

Smoke detectors to be mandatory

The use of smoke detectors in all new high-rise apartment buildings will become mandatory Dec. 31, 1979, consumer minister Frank Drea announced.

"This change in the Building Code regulations means that a smoke detector must be installed between each sleeping area and the rest of the apartment," said Mr. Drea. "It must also be permanently connected to the unit's wiring system, on a circuit which is not equipped with a disconnect switch. For example, it should not be hooked into a circuit where the living room lights would have to be turned on to activate the smoke detector."

Other amendments to the Building Code

regulations effective Dec. 31, 1979 affect standards for mobile homes, factory-built fireplaces and free-standing factory-built fireplaces.

The amendment affecting mobile homes incorporates the new CSA standard and mobile homes built to this standard will now meet the requirements of the Building Code.

The regulations affecting factory built fireplaces have been updated and the widespread

popularity of free standing factory-built fireplaces has prompted the introduction of a standard to regulate their manufacture. Two other amendments to the Building Code regulations will go into effect immediately.

The requirement for a fire separation between retail and storage areas (i.e. in department stores and grocery stores) has proven to be unnecessary based on past experience and has been removed from the Building Code.

Improvements introduced by the plastic sign industry have also led to the removal of the size limitation on certain types of plastic signs. Size restrictions were initially imposed to reduce the potential fire hazard of plastic signs. However, the fire hazard is significantly reduced if the sign is encased in a metal box. The encased plastic signs are now exempt from the size restrictions which still hold for other types of plastic signs.



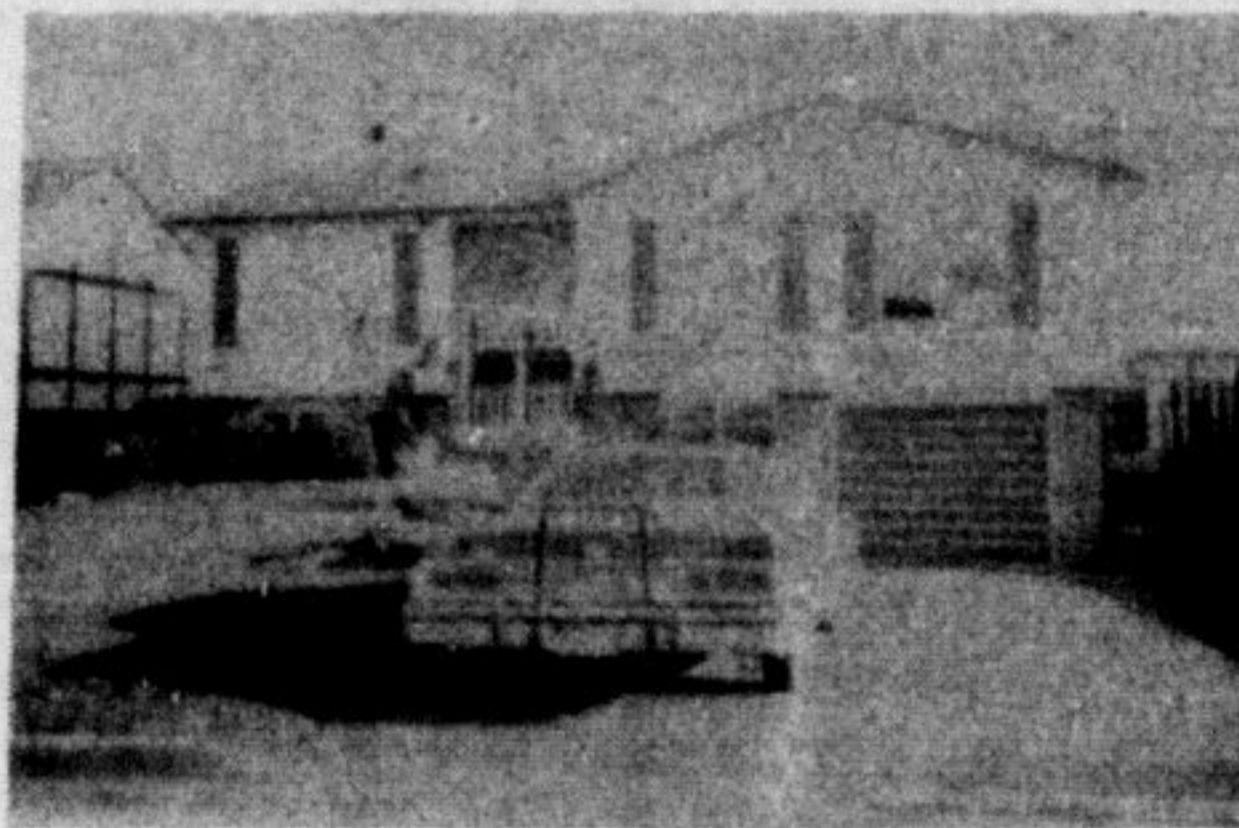
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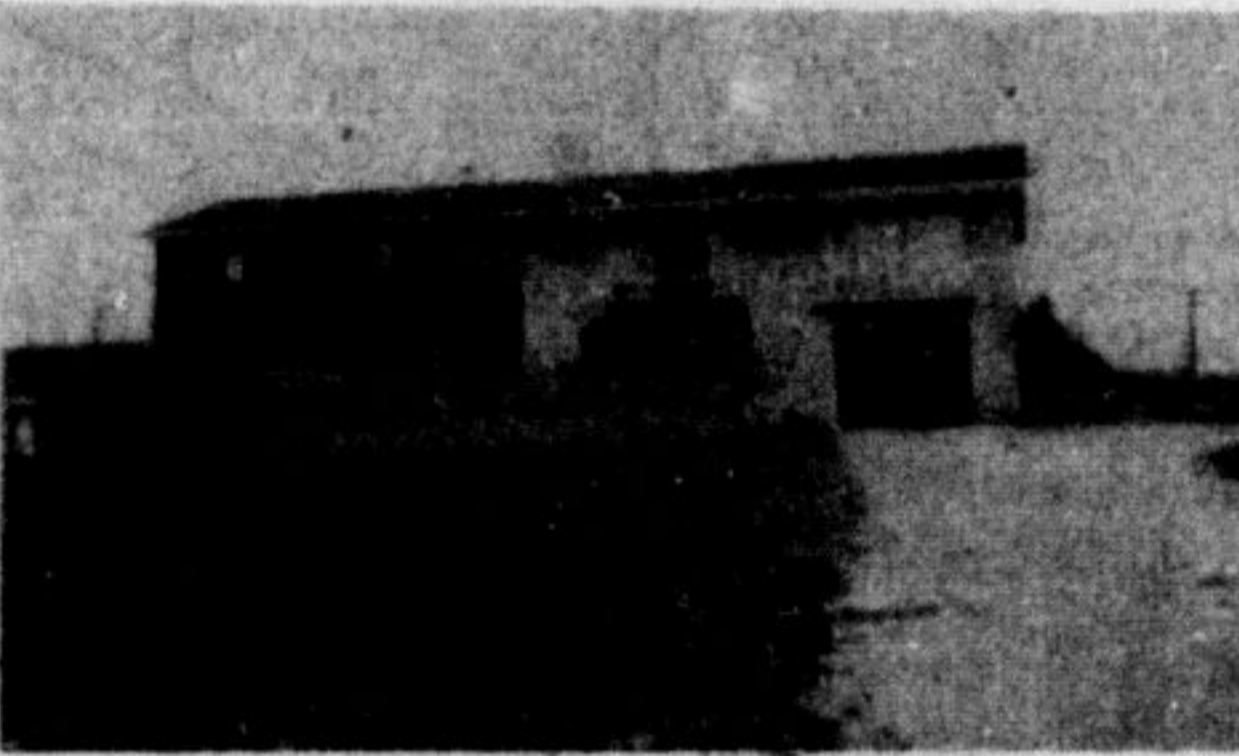
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