

The 'down' facts reviewed

IITHACA, N.Y. — If winter's first surly blast has you thinking about a down-filled jacket, parka or vest, a Cornell University clothing specialist urges you to weigh the pros and cons before buying.

Jean McLean, professor of design and environmental analysis in the N.Y. State College of Human Ecology, Cornell University, explained that down is that fluffy stuff under the feathers that insulates geese and ducks. It also is popular with humans for its ability to form layers of insulating air in garments and for its extreme light weight.

Down insulates best
Pound for pound, wool is only 32 per cent as effective as down, acetate 44 per cent, and polyester 71 per cent in insulating qualities.

Down is extremely resilient — compress it into a small space and it will spring back easily to its original volume. It also breathes, allowing moisture from the body to pass through to the outside of the fabric for evaporation, an important feature for winter wear.

By government standards, a down garment should have at least 80 per cent down.

Because the demand in the last few years has pushed its price up to \$30 a pound, down may be mixed with chicken feathers which are flat, have less insulating value, and cost only about \$2 a pound. To test low-priced garments labeled "down," Prof. McLean recommends a squeeze test; if you feel many quills through the fabric, there may be more feathers than the allowed 20 per cent.

Drawbacks considered
On the negative side, she said, static electricity causes down to collect dust from the air, and as down oxidizes, it disintegrates into dust. So, people with allergies might consider fiberfill garments, which cost far less than down.

Fiberfill made from polyester is also a great lightweight insulator. Sometimes called "synthetic down," it may appeal to people who have to live with winter rains or drizzles because it dries quickly. Down loses its loft when wet and dries slowly. A new polyester fiber called "hollofil" is lighter than other fiberfill and has high insulating value.

Sew-it-yourself garment kits also are worth considering, Prof. McLean said, because they can cost one-third to one-half less than a comparable ready-made garment. More than a dozen companies make kits ranging from parkas, vests, jackets, ponchos, hoods, caps, mittens and booties to fashionable ski and snow-wear.

Down care reviewed
Whether kit or ready-made, down-filled garments can be washed or dry-cleaned. Special soaps are not necessary, but thorough rinsing and gentle handling are required to retain down's insulating ability. A water softener is also recommended and it is especially important to lift and support the wet down garment carefully to avoid straining the seams.

Dry the down garment at medium heat with two or three clean bath towels to absorb moisture. Place freshly washed tennis shoes in the dryer to break up the

clumps of down as the dryer drum rotates.

Prof. McLean said to stay away from do-it-yourself dry cleaning machines and check that the dry cleaner

uses solvents like Stoddard's solution on down garments rather than the more common "perc" (perchloroethylene). Cleaning is much easier

with fiberfill garments, since they can be washed and dried at home. In fact, fiberfill garments should not be dry-cleaned, Prof. McLean said.



Jim Benzmiller, president of Acorn Equipment Corporation, congratulates Robert Guhl, left, for successfully completing training at the Acorn Service School.

Acorn man graduated

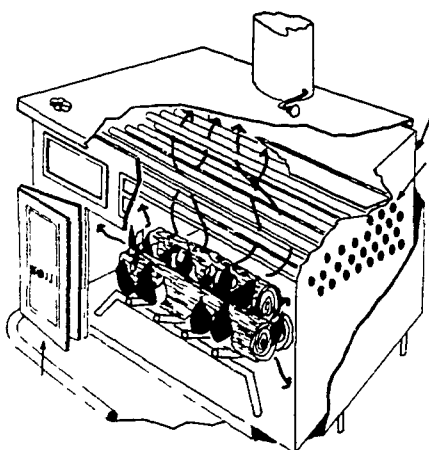
STEVENS POINT, Wis. — Robert Guhl, Pennsylvania district manager for Acorn Automated Agri-Systems recently completed four days of training in the company's service school, here, according to a company news spokesman.

Guhl, who makes his home at 123 Wellington Road, Lancaster, reports that the training sessions included the actual assembly of Acorn products.

The training program covers all aspects of the installation and maintenance of the Acorn line of barn equipment, ventilation systems, silo unloaders, manure and feed handling systems.

In addition to routine maintenance, preventive maintenance and trouble shooting were covered in depth.

A Hydro-Heater Franklin will cut your fuel costs...
Can heat your whole house, even when it's zero outside!



A 1 1/4" water jacket surrounds the fire on back, sides and bottom. This allows you to place the Hydro-Heater Franklin within 6" of any wall or partition, because the outside temperature never exceeds 210°.

Directional flow tubing captures the heat that is normally lost up the flue. 65% of the heat collected in Hydro-Heater is absorbed by the tubing section. This heat is then transferred to your existing heating system.

AVAILABLE ARE HOT WATER HEAT EXCHANGERS FOR DOMESTIC HOT WATER SYSTEMS

A Hydro-Heater Franklin gives you a 300 to 500 per cent increase in heat output over normal Franklin type stoves. In fact you get a 175,000 BTU output with a Hydro-Heater Franklin! And with a Hydro-Heater you don't put up with the "freeze or fry" situation experienced with ordinary Franklin type stoves. That's because Hydro-Heater transfers its heat to your existing home heating system to warm every room in your house. Why settle for just any conventional wood burning stove when you can have a beautiful, efficient Hydro-Heater Franklin.

Also Available Are Fireplace Units

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:

JAMES L. NEWSWANGER

(717) 354-4478

AT BLUEBALL MACHINE WORKS

Evenings call (717) 354-9431

(215) 445-4191

Open House

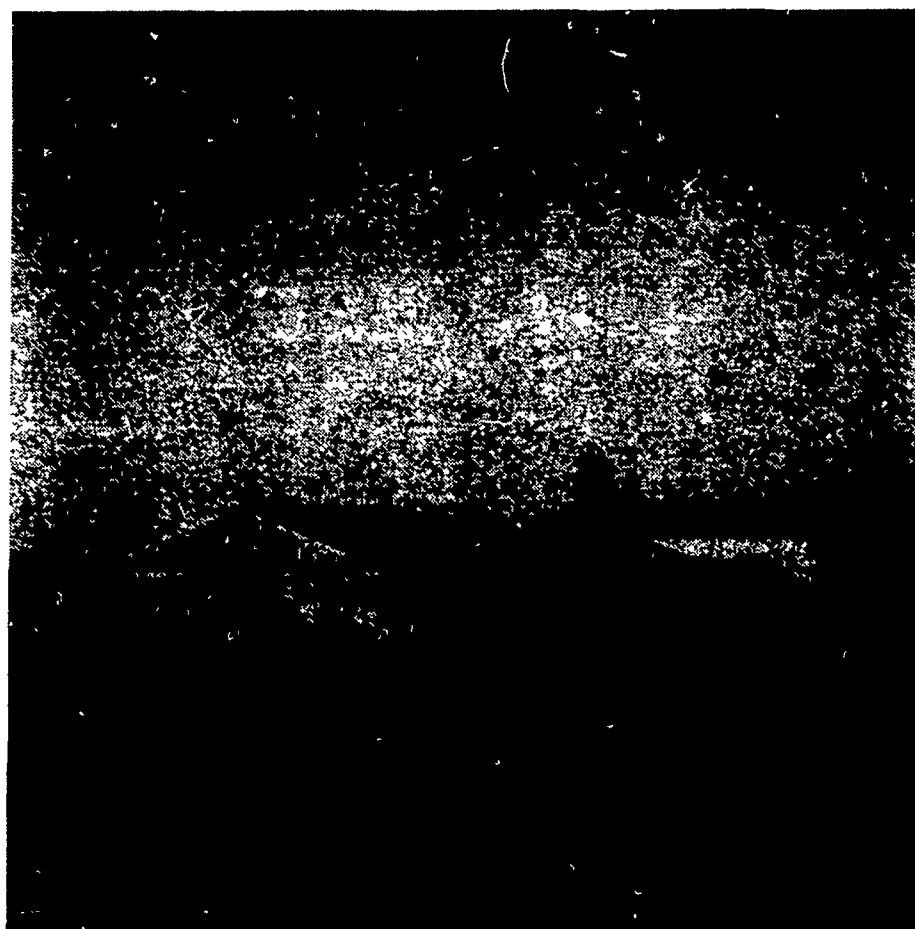
**THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 29, 1977**

at

WYE OAK FARM

**Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hess
and family**

**1 mile south of Strasburg
on Bunkerville Rd.**



FEATURING:

- Snavely-Bilt Free Stall Barn
- DeLaval Model 200 Milk Parlor
- Dari-Kool Bulk Tank With Therma•Stor
- Showase Free Stalls And Headlatches
- Agway Perfalot
- Lagoon Manure System
- Int. Mixing Wagon

A. GARY MARTIN
2104 Millstream Rd.
Lancaster, PA
General Contractor

J. C. SNAVELY & SONS, INC.
Landisville, PA
Lancaster, PA

LANDIS BROTHERS, INC.
1305 Manheim Pike
Lancaster, PA

SHENKS FARM SERVICE
501 E. Woods Drive
Lititz, PA

JOHN E. KREIDER
573 Willow Rd.
Lancaster, PA

AGWAY INC.
Lancaster, PA

ANDREWS EXCAVATING
Willow Street, PA

COYLE ELECTRIC
Strasburg, PA

ALBERT HERR PLUMBING
Strasburg, PA

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF STRASBURG
Center Square, Strasburg, PA