High fuel costs spark boom in super fireplaces

A sign over the fireplace at the Wooden Heat Stove Works in Plymouth says: "Your fireplace creates a heat loss of 1,500 BTUs per bour. Determined by the American Heating Institute."

But the sign was on no ordinary fire-place. It was one which had been con-verted into a money saver by the Free Heat Machine.

Heat Machine.

The machine cycles heat into the room using a tubular grate, blower and special metal construction. By insert, ing the special unit into an abreadyristing masony fireplace, the fire's heat can go to work for you, significantly reducing your heating bills in cold weather. In short, the heat is blown into your room and doesn't escape up the chimney.

MARY POOLE, owner of the Wooden Heat Stove Works on Starkweather in Old village can, was born on a farm. She found it natural to want to help people learn to "do it themselves."

After months of preparation when

will cost \$18,300 and is expected to be completed in June.

contracts awarded by the

Mrs. Poole "ate and breathed wood stoves," she opened her shop in December 1977. Yow months later, the store held its first "free heat demonstration," and Mrs. Poole was astounded at the number of people who came to find out about alternate heat sources.

"People who came into the shop were looking then. Now they are buying, Many people wait to buy because it is a stotally new concept," she said. "They remember grandma heating her house with a wood stove, but that's all."

SOME PEOPLE from out-of-state or

SOME PEOPLE from out-of-state or from the east buy wood stoves or sup-plemental systems because they've been doing it right along. Pat O'Brien, a manufacturers repre-sentative for supplemental heating sys-tems, says, "This is not a new concept. It has been used for over 50 years. But it is in the last three years that fire-place conversion has become popular." Two years ago, manufacturers

"Two years ago, manufacturers could not build enough units fast enough to satisfy the national demand," he explained

he explained.

Michigan is a prime market for fire-place conversions, O'Brien said, be-

A bridge carrying Drake Road over Eight Mile Road in Farmington Hills will get some repairs in the months to come. Staco, Inc., an Oxford construction company, was the lowest of two bidd-ers.

ceed 2,000 units.
Conceivably, they say, a supplemental unit can pay for itself in four years, not counting the cost of the wood. (This is based on a 2200 sqare foot, two-story home, with four occupants, paying approximately \$130 per month in heating bills.

ry home, with four occupants, paying approximately \$130 per most in heating bills.

One such customer is Bill Saddler who came from Dexter to get advice on a supplemental system grows. But I am concerned about smoke getting into the house. Also I am currently using air from the inside of my house. I am trying to find a method of saving the heated air already inside."

Saddler, who has electric heat, pays \$230 per month to heat his \$2,000 sq. home. "Everyone in our subdivision is concerned about the cost of heat going p. Even though we couldn't use a [sup-plementala] unit during the day, because my wife and I both work, we would heat the house with it at night. Right now my wife uses one of those song sacks while watching TV.

MEJ VIN DODES of Calena parsess:

MELVIN DODES of Canton agrees

MELVIN DODES of Canton agrees:
"Heating bills are a concern of
everyone. Right now I am paying \$10
to \$90 per month. And the price will be
higher. It looks like the price of some
of these units is high, but it all depends
on how much good it does."
"We use our fireplace two to three
times a week, plus weekends," he said.
It adds extra heat on the ground floor.

cause fireplaces are really a popular item here. Chances are when you have company, one of the first things you will do is light a fire, he said. And women like fireplaces, too. They make you feel coay. This year, Offstein expects one of his manufacturers to exceed 2.000 units. Duties the coay of the coay

TAKE YOUR

SPRING BREAK! SAVE 20%!



DAILY DIET COUNSELING

642-5665

% ZIP-LINED LEATHER JACKET \$98 Many sizes and Colors (Reg. \$165) (Sizes 48 and 50 add \$10 more Save 20% - 50% EATHER SPORT COATS AND FULL-LENGTH LEATHERS LOSE WEIGHT QUICKLY - SAFELY PERMANENTLY At the Daily Diet Counseling you will lose 17 to 25 pounds in just six weeks. COATS Botany 500 Zip Out Lining

MENS SLACKS ALL-WEATHER NOW \$68 Reg. \$95 Visit our new Boys and Young Mens Department

JACK'S FACTORY OUTLET









In other contracts awarded by the Michigan Department of Transportation, the C.A. Hull Co. of Walled Lake was a winner. The Walled Lake firm will build a \$4.3 million bridge in Lansing. The bridge will carry Logan Street over the Grand River. ers. The project, which will consist of under-deck repairs and new grouting, Channel 56 board now open for view

Bridge repairs contracted

The first WTVS-TV, channel 55,
Board of Directors meeting open to the
public will be Thursday at The St,
regis Hotel, 3071 W. Grand Blvd, 1
pm. Detroit.
Those who wish to speak at the meeting should call the Channel 55 general
manager's office, 873-7200, ext. 101, to

NOW OPEN IN DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM GRAND OPENING SALE PRICES DURING MARCH

You are invited to celebrate the grand opening of an exciting new gallery of oriental rugs in Birmingham.

If you have been looking for the right oriental rug at the right price, you'll be pleasantly surprised at the selection at our

Azar's gallery offers:

• A wide selection of new & antique oriental rugs.

• Free decorating consultation.

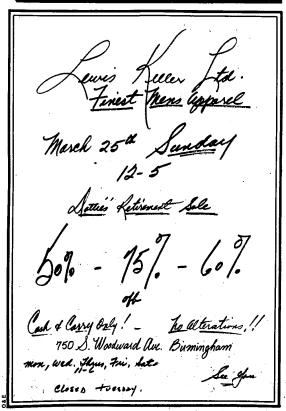
• Cleaning & repairing.

• FREE APPRAISALS with this ad.

• We also buy & exchange old oriental rugs.

223 S. Woodward Ave. Birmingham • 644-7311 Next to Birmingham Theatre

WIN AN ORIENTAL RUG-SIGN UP NOW AT OUR STORE!





The name Heritage has come to mean the ultimate in superbly crafted furniture. That's why a Heritage chair on sale is almost unheard of, Except at Gorman's.

We're offering fine Heritage wood framed occasional chairs in an array of coordinate your Heritage

rich fabrics at a full 20% off. chair with the rest of your There are eight distinct styles to choose from available on special order.

At the same 20% savings. And while you're in the store, ask about Gorman's free design service. Our designers will help you

home decor.

With savings, service and style this is one sale you can't afford to miss. And it's all happening now through April 30th at Gorman's - Troy. Also available at Gorman's Gallery, Southfield.

1465 W. Big Beaver Road at Crooks Road, Troy • Prione 649-2070 Open Daily 10 to 6; Mon., Thurs., Fri. till 9; Sun. Noon to 5:30