

Booklet will help you in determining home renovation cost

There it stands. An old house surrounded by large trees and well-grown shrubs. Inside, there are big rooms and high ceilings the way you like them. And the price is really good. But it will need some work.

To help consumers decide whether an older house is worth fixing up, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has published a booklet called *Renovate an Old House?* To obtain a copy, send \$1 along with your name and address to the Consumer Information Center, Dept. 206H Pueblo, Colo. 81009.

Before you make any decisions, inspect the house carefully. You have to spend some time to recognize clues to problems that aren't obvious at the moment.

Start in the basement. Is the foundation good? Some minor settling is normal and can usually be fixed by re-leveling floor joists and beams.

But if you notice settling and cracking of the foundation walls in a number of places, beware. This could indicate the need for major foundation work, a very expensive proposition.

See if the basement is damp. If possible, check it both during good weather

and after a heavy rain. With the point of a knife, check the wood in the beams and joists. If the wood is easy to poke or a section comes out with very little resistance, chances are there is decay. And mud tubes going from the ground to the wood mean termite trouble.

Throughout the house, try doors and windows to see if they open and close easily. Jamming probably indicates uneven settling.

Look at the ceiling and walls for water spots, the signs of a leaking roof, vapor through the walls, or gutter and downspout problems.

For the mechanical parts of the house, you will probably want an electrician, plumber, and heating specialist. It is not uncommon for an old house to need new plumbing, wiring, and heating systems, and the costs must be added to the total.

When you know what work must be done, get estimates. Add this cost plus about 15 percent for slippage to the price of the house. If the total is about the same or below the prices of similar houses in the same area, you have a good buy.

Smokers—no such thing as Freeride

There are hazards involved in inhaling any kind of smoke into the lungs, says the American Lung Association of Southeastern Michigan (ALASEM). These hazards include smoke from tobacco-free cigarettes.

puffed wheat, citrus fruit derivatives and chemical flavoring agents.

A spokesman for the company marketing the product says it is aimed at attracting "a growing number of health-conscious smokers." The company promotes its product through a multi-million-dollar radio and television advertising campaign. Because the cigarette contains no tobacco, the product is the first cigarette promotion allowed on the airwaves since Congress voted to ban tobacco cigarette commercials a decade ago. In Michigan, the cigarette is exempt from special tobacco taxes.

According to the manufacturers, the aroma of the non-tobacco smoke was one of the most difficult problems to be overcome by the company's chemists and flavor consultants. Although a similar cigarette, comprised largely of the shredded husks of cocoa beans, was test-marketed in 1977, the product was not suitable for large-scale distribution until scientists added chemicals and citrus derivatives to the cocoa base to diminish its smell.

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Orchard's new lanes open

A \$7.9 million road widening project has led to three additional lanes on Orchard Lake Road, between Twelve Mile and Fifteen Mile roads.

The new section of Orchard Lake Road was opened recently, a month ahead of schedule, according to the Oakland County Road Commission.

Federal highway money funded 76 percent (\$6 million) of the project; the road commission funded 12 percent and the City of Farmington Hills and

West Bloomfield Township picked up the remainder.

The road's original surface was laid in 1918, according to the road commission. The new five lanes are expected to provide a safer ride for the 30,000 vehicles daily that travel the route between I-696 and central Oakland County.

Tony Angelo Cement Construction Co., of Southfield, was the primary contractor for the road widening.

County offers shot clinic

The Oakland County Health Division will offer a free immunization clinic at 9 a.m. Dec. 11 in the Shiawassee School, 30415 Shiawassee, Farmington.

Immunizations for measles, German measles, mumps, polio, diphtheria,

tetanus and whopping cough are available.

A parent or guardian must accompany children under 18 and bring any prior records of immunizations.

YWCA plans family party

A visit with Santa, a sing-along and a performance of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" will take place from 2-4 p.m. Sunday at the annual Christmas party of the Northwest YWCA, 25940 Grand River, Redford Township.

Also on the program will be a tot

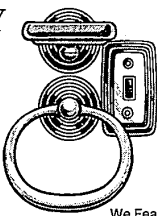
workshop, where children can make Christmas tree ornaments and a photography show. The handbell choir of the Redford Baptist Church will perform as will the eighth grade chorus of Hilbert Junior High School.

There is no admission charge.

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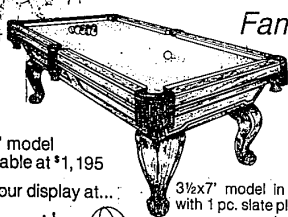


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Holiday Ideas

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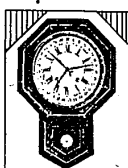
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• Westland, Warren & Warren Rd., 452-4200, Catalog 452-1700 • Lakeside, South & Parkwood Rd., 287-2000, Catalog 287-8900
• Oakland Mall, 14 Mile & I-75, 583-3400, Catalog 583-2000 • Northwood, 13 Mile & Woodward, 288-0000, Catalog 288-5600