

Gent on the Roof

(Continued from Page B4)

An experienced sweep will examine chimneys from top and bottom, if possible, for evidence of any cracks in the lining or flue. Unsafe chimneys can now be relined with a new, flexible,

stainless steel liner material that goes inside the old shell.

Estimated cost of relining an average size chimney with the new product is \$700 to \$1,000, still less cost than replacing a burned, weakened one.

Costs of chimney sweep services vary, but a basic chimney and fireplace installation charge is generally in the \$35 to \$50 range.

"The cheapest is not always the best," recommends Klein. "The shortest time is not always the best either."

While Klein recommends that chimneys be cleaned in spring, since summer heat and rain can

harden creosote buildup, few homeowners follow that advice.

Most wait, instead until the first cool evening, and then want the sweep to come the following morning. Such seasonal demand keeps Klein under his top hat most of his free hours from September through December.

Klein is worried that this winter could bring a rash of chimney fires, since stoves were burned low through last year's relatively mild temperatures.

"Anyone with a woodstove or an insert should absolutely have a smoke detector, located at the top of the stairs or in the hallway near their bedrooms," he advises.

Balancing on house roofs and wriggling into fireplaces is not without its lighter moments. Klein has swept out unusual debris such as dead birds, bird nests, bats, and once, a dead squirrel.

Then there was the chimney in which a colony of honey bees had gone homesteading. Klein notes that shoveling honey and honeycomb out of a chimney, after the bees were convinced to leave, leaves both man and equipment a sticky mess.

Customers' children are fascinated with the sweep and often get in on the act. One three-year-old recently climbed right into the chimney with Klein, donned goggles, and manned the vacuum cleaner through the entire job.

No licensing or certification is presently required for a chimney sweep to operate in business, although some states are considering regulatory legislation. There are volunteer certification tests now being given by the Wood Heating Education and Research Foundation of the Wood Heating Alliance. Klein has taken study courses for further background as a solid fuel safety technician.

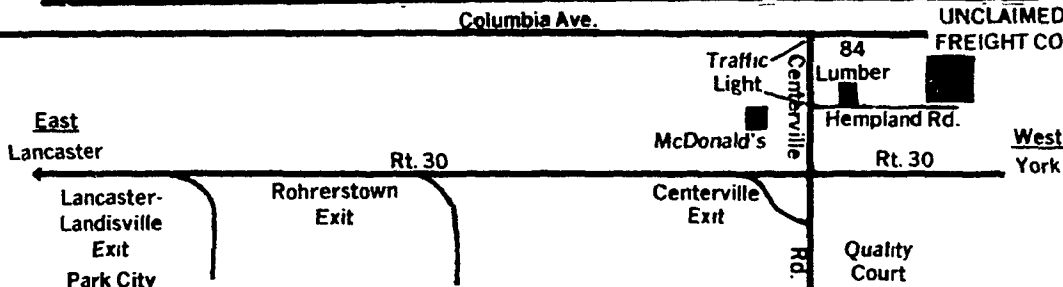
For homeowners considering hiring the services of a chimney sweep, Klein suggests asking for a detailed explanation of how the job is to be performed, and the type of equipment used. Inadequate volume vacuum cleaners, for instance, may not remove the soot from the air, causing it to spread through the house. It's also perfectly acceptable to inquire about a sweep's liability insurance against damage.

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Van Doren Elected President of Dairy Co-Op

FLEMINGTON, N.J. — Fred Van Doren, East Amwell dairy farmer, was elected president of the Hunterdon-Mercer local unit of the Interstate Milk Producers Cooperative at the unit's annual dinner meeting at Pfenningers Hilltop Inn on September 28. Interstate is a milk marketing organization, with headquarters in Southampton.

Van Doren succeeds his father, Abram, as president of the local co-op unit. Father and son are involved in a dairy farm operation

with a herd of 75 registered Holstein cows plus young stock. They farm some 600 acres in the Reaville-Clover Hill area.

Elected vice president was Richard Gulick, West and East Amwell; secretary-treasurer is Charles Bryan, Pennington. Bryan was also elected to represent the local on the hauling committee.

Delegate to the cooperative's annual meeting in Lancaster in November was Robert Fulper, West Amwell; alternate was Gilbert Emmons, Delaware Township.

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