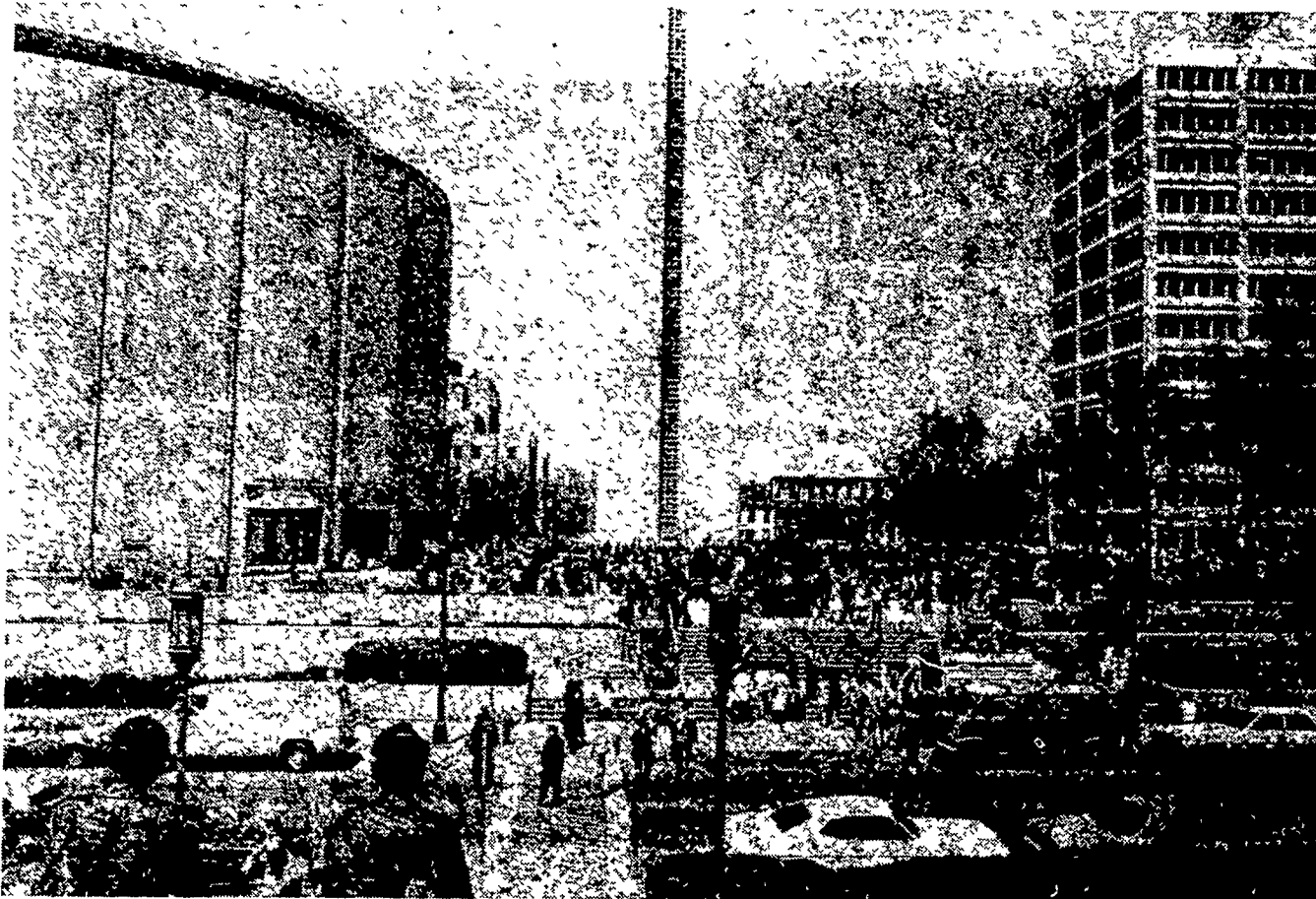


Sun Day observed to promote solar energy use



The William Penn Museum in Harrisburg was the site for that city's Sun Day activities.

HARRISBURG - As if it knew a special day had been set aside for its observance, the sun shone bright and strong on Wednesday for what had been officially proclaimed Sun Day, a

national event staged to call public attention to solar energy's potential as a major fuel source.

Led by early risers who turned out for dawn services, Americans celebrated

the day with fairs and festivities.

Among the many activities taking place everywhere across the state from Butler to Erie to State College and Philadelphia on May 3 was a

Sun Day observance in Harrisburg.

There, the day's events were held at the William Penn Museum theatre and plaza from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The activities included solar exhibits and working displays; live, continuous entertainment by the rock band "Green Street"; sun artists and sculptors; speakers, slide, and movies, as well as construction of a greenhouse.

From the several actual demonstrations of solar energy at work, it was obvious that at this time the main use for this type of energy source is domestic.

"Solar hot water heating is by far the best use of solar energy at this point," stated John Lupoli, policy analyst with the Governor's Energy Council, solar office. "It is approaching cost efficiency."

Lupoli went to explain that, unlike areas in the southwestern United States, the Northeast is only able to use solar energy as a supplemental energy source because of interference from clouds.

"Solar hot water can really cut down on your electricity bill, however," remarks Linda DeLiberty, coordinator for the Harrisburg Sun Day and administrative assistant to the solar coordinator in Harrisburg.

With the supplemental use of solar hot water, a home

owner can cut down on 40 to 70 per cent of heating bills. The problem is, however, that at this point solar energy can't be stored.

"But, they are coming up with advances in this field every day," states Lupoli.

According to these individuals, another problem is the initial cost involved.

"It can cost from \$1200 to \$1800, initial investment, for a system," points out Lupoli, and he says, federal grants come to only about \$400. "Other offices are saying that if the grants were better we'd have more response," he continues.

Pennsylvania has 2800 grants for solar energy under the HUD program but only a handful have been awarded. Others are still under consideration. Lupoli believes the lack of interest is due to the small amount of the loan.

"People just can't afford the system without more help," Lupoli says.

He did note that the grant program has been extended until December 31, 1978 because of the slow response.

One solar heating systems builder contacted in Harrisburg was William Amick, 375 Aspen Street,

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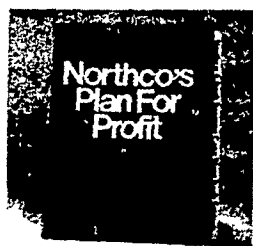
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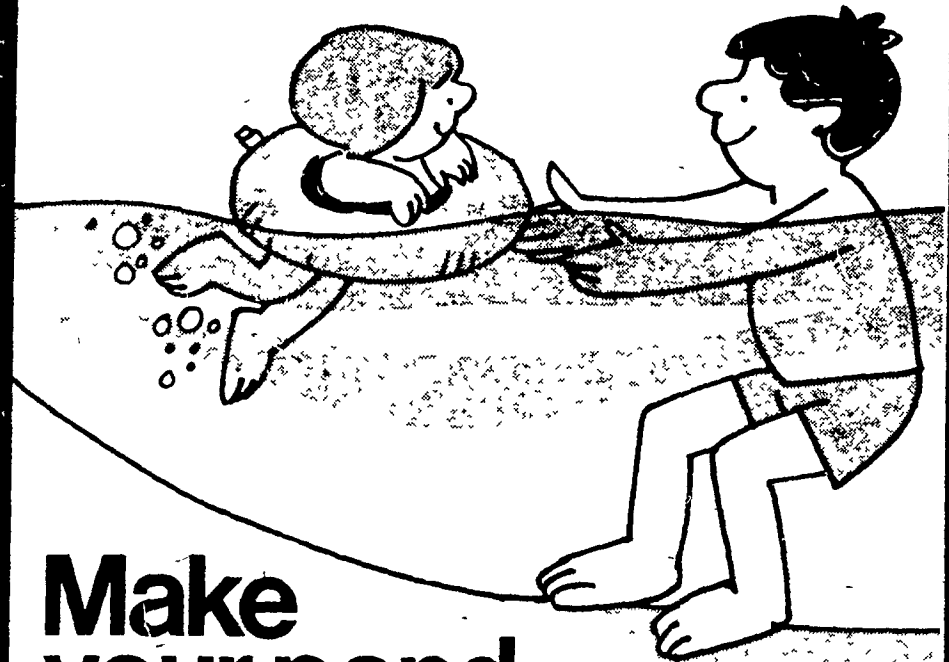
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