

Windmill generates energy, dollar savings

By CINDY HOOGASIAN

Sixty years ago, Carl Dobat didn't have much of a choice about how to live. He was 9 years old when his family moved into the Oakland Township farm house he has called home all these years.

He now calls the 60 acres off Dutton Road "Glenwood Acres," in honor of his wife of almost 49 years. The Japanese entryway he built over his drive bears the first name of his wife — the mother of their five children.

Dobat puts a lot of stock in the ideas and craftsmanship of yesteryear. He respects original thinkers and has many different items around his home reflecting that attitude.

The 60-year-old farmer has gained attention for constructing a windmill that harnesses and rechannels the wind's energy. Windmills aren't new creations by any means and Dobat had been thinking of building one for several years, he said.

The more he worked the land, the more the pieces of the plan fell into place. He began looking for parts to construct the tower.

"I got a gear box from some farm machinery that was going to be junked. An old grain drill wheel is what made up the blades of the windmill," he said.

THE DIAMETER of the blade wheel is 11 1/4 feet. An interior wheel 4 feet across is hooked up to a gear box. A shaft comes down from there to another gear box which has a sprocket that drives the generator, Dobat explained.

'I like to be independent of Edison's power sources.'

— Oakland Township's Carl Dobat

"One turn of the big wheel makes the generator turn 15 times," he said.

An important part of the windmill, the tail, was cut by a friend, Fred Fischer, in his machine shop at home. Fischer cut different parts of the windmill on his lathe and also did a lot of welding for Dobat, whose right arm was lost in a farming accident 34 years ago.

The tail acts like a boat's rudder, turning the wheel into the wind. It is constructed of aluminum and plexiglas. The tail was chipped when it was mounted on the 40-foot-tall structure.

The generator is in a well pit in Dobat's yard. He uses 20 golf cart batteries, purchased from a sales and service shop, to transform the power. A heavy cable runs from the generator into the well-pit and hooks up to the batteries, which, after three months use, now need replacing, Dobat said.

Another cable runs from the batteries into the house. He has 12 wall plugs that are not hooked up to Detroit Edison current but instead are wired to the windmill. Dobat takes joy in outsmarting the "electricity monopoly."

"We have electric chemical heaters with thermostats on them which heat the house up to a certain degree. Each heater has a separate thermostat.

of 8- or 10-inch pipe, and make it about 50 feet tall. I'll build it on the ground and have a crane come in to pick it up," Dobat said.

THE NEXT WINDMILL will have egg-beater blades rather than fan blades. The system will have six blades that will not require a tail to turn into the wind.

The "egg-beater" windmill will be designed to harness the wind blowing from any direction without actually pivoting the blade unit, Dobat explained.

"I've been kind of thinking about these windmills for about six years. I see doing this as a challenge. It's something a little different. There's a man up in northern Lapeer County who has built a windmill, and I was influenced by that.

"But I like to be able to be independent of Edison's power sources," he said. Dobat is a very opinionated, well-traveled man. He has visited Alaska, the Panama Canal and is considering Australia for a brief vacation. He likes old and unusual things.

Along with his windmill, Dobat has built a two level bell tower. Suspended from the structure are four bells, one of which came from a church in Port Austin and is 78 years old. Another is an old school bell from Hadley, Mich.

A bell from a sunken boat hangs on the lower right side and another purchased from an individual in Detroit, completes the collection.

His home is decorated with various curios and sentimental objects, all adding to the earthy, secure feeling.

Obituaries

WILLIAM P. DOWDY

Mr. Dowdy, 67, of Dallas, Tex., formerly of Farmington Hills, died Aug. 15 in Texas.

Surviving are his wife Norma; children Jerry Dowdy and Judith Pomero; four brothers, two sisters; and five grandchildren.

Services were held from the Heeneys-Sundquist Funeral Home Aug. 18 with the Rev. L. Edward Davis from Ward United Presbyterian Church of Livonia presiding.

Burial was at White Chapel Cemetery, Troy.

GORDON F. GOYETTE

Mr. Goyette, 57, of Bloomfield Hills died Aug. 16 at his Cape Cod summer home.

He was corporate affairs director of the Warner-Lambert Co., director of the Detroit Education Television Foundation (Channel 56) since 1975, and was serving his second term as board chairman.

Survivors include his wife Margaret; sons Michael and Gordon; daughters Cecile, Jacqueline and Lisa; mother

Mrs. Josephine Goyette; two brothers and three sisters.

A funeral mass was at St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church Aug. 20 with Fathers Clement Esper and James Wright officiating.

Burial was at Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, Wyandotte.

The family asks that memorial donations be sent to Providence Hospital cancer research department.

WREN HUDDLESTON

Mr. Huddleston, 75, of Farmington Hills died Aug. 15 at Botsford Hospital. He was a coal miner for the Clear Fork Coal Co.

Surviving is one son, Albert.

Funeral arrangements were made by the Heeneys-Sundquist Funeral Home. The funeral was held Aug. 19 in Middlesboro, Ky.

Burial was at Oakview Cemetery, Middlesboro.

MARY ROZMAN

Mrs. Rozman, 69, of Milford died Aug. 14 at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

Survivors include husband, Frank; daughters Mrs. James (Arlene) Kent and Mrs. Donald (Nancy) Cowan; five grandchildren.

A funeral mass was celebrated Aug. 17 at Our Lady of Sorrows Church with the Rev. Father Kean Cronin officiating. Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield.

HARRY J. WILLIAMS

Mr. Williams, 76, of Farmington, died Aug. 14 at Providence Hospital in Southfield.

He had been employed as a pattern maker for Ford Motor Co.

Surviving are his sons, James and Jerry; brother Harold; and eight grandchildren.

Services were held Aug. 17 at the Heeneys-Sundquist Funeral Home with Dr. Bartlett L. Hess of Ward United Presbyterian Church officiating. Burial was Glen Eden Memorial Park Cemetery in Livonia.

Hills shoots for light industry

By MARY GNIEWEK

Farmington Hills City Council's recent decision to establish an Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is rooted in the belief that it will attract more light industry and commercial business to the city.

The city council hopes it will provide a comfortable tax base so that city services can continue without placing the burden of payment on residential taxpayers.

"It's important over the next several years how well we balance our tax base between commercial and industrial developments," said Councilman Keith Deacon, a newly appointed EDC director.

"It gives us wider magnitude of what we can do in several areas of the city. The key is how our open space will be developed.

"We want to be able to provide the best services possible with the least impact on our tax base," he continued.

The EDC was created under a state statute which permits it to issue municipal finance bonds for industrial and

commercial developments.

Without an EDC, commercial and office type developments cannot be financed through industrial development revenue bonds. Those types of developments must be approved by the Michigan Finance Commission. The delay often causes potential office and commercial interests to choose another city in which to locate.

The EDC was formed on recommendation of Robert McConnell, former chairman of the Industrial and Economic Development Commission, (IEDC) an advisory group.

"We were competing with cities that had EDCs (South Lyon and Walled Lake). We were at a disadvantage," McConnell said.

"THE EDC CAN handle bond sales faster. They're not subject to review by the Michigan Finance Commission. The EDC can authorize sale of bonds direct to the investor."

Farmington Hills hopes to boost its tax base with what McConnell calls "clean profile industry" and Deacon

says "stays within tasteful parameters."

There will be a total of nine EDC directors. In addition to McConnell and Deacon, City Manager Lawrence Savage, City Clerk Floyd Cairns, and Emanuel Maisel have been named to the committee by Mayor Earl Oppenhaus. More appointments are forthcoming.

Robert Clarke succeeded McConnell as IEDC chairman. While the EDCs main function is limited to authorizing funding at a preferable rate for commercial activity, the IEDC has a broader task.

The IEDC was established in 1972 to encourage the location of a certain profile of industry and provide an adequate tax base for the city of Farmington Hills. The IEDC works with the planning commission.

Last week, the Hills City Council approved a new zoning district for industrial research and office zoning.

"This type of zoning will allow a combination of office and industrial use," Clark said.

NOW APPEARING IN OUR LOUNGE.

ROADSONG featuring Jeff Scot & Jeff Bean

Tues., Wed., Thurs. 8 p.m. - 1 a.m.
Fri. & Sat. 7 p.m. - 2 a.m.

MOUNTAIN JACK'S BEER GARDEN

24275 Olivacola Ct., Farmington Hills 476-5933

McCABE funeral home

31950 12 MILE RD., FARMINGTON HILLS, MI. Phone 553-0120

DETROIT LOCATION: 16570 GRAND RIVER AVE. Phone 836-2752

PACKAGE DESIGNS • MAILERS
PRODUCT BROCHURES • LABELS
PRICE SHEETS • CATALOGS

nb can do it all!

nb associates, inc.
36102 paddleford farmington hills, michigan 48018 476-3131

House of Dentures

28350 Grand River Farmington Hills

Free Consultation and Exam

• Quick Repairs
• 1 Day Relines
• Partial

Insurance Accepted For Appointment Call 478-1495

BEL-AIRE LANES

FALL LEAGUES MEN'S LEAGUES

Men's Trio Sun, 8:30 p.m.
Bel-Aire Men's Tues, 9:30 p.m.

Men's Jr. House Mon, 9:30 p.m.
Men's Classic Thurs, 6:45 p.m.

LADIES EVENING LEAGUES
Keglerettes Wed, 9:30 p.m.

LADIES DAYTIME LEAGUES
Free Baby sitting

Salted Bowlers Wed, 12:30 p.m.
Morning Stars Tues, 9:30 a.m.

MIXED LEAGUES

Sun. Alternates Sun, 8:30 p.m.
Bel-Aire Kings & Queens Tues, 9:30 p.m.
"N" Mixers Thurs, 9:30 p.m.

Monday Mixers Mon, 9:30 p.m.
Mixed Classics Thurs, 9:30 p.m.
Retirees Fri, 9:30 a.m.

FAMILY LEAGUES
Family Fourome Any Combination Sun, 10:30 a.m.

Father & Son Older and Young Sun, 10:30 a.m.

STUDENTS LEAGUES

Preps Trio Tues, 4:00 p.m.
Hi School Mix Thurs, 3:45 p.m.

Majors & Juniors Sat, 9:30 a.m.
Preps A Peasants Sat, 11:30 a.m.

MEN'S NITE SHIFT TRIO LEAGUE
4 Games - 4 Lanes
Sun. 8:30 p.m. Begins Oct. 7

24001 Orchard Lake Farmington 476-1550

Bass SADDLES & BUCKS

Greg SHOES

Saddles & Bucks by Bass

Sporty styles and colors on cushion crepe soles. They're fun to wear! So light. So right. They have to be Bass.

BEL-AIRE CENTER
10 Mile at Orchard Lake Farmington 477-2343

ORCHARD MALL
Orchard Lake N. of Maple W. Bldg. 851-5566 Sun. 12:5

PLAINTH COMMUNITY FALL FESTIVAL section is coming Mon. Sept. 3rd.

Be sure to watch for it!