

But Plan Ahead

All Can Join Home Repair Derby

Making a house increase in value with age is not easy, but millions of Americans are giving it a try.

More than 15 million home-owning families are taking part in the great National Home Improvement Derby of 1966, says Aldo Martin, a materials specialist.

Their basic motive will be not only to protect but to increase the value of their homes, he notes.

If you are among these short-sighted optimists, you can achieve your purpose with a minimum of labor and expense, Martin warns, only if you lay out a long-range program and plan every step in detail.

Haphazard methods and in value with age is not easy, but millions of Americans are giving it a try.

The specialist points out that you don't have to remodel or enlarge your house to improve it.

Many home owners fail to realize that most maintenance projects can be turned into improvements simply through the use of high quality materials.

As an example, he cites the installation of aluminum siding instead of contracting for an expensive paint job.

Although the first cost may be higher, the expense of future paintings and repairs is eliminated for some 20 years or more, and, in addition, the insulating value of the siding, which will materially reduce heating and air conditioning costs, and the improvement in appearance will be bonuses.

The use of top-grade paint and washable wallpaper when redecorating, the use of extra heavy shingles when replacing a roof, and the

purchase of a bigger or better hot water heater when replacing a worn out one are among other examples of how you can make maintenance dollars add improvement purposes.

A second category of improvements which you still do not change the physical shape of your house by additions or major remodeling is called upgrading.

This type of work includes such things as a complete air conditioning installation, a set of storm windows or storm- and screen combinations, built-in closets or bookcases, and the laying of new hardwood floor instead of refishing a creaky painted one.

New and improved materials and more efficient ways of doing things offer many opportunities to combine maintenance and improvement, Martin concludes, and urges you to include in your program an organized search for these money-making ideas.



GOV. GEORGE ROMNEY signs Hearing Aid Bill, putting Michigan in the forefront of all the states in regard to sales and fitting of Hearing Aids. On the left is Dan F. Bilano, Chairman of the Committee to formulate and propose a Bill for the Hearing Aid Association of Michigan that worked to prepare a Bill in close cooperation with the Attorney General's office.

Observer GARDEN PAGE

Page #4B Wednesday, July 27, 1966

New Electric Tool Is Handy Gadget

If tool-snatching is a problem, possibly here is the answer. A new electric engraving tool that can personalize that favorite hammer, wrench or what-have-you and cut down on snatching.

What's more, according to the manufacturer, Dremel, it makes engraving as easy as writing. Compact size, only 6 inches long, and weighing only 7 ounces, it is reportedly easy to handle, even by the lady of the house.

The Model 280 Engraver is a heavy duty, compact tool that provides a fast, permanent method of engraving

names or identification numbers on steel, copper, brass, silver, aluminum, glass, plastic, ceramic, wood, etc.

Makes a great gift. Comes in a sturdy, high-impact, molded nylon storage case; about fifteen dollars.

It is handy for personalizing or coding personal property, tools, instruments, business equipment, practically anything requiring permanent identification to prevent loss, theft or confusion. Pays for itself by eliminating costly tags and name plates. Easy to operate, no special skills required.

Special feature of this new engraver includes a unit powered by a high speed reciprocating motor and calibrated stroke adjustment which regulates the depth of engraving.

Adjustable to five positions—anything from a fine detailed line to a deep mark is easily obtained. Other features include a handy hand hook and a solid carbide engraving point. A diamond point is also available where continuous duty is required.

"Penny-wise . . . pound foolish" is certainly applicable to the purchase of tools.

Quality tools keep their edges longer. They are more easily sharpened. They stand harder usage.

The difference in price between a good tool and an inferior piece of junk amounts to very little. Good tools are a good investment.

Taller to the Eye

A ground-hugging house with a low-pitched roof and flat roof looks best with siding applied vertically. Suggested patterns are tongue-and-groove, board-and-batten and channel.

New Laundry Home Repair Loans Units Open Plan Ideas Come In Big Range

"Slimline" is a key word for those homeowners planning a new laundry room.

Many of today's new washer and dryer units feature a compact size that can fit into small areas. For instance, a hallway off the kitchen now might be transformed into a convenient laundry center, saving the walk down the basement steps.

Other families have found that a large closet off the bathroom can be utilized as a laundry room. It is important, of course, to have water and sink facilities available.

If the new laundry center is to be located near another room in the main living area of the house, consider accenting it with an eye-catching decor.

Be sure to combine good looks and easy maintenance in this area, since heat and steam can ruin many floor, wall and ceiling treatments.

Many local lumber dealers suggest using a plastic-finished hardboard, such as pre-decorated Marlite, to secure a neat-looking, long-lasting laundry room. This pre-finished hardboard paneling can be damp-wiped clean; never needs refinishing.

Marlite comes in a wide range of colors, woodgrains and patterns. Many homeowners prefer a pleasant chintilly pattern, which harmonizes well with most colors. Matching moldings also are available at local lumber dealers.

Home handymen can install Marlite, using regular carpenter tools and wall-board adhesive.

Keep Cool, Hide Joists in Basement

You can get an easy start on a basement recreation room by covering the ceiling joists. If you like the improved look, finish the job by paneling the walls.

It's one way to keep cool on hot summer days!

Such a ceiling is a good starter project, because of its simplicity.

Just nail 1x3-inch lumber parallel to the bottom edge of the joists. Then slip cut-to-size panels of Masonite 1/2" hardboard into place on the shoulders, where they are held by gravity. Nailing is not required, and the panels can be removed readily.

A choice of panels is available. They might be a pre-finished hardboard called Marbletone. Other possibilities are Filigree, Peg-Board, wood-grained hardboard or plain hardboard that requires painting.

Is the rate of adding insulation to seal off noise between floors. Just staple in blanket insulation before you insert the Masonite panels.

In basements where headroom is a factor, 4 1/2"x3 1/2" wood strips may be used with the bottoms of the joists.

Cost of the ceiling is low because of the minimum labor and material costs.

Beautifully and functionally the walls of your garage by installing Masonite Patterned Pegboard, which has a factory finish and the stamina to hold anything from a sled to an outboard motor.

When the money for renovating is not in hand, the home owner can find a wide variety of loans for improving his property available at most full-service banks. Before he takes the plunge, his banker can advise him on the following points:

• Whether the proposed investment is realistic in proportion to the value of the property. (There is little point, for example, in adding a \$3,000 greenhouse to a \$10,000 summer bungalow.)

• The approximate price range of the proposed improvement. (Contractors' offers differ. The bank will be able to give a reliable range, and may even supply the

names of reputable contracting firms.)

• The probability of a loan which will cover cost of improvement. (This depends upon credit rating and expandable income—that is, the amount of money left over after fixed living expenses are covered.)

Building Garden Gate? Watch the Dimensions

Building a gate? Outside dimensions of a gate should be 1 1/2 inch less than the space between gate posts to allow 3/4 inch clearance on both latch, side and hinge side when the gate is hung.

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