

Experimental Fabrics May Change Clothing's Future

By DON COMIS

Imagine a sock or glove that generates heat when it's cold, warming your fingers like a little stove. Or draperies that warm up when cold drafts hit them.

Experimental cotton fabrics with built-in thermostats already have been developed at a U.S. Department of Agriculture lab in New Orleans. Tyrone Vigo, a chemist with the Agricultural Research Service's Southern Research Lab, has named his creation "Polytherm."

Key to the invention is a group of inexpensive chemicals called polyethylene glycols, long used by motorists for antifreeze. Vigo found a way to attach antifreeze molecules to most types of fibers, including wool, cotton, cotton blends, fiberglass, and acrylics. The process is similar to that used to make permanent press fabrics.

Recently, Vigo and his colleagues made up some demonstration cotton tee shirts out of Polytherm, and they really work! When air temperatures reach about 75°F, the treated fabric counteracts the increase in

Everybody's Science

the mercury by absorbing body heat, providing a cooling effect. Conversely, when the temperature dips below 40°F, the same fabric liberates heat to the body.

Vigo says the tee shirts do this through the reversible melting and hardening of the antifreeze crystals.

How much energy a treated fabric will store and release depends on the kind of fiber, and the kind and amount of chemical applied.

When the chemist first came up with his invention, it had a serious shortcoming. It wouldn't stand up under washing or prolonged exposure to rain. But now Vigo has made his treatment more durable, and his experimental fabrics will retain their thermal properties for up to 10 home launderings. They also resist shrinkage.

But he and his associate, Joe Bruno, are not yet satisfied; they are looking for long-term durability. And they are confident they will achieve it.

The list of possible uses for a perfected Polytherm boggles the mind: carpeting, building materials, military, work, sports

apparel, and special applications in the biomedical and aerospace industries.

Perhaps best of all, it could mean an end to the heavy, cumbersome overcoat, so keep your fingers crossed. (Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture)

Ballet dancers at the Stever School of Dance preview a number from their annual dance recital, "Music Makes Me Dance", to be presented June 4 - 5 at 8 p.m. at the Swain Auditorium in Edenton.

Dance Recital Is Planned

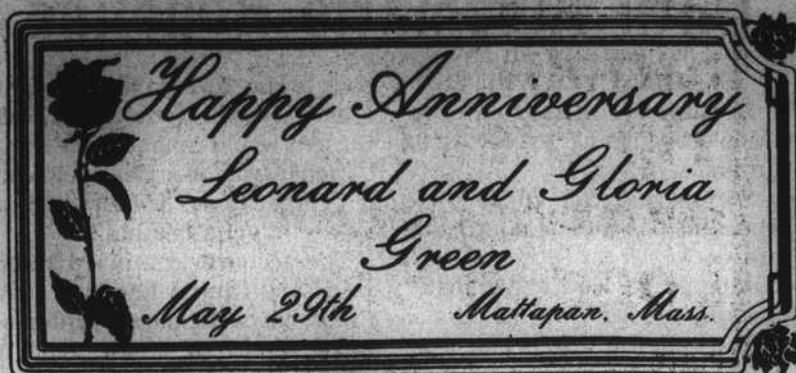
The Stever School of Dance will present "Music Makes Me Dance" on June 4 - 5 at the Swain Auditorium at 8 P.M.

Over 170 students will participate in the dance recital under the direction of Audrey Stever and

assistant dance instructor Donna Gray.

The annual recital is sponsored by the Edenton Jaycees. Proceeds from the sale of tickets, which will be available at the door, will be donated by the Jaycees to their five major state projects. They are St. Jude's Research Hospital, Boys Home, N.C. Burn Center, Muscular Dystrophy and Cystic Fibrosis.

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Soil Mapping Continues

RALEIGH—State and federal soil survey crews are fanning out across North Carolina to prepare soil maps so farmers can meet the deadline of the federal 1985 Food Security Act.

David W. Sides, director of the Division of Soil and Water Conservation in the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (NRCD), reported on the survey program at a recent meeting of the state Soil and Water Conservation Commission in Washington, N.C.

Sides explained that farmers and landowners have until 1990 to comply with the conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985 also known as the 1985 Farm Bill. Soil maps are needed, however, before farmers can develop conservation plans.

Soil mapping has been completed for most of the cropland in the state, but about 1.45 million acres in 35 counties remain to be mapped. Cropland affected by the Farm Bill includes highly erodible soils and wetlands converted for cropland use after December 23, 1985. The highly erodible land in these counties will be determined from these maps.

With 35 counties unmapped and 14 needing updated maps, the federal Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and NRCD has agreed to shift mapping priorities. Instead of completely mapping one county, crews will map all the cropland affected by the Farm Bill and then return to their original soil mapping priorities.

Farmers who own land in unmapped counties are given a two-year extension to comply with the provisions after the soil maps have been completed.

In other action, the Commission agreed to support the completion of small watershed projects

Thanks Are Offered

The family of the late Charley Arthur White would like to thank each and every one for all they did to help comfort us during the death of our loved one.

Maybe you sent flowers, cards, money, food or the use of your cars. Whatever it was, we thank you and may God bless each of you in a very special way.

Yours in Christian Love
The Family

already under construction, including Crabtree Creek in Wake County.

In supporting the rules of the Agriculture Cost-Share Program, the Commission denied two requests for exceptions:

- Pender Soil and Water Conservation District had asked the Commission to approve cost-share funds for land application of poultry litter from neighboring counties;

- Chowan Soil and Water Conservation District had asked to allow reseeding of an access area needed for land application of animal wastes on woodland.

The Commission reviews grant applications for small watershed projects and for cost-share funds. The state Agriculture Cost-Share Program shares costs with landowners to install conservation practices that will prevent the release of sediments, nutrients and pesticides into the state's water courses. Presently, 34 counties participate in the state cost-share program.

Watercolor Is Donated

Continuing From Page 1-B

Arts Council Art Gallery on the Elizabeth City waterfront and participates in shows from Rocky Mount to Nags Head.

Her work is featured at Carriage House Antiques and Golden Corral in Edenton, as well as the Morales Art Gallery, Nags Head, Hudgins Real Estate in Kitty Hawk, and the Satterfield Office Complex in Nags Head.

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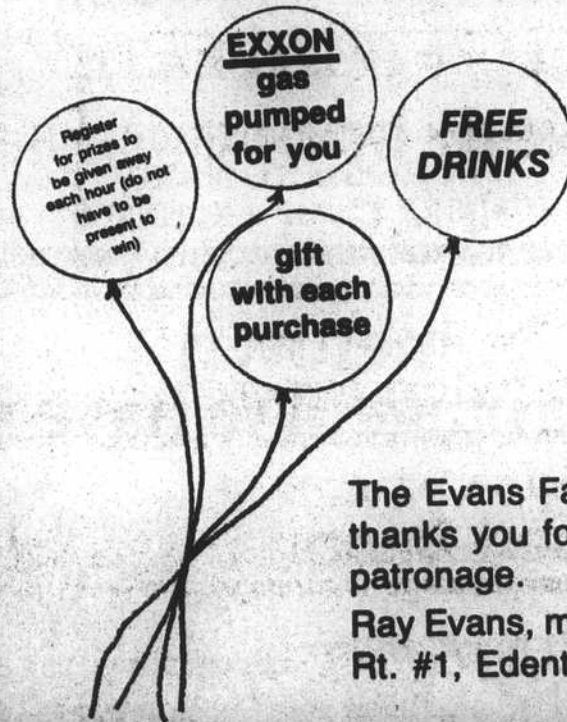
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NOTICE OF RIGHT TO NOMINATE BY PETITION

The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) is accepting nominations for County Committee elections for Perquimans/Chowan Area Committee. This notice is issued to inform eligible voters of the right to nominate candidates by petition. Copies of the petition and instructions on its completion can be obtained from your local FmHA office.

Persons nominated should be currently engaged in the operation of a farm, have their principal farming operation within the County or area in which activities of the County or area Committee are carried out, derive the principal part of their income from farming (that is more than 50 percent of their gross income must come from agricultural production), be a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence, not have an FmHA insured or guaranteed loan, and be well qualified for committee work. Nominations must be received in the Hertford Office located in the Perquimans County Office Building on Church St. no later than June 10, 1987. FmHA committee elections are open to all eligible voters without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, political affiliation, marital status, sex, and/or handicap.