

Gagnon, from page 8D

an easy access for consumers to do this. I guess if consumers can't do this, then more room air conditioners and dehumidifiers will be sold every year. A word of caution here to inform you to make sure the product is completely dry before you plug it in, and to remember, if you tip a refrigeration product in any position outside of normal, you must let it sit in its proper position for a few hours before you plug it in.

Bulletin Board: For the next several weeks the service industry will receive abnormal requests for service on clothes dryers. Many of these calls will be needless because consumers could have done it themselves.

It is that time of year when little critters will begin to look for a home. The prerequisite for these animals and birds is a location of heat. The clothes dryer vent line fits all the needed categories. It is that time of year to remove the vent line and clean it and make sure the flapper outside is shutting off all the way. If the vent line is plastic flexible it should be thrown away and you should install the old-fashioned solid aluminum.

Several years ago I had the privilege of becoming an investigator for the office of Detroit Consumer Affairs. The director, Esther Shapiro, asked me to author a booklet on refrigerators and clothes dryers. These two booklets soon became the most popular of con-

sumer-oriented literature that her office sends out to homeowners. It was a sad day recently when I was informed that her office was no longer making these booklets available due to budget restraints. But, the good news is:

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers has printed and redesigned these booklets for the benefit of its subscribers. I am proud that this newspaper thinks enough of consumer information being a necessity to its readers that it has done this. The cost factor of this venture is no small thing and I'm pleased to announce that these booklets are free to the readers of this newspaper. To obtain these booklets you must address a letter to the Appliance Doctor in care of your local Observer or Eccentric office. In your letter, place a self-addressed, two-stamped envelope. Please make sure that the return envelope you enclose is a business size, No. 10. The envelope must be four inches high and nine inches across.

Joe Gagnon, the Appliance Doctor, will answer your questions about maintaining and repairing large appliances. Gagnon is president of Carmack Appliances in Garden City and does a weekly radio program on WJR-AM. He is author of "First Aid from the Appliance Doctor," available at area bookstores.

Rochester holds 1st Friday

Downtown Rochester will bloom with the warmth of spring on "First Friday," April 5, an event sponsored by 16 downtown art and antique galleries.

Stroll through time from the ancient and pre-Columbian at Haig's Galleries, the Victorian at Pamela's Antiques, the European Renaissance at the Hermitage, to the bold contemporary local artists in the paintings at Cary Gallery, jewelry at Aurum Designs, ceramics, glass and furniture at Form and Function, Eugenia's and Archives.

Look for the balloons on the First Friday of each month downtown, where galleries and antique shops will

offer late hours, artist presentations and light refreshments 6-9 p.m.

This month, Eugenia's hair and Art Gallery, 212 W. Third, will host a gallery talk 7:30 p.m. with raku ceramicist Betty Behm of Rochester. Behm has been a potter for 20 years and has exhibited her award-winning work in Florida, Ohio and Michigan. She explains raku as "an ancient method of firing pottery, developed in Japan during the 16th century."

"The pieces fired by this method were desired by tea masters for their spontaneity, accidental faults and simple beauty."



KITCHEN and BATH Ideas

Presented by Carl J. Crepi & Mark Aronoff

SEPARATING COOKING STATIONS

If space permits, homeowners may want to consider outfitting their remodeled kitchens with cooktops that are separate from the ovens. This breaking up of the traditional one-piece cooktop/oven into its various components allows cooking to become a part effort between two cooks. While the cooktop can remain in the kitchen work triangle (along with the sink and refrigerator) as the more frequently used cooking appliance, the wall ovens may be placed outside the cook's primary work pattern to relieve kitchen congestion. If baking is of particular interest, the ovens can become the focal point of a separate baking center, with its own task-specific storage and countertop. If the wall oven is a combination unit with a microwave, the latter's status as a warm-up appliance can qualify the appliance.

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