

ADVERTISEMENT: This entire page is a paid advertisement.

Published by the Rochester Gas & Electric Corp.

RG&E consumer news

June 19, 1974



Gas Pilot Lights On or Off

By Miss Anne S. Fenstermacher
Staff Assistant-Consumer Affairs

The present shortage of natural gas in the United States has led environmentalists and representatives of gas utilities and regulatory agencies to look for ways to eliminate wasteful use of gas as well as ways to increase the supply of gas. Over two years ago, for example, the New York State Public Service Commission placed certain restrictions on the sale of gas in the State:

Looking for additional ways to conserve use, some groups have suggested that homeowners could turn off their furnace pilot lights during the summer months. There are numerous advantages and disadvantages in this proposal which I will discuss in next week's article.

I have sought an estimate of an actual saving of gas that would result from this practice and would like to pass along the information. One furnace pilot light consumes approximately 1,500 cubic feet of gas each month. A saving of 3,000 cubic feet of gas would result for each customer who turned off the furnace pilot for July and August.

A new development may be forthcoming to

replace pilot lights on gas furnaces. Several companies have developed electric igniters to replace pilot lights on gas ranges and clothes dryers. For example, one system utilizes a small low wattage electric coil which glows constantly, ready to light the gas when the appliance is turned on, another employs an electric spark for the same purpose. These devices are being tested now and have the potential for use on gas furnaces in the future, and may someday soon eliminate the constantly burning pilot light. The cost to convert an existing system may, however, be as much as \$100.

In the meantime, today's gas furnaces have pilot lights, so I will discuss the present situation in my next article.

Save fuel; Insulate your attic yourself

If your house was built before 1940, chances are it isn't insulated. And even if it was built after 1940 it may not have adequate insulation by today's standards. For example, the old Federal Housing Administration standards called for 1 1/2 inches of ceiling insulation. Today's requirements specify 6 inches.

Insulation is the cheapest way to conserve heating energy. The easiest place to upgrade your home's in-

sulation is in the attic. In fact you can do it yourself with fiberglass batts or loose fill insulation.

If your attic doesn't have a floor, lay planks over the crossbeams for footing. Use 1/2" plywood or 1"x8" boards. Don't step on the floor between the cross beams. You'll put your foot through the ceiling.

If your attic has a finished floor, you'll have to take up the floorboards to install insulation beneath

them. We do not recommend installing insulation between roof rafters, because if it's not done properly moisture damage to the roof will result.

You can determine the amount of insulation you will need by measuring the length and width of your attic then multiplying the two figures. But be sure to measure the distance between the crossbeams. It's the only way you can be sure of getting the correct width insulation to fit between them.



Measure your attic to see how much insulation you will need.

Insulation is available at most building and supply stores. When you go to buy your insulation pick up a copy of RG&E's guide to do-it-yourself insulating, which explains the entire procedure step by step as well as how to do the job safely; or if you send us the coupon on this page, we'll send you a free copy.

Send for Cooling Books

RG&E has three booklets available on air conditioning. One is about central air conditioning, one is about room air conditioners, and one has ways to reduce energy and still stay cool at the same time.

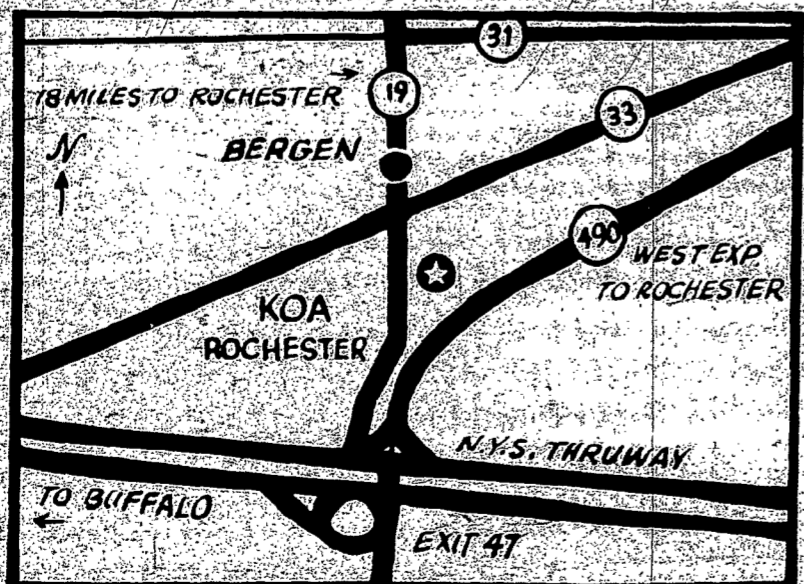
They explain important things to look for when you buy cooling, including the

whole story on Energy Efficiency Ratio.

Besides helping you buy wisely, these booklets also tell you how to make the most of your cooling system while conserving energy.

If you would like one or all of these informative booklets fill out and return the coupon on this page.

Here's a new map for our camping book



Those of you who have received "Camping in RG&E Country" may have noticed that the map for the Southwest KOA campground is incorrect. This map is the correct version. Cut it out and keep it with your book for future reference.

Food Freezing Help for Your Consumer Information Center Food Budget

June is the month when many items of locally grown produce become available — strawberries, rhubarb and asparagus, for instance. For economy and for the sheer luxury of lengthening the fresh produce season, more and more people are freezing a variety of food — from fresh produce to spring lamb. To help you get off to the right start in food freezing efforts, the Consumer Information Center on the Main Floor at RG&E is featuring a display of Food Freezing during the month of June.

Anytime this month browse through the display on Food Freezing at the Consumer Information Center. Various types of wrapping materials are on exhibit, as well as illustrations of different freezing methods, and literature on food freezing. You may visit the display any Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday through 9 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 Noon.

Here are a few ideas you might like to try in order to cut down on your food budget:

- 1. Plan meals for the entire week.**
—Follow the weekly food specials listed in the newspapers and plan as many meals as possible around these items. Include leftovers in your menu planning.
- 2. Make a little meat go a long way.**
—Supplement meat with other nutritious foods such as pasta, bread, cheese, milk, eggs, yoghurt or cottage cheese.
—Almost any vegetable can agreeably fill out a meat dish.
—Casseroles, meat loaves and sausage and vegetable combinations offer a good satisfying solution for making a little meat go a long way.
- 3. Make a list.**
—A written grocery list is an

excellent way to remember the items you definitely need that week. Little trips back to the store for the forgotten items can be cut down, if not eliminated, by the use of a list.

—Once you have made your list, try your best to stick to it.
—When in doubt about an item you are tempted to buy, consider: do you need it, will you eat it, is it worth the price?

4. Eat before you shop.
—Hunger can create temptation which leads to impulsive buying.

5. Protect your food purchases.
—After shopping take your groceries home immediately, store them properly.
—Why not try at least one of these tips, you might end up with a savings on your food bill. Good luck!

FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS COUPON TO: CJ-18

Dept. 34 Rochester Gas and Electric
89 East Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14649

I would like more information on the following items:

Name

Address

Town

Zip Code