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## Handsome Divider Is Also Hobby Center

Space is a luxury in most homes, so a room divider that combines organized storage with hobby and work areas can be welcome indeed.

And for a bonus, the divider can be built so it can be moved about. Against a wall, it's floor-to-ceiling storage; rolled out on casters, it's a room divider; or in the center of the room, an island for family activities.

A handsome version that can be built from available plans is called the Caravan. All materials needed are available from most lumber

dealers. The project puts lazy space to work, while serving as an attractive piece of furniture.

A novel shelving arrangement is another feature of the movable Caravan. Upside-down beveled board siding acts as cleats to hold the shelves, drawers and storage "boxes," which rest on small side rails.

A DROP-DOWN table becomes a home office, sewing area or hobby center. Drawers and slotted shelves allow orderly storage of bills, letters or patterns.

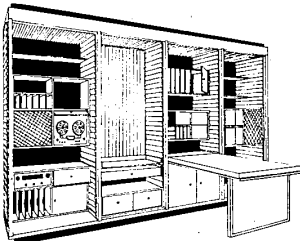
A pull-out drawer-shelf in the compartment adjacent to the table provides a convenient typing area for correspondence or home office work.

The end compartment houses a tape deck, record changer, records and small television set.

The Caravan, as designed by Melvin Kroker, a young Oregon architect, is ceiling high, has four sections, and the shelves and storage boxes are interchangeable.

BUT THE UNIT may be scaled down in size for an apartment, or expanded for a larger home. One or two such units function well as partitions for a temporary guest room.

For an eight-page color booklet on storage ideas, featuring the Caravan, and a plan sheet with construction details and materials list, send 25 cents in coin to Western Wood Products Assn., Dept. 519-21P, Yeon Bldg., Portland, Or. 97204.



THIS STORAGE WALL on wheels is truly versatile—as a room divider, activity island or just organized storage with variable shelves and cabinets. It's the Caravan, built of western lumber and paneling in various widths. Shelf areas are faced with upside-down beveled siding, which serves as cleats.

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GLENN PURDY displays a large begonia which is but one of many varieties of plants that flourish in his basement garden.

### Suburban Gardener

## Basement Garden Flourishes In Winter

By BETTY FRANKEL

What do you do in the winter with an itchy green thumb?

Glenn Purdy exercises his in the basement of his Farmington Township home where hundreds of plants flourish on tiers of redwood benches he has constructed along the outer wall. This floor to ceiling greenery is illuminated by long fluorescent lights suspended above each shelf.

Gardenia, poinsettia, bromeliad, dracaena, rubber plant, a miniature orange tree and a jade plant are among the exotics growing in this miniature jungle.

Included is a collection of begonia plants raised from cuttings from plants in the University of Michigan botanical greenhouses near Ann Arbor. These have large leaves strikingly marked with red or white spots and colored red or silver on the undersides.

Purdy also has African violet plants that have grown to immense size, some over 18 inches across. These flower profusely under the lights.

GERANIUMS, fibrous begonias, German ivy and variegated vinca vine are among the plants that Mr. and Mrs. Purdy use outdoors in summer in flower beds and hanging baskets and that Purdy propagates in his basement garden during the winter.

Cuttings root readily and Purdy renews and increases his supply of geraniums, begonias and African violets. The latter are rooted in special sterile potting soil purchased from a nursery. The geraniums and begonias are rooted in vermiculite.

Although Purdy's indoor garden is so spectacular, it was a relatively inexpensive "do-it-yourself" project. The benches, each eight feet long and nearly 30 inches wide, are made from commercial grade redwood with no finish on it. The supports are two by fours and the bench sides are one by sixes. All parts are bolted together so they can be dismantled or moved. The eight-foot long lighting fixtures, as well as the fluorescent tubes, are "surplus" from a company that sells supplies from demolished buildings. Some of the fluorescent lights are "cool lights" with a blue cast, and other are Sylvania "Grow lights" with a pink glow that intensifies the vivid appearance of the plant colors.

A TIMER automatically turns the lights off and on. It is adjusted so that the plants are illuminated for 14 hours each day. The timer, which cost only \$1, was originally used to turn on and off an electric display sign.

The benches are lined with three-foot wide four mil plastic sheeting and are filled with vermiculite to a depth of several inches. The potted plants are set in the vermiculite. By keeping the vermiculite moist the humidity is kept suitably high around the plants.

If the air seems unusually dry, Purdy raises the humidity by squirting the cement floor in front of the benches with water from a near-by hose connection. This seldom is necessary, though.

ABOUT ONCE every six weeks the plants are fed with an organic fertilizer processed from fish. It has a rather strong odor but is an excellent fertilizer and is

absolutely safe to use on almost all plants.

Although Glenn Purdy claims he's not a horticultural expert, his verdant basement oasis is proof enough that his thumb is very green.

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