

ENERGY ANSWERS

FROM THE OSU EXTENSION SERVICE

Q Can I take a federal income tax credit for my new storm windows? What about my new gas furnace? - J.P., Corvallis.

A Your storm windows qualify, but the furnace doesn't.

Actually, there are two types of energy-related federal tax credits. One is for energy conservation costs. The other is for renewable energy property. They both are scheduled to end or be phased out beginning in 1986. For a closer look at each, read on:

For energy conservation costs, you can take a credit on your federal income tax return of up to 15 percent on the first \$2,000 you spend on qualifying energy-saving equipment.

Qualifying energy-saving equipment includes insulation, storm windows or doors, caulking and weather stripping, automatic setback thermostats, furnace replacement burners, ignition systems that replace a gas pilot light, flue opening modifications, and meters that show the cost of energy used in your home. An item is eligible for a credit when its installation is complete.

To qualify for the tax credit, the energy-saving items you install must be new and must be expected to last at least three years. The

home where you install them must be your principal place of residence. It can't be a new house, for it must have been substantially completed by April 30, 1977.

Items that don't qualify for the energy conservation tax credit include heat pumps, wood stoves, replacement boilers or furnaces, attic or whole house fans, fluorescent lights, and any item that is primarily structural or decorative.

The other type of federal income tax credit, for renewable energy property, includes wind energy equipment, geothermal energy equipment, or solar energy equipment used for heating or cooling the home or for providing hot water or electricity. The renewable energy tax credit is 40 percent of the first \$10,000 spent.

Once again, structural components of a home aren't eligible. For example, greenhouses, windows and skylights aren't eligible for the renewable energy tax credit.

Also like the energy conservation credit, the tax credit is available only for property installed in your principal residence.

Unlike the energy conservation credit, you may claim a credit for renewable energy property on items installed in new homes as well as in

existing homes. But the energy source equipment itself must be new and must be expected to last at least five years.

Here are a few more points that apply to both types of energy-related federal tax credits:

- A landlord may not take an energy tax credit, but a tenant may.
- The credit limit for each year is \$1,000.
- You needn't claim the tax credit the year you spent the money. You may carry over unused tax credits to later tax years through 1990.

not per year. After you reach the limit on one home, if you move you may claim tax credits on eligible energy-saving improvements you make to the new home.

- You needn't claim the tax credit the year you spent the money. You may carry over unused tax credits to later tax years through 1990.

Retired educators to meet

On Saturday, March 2, retired Educators will meet at Spartakas Restaurant in Hermiston for a luncheon meeting.

Business and registration will begin at 11 a.m. At that time the

nominating committee will present the new district officers for the coming year, and a review of the bylaws. Mike Kikenny of Western Heritage will discuss investments for retirees at the afternoon session.

French votes 'nay' on sales tax

The Sales Tax Bill (HB 2010) passed 39-21 in the House of Representatives February 22. Representative Ray French voted a resounding "Nay" after the lengthy debate reports a press release from his Salem office.

Rep. French said "this legislation does not provide the tax benefits people in my district expect." Although one colleague promised that agriculture was treated as fairly as anyone, Rep. French said "I could-

n't disagree more."

The companion bill (HB 2192) referring the Sales Tax Plan to the people scored a "yea" vote from French and passed 52-8. Rep. French explained "once the Bill had passed, it was his desire that the people should have an opportunity to participate in this decision and send a clear message to the Legislature."

This legislation now goes to the Senate for hearings concludes the news release.

Around About

By Justine Weatherford

After our interesting drive from Mexico's high-elevation, huge capital city through interesting Puebla, we checked in at a modern beachfront hotel-a little south of the significant historic port and resort city of Veracruz, with a population approaching three million, as the moonlight was showing the white edging of the waves breaking on the beach.

The principal historic jewel we saw was the over 400-year-old fortress "Uluu" built by the early Spaniards and used through the years by the Spanish, French and Mexican forces as a fort and as a prison. There were Mexican Navy vessels at anchor there. From the fort we toured about the city, stopping at a bank where we were given 226 pesos for each of our U.S. dollars, doing some shopping in the multitude of small shops, and then having an interesting luncheon at a riverside cafe where a fine group of musicians entertained us. I enjoyed several walks along the beach each morning and evening before we departed for our bus trip along the gulf coast to more southerly Villahermosa. We drove through acres of banana trees, sugarcane, and pineapple.

Our noon stop that Friday at Lake Catemaco was unusual. Before we ate we took a boat trip in this large lake to the island of the diving fishcatching monkeys. We also saw some clusters of the 200 species of birds that live around the lake.

Villahermosa is a smaller city than Veracruz. We saw a modern housing project where the buildings seemed to lean toward one another, making large letter A's and we enjoyed walking through the outdoor "Museo de la Venta," with its remarkable pre-Columbian collection, dominated by huge stone heads, carved by the Olmecs before the time of Christ and with a few native animals (crocodiles and coatimundi, etc.). Then our bus took us southwesterly about 90 miles to the State of Chiapas' most tremendous archaeological zone, Palenque, a comparatively isolated, jungle-surrounded centuries-old group of Mayan shrines.

We were at this site several hours, and I managed to climb to the top of the Palace, a large, central, pyramid-like building, a few parts of which were reconstructed in 1955. It contains more than 25 rooms and many deep passageways.

After we drove downhill from that deep jungle area, we lunched at a large cafe near a waterfall on the Otulum River. Returning to Villahermosa, we gathered our luggage, moved out to the airport, had supper there and boarded a rather late Aeromexico plane for Merida in Yucatan. We parted with our excellent guide Raul at the airport and he flew back to Mexico City.

We reached Merida after midnight and were taken to a midcity hotel. The next day we traveled eastward about 75 miles to the great Mayan shrines at Chichen Itza, probably the most visited historical site in Mexico. This site combines vestiges of several cultures, the pure Mayan and the later Toltec, its older structures date from 1,000 B.C.

Along the highway to the site we passed through several Mayan towns in one of which we stopped and walked through a typical family home that consisted of two oval-shaped buildings. The one closest to the roadway held the family shrine, the many hammocks hanging from the rafters that are pulled down for family beds and a curtained storage area. The second, smaller and more open-air, oval building was the kitchen building. There cooking pots were bubbling on a low fire made of twigs. Dried foods (corn, beans, rice) were stored nearby. I did not observe electricity or running water in either building. Out in the backyard there was a pig tethered to a tree, some chickens and thin-looking turkeys and a pile of limbs and twigs for burning.

That day we had lunch and shopped in the village very near the historic site. Surrounding the site and about the huge grounds, between the large buildings and along the walk to the sacred well, there were peddlers selling various items to tourists. During the warm afternoon, I began feeling ill and returned to our bus while Inez was still looking about.

I developed quite a fever and needed help from a doctor after we returned to Merida. The next morning, however, with considerable help from Inez, I was able to begin our long day of flying back to Boise which included stops at airports in Mexico City, at Puerto Vallarta where we each paid our 1600 peso departure tax and then at San Francisco.

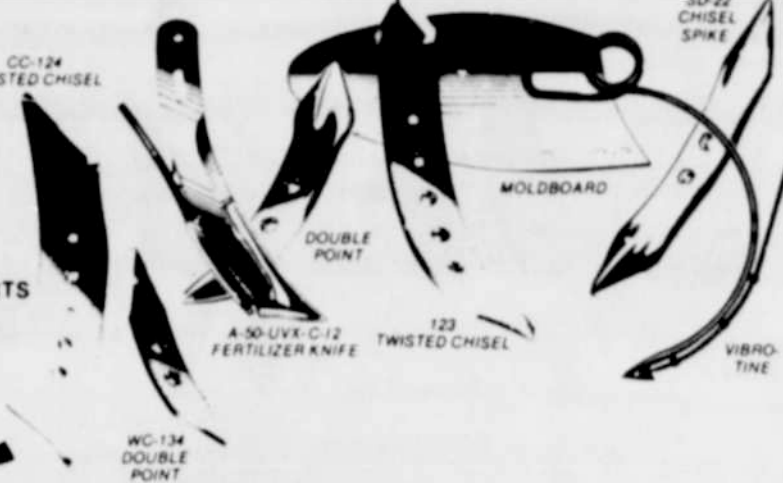
Our night flight to Boise went quickly and we spent a short night there before flying to Pendleton on Monday, Feb. 11, and coming home in Inez's waiting car in mid-afternoon. We were both pleased with the tour we had taken because we saw the great historic sites which interested us, because we learned so much about tremendous Mexico City and other significant cities. We each brought home interesting booklets about the sites we visited and have good collections of snapshots which will help us remember our Feb. 1985 tour for many years.

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Tiny Whole Shrimp

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Starkist Tuna

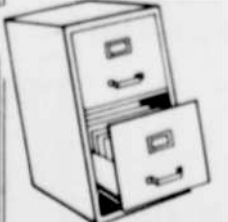
- Choose from lite/oil or water packed



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- Reg. 99¢

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\$31.88

Kitchen Towels

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- Reg. \$2.49
- \$1.23**



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- Reg. \$2.05
- \$1.19**

Cannon

Hand Calculator

- LC No. 34
- value \$9.95
- \$6.33**

Supreme Angle Toothbrush

5/\$1

Oil of Olay Cleanser

- 2 oz. size
- value \$2.85
- \$1.49**



Garden Gloves

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Bumble Bee Pink Salmon

- 15 1/2 oz.
- Reg. \$2.49
- \$1.83**



Green Garden Twine

- 100% premium sisal
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- Sugg. value 99¢
- 83¢**

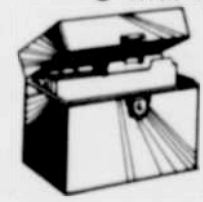
Cannon Printer Calculator

- value \$32.95
- \$25.77**



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- With metal lock
- \$3.66**



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We will be Closed March 13 at 4 p.m.

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