

Did You Know That?

Soaps did not come into general use until late in the Nineteenth Century? Americans own more automobiles than bathtubs? Only a small proportion of public schools provide soap and towels for children? A clean skin disinfects itself? Cleanliness is an important factor in industrial safety? Not so very many years ago the main purpose of perfume was to cover up odors caused by failure to use soap and water?

Attic Ventilation May Cool House

If the top-floor rooms are hot in the Spring and Summer, the first thing to do is to see if there is proper ventilation of the attic space above.

Just the presence of windows is not enough. They must be open. Since this is a nuisance, for they must be closed every time it rains, it is recommended that louvers be inserted in the gable ends to obtain good air circulation.

A screen rack: Take three strips of wood, a little longer than the screen is wide; add upright pieces at each end; fasten these "U's" to the cellar rafters to make a framework. When the screens come down next fall they are easily slipped into this rack until needed again.

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BETTER HOUSING

New Homes Set Record During Month of July

WASHINGTON, D. C. - Small home construction under the FHA program, concentrated primarily in defense industry areas, reached new high levels during July. Federal Housing Administrator Abner H. Ferguson announced today.

During the month, construction was started under FHA inspection on an average of approximately 5,600 new small homes each week. This compares with the previous peak of 5,100 homes a week during June and with a weekly average of 3,900 homes started under FHA inspection during July, 1940.

Since the first of the year, approximately 125,000 new small homes have been started under the FHA program.

"At least 85 per cent of these homes are located in areas of important national defense activity and the great majority of them are in the price range best suited to meeting the urgent need for additional low-cost housing created by the defense production program," Mr. Ferguson declared.

"This showing demonstrates the important role which privately-financed construction, operating under the FHA insured mortgage program, is playing in the effort to supply satisfactory housing for American defense workers."

The trend of applications for FHA mortgage insurance on proposed new homes indicates that the current rate of construction in the small home field will continue for some time. During July, 22,836 small-home mortgage insurance applications were filed, an increase of 43 per cent over the same month in 1940.

In addition, under the FHA's new Title VI program, consisting of defense housing mortgage insurance in areas designated by the President, applications are now approaching the \$100,000,000 mark. From April 12, when operations were started under Title VI, through July 31, small-home applications filed under Title VI have totaled 25,808 in the amount of \$83,780,950.

Gardener's Column

Care of Lawns

In spite of the fact that golf greens are seeded in the fall, rather than in the spring of the year, and that most experienced professional gardeners follow the same practice, there are thousands of home owners who cling tenaciously to the erroneous idea that spring is the best time to sow all seeds. Fall Seeding Best The real enemies of grass are, in order of their importance, extreme heat, drought and weeds. None of these occur during fall and winter and, contrary to popular belief, new grass withstands the rigors of cold weather with little injury. Soils in the early fall, too, are easy to work. J. W. Lentz, Director of the Scott Lawn Research, declares emphatically that "fall weather is nearly ideal both for quick germination of grass seed and for the development of a deep, sturdy root system."

Changing For The BETTER



There are all kinds of modernizing jobs—some call for far-reaching structural changes... others for change of detail only.

This home is an example of style improvement through detail alterations. In the original state this home is just drab and uninteresting.

This kind of a house is easy to modernize because we have an opportunity to substitute ideas for money.

Surprisingly little has been done to revise this old house into a comfortable country or suburban estate.

The overhanging eaves have been eliminated; two windows on the facade have been closed up, shutters added, and falsework built around the narrow little chimneys, bringing them into good proportion.

The garage addition is not an essential for the modernizing job, but does add greatly to its appearance through elongation.



Basements Can Express Personality

Half the fun of building a new home is being able to include a few of your own pet ideas. Oh, you already have a home — so what?

Don't give up. There is still a good chance that part of the house is not doing its full share toward providing living and play space. For house today use all the space put into them and, as a house contains only so many cubic feet, unless we use all of it, the part we do use costs us more than it should.

There is the case of the basement where a large room, practically the size of the first floor, is allotted to furnace and laundry which could get along with a reduction of the area they hog. Let's crowd the furnace and laundry back where they belong, and go to work on what is left. Chances are that it will provide at least one large, new room which can be used for entertaining, play for the kids, hobbies, or a better room for the maid.

Your Chance The entertainment angle seems to offer the most fruitful field for self-expression, so let's discuss that. The number of opportunities offered by such a room are limited only by the ideas in your head.

What shall the new room imitate? The deck of a battleship? That's easily built of wood strips, with little oval blocks to simulate rivet heads. Painted in the distinctive gray of the fleet with a little dash of ocean scenery on one wall... it's enough to make you seasick.

Build a Parisian cellar cafe and offer the most fruitful field for self-expression, so let's discuss that. The number of opportunities offered by such a room are limited only by the ideas in your head.

To do a "really good job on the reproduction of an early English tavern is probably the most expensive basement transformation; paneled walls, heavy plank floor, beams overhead to give a massive effect. But you can be content with the effect you can create with common lumber yard timbers and inexpensive paneling, properly stained.

Log Cabin Motif Log cabin effect is easy and inexpensive. Log cabin siding is a stock item at almost any lumber yard, and is easy to apply. The space between the logs can be painted white to imitate chinking. One of the practical advantages that it will keep the heat in the basement and will stand rough treatment.

The ever-loved ship's cabin motif can be expressed within wide range of costs. Simple, vertical panel boards of the kind ordinarily sold as knotty paneling will do well, especially when painted. Accessories such as ship's lamp, a wall bank, or a port-hole window will complete the illusion. Nautical, but nice, eh?

A map-walled room is another attractive idea. Wood can be used as a base upon which to paste enlargements of favorite maps which can easily be colored by hand. The effect is that of the cosmopolitan, much-traveled gentleman... even the walls have all been on-dream ships.

The number of possible motifs for a recreation room is virtually infinite. But, shucks, it's your personality that is being expressed. Dress up your own idea! (Prepared by National Lumber Manufacturers Association)

Fresh Colors Brighten Homes

Houses may sometimes become outmoded and old-fashioned quite as much from obsolete color treatment as from antiquated installation, plumbing, or odd design.

The Modernization Credit Plan of the FHA makes it easy and simple to modernize a house with colors and at the same time preserve its value.

Modern yet equally durable colors are replacing the dull gray, brown, and buff which were once considered the outside of most American homes.

The current trend in paint styling is to utilize the accent features such as trim, doors, shutters and window boxes, to produce individuality and interest in the entire exterior color plan. Another modern idea is to apply color in both walls and roofing to bring out the good features of old homes and hide the less appealing ones.

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Our landscape consultant is always at your service to answer any questions you may have. There is no charge for this service. Write Catholic Courier Landscape Consultant or Phone Stone 1126.

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Landscaping Service

CHAPTER XX Plant Bugs

Iris Borers and Iris Leaf Blight

All dead iris leaves should be removed and destroyed. The tops should be cut back in late Fall. If the leaves are destroyed the source of blight is removed.

The iris borers exist throughout the winter as eggs pasted onto dead leaves. These eggs hatch in May and the insects at once crawl up the iris plant and make tiny holes in the leaves. Then they gradually burrow down the inside of the leaves until they finally reach the root. Since the insects are out of sight, their presence is generally not known.

Where grubs are known to infest the soil, about 10 pounds of lead arsenate per 1,000 square feet should be applied and raked into the soil.

Early fall seeding is recommended by most turf authorities and it is best done in two directions to insure an even coverage. The ground should then be given a light raking or rolling so that the seed is firmly implanted in the soil.

Established lawns, too, can be renovated in the fall. If the lawn is in such poor condition that reconstruction is advisable, determine the cause of the present failure and guard against its recurrence.

Of course, even a good lawn will benefit from seeding and feeding at this season, but in such instances the lawn should be vigorously raked so that the seeds will lodge in the loosened soil surface.

Irrespective of weather conditions, a good lawn mixture according to a report from Scott Lawn Research, will not be harmed if it lies dormant in the soil for several weeks if the new fall seeding is once watered. It should then be thoroughly sprinkled several times daily thereafter in preference to one heavy watering each day.

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FHA Seeks Means to Check Urban Blight

The rehabilitation of blighted areas which have not deteriorated beyond the point of salvage has been urged by Federal Housing Administrator Abner H. Ferguson.

"Taking stock of the economic status of the blighted areas at the core of many of our cities, one is impressed by the inappropriate use to which a large part of the land is devoted. Dwellings are dilapidated and either vacant or occupied by the poorest families," Mr. Ferguson points out.

Suggestive of the disintegration of valuable properties being the solution of the problem is to be found in restricting the outward trend. Others suggest a policy of progressive abandonment of blighted areas in favor of continued new growth in the outer areas.

The positive approach is to make the blighted areas attractive and easy to move around in, pleasant to live in, and efficient as locations for certain types of business.

Most Interest Citizens The primary need is to interest citizens and city officials in the problem. This may be done by pointing out the losses incurred annually through decreases in taxable property values and increased operating expenses brought about by sickness and crime in blighted areas.

Consideration of the five steps that must be taken in connection with any sizable rehabilitation project will aid in the finding of a solution to the problem.

The first step is to assemble a sufficiently large aggregation of property to permit harmonious improvements that will create their own environment.

The second step is to devise a good redevelopment plan, which will be appropriate to the neighborhood and will meet the long-term needs of the real-estate market and will be conducive to the general well-being of the city.

The third step is to induce the municipality to cooperate by agreeing to such changes in replanning and in adjusting utilities, parks, playgrounds, schools, and other facilities as may be required to fit the new undertaking.

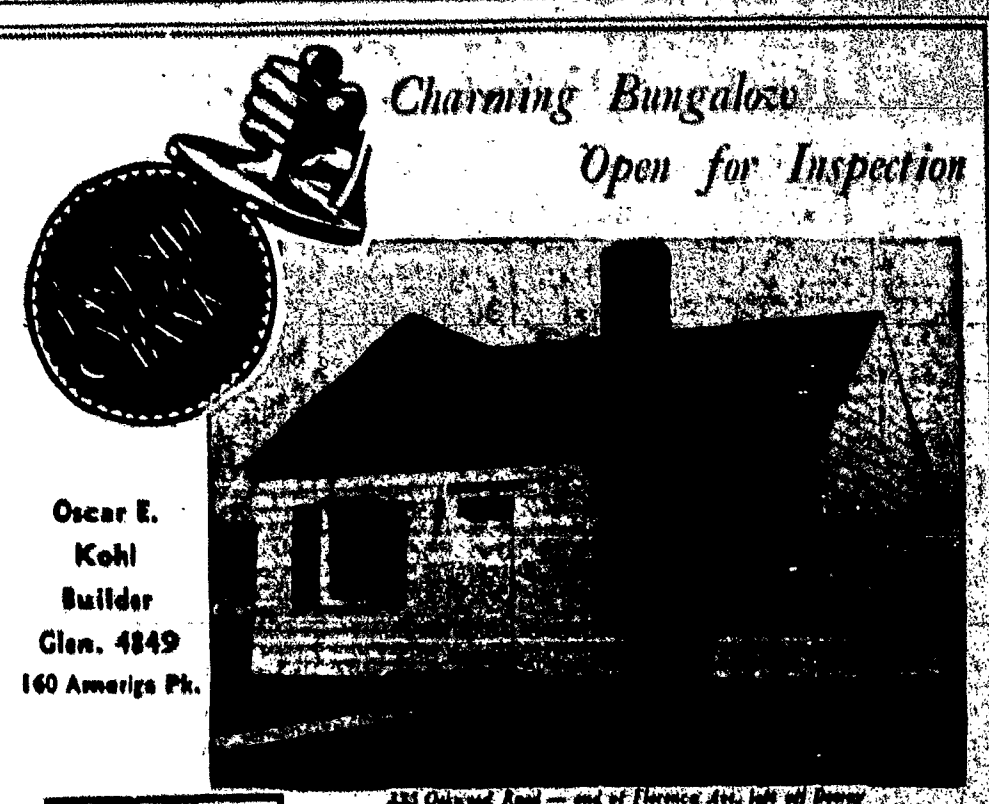
The fourth step probably the hardest to control, is to adopt such measures as will prevent the recurrence of those excesses that have in the past contributed to the blighting of the area.

The fifth step is to devise a sound financial program for the project. If there is not to be a hopeless burden at the start, the city must make some arrangement with reference to the future taxation of the project.

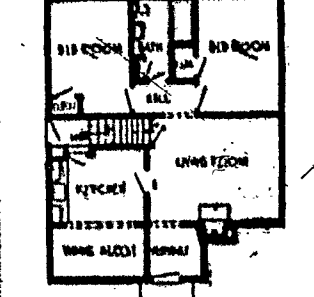
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Here is just the type of one-floor home you have dreamed of owning. It's white, of course, and the gable and blinds are painted a rich red-brown.

Step inside and see the attractive living room with log-burning fireplace. You'll have the fun of selecting your wallpaper. Then look at the dream kitchen with wine-colored linoleum splashboard and the charming dinette from which you have a full-length view of Florence Avenue.

Note the spacious bedrooms, the built-in linen closet in the tile bathroom, the full-size attic and full-size basement, tiled to insure dryness. No. 1 Hemlock is used for studded joists and rafters. The house is insulated. There is copper plumbing throughout. Street improvements are paid. Churches and schools are near by.

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