

# BUILDING SCENE

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THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1993

## BUILDING SCENE'S NAMES & PLACES

### President's award

Robert C. Wade, chairman and CEO of Wade-Trim, Plymouth, received the president's award by the Consulting Engineers Council of Michigan for his contributions to the council and the consulting engineering profession.



Wade

His contributions include more than 20 years of service to the American and Michigan Consulting Engineering Councils, including service as president of the state council, the state's national director with the American Consulting Engineer's Council, an ACEC peer reviewer for seven years and a member of the group's engineering excellence and budget committees.

Wade will soon begin a term as vice president of ACEC where he will be responsible for a series of national committees, helping to set national policy and working with state organizations.

He helped form a joint professional practice committee between the Consulting Engineers Council of Michigan and the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers that serves to assist the state licensing board in monitoring unlawful practice by engineers and non-engineers.

Wade-Trim provides architectural, engineering, planning, science and surveying services.

### Steel detailing grad

George Papazoglou of Canton was one of the first graduates of an associate degree program in steel detailing sponsored by the Southfield-based Great Lakes Fabricators & Erectors Association at Henry Ford Community College.

Enrollment applications are now being accepted for the steel detailing class beginning in August. Applicants are required to have a high school diploma and are given career orientation and algebra instruction. For more information, contact Albert Frechette, GLFEA executive director, at 358-2620.

Information for inclusion in this column should be sent to Marilyn Fitchett, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

## Pouring on the heat for winter building

When the thermometer dips, 4 million BTUs can keep the chill off even a large building under construction.

By DOUG FUNKE  
STAFF WRITER

Snow swirls in the brisk northwest wind as the temperature hovers in the mid 20s. It's winter, it's Michigan and it's cold outside.

But a group of tradesmen comfortably tells inside a 60,000-square-foot research building under construction in Plymouth Township.

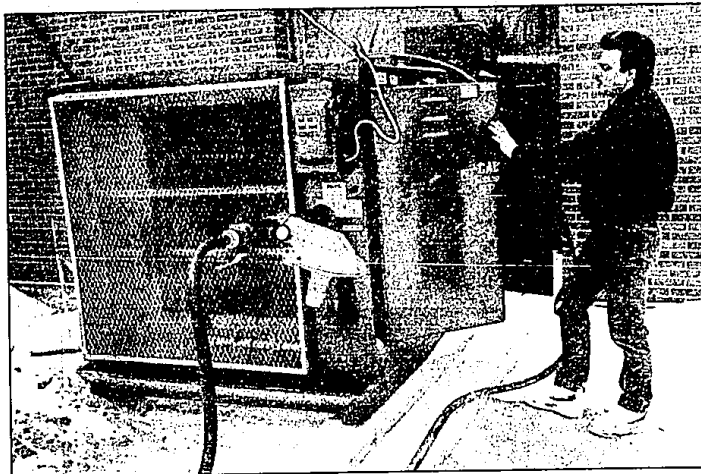
A smallish-looking, gas-fired furnace positioned outside an opening at one end of the structure cranks out four million BTUs of heat energy — the equivalent of 40 home-sized furnaces — which is circulated by four 42-inch fans.

And the work goes on, thanks in great part to Temp-Heat. That national company with administrative offices in Southfield and a warehouse in Canton supplied the furnace and fans.

"They didn't do a lot of winter construction 25 years ago," said Roger Hawkins, technical field representative for Temp-Heat. "They had no way to effectively and economically heat a building."

William E. Beattie Jr., founder and president of U.S. Distributing in Birmingham, knows all about that history, too. He started his business in 1972 to provide temporary heating sources to building contractors and now has clients nationwide. His company is competitor of Temp-Heat. "It's more widespread and there's a heckuva lot more applications now," Beattie said. "Furnaces are typically used in construction, in hangars for painting airplanes and even bug eradication (in orchards)."

**Building season extended**  
Jim Fogolini, a project superin-



BILL DRISLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**Keeping warm:** Roger Hawkins, a field representative for Temp-Heat, looks over a temporary furnace at a construction site that supplies the equivalent warmth of 40 home-sized furnaces.

tendent with Kojalan Development, put everything into a nice, neat perspective.

"The faster you build a building, the more money you save," he said. "Instead of before, where you shut down or just worked certain trades, now I'm able to put drywall in right through the winter... and save the owner money."

"There's a lot more work done now. Today in construction, if you're not geared to the fast track, if you're not

willing to spend for heat, you may as well just quit," Fogolini said.

The heat is more for materials than the comfort of workers, but both factors are important to cost effective building.

"For many tapes and finishing materials (drywall mud), you need 55 to 60 degrees," Hawkins said. "Most concrete specs require at least 40 degrees."

"As it gets colder, worker productivity plummets," he added.

"Our heaters are in use well into April and into May to offset wetness," Beattie said. "If there's no heat in the building (then) and it's raining, we'd have to shut down as if it were too cold."

Beattie figures that he's currently heating more than 60 construction projects in Michigan. The big one is the Veterans Administration Hospital in Detroit.

See HEAT, 2F

## Lumber adds \$4,500 to price of new houses

By DOUG FUNKE  
STAFF WRITER

Area builders, concerned about the rising cost of lumber, have called for an intense local and national lobbying campaign to convince President Bill Clinton to convene a timber summit.

"Our goal is sensible and realistic legislation that will balance environmental concerns and the economic impact on the country and the industry," said Fred Capaldi, a Rochester Hills builder and president of the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan.

"Ultimately, that's the goal — to bring prices down," he said.

Lumber costs have added \$4,500 to a 2,000-square-foot house since last October, Capaldi said. All lumber including framing materials, plywood and millwork products such as moldings, windows and doors has been affected.

"The lumber price increase is the result of a steep drop in lumber supply brought on by restrictions on harvesting timber from federal lands and increased demand from the home building industry," Capaldi said.

BASM wants more timber lands open for harvesting.

"The bigger the supply, the less the price

should be," Capaldi said.

But a larger supply wouldn't necessarily result in immediate wholesale and retail pricing cuts, said Chuck Jones, a spokesman for Georgia-Pacific, one of the largest lumber suppliers in the nation.

"Over the past three years something like 150 sawmills and plywood plants in the Pacific Northwest have closed," Jones said. "Just because you open up (forests) doesn't mean all those sawmills would reopen."

Jake Bolyard, vice president of a Rochester Hills lumber retail operation, said that while he sympathizes with the builders, he believes that lumber has been priced artificially low the past few years.

Especially considering how the price of land and cars has skyrocketed, he said.

"All of a sudden it's catch-up time," Bolyard said. "Lumber always has been a great value. They (builders) can complain all they want. What they're going to have to do is raise prices."

Fewer processing mills, less acreage under harvest and increased builder demand have combined to decrease inventory and cause a jump in wholesale and resale prices, Bolyard said.

See LUMBER, 2C

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