

Greet Spring...

Take A New Look At Spring Around The Back Mountain

The "new look" of Spring can be seen everywhere in the Back Mountain, as in any community where residents take pride in the appearance of their homes, want to make life a bit more comfortable or convenient for their families, or are simply concerned about maintaining the value of their property.

A drive around any part of the area will reveal the variety of activities involved in preparing this "new look". (Don't stick to the main highways; people live on those back roads, too.)

New homes are being built, old homes repaired and improved, inside and out. Yards and gardens are being mowed, plowed, raked and cultivated. Farm buildings and business places show the results of spring renovation or enlargement.

Home improvement may range from fixing the back steps to building a new addition. Fresh paint and new lumber are as much a part of spring as a woman's new hat or the very young lambs in the field. (Don't drive too fast; you might miss something around the next curve.)

Spring seed catalogues, which arrived in the dead of winter, and home and garden magazines have given home owners new ideas for flower beds, vegetable gardens and lawn care. New tools may be needed, from a trowel to a riding mower. The end result may not quite equal the magazine illustrations, but a bright flower border or well-kept garden gives a lift to the passing motorist as well as to those who live there.

New fences, attractive signs, neat driveways, new roofing and fresh

Framed Views Liven Walls

There are some unusually fine scenic wallpapers on the market today, and professional interior decorators are using them in a new and exciting way.

Instead of papering an entire wall, the decorators frame panels of the scenic paper to create the effect of a wall-mounted screen.

The paper is applied to the wall in its natural widths. But, instead of joining the edges, a separation of nearly four inches is left between. This space is covered with a 1x4-inch board that connects to 1x4's set at the top and bottom of the wall.

In this manner, a picture frame is built around each panel of the mural wallpaper. Usually, a simple molding is used around the inner edge of the 1x4's, too, in classic picture frame style.

It's often most effective if the framed panels are used on only the upper two thirds of the wall, with wainscoting installed below. Decorators also recommend that the framework and wainscoting be Douglas fir lumber stained a medium nut brown or darker.

paint help a farm or business to look more successful and invite new customers. Tools, materials and helpful advice are available from local merchants.

If you haven't already started your own "new look" this Spring, now is the time to begin. (Somebody else may be driving down your road looking for ideas!)

Screens Bring Oomph To Door

You can dramatize an ordinary looking front door by building two-foot-wide trellis screens on either side of the entrance area, extending them from ground to eaves. Then fill the paved area between with a deck of 2X2s to make a porch.

To build the trellis screens, use 2X4 verticals spaced 12 inches and set on a 2X4 base.

On the outside of the frame, nail 1X1s horizontally, spacing them no more than a half inch apart for a light, airy effect.

Use either western red cedar or Douglas fir lumber for the project, staining the trellis screens to match house siding or trim.

Child Needs Help In Choosing A Pet

Even in his preschool years, a child will show pleasure in a pet animal and on occasion want to help care for it. By the time he is five, with reminders from parents, he may be able to care for some of his pet's daily needs, says Mrs. Janet Miller, Extension home economist, Luzerne County.

A child may agree to feeding and grooming his pet dog or taking him for a walk. But at this age, he forgets or gets too busy and this is when care of the pet becomes the responsibility of parents, usually the mother.

Most authorities suggest that a child be at least eleven years old before he can be expected to take major responsibility for his pet. Even then, he may need help and some reminders.

Although cats and dogs are popular pets, children choose rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, white mice, fish, and birds, according to Mrs. Miller. When there is adequate outdoor space, a female goat makes an excellent and challenging pet. It's essential to consider the space available to keep any kind of pet before deciding to get one.

After considering all angles of having a pet, the family can help a child choose a pet appropriate to his interest and ability to care for it. The younger the child, the more important it is to choose a pet that can protect itself without endangering the child.

Private Swimming Pools No Longer Limited To Rich

Swimming pools for the home are no longer considered an item strictly for high income groups and warm weather states.

More than 50,000 in-ground residential pools have been sold in each of the past three years. And, according to the American Gas Association, Inc. (A.G.A.), the big splash is likely to continue now that normal swimming seasons can be doubled with effective pool heating systems.

In addition to permitting swimming in the spring and fall, a pool

heater can come to the rescue during occasional summer cold spells. The heaters function dually by providing an initial rise in temperature, then automatically maintaining it at a healthy, comfortable level.

The new development in pool equipment also adds a new dimension to the economics of owning a "backyard beach."

Longer swim seasons are drastically reducing the average monthly costs for owning and maintaining a pool, making the investment more realistic for outdoor enthusiasts.

A.G.A. reports that cost of a gas pool heating represents only about 10% of the total pool installation cost.

Statistics from cities representing a cross section of the country indicate that the normal swim season has been extended on an average of three months in such widely scattered locals as New York, Salt Lake City, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Albuquerque and Nashville.

A private swimming pool enhances the value of the property.

See Growth Of Private Water Wells

A water well is becoming a status symbol in many suburban areas throughout the nation.

So says Joseph R. Schmitt, director of marketing, A. Y. McDonald Mfg. Co., Dubuque, Ia., makers of private water systems.

Schmitt said that well systems for non-drinking use such as lawn sprinkling, car washing, and swimming pools are becoming more and more prevalent as additional communities pass water restriction ordinances.

Many of these homeowners actually post signs stating that they have a private water system to keep from being disturbed by local police who watch for homeowners violating water sprinkling and other water restriction laws," Schmitt said.

"In 1966, these wells for non-drinking uses were installed at an unprecedented rate. The private water systems industry expects that this trend will continue in 1967, and perhaps into 1968."

Far in the future, Schmitt foresees many cities turning to double-piping of water by communities, with one grade for human consumption and another for industrial and other non-drinking uses.

"Today, communities treat all water to make it fit for human consumption," Schmitt said. "This

Consider View

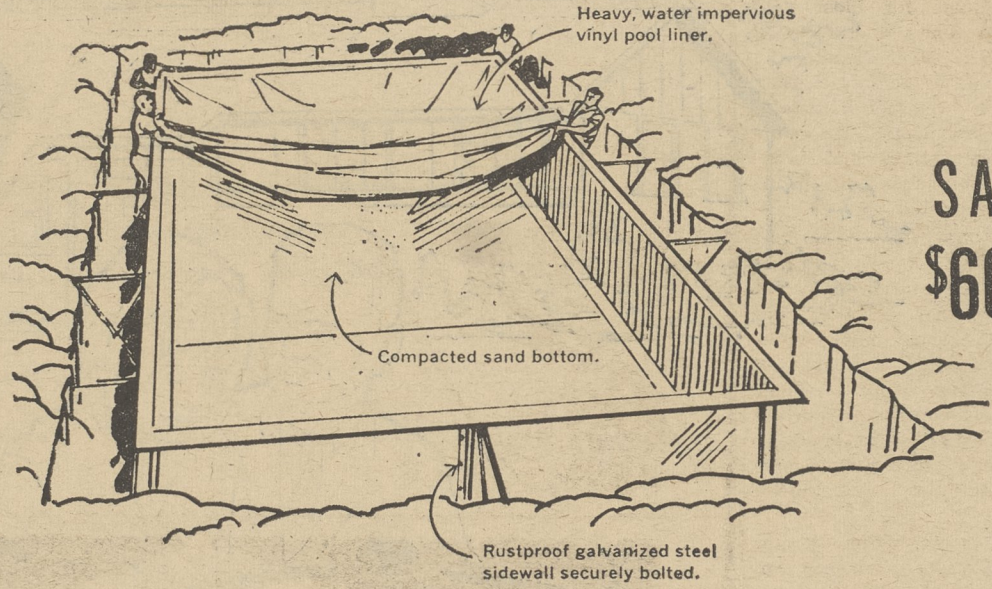
When designing screens and other garden structures, be sure to consider the view from inside the house as well as from angles within the garden and from the street.

Treating Suggested

Building garden structures this spring? Posts supporting fences and arbors should be pressure-treated, regardless of wood species. For other parts of the structure, brush on a clear or pigmented water-repellent preservative to prevent water absorption.

is expensive and wasteful. In Chicago, as one example, 95 per cent of the water consumed is overprocessed for the use intended."

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