

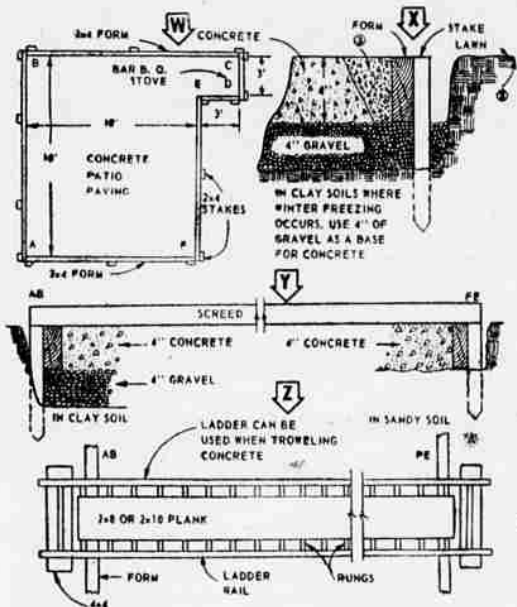
DO-IT-YOURSELF

Build Your Home A Patio Now
For Enjoyment In Springtime

By J. RALPH DALZIELL

Patio areas paved with placed concrete are becoming increasingly popular in all parts of the country. The paving is durable, easy to keep clean, and always level, smooth and attractive. In southern and southwestern climates the paving can be placed during the winter so it will be ready for use in the spring. In climates where freezing weather occurs the paving can be placed during mild December weather, so that installation work will not mar the lawn in spring or summer.

Picture W shows a typical patio area, ABCDEF, with a corner space, CDE, for a barbecue stove.



Note that 2x4 lumber is used for forms and stakes. Where winter freezing occurs and clay soil exists, use four inches of gravel as a base for the concrete paving to avoid cracking.

Excavate four or eight inches as required. Use a carpenter's level to assure that the bottom of the excavation is flat and level. Dump the gravel into the excavation (see

ready-mixed and delivered ready for placing. One truck load would fill the forms. When the concrete has been dumped into the patio area, use a spade or shovel to make sure the area shown at 3 in picture X is dense. When the sides of the form are removed the sides of the paving will look well. Use an old iron rake to tamp the concrete to bring more of the fine aggregate to the surface for troweling smooth. Use a long piece of 2x4 as a "screed" (picture Y) to level the placed concrete. Zigzag the screed along forms AB and FE.

Quarter-inch steel bars placed in the concrete will help to avoid possible cracking, especially in freezing climates. Even with the gravel base, the frost has a tendency to "heave" the ground under the paving and cause cracking of the concrete.

Allow the concrete to set until the shine has disappeared from its surface. Then trowel it smooth with a steel trowel. A ladder and a plank, supported by 4x4 blocks as shown in picture Z, is handy to crawl on above the concrete surface when troweling. Use an edger tool along the forms. Do not practice excessive troweling.

In about eight hours, when the concrete is hard to the touch, wet it with a hose several times a day to help the curing process. Remove the forms in not fewer than five days.

Q.—What constitutes a good finish on quality furniture?

A.—Some twenty-four steps, many of them hand operations, are involved in achieving fine finishes on furniture. The process includes bleaching, staining, filling, sealing, sanding, lacquering and rubbing operations.

Q.—Can we paint old, common brick in our basement?

A.—Yes, it is relatively easy. If mortar has crumbled, or bits of brick have been chipped off, the surface can be made smooth by filling with mortar. After prime painting, small defects on the surface can be filled with putty.



ATOMIC APPLES? A normal apple, left, is contrasted with two deformed ones from an orchard in Hutchinson, Kansas. Orchardist Earl Stoughton reports that the fruit from all his trees bore some irregularity in shape this year, and one tree produced apples which ranged from twins to quadruplets on one stem. It is the first time in his 30 years at the orchard that anything like it has happened says Stoughton, and he suspects that "fall out" from atomic bomb tests may have something to do with it.

Fresh Milk Delivered Frozen
To Army Outpost In Far North

WINNIPEG (AP)—Delivery of fresh milk in frozen quart-size blocks, to be melted at room temperature for use, is believed to have solved the problem of milk delivery at a northern Canadian military base, an army spokesman says.

Experimental deliveries in this

form, believed to be the first in Canada, were successful.

The spokesman said 10,000 quarts of milk, frozen in waxpaper, quart containers, were shipped 1,000 miles by railway refrigerator car from Winnipeg to Fort Churchill, Manitoba.

He said medical authorities found the milk's quality was not altered by freezing and melting and it remained good for from seven to 10 days. They said it might even be superior quality to fluid milk delivered nearer the source.

Previously the base had no fresh milk. Cows can not be pastured on the barren lands around the base. Slow delivery of fluid milk by rail was not feasible.

Army authorities asked a Winnipeg creamery to experiment with freezing. The creamery reduces the milk's temperature to 45 degrees below zero as soon as it is pasteurized. Then it is placed in refrigerator cars for shipment.

The cars move to Churchill on the thrice-weekly service of Canadian National Railways.

Camera Spots
Well Trouble

If things went wrong with the old-fashioned dug well, the hole was large enough in most cases so that you could enter the excavation to search for the source of the trouble.

Not so with the modern drilled well of four- or six-inch diameter. But, science has a pat solution to the problem—a camera that takes pictures of the inside of a well as it is being drilled.

This seeing eye gives a photographic log of the well, removing all guesswork as to the probable cause of well shortcomings should they develop, the National Water Well Association points out.

The camera is more than a trouble-shooter, though, the association adds. With a picture record of the progress of drilling, the contractor handling the job finds it easier to explain what is happening underground, and the customer is better satisfied with results.

Here's an instance of how the new camera proves its worth. In a recent case reported by the association, a deep well began to run dry. There were all sorts of guesses as to the reason, but the camera lowered in the well to the point of trouble gave the answer, ending speculation.

The well wasn't drying up. The water source was as good as ever, but inlets to the well had become clogged from corrosion. It was a simple and inexpensive cleaning operation to unplug the inlets and restore the full flow of water into the well.

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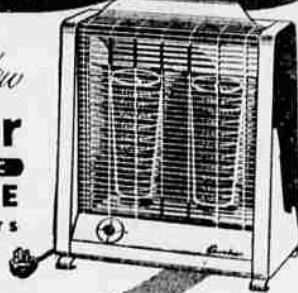
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USDA Studies
Strange Plant

Efforts to assure this country a continuing supply of the drug cortisone—needed by sufferers from arthritis, asthma, and various other ailments—are being advanced by plant explorations in remote areas of Mexico and Central America, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports.

Drs. E. P. Imle and H. S. Gentry, scientists of USDA's Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland, recently spent two months collecting and studying wild Dioscorea yams in southern Mexico, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. The tuberous roots of these yams are the most abundant and readily available source of genin and other compounds from which cortisone is synthesized.

Although collections of several species were made, primary mission of the trip by plant explorers Imle and Gentry was to investigate the possibilities of selecting wild strains of the plants for cultivation in this country and elsewhere.

These wild yams are the source of complicated compounds that are widely used in the development of new hormone-like drugs. But USDA scientists, local governmental agencies in Mexico and Central America, and drug manufacturers are concerned that the wild supply may eventually become exhausted.