

Swinging bus

This new bus, developed in the U.S. for both the Seattle and the California Department of Transport may soon grace the highways and byways of Ontario. The Ontario Ministry of Transportation wants to see what the bus can do, and will test it on GO Transit routes near Toronto. The hinge allows designers to stretch new models and provide 50 per cent more seats than conventional buses. Ontario is in the market for 40 of the buses.

Solar energy's future is bright

study showed.

Basically, solar energy involves capturing the sun's

light, converting the light to

heat and then using the heat

to warm water or space. It also

may be used to provide air conditioning and generate elec-tricity, but that technology is

not as well developed yet.

In a typical water-heating unit sunlight strikes roof-mounted collectors and is

trapped as heat by a special

coating on the collectors.

Water from a storage tank is

pumped through the collector

and absorbs the heat. The

water then is stored until it is

pumped through again for

Electricity still must be used

to run the pump and to heat the water when there isn't enough

sun. But experts say a solar

device can cut water-heating

costs by 50 to 80 per cent.
Industry officials expect the

research will help cut the price

of equipment by as much as 75

per cent in coming years. They

hope the price of an average water-heating system can be

cut down to about \$1,300 includ-

possible exception is the

Pacific northwest, which has

cheap hydroelectric power and

Meanwhile, the National

Administration (NASA) has

proposed putting scores of solar collectors in orbit above

Each collector, six miles wide by six miles long, would

generate between five and 10 trillion watts of electricity.

once the system is ready in the

year 2007. About 100 collectors

would provide all of the elec-

tricity the U.S. would use in

2007. The cost would be about

KANYON

and

trequent cloud cover.

Aeronautics

the earth.

ing installation, by 1979. Experts say almost every area of the U.S. can benefit from solar energy. The only

reheating, or used.

WASHINGTON (AP) - ity or heating fuels can amor-Solar energy's future is sun-tize the investment in 15 years nier than ever, thanks to Presi- or less, a U.S. government dent Carter's dramatic presentation of United States energy woes and the desire of Americans to keep down their

heating and electricity bills. "Business has exploded," says Walter Barrett, operations manager for the solar energy division of Columbia Chase Corp. in Braintree, Mass. His company has been getting 500 letters a day since Carter's energy speech last

But the optimism is tempered with concern that consumer demand for solar devices (expected in 1977 to be double 1976 sales of \$70 milllon) is growing faster than the industry can handle.

Rhett Turnipseed, Washington-based solar energy expert with the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA), said Carter's goal of 2.5 million installations of solar energy devices by 1985—and his proposed tax credit of up to \$2,000 for a family that purchases a solar heating system-have spurred the industry. An estimated 30,000 solar units now are in use, mostly to heat

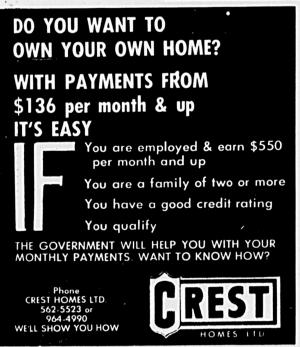
But Turnipseed said high utility bills and dwindling natural gas supplies last winter also attracted interest in solar energy. The typical

costs \$1,600 or more, and spaceheating systems may be purchased for \$10,000, installed. But the savings in electric-

> SAFARI **PLANNED**

TORONTO (CP) Florida failed to ward off the February blahs, the Metro Toronto Zoological Society has an idea for February, 1978-an East African Safari for its members. For \$1,194, members can escape to Kenya for a 17-day holiday, pursuing such creatures as the blue-necked Somali ostrich, long-necked gerunuk, the white rhinoceres

EXCURSIONS Jet Boat Rides on the Nechako & Fraser Rivers COMING and the bongo. SOON





Margaret 'is happier with her life'

WASHINGTON (CP) - The Washington Star reported today that Margaret Trudeau told a dinner companion that the recent switch in her lifestyle has made her happier than she has ever been.

The wife of Canada's Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau attended the Thursday banquet of the White House News Photographers Association as a guest of People magazine.

But she declined to give any interviews during the evening. "The wise man said follow me and then walked behind," she said in turning down one interview request. The Star did not say which of her dinner companions quoted the remark about her being happy.

Mrs. Trudeau also balked when asked to pose for photos with the banquet's other popular figure, U.S. President Car-

"I will not be manipulated," she said when asked to stand

Carter, however, agreeably sidled over to her and photographers got their pictures.

Mrs. Trudeau also complained about autograph-seekers, saying "it's a sort of silly way to relate to people."

Carter, who was seated at the same table as Mrs. Trudeau, agreed: "It really is a pain signing autographs. Almost as much a pain as talking with reporters."





Both Mrs. Trudeau and the president's brother stood to be introduced, with Carter getting the heaviest applause. Earlier, she had attended a New York performance of the American Ballet Theatre with her friend, Princess Yasmin Khan.

One of the People magazine officials at the Washington dinner, chief photographer John Dominis, said Mrs. Trudeau

has done well in her work for the magazine:

"She's serious about photography and if she works at it she could be quite a photographer.

"She's had a lot of offers, but she likes to move slowly.

Most (freelance) photographers have a tough time getting in. But she has absolutely everybody in the world asking her.'

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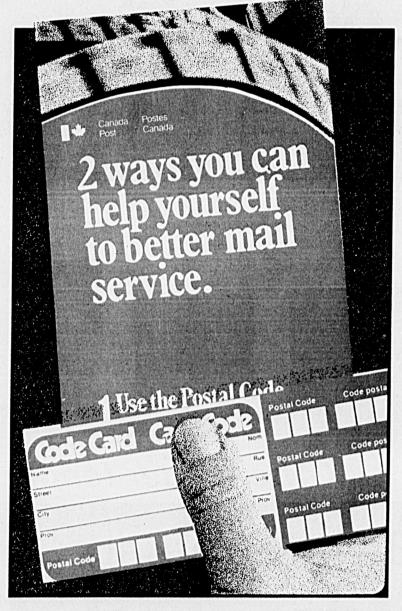


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