

Teacher builds to relax his mind

By Mary Kane

Stanley Arnetveit has it made.

So do the folks who hire him to build their homes.

Ever since he came to Ripon five years ago, Arnetveit, who is an industrial arts teacher at Ripon High School, has been contracting to build homes during the summer months. To date, he has built six and is now at work on the seventh.

Stanley has it made because his dual occupation as teacher/carpenter gives his life a nice blend of mental and physical labor — something not many people ever achieve.

Arnetveit has his home building projects down to a science now. By the

"I've never looked for a job," Arnetveit claims. Many area people have heard of him through word of mouth and he has a waiting list.

Last summer was the first time he built two homes within a three-month period. "So we really went right up to the wire," he added.

Arnetveit works a full 40 hours every week and feels the physical strain of construction work is a good change of pace from the mental work involved in planning the house and keeping the construction moving.

Rohde expressed similar sentiments. "I've had enough variety from the summer physical experience that I'm

Arnetveit hammers away at summer job

time school's out in June, the basement of the house to be built is already laid and he and his four-man crew are ready to begin hammering away. The house is completed within three months.

Those helping Arnetveit are Cal Schaub, a German teacher at the high school, Hubert Rohde, a science teacher, Darrel "Fritz" Ebert, Ripon, who teaches at Waupun High School, and Jeff Paulson, a Stevens Point student who has been working with Arnetveit since he was 15.

Started at 11

Arnetveit himself has had plenty of experience as a journeyman carpenter. He began building when he was 11 years old and worked with his father in Viroqua through high school. When he was in college, he did construction work. He then taught in Minneapolis and worked as a union carpenter on home construction for three summers.

All of the homes are custom-built. Arnetveit draws the blue prints after consulting with his clients. "They don't have to do anything but make choices," he said.

Arnetveit and his crew do all the work themselves, from start to finish. The only exceptions are the workers he subcontracts to wire the house, install the plumbing, lay bricks and do drywall spraying.

enthusied about going back to school," he said.

Keep up with trends

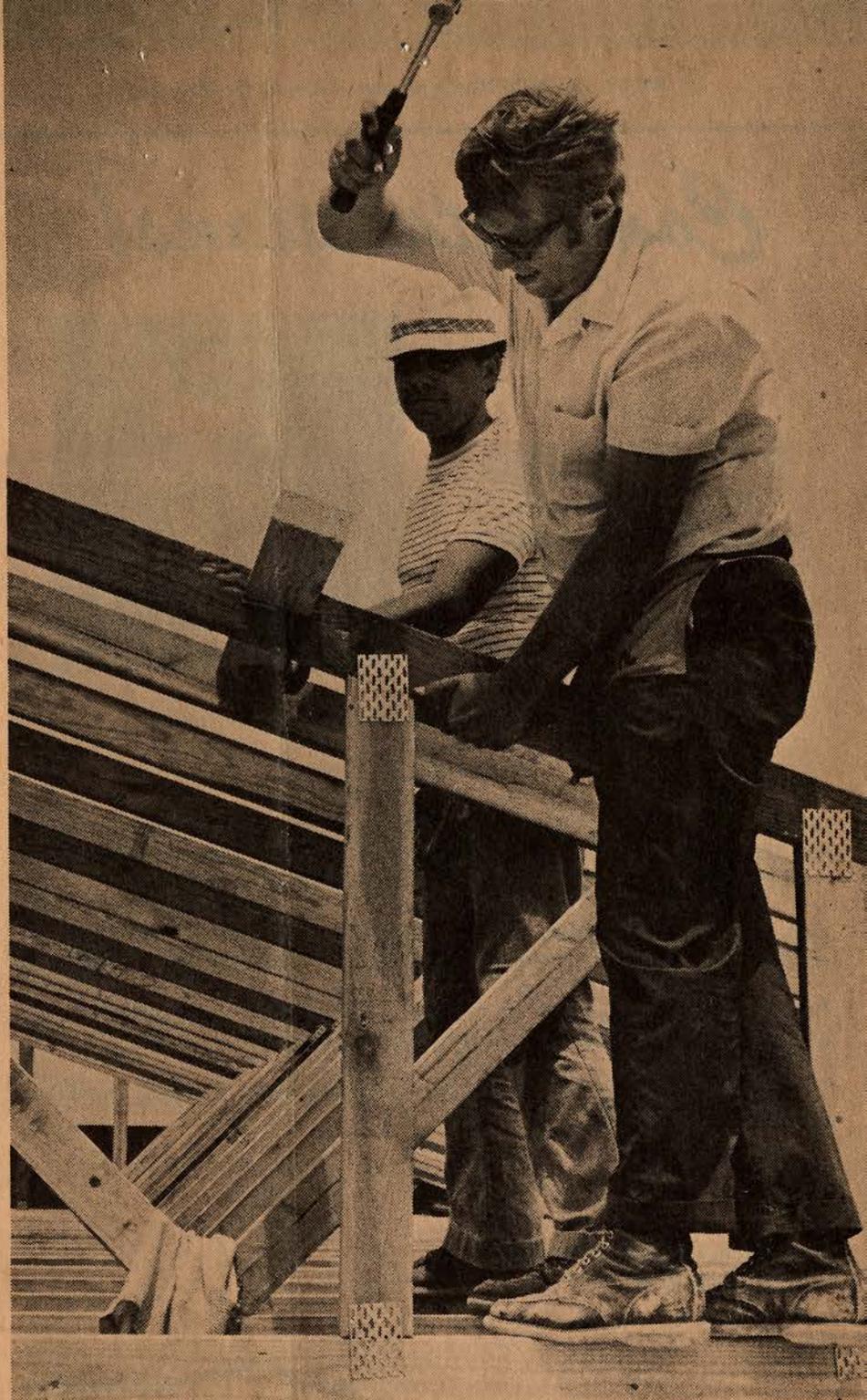
Another advantage to this line of summer employment is that Arnetveit acquires first-hand knowledge of current prices of building materials and trends in home design. His students seem to respect his practical experience too, he added.

Among the areas of industrial arts which Arnetveit teaches are building construction, cabinetmaking, plastics and architectural drafting.

Arnetveit began building homes here during the summer because he couldn't find a contractor who needed another full-time carpenter.

He and his wife Kathy and their three children, Theresa, 7, Kirstin, 4, and Erik, 6 months, live near Green Lake. It just wouldn't seem right if there home wasn't one he'd built himself. And, of course, it is.

For those interested in seeing homes previously built by Arnetveit, some of them are Max Vancil's on Thomas Street and Phil Prellwitz's near Rush Lake, both completed last summer; Tom Jorgensen's on Stanton Street and Cal Schaub's on Joy Avenue, the first the teacher/carpenters built. Schaub is also the veteran helper on the building crew, having been with Arnetveit five summer.



RAISING THE ROOFBEAMS—A hammer-swinging Cal Schaub puts a roofbeam in place while the "Master Builder," Stan Arnetveit, holds the lumber in place. The two carpenters are part of a team of teachers that has built seven homes in Ripon in the past six summers. Arnetveit is a journeyman carpenter and an industrial arts teacher at Ripon High School, and Schaub is a German teacher.