## Old tires are tough to recycle

Terry

TIRE RECOVERY is plagued by

THE RECOVERY is plagued by problems.
They are expensive to transport to these recovery facilities and to shred for reuse. Because of these high initial costs, they are not presently cost-competitive with established, low-priced methods.
However, if the predictions are accurate, this cost imbalance could change, Experts predict that another energy crisis by the late 1990s will drive up the cost of petroleum, the key ingredient in synthetic rubber used in tires today.

Q. I followed your series on solid waste and was particularly interest-ed in recycling. However, there was so mention of what can be done with old tires. Can these tires be recycled or must they just be thrown away?

A. Discarded tires are a special problem in the solid waste area. Cur-rently "disposing" of used tires can be done in two ways. One is to landfill them, but this has

This tire-burning facility is the circat of its kind in the country. The system is designed to burn the tires at approximately 2,000 degrees, which is hot enough to destroy any potentially hazardous hydrocarbons, dioxins and furans.

This tire incineration plant began operation last August. It runs 24 hours a day and uses up an estimated a million tires a year.

A tire recycling alternative is being developed by Rubber Research Elastomerics (RRE) in Minnesota. RRE has developed a method where finely ground-up tires are actively cross-linked with other rubber. Called Tiresylee, will expand from its current limited market in the control of the c

be done in two ways.

One is to landilli them, but this has many drawbacks. Old tiree do not remain buried in landillis, but rise to the surface. They also take up a lot of space in landillis. Many landillis of space in landillis. Many landillis of space in landillis. Many landillis of the landillis of these distinctions of these additional problems.

The second "disposal" method is stockpile them. Nearly 60 percent of all discarded tires go this route. This method, however, can cause such environmental problems as alrolliton, if the pile should catch lire, and disease. These piles make excellent breeding grounds for disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Despite these disposal problems with tires, it is extimated that 240 million tires — one for each person in the United States — are discarded each year.

SEVERAL METHODS to reclaim this tire material are currently being tested around the country.

In Modesto, Calif., Oxford Energy Co. got approval to burn the 42 million tire stockpile in a controlled environment to generate electricity for the local utility.

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For information on other op-portunities or if your organiza-tion needs volunteers, call the Center for Volunteerism, United Community Services of Metropol-tian Detroit, 226-429, or write 1212 Griswold, Detroit 48226-1899.



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Ironically, the biggest potential may be just the way to remain commerced for recycled tires could be the industry that produces them—tire manufacturers.

Recycling old tires to make new would use less energy and reduce the amount of petroleum required for virgin synthetic rubber.

Recovering their own material

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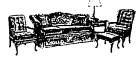
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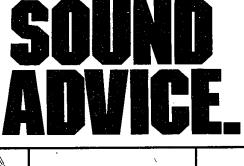
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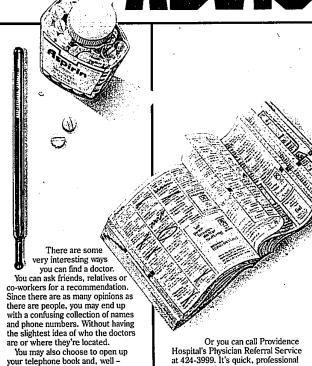
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