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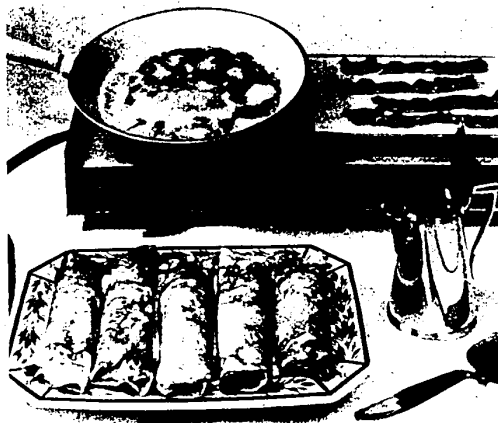
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Home Noises Cause Sickness

Noises commonly found in most every house and which almost everyone take for granted have been discovered to have an adverse effect on the emotional health of the family.

Sounds generated by ventilator fans and labor saving devices are marked as the culprits by Dr. Lee E. Farr, writing in the "Journal of the American Medical Association."

What Dr. Farr failed to mention, which remains a mystery why, is the adverse effect of screaming children all demanding--in loud voices--their particular desires at the same time.

HOWEVER, the Doctor does claim that many modern kitchens have become "miniature simulators of old-fashioned boiler factories."

Ventilating fans (about 84 decibels), dishwashers (69 decibels), garbage disposal units (78-100 decibels), among other pieces of household machinery, create a volume of sound which reverberates off steel or plastic-covered cabinet and working surfaces.

Dr. Farr says that a housewife who prepares a meal to the accompaniment of the "roars, squeaks, whirs and whines" of the contemporary kitchen cannot leave the room in a relaxed frame of mind.

OVER THE PAST 30 years acoustical engineers and architects have been trying to reduce noise in factories, offices and public meeting places. This has led to a steadily observed increase in industrial efficiency and improvement in industrial health.

By contrast, the home has become a noisier place, to the point, Dr. Farr says, where the hearing of the occupants may be impaired. The major harm results, however, from the effect of noise on the emotional state of the members of the family.

ONE STANDARD make of vacuum cleaner, for example, may produce 81 decibels at a distance of six feet. The occupants of one household who took part in Dr. Farr's inquiry complained that the hi-fi set was very loud when it produced 80 decibels.

In urban communities, where a high and increasing percentage of families live in apartments or terrace houses, intrusive sounds from neighboring homes can interfere with the individual's well-being. They may prevent him from relaxing, make him furious or limit his time or depth of sleep.

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Workmen's Comp. Case Time Cut, Says Yeager

Today it takes only six to nine months to handle a typical workman's compensation case, but four years ago it took one to two years, says a proud Weldon O. Yeager.

Yeager, director of the state's Workmen's Compensation Department, was replying to legislative criticism that the backlog of claims for on-the-job injuries has jumped from 6,000 to 12,000 in less than two years.

Yeager argued that what is important is not the total number of cases awaiting disposition but the average processing time. He said his figures covered cases which hadn't gone to appeals, and admitted that some do take longer.

A former Constitutional Convention delegate from Western Wayne County, Yeager became head of the workman's comp program four years ago as an appointee of Gov. Romney.

HE SAID SOME of the reasons for the increase in case-load were:

New legislation which made higher benefits possible; more liberal interpretations of the law by the Supreme Court; more attorneys are now working in the field of workmen's compensation; more people are taking advantage of the benefits because of increased education and publicity on the law; na-

tural growth in population and more people working.

Yeager said some factors regarding the workman's compensation law and how it is administered are not well understood by the public.

He said, that for one thing, the law won't allow settlement of disputed claims in less than six months because many injuries are of a nature which can't be fully determined in less than six months.

THE DIRECTOR said another point is that the pace at which a case moves from start to finish is largely up to the plaintiff's attorney. The attorney can slow down proceedings for various legal reasons if he chooses, and this is beyond the control of the department, Yeager said.

Another factor often overlooked, is that 80 per cent of all workman's job injury cases are paid voluntarily by the insuring firm with no delays.

He said about 20 per cent are contested and about half of these are usually settled without reaching the hearing stage. An average of about five per cent are withdrawn at some stage.

He said this means that only about five per cent of the cases actually go to trial.

ALL THINGS considered, Yeager said he thinks the department is in far better shape than it has been in years as far as time for disposition of cases is concerned.

The major problem his department faces now is a shortage of clerical personnel to handle the paperwork, Yeager said. He thinks there are enough hearing referees (19) working in various areas of the state, but not enough office people.

Once a case is determined by the department hearings, it may be appealed by either party to the appeals board. Here the delay is longer--anywhere from a year to a year and a half, Yeager said. The appeals board backlog is about 600 cases, he added.

Some cases go on from there into the higher courts where proceedings may last another year or more.

But Yeager said the bulk of the cases are disposed of in a much shorter time.

DEATH RATE

The rate of accidental deaths from firearms is dropping, while deaths from other causes are increasing. Five years ago, firearms deaths amounted to 1.5 per 100,000 people. Now the rate is 1.1 per 100,000 people.

DOORS
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9:30 A.M.

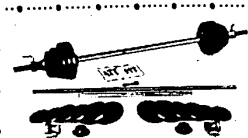
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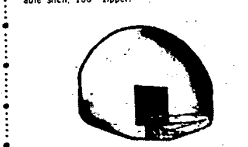
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