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DELIVERY

appliance doctor

Deadly dryer fires can be avoided



JOE GAGNON

The weather is turning cold and the snow is accumulating on the ground the winter sports enthusiasts are having a ball. Daytime temperatures are hovering around the 0 degree mark and homeowners are making

sure windows and doors are shut tight. It's the typical midweek day in a Michigander's home and the laundry is being put through the wash and dry process.

Ms. Jane Doe has just loaded the dryer with her second load of clothes consisting of sheets, pillow cases and a few towels when the telephone rings. On the other end is her husband who has just finished working the night shift and calls her to ask that she turn up the temperature in the hot tub which is located on the outside patio. Jane hangs up and slips her jacket on the proceeds through the sliding glass doors

During the time she was out of the house the clothes dryer had ignited the lint build up inside the vent line and bottom area of the dryer. The dryer had continued to run and the dryer blower had forced the flame up the back wall of the laundry room some 35 feet away from the glass patio doors. In the time of that first two minutes after Jane went outside, the laundry room was engulied with flame. Because of the air tight condition of the home this fire was now starving for air to continue is devastat-ing path. When Jane re-entered the house, the air that the fire needed so desperately was located directly behind

As Jane turned to shut the doors, the flames hit her in the back and ignited

the hair on her head causing some very serious burns. So surprised by the shock of it and realizing that she hadn't even smelled smoke, through all her pain, Jane was still able to grab her sleeping infant from the playpen and run out into the back yard where she collapsed. Her husband pulled into the driveway and saw the smoke pouring out of windows and called the fire department from his cellular phone.

The fire department arrived in minutes and Jane was whisked off to the hospital where she would spend several weeks in treatment. The fire department had a tough time fighting this fire because there was a room full of plastic toys etc. which give off toxic deadly odor when ignited. Except for the outer shell, the house was completely destroyed, but fortunately not the lives of the two people inside.

Footnote: This story is true, and it is only one of the many I have spent time investigating as an opponent of plastic or flexible dryer vent line. I write, I preach, I talk and still many of you are using the wrong kind of vent line on your clothes dryers. In the year 1995, there were a total of 60,076 reported fires in the state of Michigan. Will your name be on that list for 1997?

Please send a No. 10 stamped, selfaddressed envelope to your local Observer & Eccentric office for a free booklet on the subject to clothes dryers. It could save your life.

Joe Gagnon, the Appliance Doctor, will answer your questions about maintaining and repairing large applimaintaining and repairing targe apparances. Gagnon is president of Carmack Appliances in Garden City and does a weekly radio program on WJR-AM. He is author of "First Aid from the Appliance Doctor," available at area book-

Show bottles up Americana

The Metropolitan Detroit Antique Bottle Club will host its 25th annual January Mini Show and Sale 7-10 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16, at the Clawson Community Center, 509 Fisher Court in Clawson. Admission is free.

Sales tables and displays by the 60plus members of the club will be fea-

Take Exit 1-75 to 14 Mile and go west about two miles to Main in Clawson. Follow the signs to the Clawson Community Center at the end of Fisher Court, three blocks north of the 14 Mile and Main (Livernois) intersection. The phone number for the center is (810)

Members of the Metropolitan Detroit Antique Bottle Club include museum curators and affiliated consultants in addition to everyday people from all walks of life.