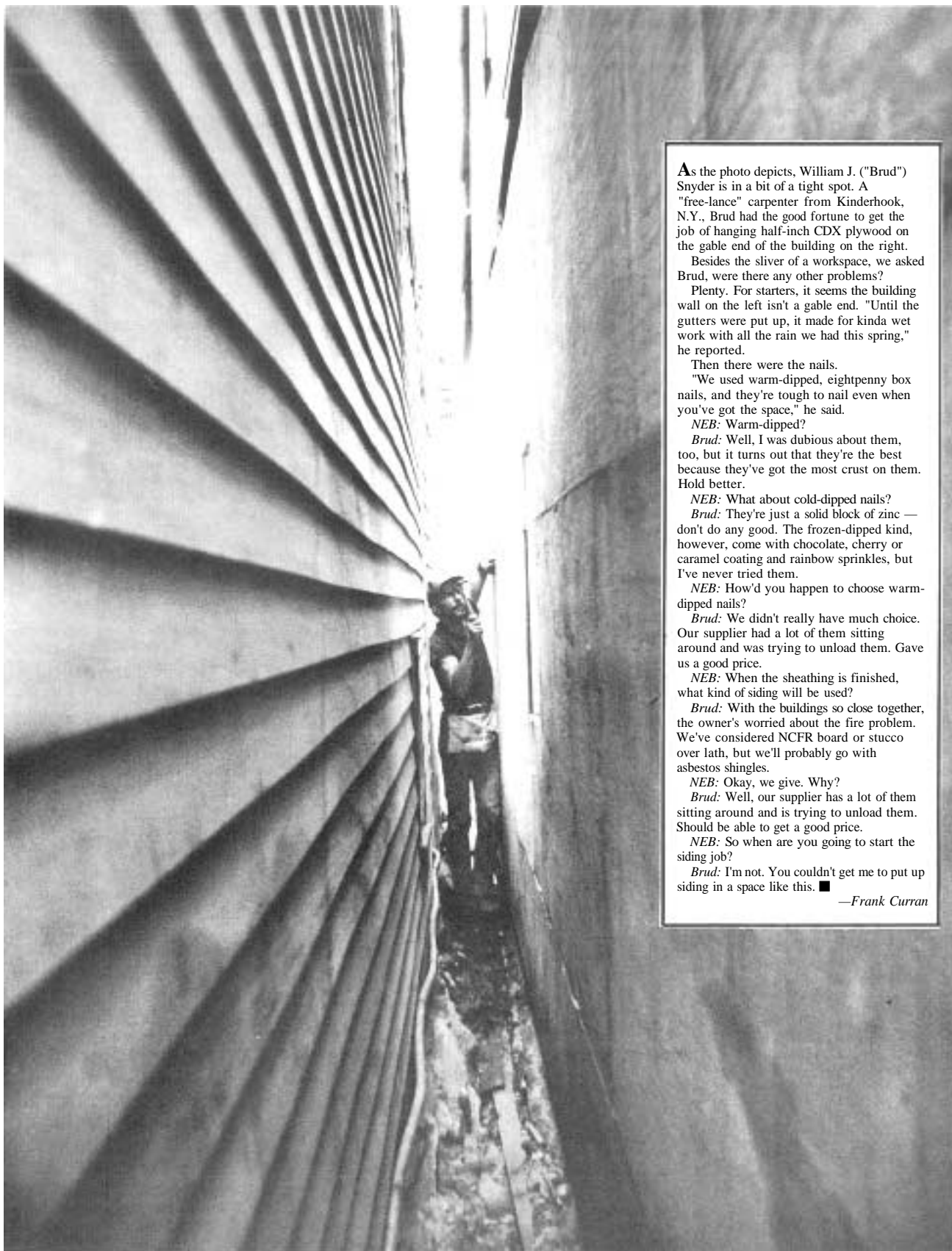


Hampered Hammering



As the photo depicts, William J. ("Brud") Snyder is in a bit of a tight spot. A "free-lance" carpenter from Kinderhook, N.Y., Brud had the good fortune to get the job of hanging half-inch CDX plywood on the gable end of the building on the right.

Besides the sliver of a workspace, we asked Brud, were there any other problems?

Plenty. For starters, it seems the building wall on the left isn't a gable end. "Until the gutters were put up, it made for kinda wet work with all the rain we had this spring," he reported.

Then there were the nails.

"We used warm-dipped, eightpenny box nails, and they're tough to nail even when you've got the space," he said.

NEB: Warm-dipped?

Brud: Well, I was dubious about them, too, but it turns out that they're the best because they've got the most crust on them. Hold better.

NEB: What about cold-dipped nails?

Brud: They're just a solid block of zinc — don't do any good. The frozen-dipped kind, however, come with chocolate, cherry or caramel coating and rainbow sprinkles, but I've never tried them.

NEB: How'd you happen to choose warm-dipped nails?

Brud: We didn't really have much choice. Our supplier had a lot of them sitting around and was trying to unload them. Gave us a good price.

NEB: When the sheathing is finished, what kind of siding will be used?

Brud: With the buildings so close together, the owner's worried about the fire problem. We've considered NCFR board or stucco over lath, but we'll probably go with asbestos shingles.

NEB: Okay, we give. Why?

Brud: Well, our supplier has a lot of them sitting around and is trying to unload them. Should be able to get a good price.

NEB: So when are you going to start the siding job?

Brud: I'm not. You couldn't get me to put up siding in a space like this. ■

—Frank Curran