

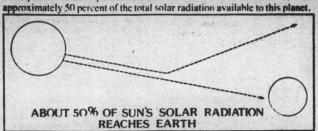
by Robert E. Lewis

A LOOK AT SOLAR ENERGY

Solar energy is the heat that comes from the sun. This energy is produced at the sun's core, which can be likened to a gigantic thermonuclear furnace. Every second this thermonuclear furnace converts more than 4 mil tons of the sun's matter into energy. This energy is then radiated throughout the universe in the form of heat and light.

While our planet receives just a small portion of the sun's total energy output, we are unable to capture all of the solar energy that reaches the

One-third of the sun's radiation is reflected back to space from the clouds and atmospheric dust. Another 10 to 15 percent is absorbed by the atmosphere's water vapor, carbon dioxide and ozone. That leaves us with



Even though the earth's surface captures only one-half of the available olar radiation, the potential of this energy source is astounding. If we could fully utilize all of the sunshine falling on the earth's surface during a single day, the entire world's energy needs could be satisfied for 15 years!

To better use the sunlight that is available to us requires concentrating the sun's rays. Although we often think of sunlight as being intensely bright and hot, the sun does not actually deliver much energy to any single spot at any particular moment. In addition, the amount of solar energy radiated to any one place on earth depends on the time of day, season, latitude and weather

Solar energy technology, then, is based on developing devices that can concentrate the sun's rays so they can be harnessed for domestic energy use:

In the United States, modern research on ways to use so energy began during the 1930s. In 1954, scientists formed the Association of Applied Solar Energy to investigate methods of employing the sun's energy for domestic use.

By the 1960s, solar-energy homes were appearing around the country. And in 1974, following the fuel shortages and price escalations caused by the Arab Oil Embargo, Congress called for a vigorous solar energy research program to further develop this promising technology.

Today, the use of solar energy to heat our homes is a part of modern living. More than 40,000 homes around the country currently use solar energy systems to provide substantial portions of their heating needs. Some of these solar heating systems rely on hardware and mechnical equipment to collect and distribute heat (active systems). Others rely only on building's architectural design elements and its orientation toward the sun (passive systems). By the year 2000, more than 20 million American homes and

untold thousands of commercial buildings will be using solar energy systems to meet their energy needs.

In future columns, we will explore the various ways that solar energy is being used in our daily lives. This will include discussions of solar concepts, types of solar energy systems, new solar products and materials, legislative and community programs involving solar energy, and a look at some of the ways to convert a traditional home into a solar home.

In the meantime, you can learn more about harnessing solar energy by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Robert E. Lewis, (#1-A) P.O. Box 3680.

RALEIGH — North Carolina's community and

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college system to the State Board of Community

transition since swearing-in

Colleges.

leadership January 1, when chairman.

Leadership Changes Hands

Community Colleges.

"On behalf of the citize

The Carolina Review: Spending Program Is Top Priority

1981 edition of the budgetary mbly will convene on January 14 at 12 o'clock

While the primary function of the assembly will be to formulate the spending program for North Carolina over the next two years, past experience indicates that a variety of major issues will come before the lawmakers over the next six months. Already there has been discussion of a "crime agenda" from the governor's office, continued judicial reform, an and eneconomic vironmental agenda, reform governmental contract

letting, and a number of other "important" issues. Those important issues include perennial favorites like ERA, abortion funding, tax reform, and education priorities. In addition, this year's

assembly must address district reapportionment not only for their own seats but for Congressional Districts as well. They are also faced with the unkind possibility of raising the state gasoline tax.

The 1981 make-up of the General Assembly will be much like Assemblys of the past if only slightly more conservative both idealistically and fiscally.

The Senate, consisting of

Books

Kaplan.

50 members (not counting Legislature will be former spender at least, Stewart out the lieutenant governor who two-term Speaker Carl of power. Ramsey, who has the lieutenant governor who is the presiding officer), will have 12 new members. Six of those members have had previous legislative experience.

The new Senate will be missing some familiar faces when they do get together three of the most familiar will be veterans Ralph Scott, Jack Childers, and Jim Edwards, who all lost re-election bids.

The House, with 33 new members - six of whom have also had previous legislative experience, will seat 199 representatives on January 14.

The most familiar face missing on that side of the

Cookies"; "The Power

Bright and Shining", Rod

McKuen; "Minnie Pearl",

Minnie Pearl; and "Walt

Whitman- A Life", Justin

Our special thanks go this

month to the Edenton

tremely tightfisted. **Upcoming House Speaker** Liston Ramsey has said his most important task as the Speaker will be to "see that every dollar of the taxpayer's money is spent with judicious care."

Stewart who ran (and lost)

for lieutenant governor

instead of another House

term from Gaston County.

can take heart that the two

legislative leaders of this

year's assembly have the

reputation of being ex-

North Carolina taxpayers

Jimmy Green, president of the Senate (as lieutenant governor), has a welldeserved reputation for not wanting to spend state money. While his spending habits have mellowed in recent years (teacher pay raise), he certainly won't be extravagant in today's economy.

Those in leadership positions below Green and Ramsey will most assuredly adopt similar fiscal attitudes - mainly because Green and Ramsey will be appointing those leadership positions.

Women's Club who gave a Observers in the State House expect a major

spender at least, Stewart out manships in the Senate. Sen. been in the House since 1961, will probably appoint longtime associates to the major "money" committees - Finance and Appropriations.

On the other hand, leadership in the Senate will remain practically as it has been over the past four years. Sen. Craig Lawing will serve a second term as president pro temp and Sen. Kenneth Royal will be the Senate majority leader. Donald Kincaid of Lenoir will probably again be the Senate minority leader.

There is at least some mumbled speculation over one of the major chairMarshall Rauch, the able and respected Finance Chairman, but campaign supporter of Green opponent Carl Stewart, might not be re-appointed. Longtime Green supporter and fundraiser, Sen. Conrad Duncan of Stoneville, has expressed a desire for the Finance Committee chairmanship. However, this might be the wrong "season" for Sen. Duncan's profession -- he is a highway contractor. Duncan certainly deserves a break from his previous chairmanship, the headache riddled committee on Wildlife.

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Fever", Frank Slaughter; "The Good Housekeeping "Shadowland", Peter Illustrated Cookbook"; "Farm Journal's Best Ever

Library Receives New

The following new books have been received at Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library.

"The Alpha List", Ted Allbeury; "Laughing War", Martyn Burke; "Fault Lines", James Carroll; 'Count on the Saint", Leslie Charteris; "The Lords Of Discipline", Pat Conroy; "Congo", Michael Crichton; "The American Heiress" Dorothy Eden; "Rip Van Winkle", Sanford Friedman; "In The Suicide Mountains", John Gardner; 'Rivergate House", Elissa Grandower; "The Portent", Marilyn Harris; "Aries Rising", Arthur Herzog; Solomons Seal", Ham-"Close mond Innes: Relations" Susan Isaacs; 'Aztec", Gary Jennings; "The Secret Servant", Gavin Lyall; "The Scorpion Sanction", Gordon Pape; "Margaret's Story" Eugenia Price; "Maynard's House", Herman Raucher; "The White Robin", Miss Read: "The Violent Air" Renn; "Gospel

Straub; "Death Lights a Candle", Phoebe Taylor; "Figure Away", Phoebe Taylor: "Unfinished Tales of Numenor and Middle Earth", J. R. Tolkien; "The Player's Boy Is Dead", Leonard Tourney; and "The Collected Stories of Eudora

Non-Fiction "The Teen Guide To Dating", Elaine Landau; "Everywoman's Health";

generous check to the Library. This will help us to rearrangement of combuy a newer, better micromittee chairmanships with fische viewer. It is much the more progressive, appreciated. When It Comes To Putting A Squeeze On Inflation . . .

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has been preparing for the education for its leadersip.

ceremonies at the Capitol of North Carolina," Horn

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groups for new or existing classes. For information or registration call:

> Mrs. Carol Sick 482-2341

last September. At that said, "I would like to thank meeting, Carl Horn of Dr. David Bruton (SBE Charlotte was elected board chairman), and his board their for generous cooperation and help during N. Elton Aydlett of Education turned over Elizabeth City is a member the transition.

of the new State Board of "They have developed a community college system that is one of the most In an interview. Horn. who is chief executive ofoutstanding in the country ficer of Duke Power Co., and they are handing it over The new 19-member board praised the board of to us in excellent shape."

The State Board of Education has overseen the growth of the community college system from 16 institutions in 1963 to a 58campus network that last year provided nearly 600,000 persons with skill training

and educational programs. The new State Board of Community Colleges includes top business and industry executives, civic and community leaders and persons with extensive local governing experince in the community college system. The board is expected to be concerned with setting policy for th community college system. Principally they will be looking at program and fiscal accountability and at ensuring that state priorities for vocational and technical training are met.

The trouble with some religions is that their adherants worship words, without knowing the ideals that the words stand for.

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