

August 11, 1976

RG&E consumer news



Annual Furnace Inspection Recommended

By Anne S. Fenstermacher
Staff Assistant-Consumer Affairs

Q: Is an annual furnace inspection necessary? If so, what time of year is recommended?

A: RG&E recommends an annual furnace inspection and cleaning, if necessary. By scheduling preventive maintenance you can reduce the possibility of future high repair bills. Preventive maintenance will also mean some savings in your heating costs. A clean-burning furnace requires less fuel, heats more efficiently and insures against carbon monoxide formation which results from the incomplete combustion of the heating fuel.

Now is a good time to schedule a furnace inspection because heating contractors may not be as busy now as they will be with repairs during the heating season.

A heating contractor who inspects your house heating system should clean and lubricate the blower motor and mechanism, clean the gas or oil burner, check for flue leaks, and make sure that all chimney and flue vents are open so your furnace is properly vented. Be sure to make a list of any problems you may have had with the furnace and call them to the contractor's attention.

You should use the heating contractor who regularly services your heating equipment. If you don't have a regular contractor, ask your friends and neighbors for a recommendation. If the contractor is doing a good job for them he more than likely will for you.

If, however, you are advised that your house needs a new furnace and there is any doubt in your mind, you should call a second contractor to get another opinion and/or a competitive bid. If you still have doubts, call RG&E for

assistance. The number is 546-2700, Extension 2751. In addition to arranging for an annual furnace inspection, you should plan to change the furnace filter periodically. A dirty filter prevents proper air circulation and can cause the furnace to overheat. It cuts down on efficiency because the furnace must burn more fuel to heat your house than it would with a clean filter.

If you have further questions about this subject, fill out and send in the coupon below.

Wise Food Management Makes Mealtime Easier

Wise food management can help reduce food costs. Usually the amount of food you buy (especially meats) depends on the available storage space and how you intend to use it. Cost is always a factor. So are family size and preferences. When it comes to buying beef, here are a few suggestions to help you get the maximum use from your purchases.

Buy favorite cuts of meat in quantity when they are offered at special prices and freeze them for future use.

If you are going to buy a roast, try getting one larger than usual, cut a few small steaks from the end for grilling or broiling, then roast the rest. After serving the roast you can slice or shave the remainder to prepare hot and cold roast beef sandwiches and barbecued beef. Any remaining pieces can be cut up and used for casseroles and soup. These meals can be prepared ahead and frozen to be used later.

Canning Fruits and Vegetables Demonstration Thursday, August 19

The Home Service Department of Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation will present a demonstration on canning fruits and vegetables Thursday, August 19 at 7:30 P.M. in the basement auditorium at 89 East Avenue.

A Home Economist from RG&E will demonstrate and discuss proper canning

procedures. Bring your questions and friends. There is no charge or obligation for this demonstration and reservations can be made by completing and returning the coupon below or calling 546-2700, extension 26-17.

Free parking will be available in the company lot on Lawn Street after 6:30 P.M.

Sun Power is Here Solar-Assisted Domestic Water Heater On Display at RG&E's Consumer Information Center

The sun sends enough energy to earth in fifteen minutes to supply the entire world's heating energy needs for one year. And it's free. Or is it? The cost of technology, labor and equipment employed to convert the sun's energy into usable energy is high.

Although some forms of solar energy have been used since the 17th century, it is only recently that this energy can be used successfully in our northern homes. Several companies have developed solar assisted water heaters that can save as much as 50%

on electric and gas use in water heaters.

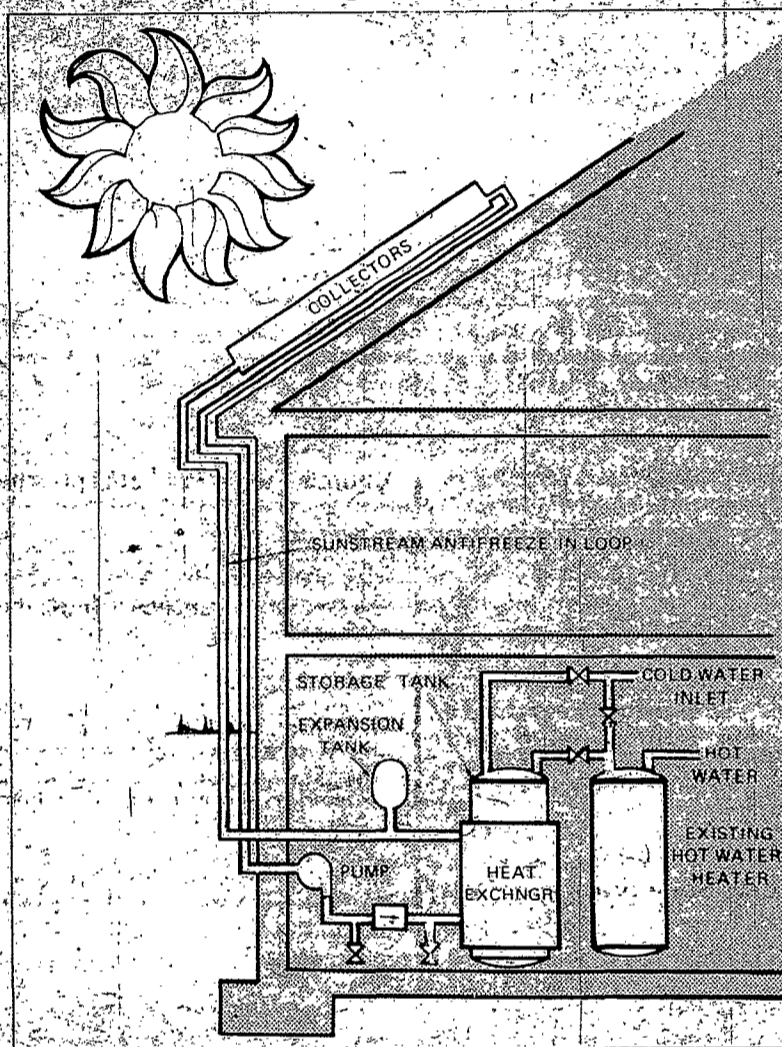
One of these water heaters, with its solar energy collector, is on display this month on the main floor of RG&E at 89 East Avenue. The unit on display has a solar collector system which uses flat plate panels that can be mounted in a location on your home or in your yard for maximum sun exposure. A conducting liquid is circulated through the panels and heated by the sun's energy and then returned to the coils in the water tank where it assists in heating the water for household use. This tank also contains either a gas or electric element that heats the water to the pre-set temperature if the solar unit cannot because of extended night or periods of sunless days.

You may not think the sun shines a great deal in Rochester but according to a Weather Bureau study of Rochester sunlight over a 30-year period the City averages 2,392 hours of sunlight per year ranging from a high monthly average of 333 hours for July to a low 86 hours in December. In the winter months, the solar units would depend primarily on a conventional gas or electric element to heat the water but in the summer it would operate mostly on solar energy.

The overall dollar savings may not be great but the solar unit will conserve gas or electric energy and will pay for itself over a period of years.

Although we do not sell or install any solar units, a representative will be available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 12 Noon to 2 P.M. to answer any of your questions.

Some of you will not be able to get to our main office, but we'll be talking about solar energy for the next couple of weeks on this Consumer News page so many of your questions will be answered.



Visit RG&E's Sun Power display main floor 89 East Avenue.

Noon Hour Concerts at Security Trust Plaza Begin August 9

Free noontime concerts will be held daily at the Security Trust Plaza, East Avenue and Main Street. The event, sponsored by the Rochester/Monroe County Bicentennial Committee in cooperation with Security

Trust Company, will begin Monday August 9 through Friday August 13 and the last performance on Monday August 16.

The repertoire includes folk songs by the "Golden Link Singing Society", country and western favorites performed by the "Crowley Clan" and modern jazz selections by the "Turnaround". A special German Touring Group will be performing German folk songs and dances.

Brookwood is Open 10 am to 4 pm Sundays through Thursdays

RG&E's Brookwood Science Information Center is open to the public every Sunday through Thursday from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. It is located approximately 24 miles east of midtown Rochester on Lake Road in Ontario, New York. There is no charge for admission and parking.

Group sessions may be arranged during the evenings, too, by calling the Corporate Communications Department at RG&E, 546-2700, extension 2225.

FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS COUPON TO: CJ-41
Dept. 34 Rochester Gas and Electric
89 East Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14649
546-2700
I would like more information on the following items:
Name _____
Address _____ Phone _____
Town _____ Zip Code _____