

Plan to save runaway shops



PERRY BULLARD
end runaways?

Had a proposed state agency existed last year, employees of the National Can Corp. in Livonia might be collecting paychecks today rather than unemployment checks.

A bill recently introduced by State Rep. Perry Bullard, D-Ann Arbor, would authorize a Michigan Department of Labor office to help workers of "runaway" plants set up employee-owned corporations that could buy out and continue operating the business.

That office might have helped the 75 laid-off National Can employees set up a corporation and raise the funds to continue operating the Levan Road plant, which used to make throwaway beverage cans. The plant closed late last year.

Corporate officials blamed Michigan's law banning throwaway bottles and cans for their decision. They said the three-piece cans produced at the

plant could no longer compete with lighter, cheaper two-piece cans, which are preferred by bottlers now that cans must be returnable. The officials said the cost of converting the plant to production of the newer-type cans was too high.

QUOTING STATISTICS provided by the United Auto Workers, Rep. Bullard said plant closings between 1967 and 1973 resulted in the loss of more than 200,000 jobs.

Snowblower arrives

It's replacing one of mankind's most unloved tools, it may prevent heart attacks, and people are buying it as though the ice ages were coming back.

It is a snow thrower, or what could be thought of as a power snow shovel. This year Americans are expected to buy as many as 850,000, twice the record number sold in 1978.

"In snow country, probably one house in five has one," said a happy spokesman for one of the major manufacturers. "We can't make them fast enough, and dealers can't keep them in stock."

Near Washington, D.C., one of the rare hardware store dealers who still had a few snow throwers left said, "People phoning around from out of state sound like they've found the end of the rainbow when I tell them I've got one I can save for them."

HISTORIANS IGNORE the appearance of the first snow shovel, an invention cursed by countless sore-backed shovelers, the National Geographic Society says.

But snow throwers, also known as snow blowers, first appeared on the scene in quantity about 20 years ago.

Since then they have chugged across the nation's snow-covered sidewalks and driveways four million strong.

Although makers of the lowly snow shovel say they have plenty of orders, the more sophisticated snow thrower is fast becoming all but indispensable for Americans chronically charmed by labor-saving gadgets.

Snow throwers come in all sizes, from a 15-pounder the maker says will throw 200 pounds of snow a minute while clearing a foot-wide path, to machines weighing 300 pounds that will chew up a ton of snow a minute and bare a 32-inch width on every pass up and down the sidewalk.

MOST ARE self-propelled, and you walk behind them lawn mower-fashion. Some are designed for mounting on a garden tractor. Costs range from less than \$100 to more than \$1,000.

"Any price is cheap if it saves me from killing myself," says one man in words to a very salesman.

Every winter the American Heart Association looks with alarm upon snow shovelers, pointing out that "each season a heavy snowfall is followed by furies of heart attacks and deaths due to overexertion."

from your medicine cabinet regularly.

• Protect your eyes and skin when using insecticides, weed killers, solvents and cleaning agents. Read and follow directions. Wash thoroughly after each use of these products and promptly remove contaminated clothing.

If someone has swallowed a poisonous substance, stay calm. Call a physician or a poison control center. Post the poison control center number for your region on your telephone.

Be prepared to answer the following questions: age and approximate weight of victim, name of poison and amount swallowed, whether the victim has vomited, your location and time required to reach the physician or hospital.

Parents, particularly those of small children, are urged by Red Cross to enroll in a first aid course in which poison prevention and emergency care are covered in more detail. For more information, call Red Cross Safety Services at 833-4440.

Red Cross gives tips on poisons

March 18 marks the beginning of Poison Prevention Week. The Southeastern Michigan chapter of the American Red Cross offers these suggestions to help prevent deaths and injuries:

• Keep medications and household products locked and out of reach of children.

• Ask for and use safety lids or closures on containers of medications and other potentially dangerous products.

• Keep products in their original containers, well labeled.

• Since children tend to imitate adults, avoid taking medication in their presence. Always refer to medicines by their proper names. Do not refer to them as candy. Exercise particular caution when storing pills which resemble candy in shape, color or taste.

• When taking medications at night, always turn on a light and read the label.

• Weed out old or unused medications

SEMTA buys new buses

The Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) has ordered 167 new buses built by General Motors Corp., according to General Manager Larry E. Salci.

Of these, 122 are earmarked for the Detroit Department of Transportation. The remaining 45 are headed for SEMTA's stables to serve the suburbs.

They will replace older vehicles in each transit system's fleet.

It is SEMTA's second major bus purchase in the past 11 months. Last spring the regional transportation authority bought 169 buses.

The latest purchase, totaling \$18.7 million, included two types of buses, those 40 feet and those 35 feet in length. SEMTA purchased 141 40-foot-long buses.

Each new bus will be equipped with a wheelchair lift and space for one wheelchair. Of the 169 buses

purchased last spring, only 57 were equipped with the wheelchair lifts.

Your Seat at the Met

Join WDET-FM/101.9 Saturdays for the conclusion of the Metropolitan Opera season.

DATE	OPERA	COMPOSER	PM
Mar. 10	ARIADNE and NAXOS	Stravinsky	2:00
Mar. 17	NORMA	Belini	2:00
Mar. 24	EUGENE ONEGIN	Tchaikovsky	2:00
Mar. 31	BILLY BUDD	Britten	2:00
Apr. 7	DER FLIEGENDE HOLLÄNDER	Wagner	2:00
Apr. 14	PARSIFAL	Wagner	1:00

Schedule Subject to Change

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