

# How The Handy Man Can Get Things Swinging

By MR. FIX  
Written for

Newspaper Enterprise Assn.  
With the heat turned on in your home now it's not likely that door troubles are due to swelling and warping. In fact, it's unlikely that swelling wood will give too much trouble at any time of the year.

Most door sticking problems can be solved with some attention to the hinges. And it's a good thing, too, because tightening a few screws is a lot easier than planing a door.

Even one loose screw can cause the door to sag and bind. Tighten each one before doing anything else.

### Tighten Up

If the holes have become en-

larged, try larger screws. The original ones can be used by first filling the holes. You may use wood plugs covered with glue, match sticks, wood filler, or even a bit of steel wool wound around the screw.

If tightening the hinges doesn't cure the trouble, look for the spot where the door may be binding. When a door is hung a space of about 1/16th inch is left all around it. You should be able to slide a piece of thin cardboard around the door.

If the door binds along the bottom edge, insert a cardboard shim between the bottom hinge leaf and the door jamb. If the binding occurs at the top, shim the top hinge. You will have to remove the door to do this. Sim-

ply drive out the pin that holds the two leaves of the hinge together. It's a good idea to wipe the pin with an oily rag before putting it back.

### Experiment

You may need more than one shim. You will have to experiment until the door closes properly.

If the door binds at the hinge side making it difficult to keep closed, loosen the hinge leaf on the jamb. Insert a narrow shim under the leaf nearest the pin. If there is too big a gap at the hinge side of the door, insert the shim farthest from the pin.

Since you are shimming only half the leaf, it isn't necessary to remove the door. Just loosen the screws and prop the door in position with a wedge.

If adjusting the hinges doesn't cure the trouble you may have to remove some wood from the spot that binds. Don't be hasty in reaching for a plane. A light sanding may do the job. Try filing next. Only if that fails should you resort to a plane.

Plane from the door corner toward the center. This will prevent splintering the edges.

If binding is along the vertical edge, do your sanding, filing or planing on the hinge side so that you won't have to reset the lock. You may have to touch up the mortise for the hinges so that they remain flush.

### Chalk Trick

An old carpenter's trick is to rub a little blue carpenter's chalk on the spot being planed right after planing. If the door still rubs, it will leave some chalk behind.

Often the door will close but not lock because the frame has settled slightly and the strike plate is out of line. You may have to reposition the plate and en-

large the opening for the latch.

Q—What will afford good protection for wooden stairs?

A—Rub risers and treads each week with a light coat of boiled linseed oil.

## Parking Meters Do A Thriving Business In U.S.

CHICAGO (UPI)—Parking meters are doing a thriving business, the American Municipal Association reported.

A survey by the association showed that about 2 million meters collect \$125 million a year at curbs and in parking lots of 3,850 cities and towns in the nation.

The survey, reported in Traffic Quarterly, showed that nearly two-thirds of the meters are set at 5 cents an hour and most of these sell 12 minutes' parking for a penny.

However, a 10-cent-an-hour rate is becoming more common, the association found, with about 34 per cent of all meters collecting at that pace in 1960.

About half of the cities reporting their plans said they were considering parking meter rate increases.

The electric cell may attain nine feet in length and the thickness of a man's leg. The rear four-fifths of its body is made up of the electric generating cells.

**RIGHT WAY TO LOOK**  
NORFOLK, England (UPI)—A woman cellist in the Norfolk Orchestra complained to the Health Ministry she couldn't read the music. When she received a pair of half glasses, she complained she couldn't see the conductor.

She was told to lower the music stand and peek over the spectacles at the conductor.

**JEWELS TAKEN**  
PARIS (AP)—The Duchess de la Rochefoucauld, a member of a noted French literary family, Thursday reported to police that her mansion on the fashionable Place de l'Estimot Unis had been robbed of jewels valued at \$200,000.

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# ON THE HOUSE

By ANDY LANG  
AP Newsfeatures

Considering the fantastic rate at which new apartment buildings are going up in the nation's big cities, you may be surprised to learn that more than 60 per cent of all American families own their own homes.

These who have purchased these homes recently are presumably standing pat on their acquisitions. They have selected houses which fit individual needs and tastes. But millions of other home owners have found that their present living quarters are unsatisfactory in one way or another. Not so unsatisfactory that they want to sell. In fact, most of them have many good reasons why they want to hang on to their homes.

The discontented are those who need more room because of changes in the size of their families, those whose houses are in a state of general disrepair and those who merely want the old homesteads to have up-to-date appearances.

This trend toward home modernization, definitely discernible in 1959 and 1960, is expected to move at full speed this year. One authoritative prediction is that Americans will spend more money for home modernization in the next 12 months than for home construction.

Typical of this trend is the word from the Women's Housing Congress that its meeting in Washington, D.C., in April will concern itself largely with home modernization. The four previous Congresses concentrated on the subject of new home building, specifically with the object of determining what thoughts prospective home owners have on home design and the quality of building products. The first three sessions sought out the opinions of women only. Last year the Congress asked men and youngsters their ideas on what should be considered important in new homes. This time, the delegates will explore the problems encountered by home owners in attempt-

ing to modernize and improve their homes.

Other signs of the times in this direction are the establishment of a Home Improvement Committee by the National Assn. of

Home Builders and the popularity of a new organization which trains and franchises home improvement contractors throughout the country.

## Stamps In The News

By SYD KRONISH  
AP Newsfeatures

To commemorate the centenary of its first postage stamp, Malta has issued three new stamps, each of which features a facsimile of the first half-penny stamp bearing a profile portrait of Queen Victoria.

The new Maltese issues—1½ pence green, 3 pence red and 6 pence blue—also depict a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II and the St. Edward's Crown. Each has the inscription "Centenary of First Malta Stamp 1st December 1960."



1960." The stamps were released on Dec. 1, the anniversary date. Also reported from the British Crown Agents is the news that the Federation of Malaya has issued the remaining denominations in its new definitive set. In this issue the portrait of His Highness Sultan Sir Ismail ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Sir Ibrahim appears on each.

There are four stamps in this group. The designs show the East Coast Railway, fishing craft, government offices, and a native

wrestling match. There were seven previous issues in the set.

Belgium has issued three new stamps honoring the royal marriage of King Baudouin to Dona Fabiola de Mora y Aragon. The 40 centimes, 3 franc and 6 franc have the same design showing circular photographs of the new King and Queen.

The Tokyo Bureau of the Associated Press reports it has received via Peiping radio that a set of 18 stamps each bearing the design of a chrysanthemum is being issued by Communist China. The radio broadcast said the first group of six stamps with face values from eight to 32 cents has already been issued. The chrysanthemum is one of the most popular flowers among the Chinese people.

The radio report noted that thousands of varieties of this particular flower have been cultivated by horticulturists since the Reds took over Mainland China.

To give U.S. first day cover collectors an idea of the popularity of this branch of the hobby, it is interesting to note that there were 1,160,770 first day covers cancelled at Washington, D.C., on Oct. 26 when the 4 and 8 cent Gustaf Mannerheim "Champion of Liberty" stamps were first placed on sale.

The count thus far in 1960, says the U.S. Post Office Department, is 19,399,533 first day covers with first day sales totaling \$1,744,751.

Piketon, Ohio, is the site of one of the largest atomic energy plants in the United States.

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