

WILMETTE MAN INVENTS NEW AUTOMATIC HEATER

F. W. Vodoz, 1523 Central Avenue, Invites Residents to See Coal Burning Device

F. W. Vodoz, of 1523 Central avenue, Wilmette, has invented an automatic coal heater which is now in operation in the basement of his home. It is called the V-C Automatic Stoker, and is said to be different from anything of its kind now in use.

Mr. Vodoz has submitted to WILMETTE LIFE an explanation of the new device. He begins as follows: "The V-C Automatic Stoker is unusual in that it does mechanically and electrically the labor generally imposed on the housewife—and it does it in much the same way. For example, the fuel (small sizes of coals or cokes) is fed on top of the fire and the grates are shaken. However, these operations are done automatically by the V-C stoker at the exact time the fire demands attention. The small amount of fuel added immediately ignites, with the result that better and more thorough combustion is obtained, with practically no smoke.

Fire Regulates Stoker

"The V-C stoker is regulated entirely by the demands of the fire. The fire, in turn, is controlled by the drafts which may be operated by hand or by a thermostat. There is no mechanical or electrical connection between the stoker and the drafts. Therefore the regulation is controlled directly by the fire, which furnishes the desired heat."

How the fire is automatically controlled is explained by Mr. Vodoz as follows: "To begin with let us recall that a material burned into ash weighs less than the material before it has been burned. The grate of the V-C stoker is located on a lever, normally horizontal, which may swing freely from a fixed point but which remains within a limited line of travel by a counterbalance. When the grate is supplied fresh fuel it lets down the lever. As the fuel burns into ash the weight on the grate reduces, thus causing the grate to raise. It is these movements which cause electrical contacts to be made. These contacts furnish electrical power to the motor which injects fresh fuel and shakes out the ash."

Basic Patents Obtained

Basic patent claims have been allowed which cover the fundamentals of the device completely. This indicates to those familiar with patents that the device is a radical departure from all other coal heaters, Mr. Vodoz believes.

The quarter horsepower motor which furnishes the motive power operates less than a minute in an hour, Mr. Vodoz points out. Obviously, he says, it is unlike other automatic devices in which the motors operate half an hour or more at frequent intervals to maintain the desired heat. This, Mr. Vodoz believes, indicates a small electric operating expense, which adds to the savings made possible by the burning of small sizes of coals and cokes.

Mr. Vodoz is a mechanical engineer who has been active in the development of new machinery for the mining of coal. He states that he has disclosed his new device to the community because it has been developed here. It will be shown by appointment to those interested.

Miss Theresa Backus, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Trumbell Backus of Cumnor road, Kenilworth, who has been visiting Mrs. Hamilton Howe (formerly Peggy Backus) in San Diego, Cal. has been making a tour to Brewerton and other points, visiting friends.

TAKES ARCHAEOLOGY CRUISE

Roy Wilcox, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Wilcox, 1151 Elmwood avenue, is cruising the Great Lakes with the Isle Royale Archaeological expedition. He is working with the expedition as short wave operator sending the results of the expedition to the "Daily News" and to the Associated Press. He will be a senior at New Trier High school this fall, and is expected to return the last of this month with the expedition which is now sailing to Chicago from Ontario by way of Mackinac island.

Mr. and Mrs. John Budinger and Rosalie Budinger of 614 Maple avenue have returned from a motor trip to Quebec and St. Anne de Beaupre in Canada.

Miss Winifred Norris, 908 Greenleaf avenue, returned last week from a visit to Scarsdale and Sea Cliffe, N. Y.

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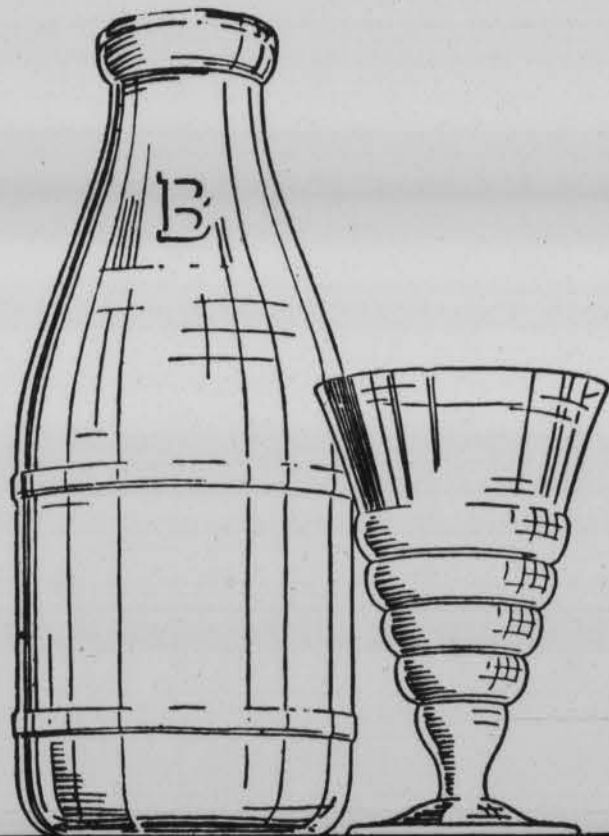
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