

Extension Forum

By MRS. PAIGE L. UNDERWOOD
Home Economics
Extension Agent

Statistics show that two out of every three buyers select a used house. Usually one of the biggest advantages that an older house offers is more space for the money, states Mrs. Paige Underwood, Home Economics Extension Agent.

The more budget-minded families and those who must know beforehand the exact cost that home ownership necessitates, are best served through the purchase of an existing house. Although the joys and thrills of planning and watching their new home take form are foregone, the savings resulting from the purchase of a previously owned house often prove quite rewarding.

If the house you like is an "old" home, you should be absolutely sure the house is in sound condition. The age of a house should not necessarily limit your choice. While older homes may require more repair work, many have received excellent care from previous long-time owners and will compare favorably with newer structures. Such comments were given recently by Mrs. Underwood on her monthly radio program.

Remember, there is no perfect house. Just be sure you know in advance the shortcomings of the house you are buying. Don't wait to be shocked after you move in. Get expert advice from a person experienced in house construction. It can be well worth the time and expense necessary to be assured you would not buy a house that you would find later needed a lot of repairs.

If the seller of the house agrees to correct some defects in the house, be sure to get a written agreement specifying what the seller will do before you obligate yourself to buy.

The following is given to help you know what to look for when buying a previously owned house. The average roof lasts about 15 years. Find out the age of the house and if it has been reroofed.

Gutters usually wear out about the same time as the roof. Gutters are generally made from galvanized iron.

Exterior paint serves more than just for the beautification of the house—it protects the wood from the weather. However, painting should be done only when needed. Excessive painting can cause peeling and chipping. A good rule to use when trying to decide whether to paint is: If the wood is showing—paint; if no bare wood is showing but

there is dust or dirt—wash off the dust or dirt.

When painting the exterior, it is best to use a high-quality linseed oil alkyd or latex type paint. It is estimated that one topcoat with a primer will last about three years but two topcoats with a primer and good-quality paint may last as long as ten years.

Special attention should be paid to floors and floor coverings. Check to see that the floors are level and the surface is in satisfactory condition. Walk over the floor slowly and try to notice if it gives underfoot. This is a good way to determine if the floor is well laid and tight. If the floor surface is asphalt tile, it is important that the joints be smooth. Give careful attention to kitchen and bathroom floors, which are usually covered with asphalt tile, linoleum or ceramic tile. You should require that any cracked or chipped pieces be replaced. Delay in repair could result in needing a new floor.

There are usually two main types of inside wall construction, known as "dry wall" and "plastered wall." The dry wall, which is very serviceable, can be of plywood, gypsum wallboard or fiberboard. A plastered wall is constructed of lath and plaster. Both types of walls may be painted or papered. Check to be sure you are satisfied with the wall finishes. Most families will want the inside painted to suit their own taste.

Electrical outlets can be checked while looking at the walls. Give attention to the number of outlets, their location, and check to see if there are enough to meet your needs. Remember that wiring in older houses often cannot take care of the many electrical appliances and pieces of equipment used today.

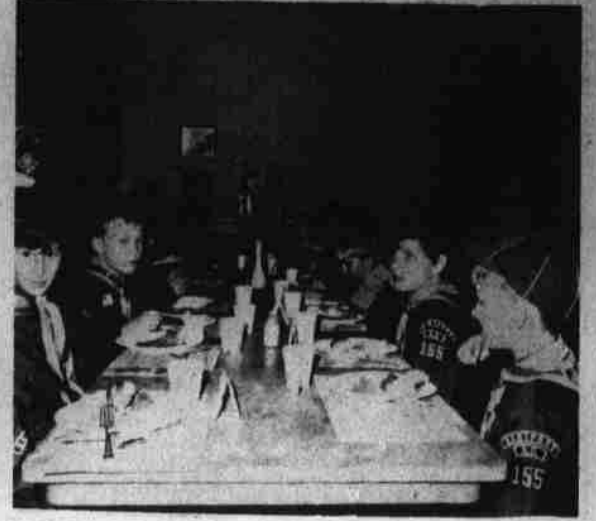
Other additional expenses would be incurred if light fixtures were changed or if you were required to increase the number of amperes service because of additional appliances.

The main concern with the heating system in a house is that it is of the proper capacity for comfort and economy. The life of most furnaces is around 15 years. Especially when buying a previously owned house you may need expert advice on whether the heating system will be satisfactory and on what repairs it may need.

If you would like a "Checklist for buying a previously owned house" and the cost estimates for repairs, please contact the Home Economics Extension Office, 426-7697.



WHAT IS CUB SCOUTING? — Shown here are members of Den 2 performing a skit about cub scouting. They are (from l. to r.): Chris Mansfield, Spencer Weiner, David White, David Saunders, James Denehy, and Zeb Daneker. These scouts are under the supervision of den mother, Esther Weiner and den dad, Stephen Weiner.



ATTEND BANQUET — The newly reorganized cub scout Troop 155 recently held their annual blue and gold banquet. According to scoutmaster Keith Haskett, there are approximately twenty boys involved in local cub scouting. After the buffet style dinner, there was a brief awards presentation. (Photos by Kathy Marren)



SELECTED — The Hertford Business and Professional Women have selected Beth Harris as their Young Careerist candidate. Ms. Harris, 25, is a special education teacher in the Perquimans County School system. She attended St. Mary's Junior College and graduated with a B.S. degree in business administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She was treasurer of the UMCA at St. Mary's. She is co-sponsor of the Beta Club at PCHS. Her hobbies and interest include reading, needlework, traveling, playing tennis and bridge and listening to music. She lives with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Harris at 504 Grubb St. She will compete in district competition March 17 in Tarboro.

People In The News

IN HOSPITAL
V.N. Darden is a patient in Norfolk General Hospital.

WEEK-END AT WINSTON-SALEM
Mrs. Jack Kanoy was a week-end guest of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Harris at Winston-Salem.

RETURNS FROM HOSPITAL

Mrs. Tom Cox has returned from Memorial Hospital where she underwent surgery recently.

FROM VA. BEACH
Miss Sue White of Virginia Beach, Va. spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Julian White.

ATTENDING MEETING AT SCOPE

Mrs. Sarah White, Mrs. Lydia Perry, and Miss Linda Grieves attended Zegarelli's Beauty Show at Scope on Sunday in Norfolk, Va.

WEEK-END AT WHITE HAT

Mrs. Hal Rogers of Portsmouth, Va. and Mr. and Mrs. Hal Rogers, Jr. of Corapeake spent the week-end at the Rogers cottage at White Hat.

RETURNS FROM HOSPITAL

Mrs. B.M. Miller has returned from the Albemarle Hospital where she underwent surgery.

VA. BEACH GUESTS

Mr. and Mrs. Odis Harcum and Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Weaver of Virginia Beach, Va. were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wilcox on Wednesday.

FROM PORTSMOUTH

Mr. and Mrs. Louise Tarkenton and family of Portsmouth, Va. were guests of Mr. and Mrs. William Elliott on Sunday.

WINDSOR GUESTS

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Elliott of Windsor were guests of Mrs. W.M. Divers on Friday.

WEEK-END GUESTS

Mrs. Braxton Dawson and Miss Tommie Dawson of Washington were week-end guests of Mrs. Lloyd Horton.

ROCKY MOUNT GUESTS

Mr. and Mrs. G.E. Newby, Jr. of Rocky Mount spent a few days last week with Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Pitt.

ATTEND FUNERAL

Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Tarkenton, Wayne and Billy Tarkenton attended a funeral in Washington on Sunday.

ON VACATION

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Woodard and daughter, and Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Williams left by plane Wednesday for a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Harold Deaton in Baton Rouge, La. and a tour of Florida, which will include Disney World, before returning home.

IN HOSPITAL

Mrs. Ben Thach, Jr. is a surgery patient at the Chowan Hospital.

VISIT HERE

Mrs. L.M. Simpson, Mrs. Bennie Halstead, and Miss Mary Louise White of Elizabeth City were guests of Mr. J.H. Baker on Thursday.

IN HOSPITAL

Mr. Raymond Eure is a patient at the Chowan Hospital.

HAVE YOU MET GUS?



GUS ETHERIDGE

Gus Etheridge, Manager of Southern Insurance Agency's Life and Health Division is the Man with the Plan! See "Gus" for complete information on-

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- ★ FINANCIAL PLANNING SERVICES
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Tips For Homemakers

MRS. M.B. TAYLOR
HOME ECONOMICS
EXTENSION AGENT

Watching your budget? Cheese spread from a pressurized can costs more than cheese spread from a jar. And grated cheeses and wrapped cheese slices cost more than equal amounts of the same cheese in wedges or sticks.

What is "cured meat"? The meat is treated with curing ingredients — primarily salt and sugar. Then the meat is heat processed.

What cuts of beef are frequently cured? Brisket (called corned beef when cured), the tongue, and some sausages and luncheon meats that contain beef. Dried beef is usually made from the round.

Fresh cabbage, potatoes and watermelon are inexpensive (usually) sources of vitamin C. Canned citrus juices, canned sauerkraut, and tomatoes also are important sources — and relatively inexpensive.

Remember broth and gravy are especially subject to spoilage.

Cool leftovers quickly and put them in the refrigerator. Don't hold for more than a day or two, warn U.S. Department of Agriculture nutritionists.

Making sandwiches? Ham sandwiches, turkey and chicken salad and deviled eggs need special care. They are easily contaminated. You can freeze cubes of chicken and use them in preparing the salad later. All salads should be kept cold as possible.

The secret of cooking frozen vegetables successfully is to cook the vegetable until just tender. That way you save vitamins, bright color, and fresh flavor.

The time required for cooking vegetables is slightly longer at high (than at low) altitudes because the temperature of boiling water decreases about 2 degrees F. with each 1,000 feet above sea level.

HOME FOR WEEK-END

Woody Perry, student at ECU, Greenville, spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Perry.



DISCUSSES BENEFITS — Donald Morris, field representative for the Social Security Administration, recently spoke to members of the Hertford BPW club at their monthly meeting. Morris gave a most informative presentation about Social Security (Photo by K. Marren)

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