

# Hills collector hopes to harness the breeze

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Those mild summer breezes are filled with wasted power.

That's part of the reason David Mullendore wants to erect an old-fashioned wind generator to provide his Farmington Hills home with

The project combines Mullendore's concern for fuel conservation and an interest in wind generators that was stirred by his father's old Delco model.

"I just got turned on to the idea," he explained.

As a boy growing up in rural Illinois, Mullendore remembers being fascinated with the Delco

which was engineered to alternate between wind power and battery power.

When the battery was drained, it was rejuvenated by the wind, which also drove the generator.

"I thought it was a pretty nifty idea," said Mullendore.

During the Depression many other farm residents would have agreed with the young Mullendore. For many areas, wind generators were the only method available to produce enough power to make radio reception possible.

Instead of installing an individual generator, the farmer could hitch his power needs to a government electric line. The

WHILE MANY farms were far from power lines, each farmer could

rig up a wind generator to power the family radio and light the house.

The generators were large enough to use 32 volts and eventually came in one and two motor models.

Eventually, wind generators were used to light everything from the living room to the chicken coop.

But during the Depression, the Roosevelt administration sponsored the Rural Electrification Authority (REA), which brought power lines to the farm lands.

Converting the house to the wind power will be a matter of splitting out a few electrical circuits to isolate them from the regular wall plugs. The separated circuits will be run to a separate panel which will be connected to the wind generator.

Although the house will be lighted by wind power, the rest of the electrical chores will be left to the electric company.

There isn't enough wind in Farmington Hills to power an entire household.

Mullendore's project coincides with his belief that power supplies are limited and alternatives should be explored.

THOSE PEOPLE are fools if they think the petroleum shortage is a joke," he said.

"I think they have their heads in the sand."

And it will take brawn for them to realize that it will be short ages," he said.

Increased costs of electricity doesn't bother

Mullendore too much.

"People are afraid the companies are making too much money. But

they need the money to

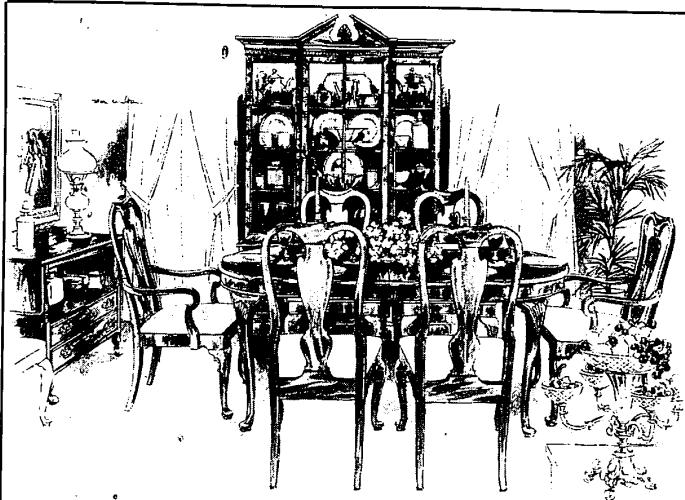
research alternate ways to produce energy," he argued.

One of those alternatives is wind power,

according to Mullendore. That source could be used in conjunction with current electrical production to power homes and conserve energy.

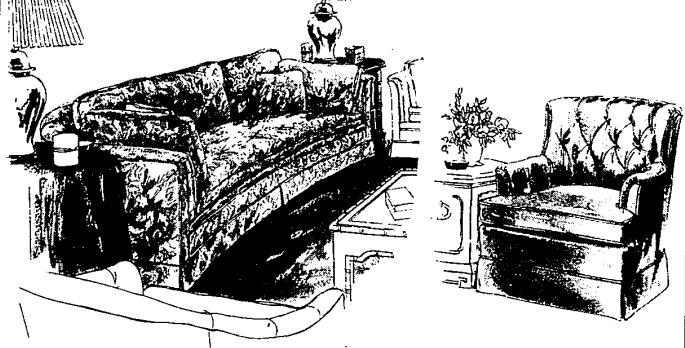


Andy Mullendore looks over his father's collection of wind generator tall sections. (Staff photo by Harry Manthe)

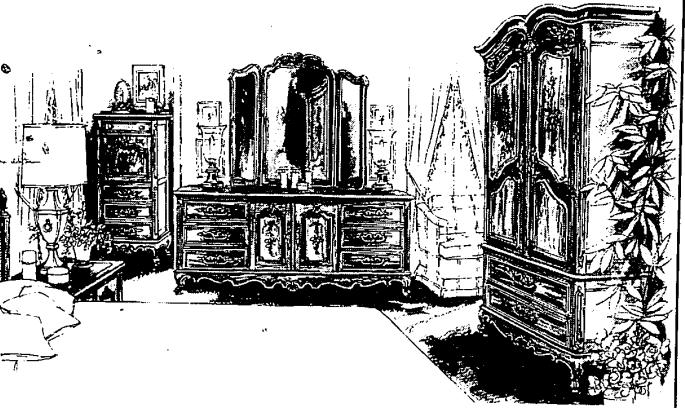


MANY ARE GLAD to see the old devices go toward an appreciative audience, according to Mullendore.

THE SUMMER SALE ON SELECTED DREXEL-HERITAGE COLLECTIONS, NOW PRICED AT **20% off**



THE STYLE CONSCIOUS AND SAVINGS MINDED WELCOME NEW LOW PRICES AT **20% off**



SELECTED DINING ROOMS, LIVING ROOMS AND BEDROOMS INCLUDED AT **20% off**

For a limited time only, we welcome you to our annual summer sale of Drexel-Heritage collections. It promises to be the furniture event of the year. Our special sale groupings include: Drexel's "18th Century Classics" dining room and occasional pieces; magnificent living room pieces by Heritage including sofas, chairs and loveseats in your choice of styles and covers; "Britannia," by Heritage, bedroom, dining room and occasional collections. Each is a superb example of expert design and finish from one of the country's leading manufacturers. You'll be delighted with our fine collection and pleased with our special sale prices. Shop quickly, while these low prices remain in effect.

## Towne & Country Interiors

Use our convenient charge plan; Visa or Master Charge.

Open daily 10-9-Wed., & Sat. 10-6

Dearborn-23600 Michigan Ave.-East of Telegraph-565-3400

Bloomfield- 4107 Telegraph Rd. - at Long Lake Rd. - 642-8822

Rochester-1110 S. Rochester Rd. - In Winchester Mall - 652-3500

METROPOLITAN NATIONAL BANK OF FARMINGTON  
FARMINGTON'S ONLY COMMUNITY BANK

Locally owned-Locally Managed-Locally Staffed

Farmington Hills Office

Telephone 553-4200

Farmington Office  
33205 Grand River

MEMBER - FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION