



This drawing, courtesy of North American Dry Kiln & Energy Systems, shows how the firm hopes to incorporate solar panels to dry lumber. The Sandy firm has received bids from two companies that are interested in the solar driers.

Solar panels

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The solar panels would be used as the roofing on a southern exposure of a large lumber-drying kiln. Water would be heated for steam that is needed to dry the lumber.

The water is pre-heated before it goes to the boiler to increase the boiler's efficiency to get the steam which is used to dry the wood. It would cut costs by 30 to 40 percent.

"When big lumber companies see that, it means a lot to them," Allison said.

In drying by condensation the timber is placed in a hermetic room and dried by a circulation of dry air, whose temperature changes between 10 and 60 degrees.

The air circulation through the piles is performed by forced ventilation, by which moderately warm air

passes over the timber, absorbing its moisture and absorbing it.

The air full of moisture is sucked out by a dehumidifier, dehydrated and re-entered into the room.

The dehumidifier is manufactured by and Italian firm, Incomac, which North American Dry Kiln is representing in North America.

There are 15 bids currently out on various projects, Allison said, which is why he anticipates a start-up in the next 60 days.

One project just into the development stage is the wave power research.

Local general manager Lewis Yock, who spent 22 years as chief engineer at Coe's in Beaverton, has an impressive list of patents, according to Allison.

Yock has applied for a grant from Bonneville Power Administration to study the wave project. That decision is pending, but is expected in 90 days.

The wave power project would require a barge 250-300 feet offshore with a hydraulic pumping station that would ride with the waves and eventually turn a generator to power a substation on shore for electrical storage.

The project has caught the imagination of the World Bank, because of its interest in developing Third World countries.

If the BPA grant is forthcoming, it will be another three years of research and development before the project is realized.

Probationary firefighters start year

Sandy Fire District is starting its second probationary firefighter's class with seven new hopefuls who would like to join the ranks at the end of the 12-month training period.

According to Sandy Fire Marshal Jim Gallagher, the seven will undergo two-week training classes for the first six months of the year, then attend regular weekly drill sessions for the remaining six months of the probationary period.

At the end of that time, if they have completed all their classes and are ac-

cepted by the volunteer organization, they will become full-fledged firefighters.

The probationary program marks a departure from past training methods.

Formerly, new firefighters were integrated into the unit and trained with veteran firefighters. With the new separate training methods, the more experienced firefighters can obtain more advanced training, while the probationary

firefighters can work at their own levels of expertise, Gallagher said.

During the week, the Sandy Fire Department answered 16 alarms, raising the total for the year to 358.

Getting into the summer months now, the district experienced 10 first aid calls. Those increase as more and more outdoor activities are planned, Gallagher said.

There was an oven fire last Thursday at 41613 Vista Loop that caused minor damage. A chimney fire on Canyon Valley Road

was recalled Friday afternoon.

A brush fire at 35115 SE Skogan Road is under investigation. Gallagher said that some 3,500 gallons of water were needed to extinguish that blaze on Saturday, May 29.

During the rest of the week, there was one accidental false alarm at Clackamas County Bank, one public assist when two Firwood School students got a ride to school in a fire truck for their participation in the district's slogan contest and a first aid call with the Boring Fire District.

Heavy snowfall cited

Sno-park receipts plummet

All the snow at Mt. Hood's recreational facilities throughout the winter was a blessing to businesses that suffered through the drought in 1981.

All that snow, however, was looked on as a bit too much by the state Motor Vehicles Division.

Market opens with friends coming back

The Sandy Country Market is open again this summer at Nelson Memorial Park at the corner of 362nd Drive and Highway 26, one mile west of Sandy.

"The opening market on May 29 was a big success," said Pam Hauff, director. "We were thrilled to see our old customers back again."

Country markets have sprung up across the country as an alternative to high-priced produce shipped in from hundreds miles away.

"The Sandy area is capable of growing huge amounts of fresh vegetables and fruit for our local people," said Jude Jensen, last year's coordinator.

"The Sandy Country Market provides a place for the consumer and the farmer to get together," she added.

High quality handicrafts, herbs, plants, homemade bread, honey and pastries are available.

"The market is always a surprise," the vendors said. "New things are available every Saturday."

Near-record snowfall in some areas of the state will cause about a \$170,000 shortfall in Oregon's Sno-Park program this year.

Preliminary figures released last week by the Motor Vehicles Division, which sells the Sno-Park permits to be used for plowing out winter recreation parking areas, grossed \$436,217 in fees during the 1981-82 season.

The net turned over to the plowing program was \$398,279. Fines for parking in the designated areas without a permit added an estimated \$10,000 to the plowing program.

At the same time, the Highway Division had to spend \$563,709 to keep the areas free from snow.

"This has been the most

expensive year for snow removal since the Sno-Park program began four years ago," according to John Sheldrake, assistant state highway maintenance engineer.

"We had near-record snowfall in some areas of Oregon—particularly in the eastern part of the state. Most other areas had average or higher-than-average snowfall. It all added up," he said.

Sheldrake said the shortfall would be made up from a surplus accumulated over the past years, when lower-than-normal snowfall plagued winter recreation areas.

Donald T. Grubb, chairman of the Winter Recreation Advisory Committee,

said that it may be necessary to suggest an increase in Sno-Park fees, currently \$5 annually and \$1 on a daily basis, next fall.

"We have to do something," he said, "if we have another heavy snowfall year next season, there will be no surplus, and we'll be in trouble."

The committee deferred any action on a possible fee increase until expenditure and revenue figures are final. Any increase in fees must be approved by the Oregon Transportation Commission.

Citations issued by the Oregon State Police for vehicles not displaying Sno-Park permits dropped by 10 percent.

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The Sandy Post

(USPS 481-180)

MEMBER: Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, National Newspaper Association and U.S. Suburban Press

Published weekly Thursdays by The Outlook Publishing Co., Box 68, Sandy, Oregon 97055. Second class postage paid at Sandy, Oregon.

668-5548

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Sandy Post, Sandy, Oregon 97055 No. 22 June 3, 1982

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