

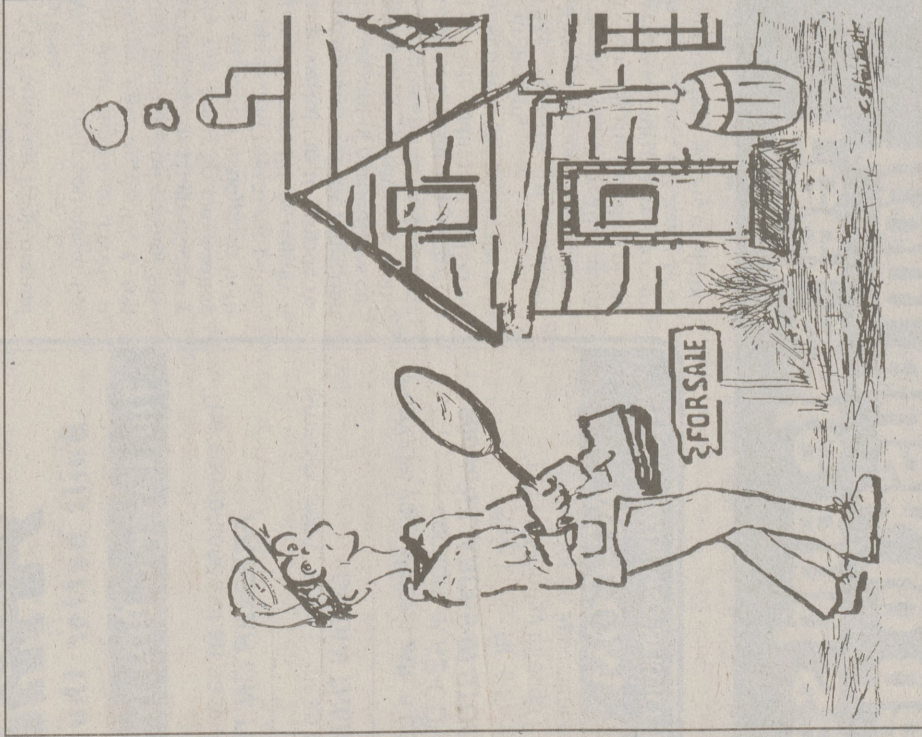
More to home inspection than meets the eye

(HT) Inspecting a home is a lot more than just looking at it. Simply understanding how the components and mechanicals function is not enough. The person inspecting the home must be trained in techniques that allow them to find defects.

There are things an inspector can do to allow the house to talk to the inspector. Among others, they include: standing still at critical places to sight along walls and other building lines, using a plug-in circuit tester to check for incorrect wiring (a common problem in homes) and testing smoke detectors with canned smoke to be sure the detector portion is working. Pushing the smoke detector test button bypasses the detector and just checks the battery and buzzer. The most important part, the actual detector, must be checked.

Most roofs can be inspected from the ground using binoculars, but the inspector must know how to use them. The inspector must slowly scan the roof in a systematic manner. When something out of the ordinary is noted, the inspector must stop scanning and look more closely at the spot in question.

What separates the few from



the many?

If your state registers or licenses home inspectors, does that piece of paper mean the inspector is well trained and qualified? Your state would like to think so, but this is not necessarily so. Look beyond that piece of paper and ask about professional training.

Did the inspector take a basic entry-level course?

One such course is the 6 day, 8 hour per day course offered by the Home Inspection Institute of America, Inc. The course includes inspection techniques and procedures, report writing and other aspects of the business. Graduates have had classroom instruction and in-the-field training and must pass an examination to graduate.

Does the inspector submit copies of reports for review and critique on a regular basis?

The Home Inspection Institute of America Inc. functions like an

underwriting laboratory in this capacity. Inspectors certified by the Institute must submit to this scrutiny annually for certification renewal.

For consumers, this certification shows inspectors are willing to undergo the scrutiny. They must be in compliance with the ethics and standards set forth by the Institute. Wow, that's great for the consumer - a program based on quality.

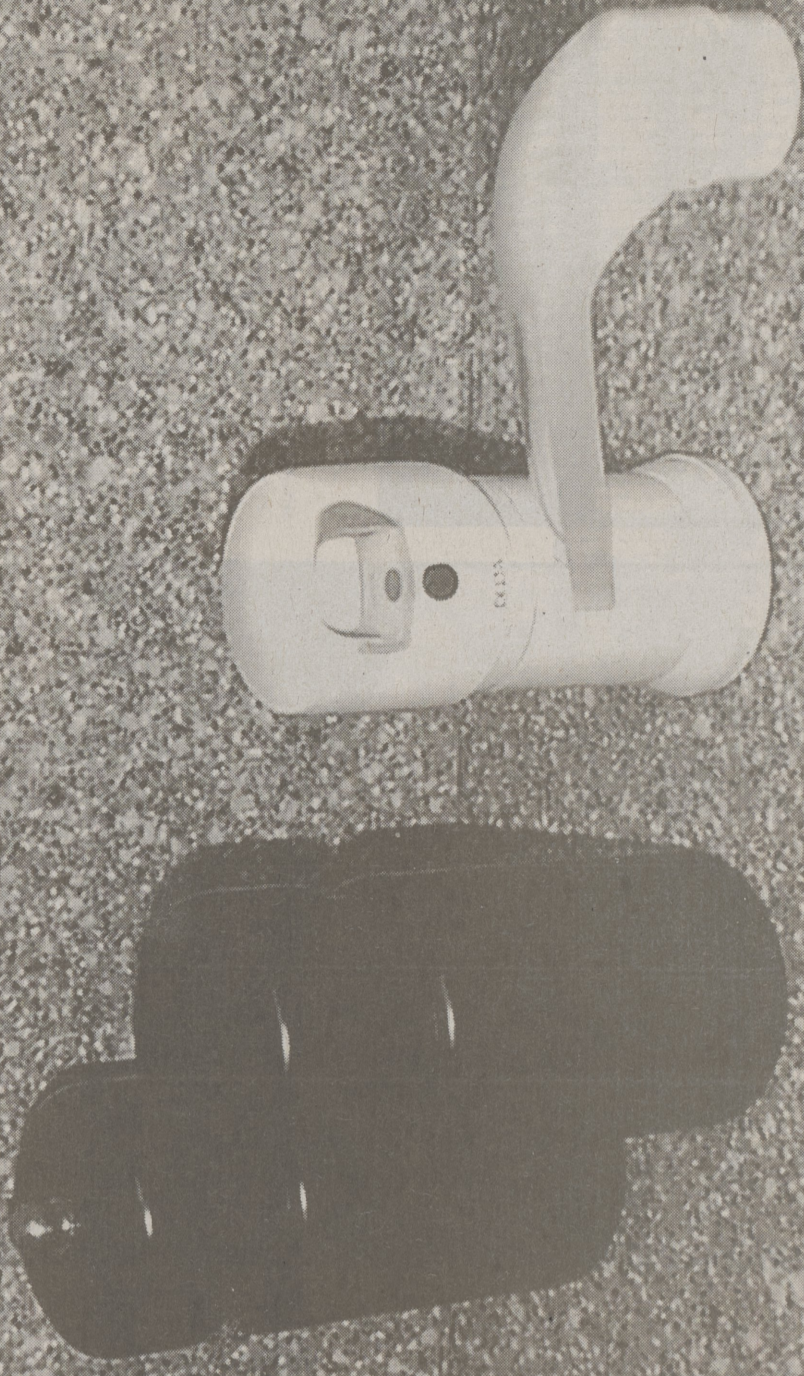
There is much more to inspecting a home than meets the eye.

When looking for an inspector, find one who has taken entry-level education. If you can find an inspector certified by the Institute, all the better.

To locate a home inspector near you or for more information about this Institute visit their web site: www.inspecthomes.com or call them at 1-203-284-2311. The Institute is located at 314 Main Street, Yalesville, CT 06492.

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