

Hitting it on the head

PICK A NUMBER, any number — make that a large number and you could be \$20,000 richer.

It's the popular "House of Nails" contest, returning to the 1990 International Builders Home, Flower and Furniture Show, March 17-25 at Cobo Center.

The plexiglass House of Nails, which is 20-by-24-inches wide and 24 inches tall, with a 12-by-12-inches wide, 17 inches tall addition, will be on display during the builders show. The person estimating closest to the correct number of nails in the house, wins \$20,000.

Filled with various sizes of nails, it will be on display at the WXYT-AM booth throughout the show.



House of Nails judges are: Amy Turner (left) chairwoman of the city of Detroit Department of Recreation Advisory Committee; June Roselle, director of Cobo Conference and Exhibition Center; Judy Sturgis, National Bank of Detroit mortgage officer; and Sharon Frenn, chairman of the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Bloomin' delights

AFTER sponsoring the garden that won the "best garden award" at the 1989 builders show, National Bank of Detroit will try to top themselves this year with an urban park garden.

The garden will feature a spectacular fountain, which can be admired from a path of interlocking paver bricks. The path will be bordered by an array of brightly colored annuals and perennials to give the garden that "breath of spring" feeling.

Showgoers are invited to relax on park benches as they take in the atmosphere of the perfect city park.

SPEAKING of gardens, about 43,000 feet of the Hall of Gardens will contain a walk-through spring garden featuring a mushroom-shaped fountain with a copper dome that is 15 feet high and 8 feet wide.

Part of the setting will be a pond. A wooden bridge will allow showgoers to walk across the dry creek bed. The garden, sponsored by the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan, will feature a color 15-foot wide Italian-style street umbrella and picnic table to create the scene of an European picnic.

THE Standard Federal garden at the builders show is a breathtaking sight as water flows from one pool to the next creating rapids and a waterfall. A spring garden will surround the fountain, constructed by Mark J. Baldwin & Associates of Plymouth.

For a complete story on the gardens at the builders show, please turn to page 24.

Biggest yet

Stage is set for builders show

THE 1990 International Builders Home, Flower and Furniture Show, March 17-25, at Cobo Center, is the largest show of its kind in the world — all under one roof.

More than 800 exhibition booths, gardens and other attractions will fill the entire top level of Cobo Center — 600,000 square feet. The show's nine-day run is expected to attract more than 500,000 people.

Experts in every conceivable area of residential construction, heating and cooling, design, finance and remodeling will be on hand to demonstrate their wares and answer questions from the public.

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Show hours for the 1990 International Builders Home Flower and Furniture Show are from 1 to 11 p.m. weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

General admission for adults is \$5 and \$3 for senior citizens and students. Children under six admitted free. General admission includes a 50-cent Cobo Center surcharge.

Two-for-one coupons are available at Elias Brothers Big Boy restaurants. Discount family tickets are available at all Farmer Jack/A&P Supermarkets.

2-story house for all to inspect

FOR THE first time ever, you can walk in and around a two-story house right at the builders show.

General Housing Corp. of Bay City is sponsoring the "Birmingham," a three-bedroom, 2½-bath manufactured home that will be put together and displayed at the builders show.

Although, at first, this may seem inconceivable, this house will actually fit in Cobo Center. The house will arrive in four pieces. The second story will be lifted right onto the first story — quite an amazing sight. The roof of the house pops up and out of the second story.

Contrary to popular belief, modular housing is not new. The first modular construction in this country came to our shores by way of England. The pilgrims brought a church and parish home that was originally built in England, sawed into sections, lashed to the deck of ships and re-erected in Plymouth, Mass., in 1620. The concept

has been evolving in one form or another ever since.

SINCE THE HOUSE is actually manufactured in the controlled environment of a factory, builders don't have to worry about such problems as weather conditions. So, it only takes about four days to effectively and safely manufacture a home.

Once the house is built, it only takes about one week to assemble it at the site. It takes even less time at the builders show.

Five builders are working in cooperation with General Housing Corp. to construct the "Birmingham." They are: Affordable Homes from Waterford, Dale Callaghan Homes from Howell, Concept Homes Inc., from Romeo, John/Nancy Bezemark Builders from Carsonville, and Thomas L. Snyder Builders from Dexter.

All five are from Michigan, as will every piece of material to be used in the construction of the house.

In fact, the theme "Say Yes to

Michigan" will be emphasized at this exhibit at the builders show.

The house will be fully decorated and landscaped. Sears in Summit Place Mall in Waterford will handle the decorating details. Biondo Brothers will provide the brickwork, while Ground Landscape & Lawncare will make us believe we're truly "on-site."

In addition to the fact that the Birmingham has vinyl siding and wood-clad windows, it is completely built on a wood foundation. Known to builders as the Permanet Wood Foundation (PWP), it's believed to be more energy efficient, durable and economical.

The house will contain a kitchen, dining room, family room, utility room and two-story deck. Showgoers will be invited to walk into the house from the first floor, walk up to the second floor and out the deck, then down the deck's steps to the ground floor.

Price of this 2,240-square-foot-house is \$99,500. The buyer, of course, would have to provide the lot and any site work.