

# Refrigerators Improve Home Life

Times have changed, and so have kitchens. The most dramatic evidence of this is furnished by the new electric refrigerator-freezers, which set a new pace in advanced technology and styling.

The new units hold more food and keep it longer than models just a few years older. They also have added conveniences and look smarter, yet require less care than ever before.

Much of the work formerly associated with the care of refrigerator-freezers has been eliminated. With the new frost-free units, there is no need to defrost the appliances and frozen food packages will not stick together.

The refrigerator-freezers do a better job of storing frozen foods, meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, butter, cheese and numerous other items. They can also make and store more ice cubes with less trouble.

Separate zero-degree freezer compartments maintain ideal temperatures for preserving the freshness, flavor and nutrition of frozen foods. They are also roomier, to accommodate many new frozen food varieties being introduced all the time.

Special meal keepers, where temperature is maintained at 28-32 degrees, can store meat up to seven days without freezing or loss of freshness and flavor.

Improved crisp compartments keep fruits and vegetables fresher longer because of better humidity control. Butter and cheese stored in the special compartments designed for them will maintain freshness, flavor and consistency.

Temperatures are more strictly controlled, thanks to better insulation, tighter-fitting doors and better engineered food storage areas.

Many new refrigerator-freezers have automatic ice makers, which replace ice cubes as they are used. Special bins can store up ice for special occasions.

The units have greatly increased the food storage space of models just a few years old, without an equivalent increase in floor space.

For example, an 18-cubic-foot model can stand in a spot formerly occupied by a 12-cubic-foot unit. Thinner and better-insulated walls, specially hinged doors, square-foot design and more compact mechanical units add up to more usable interior space, without adding bulk.

Although there is more room inside, slide out shelves and storage bins make refrigerator and freezer areas easier to reach.

One of the more important advances has been in the area of color and styling.

White still accounts for more than half the new refrigerator-freezers sold, but color is becoming increasingly popular. Colors most in demand are copper-tone, turquoise and yellow. The newest is beige, which complements the warm tones of wood cabinetry.

The trend toward high-style kitchens and a rising demand

# Observer HOME IMPROVEMENT

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## Realtors Told of Plans For Rapid Transit System

A rapid transit system capable of moving millions of people out of the Detroit metropolitan area smoothly, swiftly and comfortably between their homes and places of work was described to members of the United Northwestern Realty Association.

The system, which would cost less than half as much as competing types of transportation, would be self-liquidating, could be built by the early 1970's, according to Marvin Stevens, president of Teletrans Corp.

The transit system we propose for Detroit and its environs would entail 10 lines, and capable of moving 170,000 people an hour, which is over two million people in a 12-hour day. This is equal to the total number of people presently handled by the combined subway and bus system of New York City," Stevens pointed out.

Although Detroiters don't realize it, they are actually losing money because they lack an adequate mass transit system, Stevens declared.

"Look at New York," he continued. "New York lost an estimated billion dollars during the recent transit strike. I dare say that if we had a total breakdown of our bus system, Detroit businesses would lose one quarter to half a million dollars daily."

Local transportation experts have estimated the economic loss during the Feb. 1965 snowstorm which crippled Detroit for three days to have been in excess of \$70 million dollars, Stevens pointed out.

"This offers at least some indication of how much we are losing day after day, week after week, year after year," Stevens said. "The lack of an adequate transportation system," he said.

Teletrans Corp. is presently awaiting approval to build a mile-long demonstration line on Woodward between 7 and 8 Mile. Once approved, Stevens estimated that construction of the test line would be completed within 15 months.

# Bidrin Prevents Dutch Elm Spread

Commercial application of Bidrin Insecticide for the control of the smaller European elm bark beetle in 17 states last spring demonstrated new Bidrin's effectiveness as a tool in the struggle to halt the spread of Dutch elm disease, according to a report by a team of Shell Chemical experts.

Bidrin was applied to more than 100,000 elm trees and to date reports have been received on more than 57,000 of these applications. The trained and certified tree-care specialists who made them say that Bidrin held the breakthrough of the disease to previously uninfected trees to 1.4 per cent.

This performance, in the first year the product was used commercially (1965), was reported by J. M. Bann and R. S. Woolley in a paper delivered at the national meeting of the Entomological Society of America in New Orleans.

The total breakthrough on Bidrin-treated trees, including those which may have been infected prior to treatment, was 2.8 per cent, they said.

They pointed out that Bidrin has no effect on Dutch elm disease itself, which is a fungus, but is simply a means of controlling the disease's vector or carrier, the smaller European elm bark beetle.

They said the experience of the commercial applicators fully supported the data obtained in five years of research, indicating that Bidrin kills 75 to 100 per cent of attacking elm bark beetles within 24 hours, for a period of at least 25 days.

The team stressed that an effective program for the control of Dutch elm disease requires that Bidrin, like other insecticides such as DDT or methoxychlor, be coupled with a thorough sanitation program involving the cutting and burning of diseased trees as well as control of tree to tree infection through the root system.

They indicated some controversy has arisen over the effectiveness of Bidrin through its supposed failure to prevent Dutch elm disease in uncontrolled short-range experiments in epidemic Dutch elm disease areas.

Under conditions of a heavy insect infestation in a rela-

tively small tree population a breakdown in control would be expected regardless of the effectiveness of the chemical or the excellence of the design and application of the experiment. Such a phenomenon happens frequently on all crops, under high insect infestations and is readily accepted by most scientific workers.

In the course of treatment made last year there have not been any reports of injury to children, pets, or wildlife from Bidrin. These findings are in accord with the observations made in previous years and support Shell's contention that the Bidrin application represents little or no hazard.

Four reports of injury to operating personnel have been received. All were minor with the men returning to work in a few days. Investigation of these reports indicates that all injuries resulted from violations of safety instructions given at the training schools and outlined in the visual aid material.

Tree injury due to Bidrin was, for the most part, confined to marginal leaf burn. In a small number of cases, however, injury was severe and involved the defoliation of 50-100 per cent of tree's leaf surface. In even the most severe cases, treatment of the tree with water or a diluted fertilizer solution usually resulted in complete recovery of the tree.

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## Homeowners Told to Make Use of Space in Garage

Stand in the center of your garage (when the car isn't there) and make a complete, slow-motion survey of the wall space going to waste.

It requires no carpentry skill to put up shelves between the studs of garages with unfinished inside walls.

Almost any type of available lumber will do for this purpose.

You can use plywood strips if desired, or you may open to have some scrap pieces of plywood around. You will find it easy to set up shelves on wooden or metal supports nailed or screwed to the sides of the studs.

Tools, garden implements and the like can be hung from metal hooks set into the perforations of hardwood.

The hardwood is easily attached to the studing. In the event that the inside of your garage is finished, that is, it has a flat-surface wall, you will have to attach framing strips in order to make use of perforated hardwood.

If you do not do this, there will be no space between the hardwood panels to insert the metal hooks.

If the inside walls of your garage are concrete or some other masonry, attachments will be more difficult than with wood.

Masonry shields or anchors may be the answer. These are small, hollow receptacles which are inserted in holes drilled into the concrete with either a power drill with a carbide-tipped bit or with a star drill.

When a screw or special bolt is inserted into the shield

or anchor, the receptacle expands, firmly gripping itself inside the concrete. In drilling, it is a flat-surface wall, you will have to attach framing strips in order to make use of perforated hardwood.

Masonry nails also can be used.

These are hammered into the concrete like ordinary nails, but require strong blows.

Furring strips or studing are hammered on the metal squares.

Should your garage be so small that there is no room at all to put anything on the side walls, you still can make use of the space at the back end.

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## Basements Billed As Best Buy in Building Business

If you're planning to build or buy a home, take advantage of the big benefits a basement offers.

That's the advice of many builders and building industry suppliers, who point out that basements are truly a bargain, probably the best buy you get in building a house these days.

"Look at it this way. If you were building a house and the contractor explained that you could have another thousand dollars or so he could give you virtually double the space you were considering, wouldn't you consider that a wise investment?"

"That's the situation with the average basementless slab-on-ground house, as against the same size home with a basement."

"At \$1 to \$2 a square foot you get usable basement space, whereas the cost of above-ground construction can be anywhere from about \$10 to \$15 or more a square foot."

With today's efficient heating systems that are clean, compact and require little or no duct-work, basements, practically the entire basement can be utilized for convenience and better living.

In addition to the usual storage and laundry facilities, modern basements can provide beautiful recreation for a child's playrooms, complete workshops, quiet studies or home offices and second bath rooms.

Many families—and they include those in quite comfortable circumstances—even convert part of their basement area nowadays into an added bedroom or two. Sometimes this is done to accommodate their growing numbers and sometimes just for guest use.

Another important advantage of homes with basements, building experts declare, is the fact that they have wood joist floor systems, which offer dryness, warmth and foot comfort.

Generally topped with generous oak or other hardwood finish floors, the floor systems are placed well above the ground and thus are not subject to the dampness often associated with concrete slabs laid on the soil.

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## Oakland Schools Have Lobbyist in Budget

A liaison person from Oakland Schools to deal with Federal and State government, but also a possibility as designates from school boards in the county met last week to study the intermediate district budget.

Application forms for funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act are "distressing, frightening, even to look at," said Farmington Trustee Herbert Neal.

The \$22,000 in Oakland Schools \$11,157 projected expenses for next year would cover the costs of salary, secretarial time and travel for a full-time person to assist county schools in their dealings with Lansing and Washington.

Other additions to Oakland Schools operations reflected in the proposed budget were two part-time graduate assistants in the mathematics program, a technical assistant in systematic studies, and an assistant director of transportation.

Plans to link data equipment in local school district offices to a high powered computer in the Data Processing Center were shown in a \$10,000 "ready" cost for teleprocessing.

There was no budget provision to continue activities in behalf of gifted students. A study on programs for children of exceptional ability is to be completed this year and a recommendations for further action are to be made at that time.

The budget presented was \$22,353 over the \$539,904 sum allocated for the instructional administration and administrative operations of Oakland Schools this year.

It would call for 18.6 cents of the \$15 per thousand allowable tax on equalized property valuation.

The budget Oakland Schools may present to the Tax Allocation Board in April must be approved by school board designated in early February.

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