

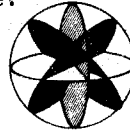
March, 1981

V.E.P. HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
REPRESENTING OVER 2000 HOMEOWNERS IN VISTAPARK,
ENCORE, ECHO VALLEY, PARKVIEW VALLEY, AND BLOSSOM HEIGHTS

VEP NEWS

The next meeting of the VEP Homeowners Association will be at 7:30 pm, Monday, March 23, 1981, in the Parkview School Cafeteria (330 Bluefield Drive). Everyone is welcome!

NUCLEAR ENERGY



MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1981

7:30 P.M.

PARKVIEW SCHOOL

This month, the VEP will present a discussion of nuclear breeder reactor technology. Paul Miller, a manager at General Electric and a professional engineer, will explain how breeder reactors work and why he thinks we need them. This will be a good opportunity for us to learn some of the facts behind the headlines, now that President Reagan has promised to start up the breeder reactor program again. Following are some of Mr. Miller's thoughts on this technology:

Most of us are aware of the conventional water-cooled reactors such as the Diablo Canyon power reactors or the power source for the Nautilus submarine. What most people don't know is that the water-cooled "thermal" reactor uses a relatively rare isotope of uranium as fuel leaving almost 99% of the original uranium unburned. Consequently, our supply of uranium in the United States will probably not fuel these thermal reactors more than another 30 to 50 years at our present levels of growth. But there is good news in that the left-over isotope of uranium (U-238) can be used to fuel a type of reactor called the

continued on page 3...

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The silence is deafening!

Yes, your message is coming through strong and clear: "We don't have time for meetings." So after this month we're not having general meetings anymore. (*) Instead, we're going to concentrate on family happenings — like the 4th of July Parade and games, the Halloween Happening, and perhaps later on a 50's Sock Hop just for the old folks.

But if you want to play, you're going to have to pay. Entrance into either the 4th of July Parade and athletic competition or the Halloween Happening will be via Membership in VEP! You can send in your \$4.00 dues now, or pay at the gate. Paid members will be issued cards admitting them to any VEP sponsored event.

So now we've got a club! Wanna join and contribute your talents? Put your name and your money and your phone number on the line.

Respectfully,



John Marks Faithful Servant (and VEP President)

(*) This proposed change to our By-Laws will be discussed and voted upon at our March 23rd meeting. Please make your feelings known.

SAN JOSE NEWCOMERS CLUB

San Jose Newcomers Club invites all VEP readers and new arrivals to San Jose to its next monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 31st, to be held at Western Federal Savings (Pearl Ave. and Blossom Hill Rd.) at 7:30 pm, for a program sponsored by IBM on "Home Earthquake Preparedness".

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1981

The VEP will hold its annual election of officers at the upcoming March meeting. A slate of nominees will be announced. If you would like to be an officer of the VEP this year, call John Marks at 225-8195.

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...continuation of front page article

"Fast Breeder Reactor". Thus our nuclear fission reactors can be fueled for another 1000 years with uranium that has already been mined and is sitting in government storage facilities.

Ironically, the breeder reactor was the first type of reactor to produce electricity. Almost 30 years ago the Experimental Breeder Reactor I in Idaho went into operation. Since then the U.S. breeder program has been delayed and diverted until the United States is no longer in a dominant position in this technology. The French, British, and Russians have all built or are building large commercial-size breeder reactors. The French have undertaken a particularly aggressive program of breeder reactor development.

The value of this enormous reserve of domestic fuel is obvious in terms of national security and economic stability by insulating the United States from unexpected increases in oil prices or outright oil cutoff. Unfortunately, the previous Administration opposed construction of the intermediate-size Clinch River Breeder Reactor Project near Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Now, however, it appears that the breeder program will be revitalized. Even a former breeder skeptic, TVA Chairman David Freeman, has stated "We need to complete Clinch River." Mr. Freeman used to be opposed to breeder reactors. However, after a tour of the Phenix and Super-Phenix plants in France Mr. Freeman stated: "I don't want a French monopoly on the power plants of the next century."

So why hasn't the breeder been developed more quickly? One reason is that the light-water reactor technology developed for the Navy as well as technical aspects of fuel cycle management resulted in a logical introduction of water reactors first. Recently, concern over proliferation of plutonium, which is a by-product of the nuclear reaction, has been expressed in the United States and, to a much lesser extent, abroad. The problem is that although the plutonium produced (or "bred") in a breeder reactor can be used as fuel in other reactors, it is also a component in nuclear weapons devices. However, the oxide form in which the fuel exists is not suitable weapons material. Additional safeguards such as "denaturing" nuclear fuel are being considered also.

As we move into the last decades of the twentieth century, it appears that fossil fuels (oil, gas, and coal) are either running out or are needed for applications other than producing electricity. The breeder reactor has the potential of filling the gap between demand and resources in an energy-hungry world. The rest of the industrialized world is pressing ahead with development of nuclear power and the breeder reactor. The United States must decide soon if it is going to stay in the race or face the consequences of not deploying this technology.



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ATTITUDES AND ENERGY -- THE CHALLENGE OF THE 80'S

The following comments have been excerpted from a speech given to the IEEE by Frank Jenkins, vice president of Duke Power Company.

The "environmental" movement for the last 10-15 years has challenged industry and government to change what those calling themselves "environmentalists" consider to be wrong. There are proper concerns that have been raised -- those that have to do with safety and quality of life -- and they should be challenged. But in many instances, self-styled experts with no technical or scientific qualifications in a particular area have halted needed developments. Resulting costs have added hundreds of millions of dollars needlessly. There is a place for dissent, but dishonest, subversive elements that transform a difference of opinion to a no-holds-barred fight are counter to the "American Way". ...

A group of Power Engineering Society officers, during visits with Congressional leaders, were told that (Ralph) Nader's organization had representatives in every major Congressional committee staff as well as in the staff of most Representatives and Senators. Representative Mike McCormack made the statement that many Senators and Representatives saw only the mail that these people wanted them to see. ...

Professor Paul Ehrlich, author of "The Population Bomb" says, "Giving society cheap, abundant energy would be the equivalent of giving an idiot child a machine gun." We stand accused from within and from without of being energy hogs, of using more than our share of the available energy.

Energy of and by itself does not provide food, shelter, clothing, national security, jobs, and a long list of other necessities that we must have to live, to survive. Our use of energy has not deprived anyone of any of the necessities just mentioned. Yet, there is a sense of guilt being instilled in the minds of our people and even in our own minds that we are depriving people of their needs through our use of energy.

In fact, it is through the use of energy that this nation has contributed to the filling of needs throughout the world. The result of our energy use has provided food, shelter, clothing, jobs, and the list goes on and on. Let's disabuse ourselves of the idea that the use of energy is wrong. It isn't; when used properly, it is right. ...

In our application for a construction permit for a nuclear generating plant, regulations have required the printing and submission to NRC of 90,000 pounds of documents. This has been to cover only the construction permit -- six years of study and 45 tons of paper. The permit has not been granted at this time, and 8 to 10 years more will be required to build the plant, under constantly changing rules and regulations and countless tons of more paper. ...

Enough has been said about self-serving "environmentalists", but think about this one item. During the time that nuclear power has been serving this nation (in some areas more than half the electric energy is nuclear supplied) more than 1,000,000 people have lost their lives in the U.S. from auto accidents, but not one life has been lost from nuclear power generation. Special interest groups must be prevented from subverting the will and the well being of the public. The constant communication of honest and accurate information must be continued. This will take much work to influence the media and reverse their irresponsible adversary approach. - contributed by John Marks, from a speech by F. Jenkins -

rate increase for garbage collection

As you probably know, the city of San Jose has granted an increase in the cost of unlimited residential garbage collection from the present rate of \$4.23 per month to \$5.49 per month for most households, starting March 1, 1981. Since this increase affects all San Jose residents, the City Council and I wanted you to understand more fully the details of this agreement.

First, the City Council and I believe that contracting with a private company -- in our case Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI) -- for garbage collection service is the most cost-effective means of providing that necessary and mandatory municipal service. However, we found out this past year that the private company is unable to collect payments from customers as well as the city can. As a result, BFI asked for an 82% rate increase, partly to pay for the costs of service to customers who refused to pay their bill.

The proposed 82% increase translated to a cost of \$8.01 per month for San Jose customers, an increase the City Council found intolerable. After lengthy public hearings and tough negotiations by the City Council and city staff, BFI agreed to reduce their proposed increase to 29%.

To protect our responsible bill-paying citizens from bearing the costs of garbage service to delinquent customers, we agreed to take over billing. We decided the easiest way to do so would be to collect garbage service payments twice a year by including them on property tax bills. Starting July 1, 1981, garbage bills will be collected this way.

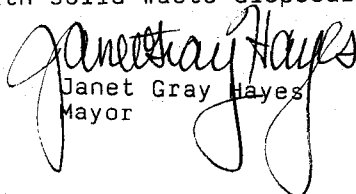
Second, low income seniors who are 65 years of age or older will pay only \$2.00 a month for one container, and seniors over 80 years old will have free pickup. Low income residents who face hardships because of illness or handicaps will pay \$4.00 a month for pickup of two containers.

Third, the city is looking into possible purchase of a landfill site, since Santa Clara County is rapidly running out of space to dump garbage. Further, by owning our own site, we can take advantage of technology to recycle refuse and produce energy.

Finally, San Jose is seeking other garbage companies who may want to serve our residents. We're hoping to promote competition among private collectors to make sure our residents have the best service at the lowest rates possible.

I hope this letter clarifies the city's new agreement with BFI. The City Council and I welcome your suggestions on ways to solve the complicated problems associated with solid waste disposal.

Sincerely,


Janet Gray Hayes
Mayor

GARDENING - A REPORT ON THE FEBRUARY MEETING

Bob Spear, manager of the Springdale Garden Nursery, spoke at the February VEP meeting on the subject of gardening. Here are some of the points he made:

Plan ahead. Spring flower bulbs must be planted the previous fall. Small trees grow into big ones - don't plant too close to your house or fence. Spray fruit trees before they flower.

Medfly. Go ahead and plant fruits and vegetables. The fruit fly should be eradicated by the time your produce ripens. You may use malathion in your garden. Pick up and destroy any dropped fruit. There are many sterile fruit flies being released in the area - don't panic if you see swarms of them. Malathion is safe as long as you don't drink it or breathe the vapors heavily.

White flies. These bugs weaken plants by sucking sap out of the leaves.

Spray them early in the morning when the air is cool. Bad infestations will require spraying three days in a row.

Spider mite. These show up as specks or a grey tint on the underside of leaves. They love dusty leaves, so a good preventive is to hose down leaves of plants.

CLAY SOIL. Everybody's favorite problem around here. Add lots of organic matter (compost, manure) and lots of gypsum. Sand is good, too, in very large quantities, but it requires more water and fertilizer than other soils. For vegetable gardens, till in 3 to 5 cubic yards of gypsum per 1000 square feet. For lawns, aerate the lawn and pull up the plugs, then fill the plug holes with sand and compost. Your soil should be one third organic compost.

Ashes, in moderate amounts, are good for the soil.

Watering. Water infrequently and deeply. It is much better to soak your yard once a week than to sprinkle it every day.

Lettuce is a good vegetable to plant right now. It's too late for most winter vegetables and too early for most summer ones.

Corn. Plant in clumps instead of rows for better pollenization.

Celery. Cover the stalks with newspaper, straw, or cartons to keep the light off. This will produce tender, white celery.

Seeds or sets? Sets (seedlings in flats) save time and encourage gardeners to space the plants properly. (Everyone hates to thin out plants that they have so lovingly nurtured.) Seeds are a little cheaper, if you're planting in large quantities.

- Marianne Lent -

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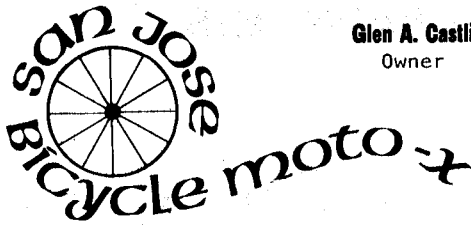
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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

The last VEP event, the 1979 Halloween Happening, was organized by yours truly. As those of you who attended no doubt noticed, I was one month away from having a baby at the time. The baby is now over a year old and ready to participate! She even has enough teeth to eat a hot dog. (Unfortunately, she hates hot dogs. Unless, of course, it's Mommy's hot dog.)

I still have a file folder (somewhere) describing all the things that need to be done to get ready for a community party. I will be happy to pass along my folder and my expertise to anyone who is interested in getting together with 400 intimate friends this coming July 4th.

Call Jean Robertson, our Secretary, if you would like to work on this project (telephone number is on the back cover of the newsletter).

- Marianne Lent, Editor -

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VISTAPARK/ENCORE BABYSITTING CO-OP. Exchange day sits with other parents, take time out to shop, have lunch, or go to the doctor without the kids. Call Mrs. Strauss a 578-1645.

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THE VEP NEWS

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