

# village view

by Andrea Leonard

Unless you've successfully created an intellectual vacuum for yourself, you're constantly bombarded with opposing viewpoints about energy uses and resources.

Magazine, newspaper and television advertising urges you to support the expansion of traditional energy sources; that is, off-shore searches for oil and gas, and refining coal mining methods. These ads are paid by oil companies who spend millions influencing voters and lobbying in Congress to support the industries' ideas of what's best for the industries.

In spite of the knowledge (both within and without the oil industry) that traditional energy resources are finite and supplies are being depleted at frighteningly rapid rates, the push is on to exhaust what supplies we still have before bending every effort to developing alternate sources of energy.

The oil industry scoffs at the conservationist's plea to develop methods to use less energy and calls the ecologist foolish to be concerned with the balance of nature.

The oil industry, when counting the cost of balancing renewable energy against the amounts it is believed we need to operate, sees the imbalance so great, and the "need" so overwhelming, that the balance must be ignored, it tells us.

The short-sighted (and the avaricious) fail to recognize (or acknowledge) that eventually the balance will be forced upon us. When oil reserves are gone, when all the gas has been burned, when the coal is used up, making a new supply will take the nature a couple of million years or more. What shall we do while we wait?

Not everyone is continuing to waste energy. Other industries are finding there are dollars to be saved through economical use of energy resources. The incidental saving of resources is overshadowed by the dollars husbanded, but both are affected.

Within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, reports the Audubon Newsletter this month, conservationists' goals have been attained and energy conservation is being practiced.

In Tewksbury, Wang Laboratories' director of maintenance and plant facilities has effected a 78% reduction in the company's natural gas consumption and a 48% cut in electrical use. The dollar saving? Annually, \$220,000.

How did he do it? He says it took some unusual methods to achieve savings like these. "If you tell someone you're going to remove half the lighting, they'll say 'No, we need it.' But if you go in at night and remove one of three tubes and they don't realize you did it, then obviously they didn't really need them."

Instead of using two boilers for heat, the plant now uses only one, operating it an average of 6 hours out of 24. The boiler isn't fired until an hour before the workers are due to come to work. Then it's shut off and coasts for several hours; it is reactivated for brief periods, as needed, during the day. Towards the end of the workday the heating and cooling units are shut down for the night.

At General Electric in Lynn energy consumption has dropped by 20% in two years. Hundreds of thousands in fuel dollars are saved. Solid waste is replacing oil for a substantial portion of the plant's energy needs.

Fall River's Roma Chemical Company has reduced energy costs 38% using similar techniques, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute cut energy use 32% through experimenting with energy-use methods.

None of these money-saving energy-conserving practices requires costly equipment, architectural changes or space-age technology.

The ingredients for making the changes are common sense, employee cooperation, and willingness to experiment.

The Bedford Skating Rink installed diesel engines to generate electricity and run compressors; the engines' waste

heat is piped into the building's heating system. It cost \$10,500 in 1973 to install the system.

Fuel oil and electricity bills dropped from an average of \$1,250 a month to \$300 a month. It's more than paid for itself, and the system is reported to be more reliable than the public utility.

Where could we effect savings like these locally? We could try something similar at our skating rink, perhaps. We could survey the schools, chart the temperatures maintained in classrooms during all 24 hours, and do some illumination levels testing.

We could recommend supermarkets install doors on their frozen food units. In summer, when I've complained the stores are too cold, I've been told the building is cooled entirely by the frozen food compartments.

Frozen foods are a great convenience, but the energy-waste in this area is phenomenal. What is it costing in non-renewable fuels to keep food frozen in open shelves while the store is comfortably heated in winter? And to overcome summer's heat in July and August? And how many supermarkets maintain open frozen food departments?

When we find some industries are acting to conserve energy, we begin to wonder why. The reason? Pure economics. It saves money.

Basically, that's the ecologist's standard, too. If you exhaust your resources, you're all through. There's no Welfare department, no social security, no pension, no windfall inheritance when your energy resources are gone.

When it's gone, it's all gone.

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# The Village Advertiser

For The Town of Barnstable and Her People

Vol. 6 No. 49 May 13, 1976

## Osterville Cancer Crusade "Fair" new enthusiastic approach

The Osterville Cancer Crusade will sponsor a Fair in that village on Saturday, June 5, to benefit the American Cancer Society, chairman of the local chapter Rosamond Fuller announced this week.

The Fair will commence with a Colonial Costume Parade to be followed by the musical production, "Molly Pitcher" presented at the

Fair Grounds at the rear of the House and Garden Shop. The cast comprises the entire fifth grade class of Osterville Elementary School.

After lunch, clown acts, music, balloons, pony rides, a flea market and exhibits of art, crafts, garden goodies and surprises will sustain the circus spirit.

A limited printing of the day's program is being

published for free distribution; in addition to advertisements by merchants and sponsors, the booklet will include a short history of Osterville.

Orders are now being accepted for advertisements and sponsors; deadline for ads is May 14. For advertising rates, call Joseph Prior at 428-9939.

General admission is \$1;

combination admission of \$3 includes a special luncheon. Children under 12 will be admitted free. Sandwiches, hot dogs, and beverages will be on sale.

"Everyone is enthusiastic and looking forward to the Fair on June 5. We're hoping for good weather and lots of support for the Cancer Crusade," Mrs. Fuller said.