!" will include displays, entertainment, a rally, a parade and booths from which participants will distribute literature and other information of interest to women. Co-chairwomen for the 1977 Women's Equality Day celebration are Alma Stallworth, deputy director of the Detroit Historical Museum, and Christine E. Burk of the Bank of the Commonwealth.

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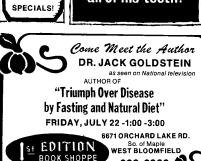
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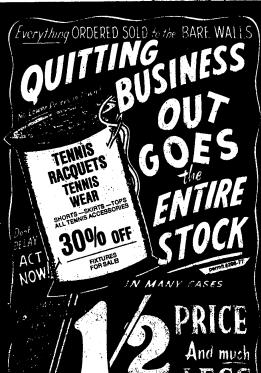
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