



Spring '61

Home Improvement

Special Tabloid Section

Gardening
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Home Furnishing
Building

Remodeling
Outdoor Living

The Birmingham Eccentric

May 4, 1961

Birmingham, Michigan

Spring Welcomes Home Improvement

By JOE CADARIU
Business Editor

Spring is a lazy time of the year. Yet Spring is a time for work for home improvement. Contradictory? No, it's really normal. After a long winter, one naturally feels like doing something. And while in the mood, why not improve one's home?

HOW CAN you improve your home? There are many ways: painting, making additions, landscaping, gardening, the list goes on. Spring cleaning also is an important part of home improvement. By cleaning up your attic and cellar, you will not only make your house spic and span from top to bottom, but also reduce the fire hazards.

National Board of Fire Underwriters, which has endorsed spring home improvement movement for years, points out that over 300,000 home fires occur every year.

IN BIRMINGHAM alone there were 253 fires of all types in 1960, according to the fire department. Of these, many could have been prevented by measures such as take place with spring cleaning.

Birmingham property loss due to house fires was \$69,920 for 1960.

Contrasting Colors Help Spark Room

Don't worry about "fashion" when you consider whether or not to make one wall in your living room contrast with the other three walls. The one consideration is "What will it do for the room?"

Home economists at Michigan State University note that a contrast with color or wallpaper creates a center of interest. The principle can be used to emphasize a fireplace wall or the wall behind a furniture grouping. There is little point in emphasizing a wall which offers nothing of interest to look at.

COLOR CONTRAST can help "reshape" a room. If the living room is very long and narrow, consider painting all walls the same color, but use a darker value on the end walls. This will make the room appear less long.

Be careful of color contrasts where rooms and halls open into each other. The home economists suggest coordinating the areas by using one color as a central theme and following it throughout the various rooms.

IF GREEN is your choice for the living room, a lighter shade of the same green can be used in a dark hall.

For emphasis, one wall in the dining alcove might be papered with a blending green and white pattern. Bedrooms opening from the green hall can be painted or papered in colors that harmonize with the hall, allowing use of green accents.

Fire Marshall George Scott said the number one hazard in this area is wood shingle roofs.

"At one time most of the homes here had wood shingle roofs," he said.

"AS THE NUMBER of wood

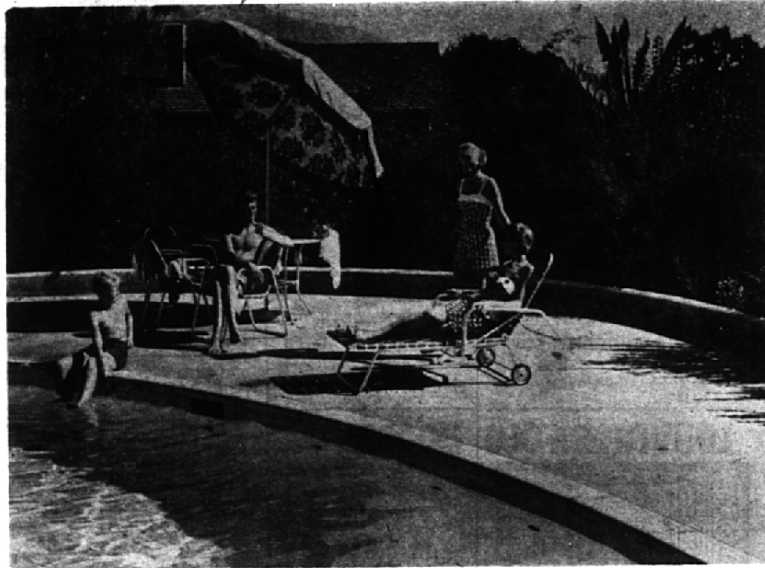
shingle roofs decrease, so will the main cause of home fires. If we wouldn't have this problem, Birmingham would probably have one of the lowest fire losses in the country."

If there are no fire hazards which you can do away with, there are

many other things you can do to spruce up the interior or exterior of your home.

Thinking of an addition to your family? Then you may need an addition to your home.

LOOKING FOR something a bit



More Pools Coming

Local builders—and swimming pool salesmen—are predicting a big increase in the number of swimming pools that will be built along with new homes and additions in the area this spring and summer. Pools

like this one offer many hours of fun and relaxation for families. Many "do-it-yourselfers" will install their own backyard pools.

Informal Living Encourages Combined Glass-Wall Rooms

The easy-going informality of modern living is changing the "face" of today's home.

As a result, many features considered as "musts" by architects a few years ago are either being omitted from present-day designs or combined, in the case of rooms, into a single large area.

ONE EXAMPLE outlined by Otto F. Wenzler, architectural consultant of Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company, can be found in the increased number of combined living-dining rooms.

In the majority of homes, especially those over ten years old, a formal dining room was as much a part of the house as the roof. Wenzler pointed out. But the trend to open living with entire outside

walls of Thermopane insulating glass, has brought about interior design changes aimed at gaining the most benefit from the spaciousness and light these glass walls provide.

This design idea has not come about by accident, but is a natural development in line with the desire of families to get away from a

feeling of confinement in all their day-to-day activities.

"THE BEAUTY of open planning lies in its ability to project a feeling of spaciousness into a room by joining it to the surroundings in an unbroken expanse, making the garden appear as part of the room," Wenzler said.

"To interrupt this indoor-outdoor flow in any way is defeating the purpose."

"THERE IS LITTLE to be gained by putting a glass wall in a home only to subdivide the interior into small sections of limited usefulness, as is the case many times when the living and dining room are separated.

In so doing the feeling of space (See ROOMS, Page 7)

different for the outside of your home? Rock gardens are always eye-catching and attractive.

Landscaping should create a picture. The purpose of landscaping is to tie your home into the surrounding land area in such a way that it will create a pleasing picture to you and your neighbors.

Then there's always paint. Do you have a frame home, or frame trimming on your brick home or shutters for your windows? Paint manufacturers are developing new house paints which will last for many years. All that's needed is a little elbow-action.

IF YOU PLAN to live in your home for many years to come, you'll be satisfied with the few hours of work needed to improve your home.

If you plan to sell your home, these improvements greatly increase the resale value.

You don't have the time to do all this work? Professional advice and help in all phases of home improvement is often desirable.

There are many merchants in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area that are more than willing to help make this area one of the beauty spots in the State.

Safety, Beauty Both Factors When Painting

Planning to do some painting around the house this year? If so, it's a wise idea to paint for safety as well as beauty.

According to experts, many of the more than four million disabling home injuries suffered in home accidents each year could be prevented by brightening up those hazard areas where visibility is poor, and clearly marking danger spots by "painting with a purpose."

Principal trouble areas which can be improved through objective painting include stairways, steps, thresholds, and entire dimly-lighted areas such as hallways and rooms with little window space.

FOR THOSE wishing to paint for maximum safety and visibility, the following suggestions are offered:

The main stairway, including steps, rail, and wall trim should be done in white, ivory, or other light-reflecting shades. Steps are much safer when painted in colors that contrast with the shade of the stair rug or carpeting.

Painting basement steps and stairways can contribute to safety. Black and white are good combinations; also orange or yellow and black. Where the top and bottom steps are not adequately lighted, stripes in these colors are recommended. Steps and risers may be painted entirely, and strips of masking tape used when applying the contrasting stripe.

MANY BASEMENTS have ceilings from which hang pipes and conduits. These head bumpers are (See PAINTING, Page 2)

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