

Fireplaces, wood stoves are cheap energy, but be careful

Higher prices for home heating have brought about a revival of wood-burning stoves and fireplaces. Unfortunately, this revival has been at least partially responsible for 12 deaths this winter around the country.

Most of the deaths attributed to wood-burning stoves and fireplaces have been the result of people's negligence or inexperience, according to Tom Heck, wood energy specialist with the Michigan Dept. of Commerce Energy Administration.

Heck recommends a number of precautions designed to insure the safety, economy and enjoyment of fireplaces

and wood-burning stoves.

FIREPLACE owners should keep a poker, shovel and brush readily available. Long handles on these tools will prevent singed knuckles and fingers.

Every fall, the chimney should be checked for debris build-up that could cause a chimney fire.

Paper and wood should not be stacked too high in the fireplace. Once it starts burning, the wood may shift and spill burning debris onto the floor.

Beware of wood, such as pine, that contains resins. When the resins are

heated an explosion may occur which could burn family members or the carpet.

Combustible materials should not be kept in front of the fireplace. Heat radiating from the fire could cause ignition.

Never use kerosene, gasoline or other fuels to start the fire. Paper and wood kindling are adequate and safer.

A small portable fire extinguisher should be kept within easy reach.

If your wood requires chopping, cutting or splitting, know what you are going to do before you do it.

If you plan to install a fireplace,

know how to do it or have it installed by a qualified mason. There are do-it-yourself fireplaces, as there are wood-burning stoves, but the same precautions apply.

WOODBURNING STOVES require much the same precautions as fireplaces. In addition, the stoves involve certain special precautions.

Stove pipes must be properly insulated. Insulated metal stove pipes are expensive, but any moves to economize may be dangerous. Ceilings and walls may be easily ignited by a poorly or non-insulated stove pipe.

A non-combustible material below the stove is a must. Some wood stoves can be purchased with a metal reflector on which the stove rests. Bricks and stones can serve the same purpose.

Distance of the stove from walls and drapes is critical. Most fire codes require 18 to 20 inches between the stove and wall.

Proper ventilating of smoke and fumes is important. Make sure the chimney or stovepipe is at least two feet above the highest point of the roof.

Briskey is UP postal chief

Jack Briskey left the Upper Peninsula as a young man to become a tool-and-die worker. Now, as a young man of 44, he is returning home as a postmaster.

After serving with the Southfield Post Office for 17 years, Briskey will be sworn in on Monday, Feb. 28, as postmaster for Crystal Falls, an Upper Peninsula town with a population of 3,500.

"I'm kind of happy," Briskey said with a tremendous smile. "I want to go back up there."

Briskey said his wife's mother lives in the Upper Peninsula as do many of his cousins and high school friends.

Briskey who was raised in the Upper Peninsula town of Calumet, began working for the Southfield Post Office after the tool-and-die business "went bad."

Since then, he has been a clerk, foreman of mails and most recently, a foreman of delivery.

Briskey's new job at Crystal Falls, which is located northwest of Iron Mountain near the Wisconsin border, will involve supervising a staff of eight who deliver the mail on two city routes and two road routes.

He and his family are anticipating the move. His wife, Barbara, will go to the ceremonies with him next week. Briskey will stay in his new town while his wife returns to Southfield to care for their two youngest children, Kelly and Tom. When the school term ends in June, they will all join Briskey in their new residence. Remaining in Southfield are Briskey's daughters, Kimberley, age 22, and Lori, age 21, and Briskey's mother.

A member of the Southfield Optometrist Club and Trinity Lutheran Church in Berkley, Briskey remembers Southfield when his house on Selkirk was the only house on the block.

Gosling chosen

Maryllyn Gosling of the Bloomfield Republican Women's Club was installed recently as president of the Oakland County Council of Republican Women's Clubs for 1977.

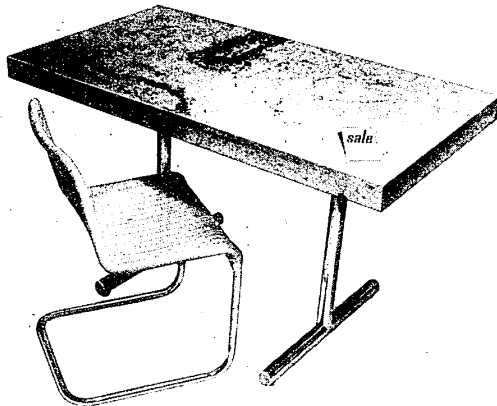
Mrs. Gosling follows outgoing council president Lillian (Skeets) Davey of Birmingham.

Other council officers installed at a meeting at the Village Club in Bloomfield Hills are: Barbara Bretz of the West Bloomfield-Pontiac club, first vice-president; Marianne Kasper of the Bloomfield club, second vice-president; and Carolyn Murphy of the West Bloomfield-Pontiac club, corresponding secretary.

Presidents of the seven GOP Women's clubs in the county are Gayle Murphy, Birmingham; Cathy Renwick, Bloomfield; Penny Lefort, Troy; Joan Sikorski, West Bloomfield-Pontiac.

Also, Mary West, South Oakland; Mary Louise McMillan, Farmington; and Shirley Johnson, Royal Oak.

Southfield County Republican Chairman Arthur Elliott installed the new officers.



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