

Tropical Cigar Factory Builds New Home

New Building At 918 Duval Will Be Open By December 1

One of the few remaining factories in the United States that produces handmade cigars will be in its new home here by December 1, it was announced today.

Mr. and Mrs. Armando Bermudez, who own and operate the Tropical Cigar Factory, are building their new concrete block and stucco building at 918 Duval Street.

The old frame building that housed the factory for years was destroyed by fire September 12.

Since then the CBS Construction Company has been pushing ahead to complete the \$10,000 job by December 1 so that the factory will be running by the beginning of the tourist season.

The new two-story building will house the factory and a showroom on the street floor.

On the second floor will be the living quarters of Mr. and Mrs. Bermudez.

The 20-by-30 foot building will have a plastic tile floor downstairs and wooden floors upstairs.

Bermudez, a veteran cigar maker, buys all his tobacco from Cuba.

"This is the only factory in Key West that makes clear Havana cigars," he said.

The tobacco is not the only thing Bermudez buys from outside Key West.

The cigar boxes, the bands, and the cellophane wrappers all come from out of town.

The Federal tax stamp with which he seals each box is bought at the Federal building here. But, of course, that too is not printed here.

The boxes are made in Tampa; some of the bands are made in Elmira, N. Y., and the cellophane wrappers come from Perioria, Ill.

"Ninety-five per cent of the cigars made in the United States," said Bermudez, "are not made by hand. We do everything by hand. We roll the cigars by hand. We press them by hand. We fit them into the cellophane wrappers by hand, and we box them by hand."

Mr. and Mrs. Bermudez turn out

Keys Land Brings Almost \$1,000 Per Acre

Eighty-six acres of land on Plantation Key were sold for \$85,000, almost \$1,000 per acre, according to a warranty deed on file today in the office of Earl Adams, county clerk.

The land was sold by Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Ludington of New York City to Alan B. Kessler, trustee, of Miami.

A subdivision will be built on the land, The Citizen learned.

their cigars in five sizes — Panatella, Coronado, Palmas, short Coronas and king size.

But they make only blunt shapes. That is, the end you light is cut off square. The Perfecto — type cigar is tapered at both ends.

Very few retail stores in Key West stock Key West made cigars, Bermudez said.

He added that he did not know why.

"Key West has a very good climate for tobacco," he added. "It stays fresh for months in this climate."

"Besides," he went on, "the Key West cigar is known all over the world. Every season we have hundreds of tourists visit our factory. Some buy cigars, some don't."

The largest majority of Tropical's sales are to out of town smokers.

Bermudez has some regular customers to whom he ships two or three boxes of cigars each month. Then, too, he has a string of other regular customers who order only when they are ready for more cigars.

"For example," he said, "I have men in Detroit, Omaha, and Pennsylvania, N. J., to whom I regularly ship two or three boxes a month. Then there are others to whom I ship cigars only when they write for more."

He has one out of town store which is a regular buyer of his cigars. This store is in Windsor, Canada.



NEW CIGAR FACTORY—The new home of the Tropical Cigar Factory is nearing completion at 918 Duval Street. The two-story, concrete block and stucco building, is being built by the CBS Construction Co.—Citizen Staff Photo, Don Pinder.

Additional Money Okayed For Navy Air Station Here

The Bureau of Aeronautics recently authorized additional funds for the maintenance and repair of the Naval Air Station, Key West, Florida.

Projects for this latest phase of maintenance and repair work at the Air Station consists of repairing several runways at Boca Chica Field, completion of the Aviation Fuel Supply and Storage facilities at the Air Station, repairing the breakwater at the Boat House located on Fleming Key, the rehabilitation of the Aviation Gas Supply and Storage facilities at the Seaplane Base division of the Air Station and repair of the lighting system of the Seadrome on the Seaplane Base.

Also the funds will allow the installation of a fire protection extinguishing system for the Ground Control Intercept Unit of the Air Station.

Although a termination date was not definitely stated for the maintenance projects, the Navy said it would be sometime next year before all of the projects are completed.

Homes Lead City Building Permits

Four new homes headed this week's building permits.

The residences are being built by the Noble Construction Co. The addresses and the amounts of the permits follow:

2421 Linda, \$8,000; 2414 Flagler, \$10,800; 2417 Linda, \$10,000; and 2413 Linda, \$10,000.

Other permits were:

Lou Smith, 922 North Beach Road, \$200.

Paul Sher, 1127 Johnson, repairs, \$700.

J. L. Richard, 1307 Laird, swimming pool, \$500.

H. M. Pinder, 609 Elizabeth, addition, \$910.

Joe Gandolfo, 1019 Eaton, repairs, \$800.

Ruby Rodriguez, 419 Duval, alterations, \$200.

Benny's Cafeteria, 908 Simonton, patio, \$800.

Edith Moffat, 901 Truman, repairs, \$2,000.

E. Wilson, 322 Elizabeth, repairs, \$900.

L. Jaycocks, 1113 Truman, repairs, \$300.

Charles Curry, 618 Ashe, repairs, \$200.

Francis J. Noel, 5 Catholic Lane, repairs, \$300.

Pedro Valdez, 2521 Fogarty, porch, \$300.

Eloy Garcia, 612 Elizabeth, repairs, \$100.

Atlantic Shores Motel, 510 South St., curb, \$300.

RADIO HAMS TO AID COPS ON HALLOWEEN

WEYMOUTH, Mass., (AP)—Radio hams will help authorities cope with Halloween pranksters tonight. Several amateur operators will patrol the streets in radio-equipped cars to notify police and firemen of trouble spots, property damage and false alarms.

Saturday, October 30, 1954 THE KEY WEST CITIZEN Page 7

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ELECTRIC TOOL DOs-DON'Ts

By Andrew C. Long

THE DRILL PRESS
DO—check all tension points before turning on the motor.

DO—keep the drill going at a fairly slow speed when using a center bit, countersink bit or plug cutter, otherwise the bits will overheat.

DO—use the rotary wood planer attachment for working on warped stock, being sure to place the concave side of the side of the wood against the table.

DO—make a round-end mortise if you do not have a mortising attachment—by drilling a series



of adjacent holes and then cutting out the waste with a router bit or chisel.

DO—follow the manufacturer's lubricating instructions carefully.

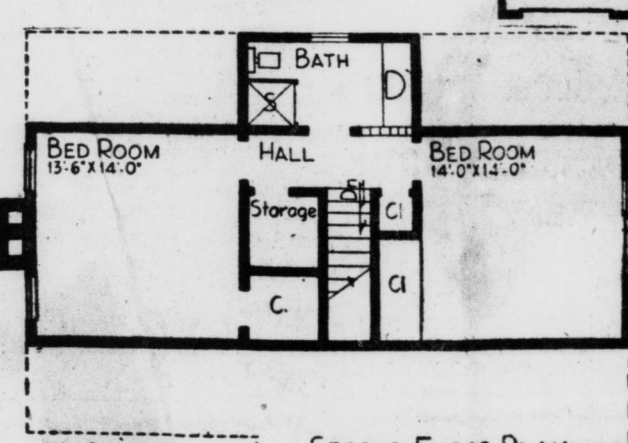
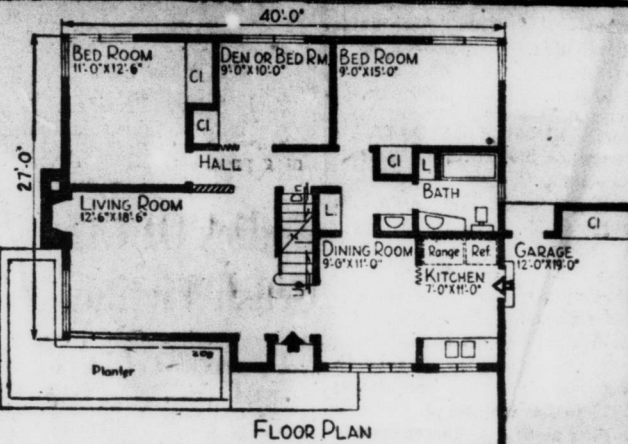
DON'T—neglect the use of a dust-sanding attachment for finishing inside curved surfaces.

DON'T—use the regular chuck for high-speed accessories.
DON'T—forget that, in shaping, the table is raised to the cutter rather than lowering the cutter to the work.

DON'T—ignore chatters and rumbles while the machine is running at high speed, as they usually mean that something is loose that should be tight.

DON'T—work on metal without wearing goggles.

HOMES FOR AMERICANS

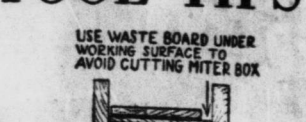


PLAN #208 SECOND FLOOR PLAN

AP Newsfeatures

BIGGER THAN IT LOOKS, this house has a five-bedroom capacity within economical construction limits. The main floor covers approximately 1,100 square feet without garage yet includes three comfortable bedrooms. Second floor can be finished later. Floor-to-ceiling corner windows distinguish the living room. This is Plan 208 by Paul T. Haagen, architect, 360 No. Michigan Ave., Chicago 1, Ill.

TOOL TIPS



AP Newsfeatures

A MITER BOX and a back saw keep angles accurate and make possible tightly-fitted miter joints for corners.

U.S. - MEXICO RELATIONS GOOD

MEXICO CITY, (AP)—Relations between the United States and Mexico were never better than at present says Manuel Tello, Mexican ambassador to Washington.

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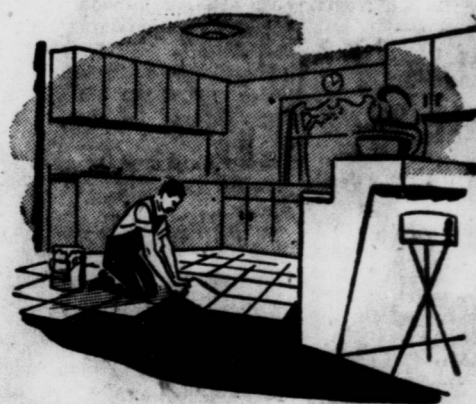
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