

Hoarding begins

Food: the newest 'crisis'

By CAROL HASKIN

We've had the Middle East Crisis and the Energy Crisis and Watergate's Crisis of Conscience and lately the Economic Crisis. Now, beyond the gray horizon, some political, business and economic savants are spotting a new crisis — the Food Crisis.

Some doom and gloom conservatives and even some concerned ordinary citizens, taking a hint from Harry Browne's popular "You Can Profit from a Monetary Crisis," have begun stockpiling.

First it was precious metals and now the hoarding has turned to food. The International Monetary Exchange, on the corner of Lahser and Thirteen Mile Road, is an investment organization that deals in precious metals, particularly in silver coins.

Over the past months, salesman Terry Henderson said, coin clients have been inquiring about the best places to buy foodstuffs for long-term storage.

"We had been getting so many inquiries from clients interested in food reserves," Henderson said. "That we thought it would be another service we could offer them."

SO THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Exchange developed a subsidiary, the International Diversified Corporation (IDC), with Henderson as the regional coordinator of the food division.

A number of business in the area deal in dehydrated foods, so IDC opted instead for freeze-dried.

The freeze-drying process, Henderson explained, entails taking fresh food, putting it into a vacuum and flash freezing it at temperatures below 50 degrees.

This process, he said, maintains all nutrients and colors in foods and works well with meats. The food can be stored indefinitely.

Reconstitution is effected by soaking the morsels in boiling water for five minutes. Dehydration, he said, takes a soaking time of 15 minutes.

The food represents a somewhat awesome investment. It is offered in two basic units.

THE FIRST IS a year's supply for one which includes a can of each of assorted fruits, assorted vegetables, meats, eggs, coffee, ice cream, a chalky-looking substance that when melted in the mouth actually tastes like warm ice cream and two cases of main course entrees (chump creole, chili with beans, for example). Henderson admits that "it's hard to



The latest of the never-ending crises has led to the hoarding of food. One area firm is now selling freeze-dried food that has been frozen below 50 degrees.

say the food will last everybody for six months. It depends on the person's size and how much he will consume."

The year's supply goes for \$1,700. The firm also sells a junior portion, called the Survival Unit, which is a six-month supply and goes for \$725. IDC makes a 20 per cent profit on all units sold.

These prices are quite a bit steeper than what one would pay in a grocery store for similar, non-freeze-dried items, Henderson conceded. But the people who have put their money into these edibles do so for a variety of reasons and benefits that make the investment worthwhile to them.

THE PURCHASE PRICE includes shipping directly to the customer's home, a five-year warranty for elderly people who can't rely on food traps in the store.

Ease of preparation is a feature, too, the food's popularity, especially among health-conscious eaters. Then there's the taste.

Some even see it as a shrewd investment.

"Many people are looking for places to keep their paper money," Henderson said, "anywhere but in paper. There is a guaranteed loss in a savings account. But the worst possible

downside risk in freeze-dried food is you would have to eat it.

"Someone may be interested in acquiring a large volume of this food, holding on to it for several years and then selling it."

THE PRIMARY REASON behind food stockpiling, he said, is food security.

"Family food reserves are becoming very much in demand, mainly because of what is taking place in the world economy," Henderson said. "You might call it fear, or you might call it logical deduction or common sense."

The possibility of future market strikes, runaway inflation, economic depression and continued unemployment are leading people to invest in food reserves, he said.

"Look at the number of unemployed people who have no idea when they will get back to work. If they have a reserve, at least they know they can eat for a year."

IDC has been in the food business for less than a month, but already it has sold one truckload of the victuals and has another on order.

The food stockpilers have prepared for all manner of disasters, natural and man-made — except of course drought.

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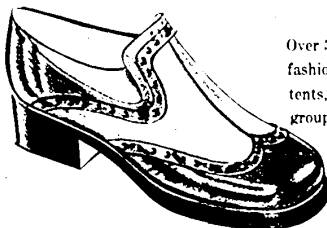
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Rubbish collection changes in Beverly

BEVERLY HILLS—Beginning Monday, Feb. 3, the village will move to a four-day-a-week rubbish collection schedule, with Friday being eliminated as a pickup day.

With the exception of the Huntley Square apartment complex on Thirteen Mile Road west of Southfield Road, the days for areas serviced Mondays through Thursdays will remain the same, according to village manager Thomas Good.

Friday collection will move to Wednesday or Thursday.

The new schedule follows:

- Monday—Fourteen Mile Road to the north side of Thirteen Mile, between the west village limits and the

west side of Evergreen Road.

- Tuesday—South side of Thirteen Mile Road to the southern village limit, between the western limit and the west side of Evergreen, and from Thirteen Mile Road north to the south side of Beverly Road, between the east side of Evergreen and the west side of Southfield, including the Huntley Square complex.

- Wednesday—Fourteen Mile Road south to the north side of Beverly, between the east side of Evergreen and the west side of Pierre.

- Thursday—Fourteen Mile Road south to Thirteen Mile Road, between the east side of Pierre and Greenfield Road.

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