

THAT BILL BUILT...

Bill Potton of Westland needed a garage and decided to build one himself.

And that's exactly what he did!

The result is a sturdy two car structure with a reversed gable and a brick veneered front that matches the Pottons' house in custom made style.

The sectional roll-up door is seven feet high, enabling Potton to house his van comfortably.

Once faced with a storage problem, the Pottons and their five children now have plenty of room for their station wagon, camping trailer and bikes and toys as well.

"I never did anything like it before," admitted Potton, an aircraft mechanic for American Airlines. "And I found it, kind of interesting."

The secret of such an ambitious project lies largely in the planning. Potton referred to the plans of a friend who had done a similar job, then drew up plans of his own before he began the actual construction.

"I was pretty sure of myself before I started," he explained.

He began by laying his own foundation and pouring the cement himself. Next came the construction of the sub-structure for which he used 2 by 4 and 2 by 6 pieces of lumber. For the exterior he used pre-painted hardboard siding, thus eliminating the job of painting. The front of the 24' by 26' garage is veneered with brick.

Friends helped Potton put up the rafters and even his wife, Thelma, got into the act. "We had her up on a ladder helping to hold the siding strips in position," he recalled.

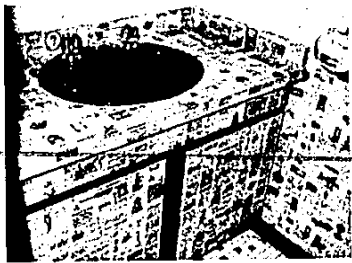
The project took Potton about two months, during which time he worked about four hours in the mornings when the weather permitted.

The fruits of his labor are many.

He and his family have ample room for storage, and he can look out his back window with pride at a job well done.

Last, but not least, he has saved several thousand dollars by doing the job himself -- a fine return on the two months of part-time work that he put in!

New Bathroom Vanities Add Looks, Storage Space



Matching vanity and wallpaper.

Beat the high cost of moving and remodel the house that you're already living in!

According to Ed and Paul Willhite, owners of the Farmington Cabinet Co., that is just what many Observerland residents are doing.

Do you have an old fashioned bathroom with a wall hung ceramic sink and exposed plumbing underneath? Have the demands of a growing family crowded your closet space to the bursting point?

The Willhites point to the trend in bathroom vanities made of laminated plastic that can be easily wiped clean and that provide storage area as well as hiding unattractive plumbing fixtures.

These can be extended from the wall over the bathroom bowl enabling you to store towels and other bath necessities. Adding a custom look to your bathroom, these wall hung shelves can also greatly relieve a bulging linen closet.

Looking as much like wood and marble as the real stuff, the latest

bathroom fixtures are made of wipe-clean plastic.

THE WILLHITES RECENTLY remodeled a house in Livonia where the bathroom vanity looks, for the world, as if it were made out of antique newsprint.

But that's only modern manufacturing playing tricks on your eyes again. The "newsprint" is actually plastic laminate and has been coordinated with wallpaper of the same pattern for a truly unique effect.

Emphasizing the black and white color scheme of this unusual bathroom are a black sink and a black bathroom bowl.

Ed Willhite, who started Farmington Cabinet Co., has been in the business for six years, having begun originally in his own basement.

The Willhites, whose business is a member of the American Institute of Kitchen Dealers, point to the increasing use of Corning pyrex (it's made out of the same easy-to-care-for material as your Corning ware casseroles) for kitchen ranges and burner tops.

DECOR BRICKS AND STONES, two more eye foplers which look like the real stuff, are other materials which the Willhites use to add interest and warmth to Observerland homes.

Your bathroom and your kitchen probably get more use than your living room. You needn't put up any longer with inconvenience and outdateness.

Nearly anything is possible on today's home remodeling scene.

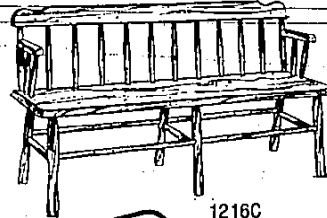
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