

Observer HOME IMPROVEMENT

Do-It-Yourself • Decorating • Remodeling

Page 8-B Wednesday, July 19, 1967

'Rec' Room Cooling Spot

Among the many advantages of a basement, home planning specialists point out, is the built-in coolness it offers in summer.

With a portion of the basement finished off as a family recreation room, you can have a most pleasant retreat when the temperature soars.

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A MILLION DOLLAR storm sewer for the Plymouth-Levan industrial area is under way this summer, with huge construction equipment digging an open cut from Plymouth Road to Schoolcraft Road. Sandy, unpredictable soil conditions and a high water table have harassed workers. Cement sections ten feet in diameter and weighing 23 tons per section are being lowered into place to serve an area of about one square mile. Completion is set for this fall.

Petunias, Snapdragons Most Popular

The four most popular flowers with home gardeners in order, are petunias, snapdragons, marigolds, and zinnias according to the Pennsylvania State University.

Penn State has one of only two dozen All-American test gardens for ornamental flowers in the United States.

The gardens serve to test new and established annual varieties for seed producers and dealers.

Among recent All-American award winners displayed in Penn State's gardens are Cosmos Sunset and Spun Yellow Marigolds; a Pansy named "Majestic White With Blotch"; an Amethyst Verbena; and a Sweet William called "Red Monarch."

Parasite May Have Answer To Elm Disease

A tiny European parasite, introduced into Michigan last year, shows "fantastic potential" for controlling the principal carrier of Dutch elm disease.

The parasite is a wasp, about one-fourth to one-half inch long, which appears to be "very active" in searching out the European bark beetle which spreads the disease.

Michigan State University entomologist Dr. Deane L. Haynes, Dr. James W. Butler and Douglas Vallek say the parasitic wasp has all the characteristics of a good parasite: it reproduces rapidly and in large numbers, readily seeks out bark beetle larvae, and is host specific (will not harm other organisms).

About a million European wasps are being released to see if they are able to overwinter in Michigan and thus provide a perennial biological control for the European elm bark beetle and prevent the spread of Dutch elm disease.

Westland Fire Damage Doubles During June

Westland's Fire Department has recorded its worst month of the year from a dollar-lost standpoint during June, which saw its fire damage level nearly double.

Another indication of the growing activity of the department is the number of multiple alarms, or times which the department has several calls at the same time.

There were 12 double alarms last month and two triple alarms. In addition, the firemen spread themselves thin during the June lightning storm when six per cent more than its normal rate of 130 calls per month.

Of those 150 calls, more than half, or 83, were rescue alarms, considerably higher than the 59 recorded the previous month. To date this year, firemen have responded to 430 such alarms, or about one-fourth more than the 347 reported during the first six months of 1966.

In addition, Westland's Parks and Recreation Department employees and six sets of building plans were reviewed and approved with recommendations.

Of the 62 actual blazes last month, 18 were caused by carelessness, four of which by smoking, four by burning rubbish and two by grease on stoves or ovens.

Wood Floors Come in Wide Style Variety

Hardwood floors, the overwhelming favorite for most homes in American homes, owe some of their popularity to the wide variety in which they are available, producers believe.

Among the various species oak is predominant, being used for more than all other species combined.

In styles or type there is a choice of four basic varieties—strip, plank, block and parquet. Many variations are possible within each style.

The strip type, used in most homes, is generally the most economically priced. As the name implies, it comes in long, narrow pieces. Customarily it is laid in uniform widths and always in random lengths.

Block floors are a modern, economical form of parquet. Each block is made up of several pieces held together by fasteners.

Be A Friend to Diamonds, Urges State's Top Expert

Diamonds are a girl's best friend, but like the best of friends, they need special loving care, according to Meyer Rosenbaum, Michigan's leading authority.

Brides are newly conscious of their bright new rings, and know that they actually look bigger when they are clean. It takes just a little extra to keep them that way.

Here are three easy cleaning methods that he recommends:

Detergent Bath. Prepare hot suds with a liquid detergent, preferably one with ammonia. Put the jewelry into the suds and clean around the diamonds and mounting with an eyebrow brush. Rinse in a bowl of hot water or put the jewelry in a tea strainer and rinse under running hot water. Pat dry with a soft, lintless cloth.

Cold Water Soak. Put jewelry in a half-and-half solution of cold water and ammonia and soak for about 30 minutes. Lift out, brush gently round diamonds and mountings. Swish jewelry in solution again and drain on a paper towel.

Quick-dip bath. For those who prefer using soap, whisk up suds in a bowl with two cups of hot water, a tablespoon of household ammonia and a few mild soap flakes. Be sure the flakes are thoroughly dissolved. Soak jewelry in a half-and-half solution of cold water and ammonia and soak for about 30 minutes. Lift out, brush gently round diamonds and mountings. Swish jewelry in solution again and drain on a paper towel.

On the Lawn
With Larry Lawrence
Some traditions die hard. It is a tradition in the garden supply business that taking care of the lawn is a man's job. And if you drive around the neighborhood any nice weekend you could convince yourself this is the truth.

It's the truth, but not the whole truth. Drive through those streets and avenues of a suburb after the school bus has left and before it gets back. Who's that over there in shorts and sneakers, putting on fertilizer? That's no mister, mister. That's his wife.

Two things have been chiefly responsible for putting ladies on the lawn. One is the light weight of modern fertilizers. The other is the spreader.

And a good spreader is no easy thing to find in a grocery cart. At least it should be. If it isn't, it should be traded in for a new one. Most dealers offer a generous trade-in allowance.

A spreader should also be accurate. If you happen to have a Scott's spreader and you want to check up on its settings, write to Scott's (Marysville, Ohio) and ask them to send you an accuracy page. It's free and it's easy to use.

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