

BASED ON SAME PRINCIPLES AS ALL-WOOD BASEMENT CONCEPT

First "All Wood" Underground Homes

By Lonnie Stauffer

Earth-sheltered underground houses have attracted a lot of attention the last few years. Latest development is an all-wood structure that doesn't use a speck of concrete for walls, roof or foundation.

Kenneth "Corky" Uren has introduced the first all-wood earth-sheltered homes and commercial buildings at his company, Everstrong Marketing, headquartered in Redwood Falls, Minn. He's selling them through Heritage Homes outlets in 26 states and Canada. The "all wood" homes are based on the "all-wood" basement concept which has caught on in the home-building industry within the last five years.

Uren cites the following advantages of wood over concrete: Fewer humidity problems, lower construction costs, transportability, and quicker construction with prefabricated components.

Everstrong builds the structures out of wood treated with chemical preservatives. Pressure-treated lumber is used for the framing and an exterior skin of 3/4 in. treated plywood is attached to the framing as a barrier to the soil that will be piled over and around the finished structure.

Interior walls are insulated with 10 in. of fiberglass insulation. The roof is

insulated to an R-value of 38. A Bentonite coating is used to waterproof the roof which is covered with up to 18 in. of soil. The north wall is completely covered with several feet of soil and most of the east and west walls are surrounded by soil. South-facing walls are left open to the sun for heat and light.

Everstrong has built seven houses in western Minnesota since last September. Uren says there have been no humidity problems and fuel bills have been pleasantly low. "During the winter of '79-'80, it cost just \$69.77 to heat our earth-sheltered office. We figure that's about 10% of what it would cost to heat a conventional office building."

Uren cautions against trying to build an all-wood earth-sheltered home yourself. "It took nearly three years for us to figure out the engineering requirements for these buildings. It's not a do-it-yourself project. The structure should be done by a professional because it must be capable of supporting the roof load and the enormous outside wall pressures."

Uren is also excited about the potential of his buildings for agricultural uses. "They should make great farm buildings for livestock and



Wooden underground home costs about the same as a conventional above-ground home.

poultry because they maintain constant temperatures and control humidity to keep the animals comfortable," he says. He's currently working with specialists at Arizona State University to design and build an earth-sheltered, all-wood livestock building for the University's experimental farm.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Kenneth "Corky" Uren, Everstrong Marketing, Highway 19 and 71 East, P.O. Box 431, Redwood Falls, Minn. 56283 (ph 507 637-3616).

VISIBLE ONLY UNDER ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT

Pen Puts Invisible Mark On Valuables

Crime is not just an urban problem. Rural areas are just as susceptible and an "invisible" identification system called Chem-Guard I.D. may help you to fight back.

Ultraviolet ink, visible only under a hand-held ultraviolet light, is the key to the system, explains Steve DeWitt, Des Moines, Iowa, who is marketing Chem-Guard. Since the ink can't be seen with the naked eye, thieves don't know it's there and thus won't scrape it off or paint over it. Also, unlike an engraving tool, the ink doesn't deface items being marked.

The pen will mark on nearly any item, including tools, glassware, appliances and even clothing, according to DeWitt. On machinery or equipment, the mark should be made on the underside of surfaces hidden from direct sunlight, which will cause the ink to fade.

Exposing recovered stolen property to a hand-held ultraviolet light reveals the invisible identification mark you have penciled onto it. The particular number code you use



Warning decals are also available to post on your house and farm buildings.

would be assigned to you and registered by your local sheriff's office. It's a 10-digit code and identifies your state, county, and registered name so recovered stolen items can be easily identified as yours, regardless of how far from your farm or ranch they turn up.

For \$6.25, you can get a pen with enough ink to mark 700 items. Included are inventory sheets and instructions.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, DeWitt Marketing, P.O. Box 7071 Grand Station, Des Moines, Iowa 50309.



There are no paper filters in the new coffee maker which grinds its own coffee.

HAS BUILT-IN BEAN GRINDER

New Coffee-Maker Grinds And Brews

"The only way to get fresher coffee would be to move to Brazil," say importers of what's being called the "ultimate coffee-maker". The Toshiba "My Cafe" combines a flavorful drip-type brewer with an electric coffee bean grinder.

"You put beans directly into the coffeemaker and grind just what you need. The coffee drips into the stainless steel filter and begins to brew," explains Dee Geisness, manufacturer's representative for Toshiba in Mound, Minn.

Ordinarily, coffee starts losing flavor as soon as it's ground, which in the case of canned coffee is long be-

fore it reaches the store. Also, many exotic coffees are available only as beans and must be ground before brewing.

The new 4-cup coffee maker has a stainless steel filter and built-in warmer. Retail price is \$79. "That's probably less than you would spend for a coffee-maker and grinder separately," says Geisness. An 8-cup model is also available.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dee Geisness, B & G Sales, 1415 Park Drive, Mound, Minn. 55364 (ph 612 435-5812 or 472-3278).