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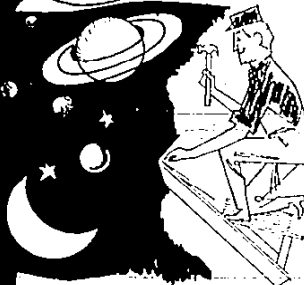
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## PROTECT YOUR HOME

### Summer Brings Out The Best In Burglars

By CAROL KATZ

Once you have taken bucket and brush, hammer and nails and the time and trouble to fix up your home, you may find you are more than ready to relax.

While the rest of us are away on vacations, picnics and often no further off than the backyard patio, burglars are planning their fun indoors with an eye towards other people's goodies—color TV's, stereos, cameras and anything else that can be pawned or sold.

"There is no doubt that burglary increases in the warmer months of the year," says Captain Daniel Byrnes of the Farmington Police Department. "People simply aren't home as often. While they might have spent their winter in front of the TV, they now plan more activities that take them away from home, such as vacations and simply browsing through the shops."

Spring and summer offer other advantages to burglars, as well. Footprints can be tracked with snow on the ground, but warmer weather provides no such give-aways for thieves who might have to make an emergency escape on foot.

Burglary, which is probably the most serious crime common to the suburbs, isn't exclusive to high priced, affluent subdivisions.

It is, in fact, medium-priced homes in the \$30,000 to \$35,000 category that are most often targets for larceny, according to Captain Byrnes.

"Burglars look for well established brick ranches and small colonials in settled neighborhoods," Byrnes pointed out. "They look for homes which are landscaped and well landscaped."

One burglar, who combed subdivisions from Dearborn north to Farmington before getting caught, explained his strategy to the police. Residents of older, moderate priced homes were more apt to be able to afford the goodies he was looking for.

New subdivisions in which the residents were often mortgaged to the hilt proved to have poor pickings, he pointed out.

Owners of expensive new homes were more apt to spend their money on furnishings and socializing than the kind of gadgets and small appliances that made his work worthwhile, although costly homes in older areas were considered to be good targets.

Captain Byrnes points to apartments with young marrieds as being other favorite targets because all residents are usually working during the day. If, because of an inadequate lock on the front door, a burglar is able to enter one of these buildings, he will have several living units to explore.

**Theft is uncommon in apartments for the elderly because the residents are usually at home, Captain Byrnes added.**

Theft often occurs because people unknowingly or carelessly invite burglars into their homes by not taking the "right" precautions. Worrying about "crime in the streets" is fruitless; there are a number of steps that you can take that will discourage theft and help you to enjoy your fun in the sun season with increased security.

**• PLANNING TO BE AWAY**—Cancel all milk, newspaper and other deliveries by phone or in person ahead of time. Don't leave notes.

**• DON'T ADVERTISE YOUR ABSENCE**—An article in the local paper which says that "Mr. and Mrs. Smith are embarking for an extended tour of exotic Zanzibar" complete with pictures of the going away party is an engraved invitation for a burglar to invade your home. As a matter of fact, some criminals specialize in going away announcements. An article on your return will serve just as well.

**• ARRANGE FOR LAWN CARE**—and have someone remove adver-



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