

A famous sportsman brings the outdoors into his home

By JUDITH BERNE

Jerry Chiappetta contemplates making wooden beams for his living room and hunting grizzly bears in the British Columbia with equal enthusiasm.

Chiappetta, producer and host of the state-wide sportsman's television program "Michigan Outdoors," has become a do-it-yourself indoorsman as well.

Chiappetta, wife Pat, four children, and two dogs have lived at 5529 West Maple in West Bloomfield for the 10 years since his work brought him to the Detroit area.

As in many cases of job transfers, the urgent need to buy a home forced them to settle for something less than their ideal.

THE CHIAPPETTAS moved into a builder's model home, complete with wall-to-wall carpeting, floor-to-ceiling wallpaper and heavy draperies which did not coincide with their simpler tastes.

But they lived with it, and contemplated moving further north as suburbia overtook rural West Bloomfield.

By the time, Maple Road was a flourishing thoroughfare and Big Boy was built on the corner, they found they had become thoroughly commensurate in the West Bloomfield community.

Deciding to make the best of what they had, the Chiappettas found their road to simplicity was not an expressway.

Beginning in the master bedroom, the Chiappettas began stripping wallpaper and pulling up carpeting and just kept going throughout the house.

THEY FOUND the builder in his enthusiasm to adorn the house had neglected to put any primer on the walls beneath the wallpaper.

"I found the wall coming off with

the paper," Chiappetta reported with disgust. "It made triple the work."

Under the carpeting, Chiappetta did find the hard wood floors the builder had advertised, but with paint droppings, which were not advertised. "They knew they were going to cover them up with carpet, so they just didn't care," Chiappetta declared.

HE SANDED, stained and applied a polyurethane coating to all the floors as a backdrop for the heavy Persian rugs Pat had been collecting for years.

Heavy drapes gave way to Chiappetta-finished wood shutters. He painted walls throughout the house and heightened their interest with dark-stained chair rails.

He added raised moldings to the flat surfaces of every door, and hung new doors to give the family more privacy, when visitors came to his lower-level office.

CHIAPPETTA might have relied on a carpenter to knock down a wall between the living and dining rooms to turn it into a large family room.

But the carpenter's estimate of cost and time made Chiappetta so mad he headed for the garage and nearest crowbar.

"In two hours' time, Pat and I had completely demolished the wall," Chiappetta said. "I'm not against carpenters making a living, but I am against remodeling the house to pay for it."

Chiappetta has no trouble reconciling his indoor and outdoor work. "It's so completely different from my professional role and that makes it refreshing," he explained.

"It was our own gutsy idea that we could do it," he said, as he observed his home with evident satisfaction.

"It might take me half a day to straighten a nail, but when I'm done it's a straight nail."

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Jerry and Pat Chiappetta like it simple (Photographed by Douglas Bauman)

Harrison band concert

FARMINGTON - The Harrison High symphony band spring concert will feature an exciting program at 8 p.m. May 10, in the Harrison auditorium.

The concert opens with a brass percussion "Fanfare" by Aaron Copland, and a Russian overture.

The "Enigma Variations," based on personalities of friends of the composer, Edward Elgar, is a beautiful work demanding sensitive interpretation and technical perfection.

Other numbers include the works by John Phillip Sousa and "Tocatta and Chorale" from "Music for Prague - 1968."

Tickets may be purchased in advance from band members or from director Paul Barber.

Ellen Dietrich has play part

Ellen Dietrich, 2521 Crystal Spring Ct., Farmington, is a cast member in the play "The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds," presented by the Mount Holyoke College Laboratory Theater in South Hadley, Mass.

OBITUARIES

DR. RAYMOND SCREEN, 58, of Farmington Hills died April 27, 1974, at the MediCenter in Southfield. He was born July 26, 1915, in New Orleans, La.

Surviving are wife Gertrude and daughter Mrs. Howard Busick of Maryland.

Services were Tuesday at the Haley Funeral Home in Southfield with burial in Parkview Cemetery in Livonia.

VERN LUNDEN, 73, of Plymouth Township died April 24, 1974, in St. Mary Hospital in Livonia. He was born Dec. 21, 1900, in Sweden.

Surviving are wife Nellie, daughter, Mrs. Earl (Carole) Stevens of Farmington and son Gerald of Livonia and five grandchildren.

Services were April 26 at the Schrade Funeral Home with burial in Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia.

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