HOME WORK

Old appliance repair shop brings back memories



need repair on their appliances.

As I traveled this state and others, I met wonderful people who carried a toolbox and were proud of their work. I stopped by the country stores and sat with local townspeople who gathered every morning for coffee. The

woodburning stove in the middle and old hardwood floors were common, but the conversation varied from town to town. It is most today with hardly a word said as I meet representatives in todays ervice industries.

Today I drive to Toledo, once a month, and tage consumer informents for used applian month and tage consumer informers.

Today I drive to Toledo, once a month, and tape consumer information tips for ABC television. During this past week, I called one of the service centers in that city and asked if I could come of the service centers in the city and asked if I could come to the service that the television cameras and shoot footage. They told me it was no problem and to come on down. '(Around here, I might be escorted out the door.) I arrived and was treated like a VIP. They told me to make myself at home as I looked around and asked several questions.

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Today's modern store displays rows of neatly dusted major appliances and other products which have energy levels and price tags posted on them. A well-dressed salesperson is filled with information that makes it easier for you in your purchase effort. The image has changed greatly, but it was not so many years ago that I walked into a major appliance store and waited to see the owner. As I waited I grabbed a broom to sweep the floor, and a salesperson rushed up and asked what I was doing. He informed me that I would ruin the business's image if I cleaned up the place.

The guy in Toledo, now over These guys were "good ole boys." The store was filled with rebuilt refrigerators, washers, dryers and stoves. In the front window was a 1929 electric range, which looked like it had not been cleaned since 1939. The stock of used appliances had missing handles, kick plates and an overall outward appearance of neglect. The employees were not one bit ashamed of what they sold. They explained that this store was not for everyone, but for the certain consumers who could not afford the finest things in life. They weren't rich and neither was the business, but it provided so they could meet their needs in life.

You couldn't put one foot in front of the other in the back shop. Boxes were filled with used

Every second Sunday, they go fishing. They live in a business that is filled with tensions and and is lined with tensions and pressures, yet they manage to make fun of themselves and make it a pleasure in serving their customers. They are antiquated in many ways. I'm sure there are people in the service industry who yearn to go back to the ways of old.

Readers ask

Headers ask
Beth from Guelph, Ont. writes:
"My sister is having a problem
with a 10-to 15-year-old Kenmore dryer.
"Every once in a while, it
makes an increasingly loud rubbing sound. If you moved the
dryer around, it seems to be fine.
About 10 minutes later, it starts
again. How can we fix the problem?"

Stop using the dryer. The problem of defective rollers can cause a fire.

Joe Gagnon can be heard on Newstalk 760, WJR-AM, every Saturdoy and Sunday mornings. He is a past president of The Society of Consumer Profession-als. His second book, "The Words and Wisdom of The Appliance Doctor" is available in book stores. His phone number is (313) 873-9789.

Do you have a question for the Appliance Doctor? Contact him care of Ken Abramczyk, At Home Editor, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or e-mail kabramczyk Goe. ADIO OF C-mail Radramezyr 400. homecomm. net. Look for Gagnon's suggestions in a future Appliance Doctor column.

Reader wonders what causes short furnace cycles

DAD



contractors said it was in good

condition.
"I have a Honeywell Magicstat. It goes off when I go to work (62° F), then on when I come home (70°). My problem is,

my furnace comes on for five minutes, off for five, on for five, otc. It does this all night long and all day long on weekends.

"Why does it do this? Is this normal? None of my neighbors furnaces do this. It must be playing heck with the electric and gas bill. I put a new filter in it every other month. I have changed nothing on it. Can you give me some insight on this problem? Thank you.

Karen B.

problem? Thank you.

Karen B.

First, let me thank you for your question; it is a good one. I believe there may be others who share a similar problem. Its good to send manufacture model numbers with questions, as you did, it makes any necessary research much easier.

The condition you described is usually called "short cycling." It

is not normal, and you got it cor-rect when you wrote that it must "be causing heck with your elec-tric bill." It's also "causing heck" with some of the parts of your furnace.

Short cycling origins

Short cycling origins
Several things can cause short
cycling. We have some short
cycling in our furnace, though
nowhere near the extent you
have. Ours occurs because the
builder installed an insufficient
plenum. Usually, however, it's
related to the limiter control.
When the thermostat calls for
heat, the limiter control allows
gas to flow to the burners. When
the heat exchanger gets to a preset high temperature, the gas
flow is shut off until the
exchanger cools to a preset low
temperature. The limiter again

allows the gas to flow. This cycle goes on until there is no longer a call for heat. In simple terms, the limiter is a safety device to the limiter is a safety device to keep your furnace from over-heating.

I should add that a furnace is

I should add that a furnace is a potentially dangerous appliance. It is a large, hot fire in your home. Any work on this appliance should performed by trained people. I strongly suggest getting a heating and cooling specialist to look at yours soon. Some thermostate have a cycling control built into them, as is the case with your Honeywell Magicstat/82. Unless the technician who checked your furnace changed this setting or the thermostat has developed electronics problems, it's not likely that this is causing your short cycles.

Adjusted thermostat
There is a possibility that
when your furnace was checked,
the technician may have made
adjustments on the limiter.
Sometimes this is done when the
burners are checked. You may
want to have this checked by the
person who did the fall cleaning.
Occasionally limiter switches
will break down. A furnace specialite should be able to check
this.

I was discussing your problem
with some friends at lunch the
other day. One of them told me
his limiter went haywire' on a
furnace that was about the same
age as yours.

age as yours.

I truly hope this has been of help. Again, thanks for sending in this question. By the way, unless you're using a premium

furnace filter, such as the 3M Filtrete, you may want to change your filter every month. Addendum: Karen later e-mailed to let me know that she

Addendum Karen later a-mailed to let me know that she had the furnace looked at. Both the thermostat and limiter were checked. As it turns out, it was the thermostat that "went hay-wire." She returned it to the place of purchase and replaced it with a new one. The furnace is now working well.

Harry Jachym, a licensed builder, lives in Plymouth and teaches building trades to high school students. Send any questions or comments to Harry Jachym, care of Ken Abramczyk, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or kabramczyk Goe. homecomm. net

Read Taste every Sunday in the Observer



Catch remodeling fever at Home Improvement Show

Homeowners can prepare for spring at the Home Improve-ment Show, the first home show of the season, Thursday-Sunday, Feb. 1-4, at the Novi Expo Cen-

Feb. 1-4, at the Novi Expo Center.

"Many homeowners don't want the trouble and expense of a full-scale relocation when, for a let less money, they can customize their present homes," said Stephen Taglione, president of the Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and Westminster & Abbey Homes in Bingham Farms. "Our show is replete with remodeling ideas and much more."

BIA is the non-profit sponsor

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At the show, Chaf Raymond-Wong will combine his cooking artistry, teaching skill and humor to demonstrate low-facility chesic beautiness cooking. He will feature creative ways to use left-overs, cut down on salt and make the most of interesting saless.

make the most of interesting epices.
Other guest speakers Feb. 3 and 4 include Joe Gagnon, "The Appliance Doctor" for WJR-780 AM and columnist for the Observer & Eccentric and Dean Krauskopf, from WJR's The Garden Show. From WXT' 1270 AM are Glenn Haege of Ask the

Handyman, Rick Bloom of Money Talls and Mike Wendland of PC Mike's High Teck. Weekend. Homeowners can bring bathroom pictures for the Original Ugliest Bathroom Contest sponsored by Mathison Supply, WJR and the Observer & Eccentric.

Among additional show features will be demonstrations on decorating, home repair and remodeling. More than 300 exhibitors will have advice, ideas and innovations for kitchens, baths, doors, windows, spas, remodeling, interior design, home offices, furniture, arts and crafts, decorative accessories, electronics, heating, cooling and appliances.

The Novi Expo Center is at I-96 and Novi Road. Show hours are 2-10 p.m. Feb. 1-2, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Feb. 3, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Feb. 4. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for ages 6-12 and free for under age 6.



www.workbenchfurniture.com