

JANUARY 1980

WASHTENAW COUNTY

At the November meeting of the Washtenaw County Association in Ann Arbor, Howard "Red" McMullen of Tamarack Plumbing and Heating Company and Reynold Hendricksen presented an excellent argument for plumbing and heating contractors to get into the solar water heater installation business right now. Mr. Hendricksen pointed out the tax advantages to the owners so that the concept of solar water heaters becomes attractive and financially feasible. Red McMullen pointed out the savings, as much as 66% in fuel costs, that are possible to the owners of solar water heating systems in Michigan at current fuel costs. A long-time advocate of alternative energy sources, Red McMullen is an entertaining, interesting and knowledgeable speaker. He left no doubt in the minds of any of his attentive audience that the concept is feasible in Michigan and that plumbing contractors will be smart to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by this concept.



More than 25 contractors from the Washtenaw County area were in attendance at the Noon meeting.

FEI-KRAN USES HELICOPTERS

The Fel-Kran Plumbing and Heating Company of Ann Arbor has made extensive use of helicopters for the lifting of heavy equipment to the tops of tall buildings. Fel-Kran contracted for just such a lift in Ann Arbor in October. The job was to place two heavy air conditioning units on top of a classroom building at the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor. While President Al Birk was not on the site at the time, the maneuver was ably supervised by Fel-Kran managers Steve Marzolf and Gary Dresselhouse.

The Keystone Helicopter Company provided the lifting equipment, the helicopter. Supervised by Pete Moyer with the help of Mark Wollenchak and Don Werner, the operation took less than half an hour once begun. Preparations were made well in advance of the arrival of the helicopter. A clearing was



secured by police to keep pedestrians from interfering with the operations. After some time of waiting, the helicopter flew in, unloaded much of the equipment that is carried on board for repairs and refueling, the cables and hooks were prepared, then in a cloud of dust, leaves and debris when the great machine revved up and lifted off the ground, it connected to the first air conditioning unit, hoisted it up and away, set it right on the money on top of the building, came back for the second unit, went up and away and set it down right on the bolt.

The helicopter used was a Sikorsky S-58. This machine develops 1,525 h.p. and was

used as an army ship before coming to Keystone. This kind of work can be done in winds up to 20mph and the cooler the temperature, the more pounds can be lifted. A maximum of 4,500 lbs. can be lifted by this machine. Pete Moyer says that they do 4-5 lifts per week. The pilots and riggers are all Army trained and currently members of local #324 of the Operating Engineers

Union. Keystone has been in operation for 1 1/2 years and serves Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. They have done as many as 75 units in two days, using a crew of six men. Mostly the work is done in areas where the use of a crane would be impractical. Economically, the use of a helicopter is competitive with the use of any cranes and scaffolding, even though the machine uses 125 gallons of fuel per hour.

MAY 1980

WASHTENAW COUNTY ASSOCIATION

The Washtenaw County Association entertained legislators from the Washtenaw County area at



a luncheon in Lansing on March 24. Guests included Senator Edward Pierce and State Representatives Perry Bullard, Gary Owen and Roy Smith. Also there were Howard LaRue and Stan Arnold of the Michigan State Building Trades Council and Cletus Adkins from the Roofers Union. Following an excellent luncheon at the University Inn, those present discussed major pieces of legislation and expressed viewpoints to the legislators pro and con regarding each piece of legislation. Included were the lien legislation (SB-586); amendments to Public Act 230, the Construction Code Commission; fringe benefit bonds (SB-679); retainer legislation (HB-5541); workers' compensation, the Senator Plawecki bill (HB-5104); mechanical license and the solar installers code. Washtenaw County members Al

Birk and Red McMullen were present and Red McMullen introduced those present to the Michigan Solar Energy Industries Association. Their Executive Director, Sandy Miller, was introduced and support for the association was encouraged. Arrangements for the luncheon meeting were made by Washtenaw County Executive Director, Robert Fair.



JULY 1980

WASHTENAW COUNTY

The Michigan Solar Energy Industries Association, responsibly managed by the staff of the Washtenaw County Association PHCC, presented a residential solar energy workshop in Ann Arbor on May 2. The course program included energy basics, water heaters, the sun and solar costs, systems, sizings, examples, system components, including collectors, heat exchangers, heat transfer fluids, pumps, storage tanks and controls, and the ins and outs of the installation of the solar water heater. MICHSEIA's Executive Director, Sandy Miller, and instructor, Howard McMullen, contractor- President of Tamarack Plumbing and Heating Company, hosted the event which was instructed by Howard McMullen and Richard Montgomery, Senior Marketing Specialist for Dow Corning .corporation. Text for the workshop included the solar decision book, installation guidelines for solar, and DHW systems produced by HUD. The workshop was a continuing series of workshops to awaken interest in the possibilities of solar energy for contractors in the immediate future. This workshop was attended by Jim Cummings of the Michigan State Board of Plumbing and his assistant, Bill Miles. If you would like information, call Sandra Miller at 915 Pauline Boulevard, Suite 100-A, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103, 313-665-5051.



Howard (Red)

McMullen continues his pilgrimage in behalf of Solar Energy as MICHSEIA's Executive Director, Sandy Miller, looks on.

SEPTEMBER 1980

WASHTENAW COUNTY ASSOCIATION

The Alternate Energy Industries Association, (AEI), staffed by Washtenaw County Association's Assistant Executive Director, Sandra Miller, has moved to a larger location to better serve the needs of members. The new address is 1955 Pauline Boulevard, Suite 300, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. 313-665-5051.

AEI has designated September as Wood Energy Month. Establishing September as Wood Energy Month will help promote national awareness of Wood Energy Month and the need for wood burning safety. AEI's Residential Solar Energy Workshop will be ready soon. AEI's Education Committee met recently in Big Rapids and reviewed the total program and made modifications. The program consists of three, two hour presentations:

One-Energy Perspectives.

Two -Solar Water Heaters.

Three-Solar Water Heater Installations.

Reservations for the program are now being taken. In addition, various pieces of legislation are being discussed at the state level that will directly affect the Alternate Energy Industry. Included:

the Subdivision Control Act to provide for the most beneficial and reasonable use of solar designs; Home Energy Loan Program which will require the establishment of home energy loan programs and provide for the appropriation and bonds and full general obligation bonds to provide for the issuance of bonds for establishment of home energy loan programs.

Hutzel Plumbing and Heating Is 123 Years Old

Hutzel Plumbing and Heating Company of Ann Arbor was featured in a special article of the August 14, 1980 issue of CONTRACTOR MAGAZINE, page 24. Hutzel Plumbing and Heating has been in business since 1857 and is, therefore, one of the oldest plumbing and heating contracting firms in the state. The CONTRACTOR MAGAZINE article mentions that President Lloyd Zill keeps a polished brass cuspidor on the corner of his office as a relic of the past even though the company is as up to date as this morning's headlines. Hutzel does service and remodeling work in the Ann Arbor area, employing 35 people and operating 28 trucks. The CONTRACTOR MAGAZINE article continued with an analysis of the shift in emphasis from new construction to service and remodeling work and what it has meant to Hutzel Plumbing and Heating. For a good insight into how you may improve the profit picture for your company in the future, read the article in its entirety.

JANUARY 1981

Washtenaw County

The Washtenaw County Joint Apprenticeship Program, administered by Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union 190, Bruce Towler, Business Manager, and the Washtenaw County PHCC, Inc., have added to the regular curriculum on training a "Solar Instruction Program". The JAC program is Coordinated by Neil Bucholz. The program is housed at Washtenaw Community College. At the class site at the College is a four panel 128 sq. ft. solar system with adjustable rack, adjusting from inside the building to the equinox. The system is ground mounted Four Panel Collector System. to the southerly side with a unique system of adjustments being devised by Mr. Bucholz. The collectors are single glazed arid certified by the Florida Solar Center. The solar fluid is hydro-carbon oil used in a closed loop through an external heat exchanger. The expansion tank was made in the apprenticeship Meters and Storage tank welding class by one of the young people that attended the six month solar training sessions. The storage tank is 120 gallon galvanized tank and serves as a pretempering tank to the conventional water heater.

This system is used as a domestic water system as well as space heating. The necessary three way valves and controlling of this system to change from domestic to space heating is accomplished by pneumatic controls, truly unique. One should see it to grasp the functions it serves.

Two classes of apprentices, 15 in each class, for two hours a week completed the six month solar installation school this past year as well as a class of 30 journeymen. The first training session was held from January, 1980 to June, 1980 at the site of the solar installation.