

OCC project tests solar power

By Tom Henderson
staff writer

If the future includes abundant electricity and energy and absolutely no nuclear power plants, historians just may look back to a ground breaking Thursday at the Auburn Hills campus of Oakland Community College as one of the reasons.

A consortium of Detroit Edison, Consumers Power, OCC, the Lansing Board of Water and Light, the Electric Power Research Institute, the Michigan Energy and Resource Resource Association and a Troy firm on the cutting edge of technology, Energy Conversion Devices Inc., have joined forces to see if new advances in research have finally made solar conversion a viable, economic source of energy in northern climates.

The organizations have pooled resources to build an experimental, \$125,000 solar, or photovoltaic, panel. Data will be examined for a year to determine if such panels can produce energy efficiently and cheaply enough to become practical alternatives to current energy practices, which produce such negatives as acid rain, smoke and nuclear wastes.

The solar unit at OCC, which will be made of 128 panels, each 2 feet by 4 feet, is expected to be on line in November and will provide energy to some campus buildings.

MARK CLEVEY is product manager for Energy Conversion Devices, which invents technology and then markets it through subsidiaries. The subsidiary building the OCC solar

unit is Sonvonic Solar Systems.

Clevey said that most of the work in solar conversion has been in crystalline technology, which is patterned after the same technology that makes computer chips. High-grade silicon is melted and shaved in a labor-intensive process that produces electricity at what is so far a prohibitive cost.

Clevey said his firm, which was founded in 1980 by Stanford Ovshinsky, uses synthetic processes that use non-crystalline structures at a great savings in cost.

The non-crystalline process is known as amorphous technology.

"I don't want to say we're the leader in amorphous technology just because other companies think they're leaders, too," said Clevey. "Let's just say we're in an extremely

competitive patent position, both in manufacturing and in inventing the basic materials.

"Amorphous technology is in the lead in reducing energy-conversion costs and our company is in the lead in amorphous technology. In California, they're finding that it works quite well. Nobody has looked at how it will work in Michigan. It wasn't because Edison wasn't interested, it was because they were waiting to see which photovoltaic technology would take the lead.

"Everybody's been critical of the energy companies for building nuclear plants. What's exciting here is they are doing something right. All utilities are pushing solar conversion because it's definitely next-generation power. All other sources of energy require burning something, and they create waste. This doesn't."

Area judge tapped for federal bench

By Susan Rosiak
staff writer

President Ronald Reagan has accepted the name of Wayne County Circuit Judge Patrick Duggan as a federal district court judge for the eastern district of Michigan.

Duggan, 52, was recommended for appointment by U.S. Rep. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, who made the announcement Friday on behalf of the Michigan Republican Congressional delegation.

Duggan's name now will go to the U.S. Senate for confirmation. Reagan accepted the nomination following an investigation by the U.S. Justice Department and American Bar Association, which rated him "well-qualified."

a vacancy created by Chief Judge John Feikens' move to senior status on the bench.

Duggan began practicing law in Livonia in 1959. Before his appointment by former Gov. William Milliken to the Wayne County Circuit Court bench in 1976, he helped in numerous Republican campaigns, including runs by Robert Griffin for the U.S. Senate, Pursell for the U.S. House, and Milliken for the governorship.

He was elected to the Wayne County Circuit Court in 1978 and re-elected in 1984.

Duggan is a graduate of Xavier University and the University of Detroit Law School.

Federal judges serve for life and are paid \$78,700 per year.

Paralegal panel

The paralegal profession will be discussed by graduates of the Oakland University Legal Assistant Program from 7:30-9 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 11, in the Oakland Center on campus in Rochester.

Admission is free. Reservations will be taken by the Division of Continuing Education, 370-3120. The OU campus is located directly off I-75 (exit 70). Free, lighted parking is available.

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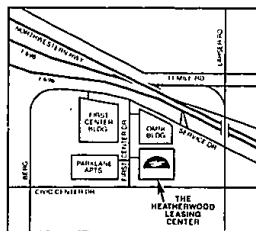
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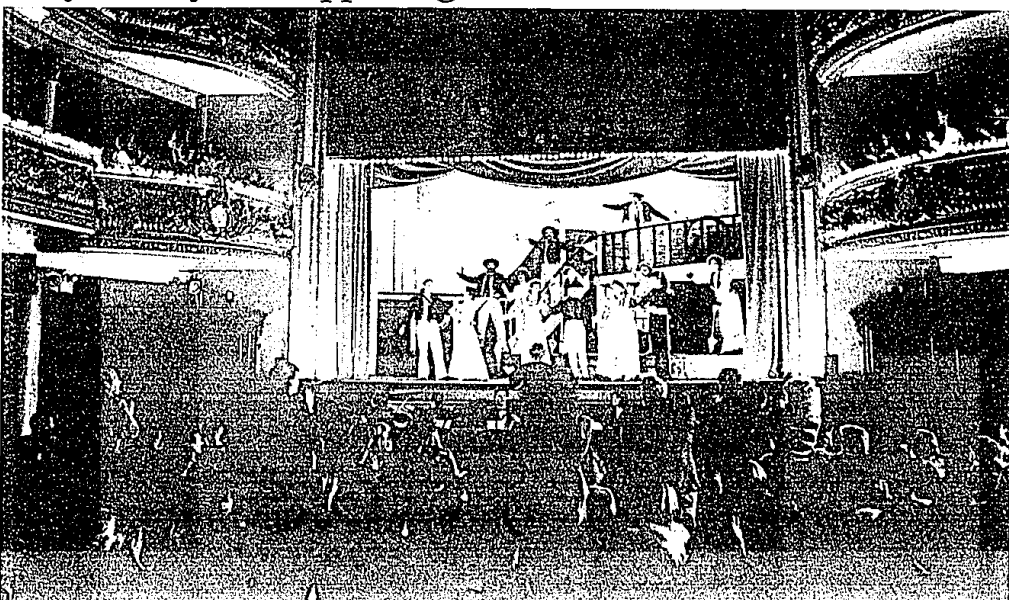


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As did Annie Oakley's traveling show of six guns and other assorted shootin' irons. In fact, over the years, what with all the stars of vaudeville and theatre who performed here, you would have thought it was Broadway in New York.

Not a small midwest town's main street opera house.

Even talking movies couldn't do to the grand old place what a major fire, many years of neglect and then a condemnation notice would finally do.

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