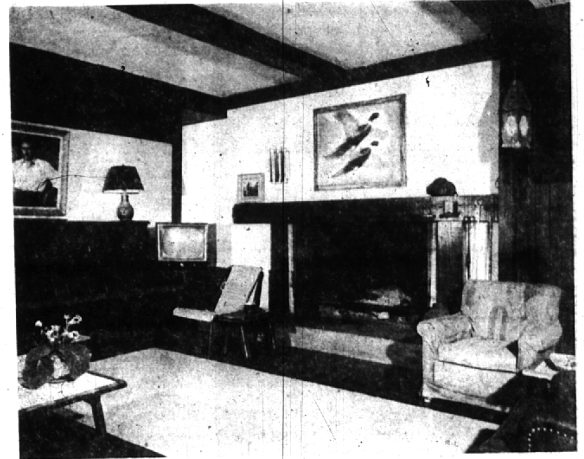




# Hillside Stable Transformed into a Home



LIVING ROOM fireplace has raised hearth and lintel made from one of the original oak beams. Self portrait of John S. Coppin hangs over settle-bench, at extreme left. Bench extends along entire length of the living room.



## Planned Parenthood Tour Includes Unique John S. Coppin Residence

By BETTY DUPUIS

Converting a stable into a home and studio combination presented some gargantuan problems for Mr. and Mrs. John S. Coppin; but through perseverance and a large slice of imagination, they succeeded so completely that they have even transformed many of the disadvantages into assets. Situated on Echo road, Bloomfield Hills, on part of the original Newcomb estate, the stable-house is one of the 12 interesting homes included in next Wednesday's tour, sponsored by Oakland county chapter of Planned Parenthood.

Nestled into a hillside, the house maintains the contours of a stable with its hip-roof outline. But it has acquired a honey outlook with its white painted stucco front, cheery turquoise doors and, replacing the wide barn doors, an expansive picture window. Early in the venture, the Coppins learned not to call the building a "barn." As was explained by friends, versed in agricultural terminology, a building which houses both cattle and horses is referred to as a "stable."

Inside, all the original partitions were removed and rooms created to suit the tastes and needs of artist Coppin, Mrs. Coppin (who also paints and works with ceramics) and son, Torry, who is not quite six.

In the MISSECTION of the main floor are an entry hall and spacious living room, on two levels—one of the nice features which grew out of the "barn" in the conversion.

In leveling off the uneven floor, great quantities of concrete were poured in, this accomplished by the Coppins, themselves. With no basement, the installation of heating was difficult.

The problem was ingeniously solved by placing heating ducts across the cement floor at the front of the building, with a raised expanse of flooring built over them, providing a handsome sunken living room treatment.

Another obstacle was presented by the rear wall of the main floor, which was built right into the earth of the hillside. It was necessary to reinforce this with concrete against dampness.

THE UNSIGHTLY expanse of cement was camouflaged with a built-in settle bench, extending the entire length of the rear living room wall, providing loads of extra seating space for the parties the Coppins frequently give. Focal point of the living room is the big fireplace with raised hearth and a lintel made from one of the original oak beams. More of the beams were used to construct the adjoining, closet type woodbox and adjacent vertical divider posts, screening the staircase.

LEFT—closet-type woodbox beneath stairs adjoins fireplace (left of lounge chair). Climbing vines in the planter garden twine up vertical posts of stairway divider. Metal lantern was made for the house by a family friend.

RIGHT—Mrs. Coppin steps through door leading to kitchen from the utility room. Red painted door is one of the original barn doors. Utility room is known as the "pump room." Kitchen color scheme is pink and red.

for an indoor garden growing in the king size planter which flanks the staircase. Paintings by Mr. Coppin, hang on living and dining room walls.

KITCHEN and dinette occupy space that was originally the horse stalls. Cedar paneling was used for the dinette walls. Pink painted walls with woodwork and accessories in bright red make the kitchen a cheerful spot. At the other end of the house, bedrooms replace the old cow stalls.

On the upper floor, what was once a hayloft has become a roomy studio, with magnificent oaken beams. Plenty of daylight comes in through a window wall, replacing the wide doors through which a hay wagon used to be driven in. The rising hillside brings this top floor to ground level at the rear of the building.

PAINTINGS are every where, here in the studio—on easels, on the walls, over the second big fireplace, hanging before the draperies which shield the storage space beneath the eaves.

There is built-in air conditioning in their stable house, the Coppins have discovered. Since the walls, of hollow tile covered with stucco, are about 14 inches thick, the interior remains pleasantly cool in highest temperatures. One of the chief difficulties in the remodeling was putting in no windows, since the walls are so sturdy and stables just aren't built with windows.

DURING the installation of bedroom windows, they encountered a curious hindrance. A pair of birds nested in one of the exposed hollow tiles. So work was halted for nearly three weeks, until after the eggs had hatched.

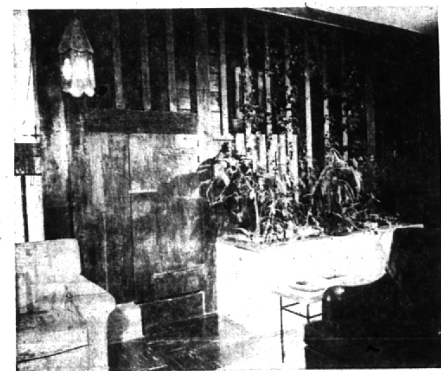
With all the problems now being them, the Coppins are understandably content with their comfortable and charming stable-house. (Story and Pictures Continued on Page 3, Sec. 2)



ORIGINAL oak beams support the tall angular ceiling of artist Coppin's hayloft-studio. Floor has checkerboard pattern. Paintings are everywhere and large trestle tables provides a handy work space in room's center.



CEDAR paneling and still lifes adorn the dinette walls. Built-in bookshelves serve as divider between dining and living areas. Dinette and kitchen occupy same space that was once the horse stalls in the old stable.



TORRY, 6, assumes same pose in which his father painted him at the age of two. Painting is at top right above fireplace. Mrs. Coppin's braids were painted on the Indian girl—this before her hair was cut short.