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## New Siding Perks Up Old Houses

If you think a new dress can do wonders for a woman who feels she's growing older, you'd be amazed what it can do for a middle-aged house.

Asbestos siding, used by 1920 standards, would look drab today — just as many fine and structurally sound houses built just a few decades ago look drab now.

Many owners of older homes have turned to residing as the surest way to stay years from their homes' appearance. In the process, they've eliminated burdensome maintenance chores.

A new exterior of mineral fiber siding, for example, will add a bright, fresh appearance to a dull-looking home that will last many years.

Mineral fiber's textured surface is pre-finished with a long-lasting plastic acrylic color coating that can be restored periodically simply by washing it down.

Mineral fiber is a tough, permanent-type material, like brick or marble, that will not rot, dent or burn and cannot provide food for termites.

Installed over an insulating barrier, it provides an extra-shadeline and additional insulation for exterior walls, especially important for homes built before wall insulation was standard practice.

Residing makes real economic sense for many homeowners. By adding to the estimated costs for painting (most houses need repainting every three to five years), and comparing with cost of residing, it can be shown that the "expense" is a saving.



HUNDREDS OF LIGHTING FIXTURES have the attention of Jerry Zaleski, showroom manager of Allen Electric Co., and Lillian Lea Marquart. They are shown looking over a small portion of the fixtures on display in the showroom.

## Allen Electric Moves Into Expanded Quarters

In the short span of six years, Allen Electric Co., on Plymouth Road, grew so fast that President Joseph Horwitz and Vice President and General Sales Manager Arthur Jones found it necessary to expand into new quarters.

That's exactly what has happened and the firm is now located in the new, modern building at 31750 Plymouth Road where officials believe they have adequate space to take care of their customers for the time being.

The new building, which measures 60 by 164 feet, is four times larger than the previous on Plymouth Road.

Allen Electric has a large showroom with hundreds of electrical fixtures and lamps for the retail trade but it concentrates on the wholesale and commercial trade for all needs of contractors for industrial and commercial work.

"We have everything an electrical contractor could possibly need," said Vice President Jones. "We are equipped to handle every type of electrical equipment for a large industrial, commercial or public building. We handle all name brands, have delivery trucks available for deliveries and have specially constructed loading docks for all of our customers."

Jones takes a great deal of pride in an electric fixture that quickly removes snow and ice from all of the loading docks as fast as it falls.

"We use an electric device," he said, "there is never any trouble with our trucks or those of customers at the docks, the loading facilities are always as dry as a bone."

Allen Electric has constructed the new building in such a design that the capacity can almost be doubled if necessary. There is plenty of room for additional expansion and officials believe they may have to use it if business continues to grow as in the past few years.

## Observer HOME IMPROVEMENT

Do-It-Yourself • Decorating • Remodeling

Page 6-B Wednesday, May 11, 1966

## Mobile Home Sales Still Climbing in Most Areas

Mobile homes account for one out of every three dwellings designed to sell for less than \$10,000 and may well be the major factor in the low-cost housing market by 1970, according to one of the country's leading producers of relocatable residences.

In addition, one-sixth of all new, non-army, single-family home purchases last year were mobile units, says F. L. Cap-pert, president of Magnolia Homes Manufacturing Corp.

And, he adds, 85 per cent of those structures are used as permanent homes.

Cap-pert says the low cost of mobile homes—a result of technological advances and mass production techniques—is a significant factor in the growing popularity of the units.

"The average mobile home costs \$5,000 — about 58 per square foot, completely furnished, as compared with \$14 per square foot for conventional housing, unfurnished," he said.

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## FENCING PATIO

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## Iron Piping Considered Permanent

Everything seems to become obsolete rather fast these days — jet planes, factory equipment, electronic gadgets, and even the small car. In fact, much industrial machinery is almost obsolete even before it has reached the end of its useful life.

For this reason many businessmen like to depreciate or "write off" the cost of a new piece of equipment as soon as short a time as possible, perhaps just one or two years.

However, when it comes to the cast iron soil pipe plumbing drainage system in an industrial or commercial building, the IRS considers it so permanent that it suggests the useful life of cast iron in waste lines in a building be spread over the entire life of the building. It rates underground cast iron sewers at 33 years for depreciation.

And evidence indicates even much longer life can be expected. Recently a four-inch sewer was removed and replaced with a larger size to serve a new building in Roanoke, Virginia.

This four-inch sewer had given 68 years of service and was in excellent condition.

For the homeowner having a cast iron soil pipe plumbing and drainage system means that he will probably never have to worry about excessive maintenance or replacement for the entire life of the house.

Cast iron soil pipe is the only piping material permitted underground beneath a building by all the plumbing codes in the United States.

## Realtors to Celebrate National Realty Week

The week of May 22-28 has been officially designated Realtor Week, and the 1,400 members of the United Northwest Real Estate Association—Western Wayne-Oakland County Board of Realtors have made extensive plans for its celebration. Everett J. Wilson, Milford Realtor and this year's Board president, said Monday.

As a pre-echo to Realtor Week, members of the board will distribute 25,000 helium-filled and stick-mounted balloons to children at shopping centers and other public spots throughout their territory on Saturday, May 21.

Also on the agenda will be the annual Realtor Week dinner on Thursday, May 26, at the Mayflower Restaurant in Plymouth, with radio personality Bud Guest as the principal speaker. Honored guests at this event will be the mayors and supervisors of 23 cities and towns served by NREIA members, along with representatives of the press.

"The purpose for Realtor Week," said Wilson, "is to direct public attention to the call-in and special character of the services rendered by a Realtor."

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## Brighten Your Patio

The easiest way to brighten outdoor living with changing color schemes is to keep most of your patio or porch plants in clay pots, and in planters with rollers or casters.

In this way you can adjust colors to fit various flowering seasons, merely by moving or wheeling your mobile plants around as you see fit.

Classified Ads Get Quick Results

## SHADE TREES

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Wayne Jones

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