

# Recycling saves but is still unpopular

Paper recycling has come a long way from the era of Boy Scouts collecting old newspapers.

Today, more than 200 cities have separate trash pickup systems for newspapers, and more than 300 paper mills use some wastepaper in making new paper.

But recycling has not quite become a household word, and its impact on conservation has not changed significantly in the last 10 years. In 1970, just more than 18 percent of the paper consumed by paper mills and manufacturers was wastepaper. Today it is about 20 percent.

The U.S. Census Bureau said about 13.1 million tons of wastepaper — most of it corrugated, miscellaneous paper, and old newspapers — were recycled last year. The

American Paper Institute, which represents the mills and manufacturers, estimated that 15.6 million tons of wastepaper were recycled.

"The economics is stacked in favor of the use of virgin fiber," said John R. McBride of the National Association of Recycling Industries, which represents middlemen in the recycling process.

"As long as that is true," he said, "there will be no sustained demand for recycled fiber, and recycling will continue to operate on a yo-yo — up when the economy is strong and down in times of recession."

**RECYCLING DEPENDS** on the market demand for re-usable paper. In prosperous times, all forms of raw material are needed, and pa-

per mills, which often grow their own timber, supplement with wastepaper.

In a sagging economy, the mills cut back on purchase, and wastepaper is left out.

The one market that has increased drastically in the last 10 years is wastepaper sold for export. In 1970, about 400,000 tons was shipped to foreign manufacturers; last year about 2.2 million tons was exported, primarily to Japan, Korea, Canada, and Mexico.

Foreign manufacturers who lack sufficient natural timber resources are turning to American wastepaper because of the devalued dollar.

Trash paper that is beaten, washed and recycled usually comes back as cereal boxes, six-pack cartons, corrugated containers, towels

and tissues — or it lands back on doorsteps as the morning, afternoon, weekly or bi-weekly newspaper.

Incentives for increased recycling in this country can be written into regulations that step up the demand for recycled paper products. California, Minnesota, and Maryland have changed their purchase policies to require that a certain percentage of the paper they use — stationery, boxes, towels — be made of recycled paper.

Municipal and community recycling programs also are making it easier to send wastepaper back to the mills for re-use — taking advantage of the fact that paper comprises about half of municipal solid waste in terms of volume, and about one-third in terms of weight.

## OCC course covers West

Two geology courses, whose outdoor classrooms will be spread throughout the western United States, will be offered in July by Oakland Community College.

A four-credit course from July 6-18 will stress the geology of the northern Colorado plateau in southern Utah's canyons area.

A series of national sites, including Zion, Bryce Canyon, Arches and Capitol Reef National Parks, are included in the trip. The course also includes a raft trip down the Colorado River.

A two-credit geology course is scheduled from July 21-25 in the northern

Arizona and southwestern Colorado areas. Stops include the Grand Canyon and Mesa Verde National Parks.

**ALL ENTRANCE** fees and camping permits are covered with the student's tuition. However, students are required to provide their own camping equipment, food and transportation.

Students may register during the summer session registration period July 2 and 3.

For more information about the geology courses, call the Auburn Hills Science Department, 1-852-1000, ext. 326.



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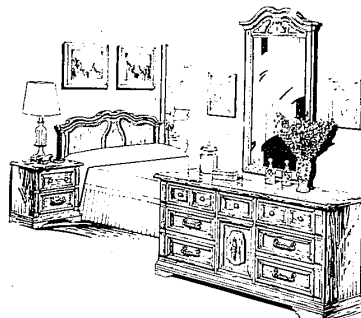
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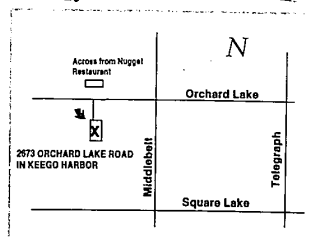
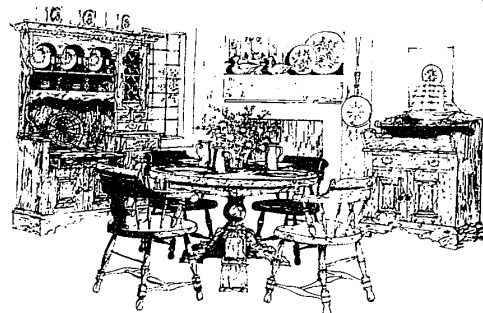
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