THE HOT AIR BALLOON IS A LOFTY EXAMPLE OF HOW MAN CAN USE THE FORCES OF NATURE. SUCH BALLOONS HAVE SOARED HUNDREDS OF MILES. OTHER FREE AND INEXPENSIVE ENERGY SOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO US IF WE CAN FIND WAYS TO HARNESS THEM.

HOT AIR BALLOON BEING FILLED WITH AIR HEATED BY PROPANE GAS, READY FOR LAUNCHING AT DEDICATION OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY'S NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL OFFICE.
THE ENERGY CRISIS

A Threat, But A Mixed Blessing

What portends for the future as we face the energy crisis? For one thing, energy of all kinds will cost more. A neighbor just had the oil in his furnace filled and reports the price of fuel has more than doubled since last winter. Gasoline prices are soaring. Those of us with all-electric homes have not been immediately affected, but it makes me feel rather guilty that I depend on electricity to heat my home. Electricity is the cleanest source of heat in a home, and I don’t have to worry about the pollution from the coal-burning electric company’s generator. But it takes 1/4 as much coal or oil to heat a house as it does to generate electricity to heat the same size house.

Government pollution controls may have to be relaxed so we can get by with less fossil fuel energy. The power company serving the nation’s capital has just converted two generating plants from coal to fuel oil, to meet pollution control standards. Now, because fuel oil will be used, it may be forced to convert the plants back to burning coal again. We’ve often thought there was too much talk about pollution and not enough action, and that too many people seemed unconcerned. Now, perhaps, the energy crisis will affect people so directly that forced to become involved. They may begin buying smaller cars, lowering the thermostat, avoiding unnecessary trips, and finding other ways to conserve fuel.

One of the basic problems has already been pinpointed by the determination of the administration for the U.S. to become self-sufficient in energy sources within the next five years. It brings to light that Americans get more than they give—nearly 8% of the world’s population, we consume more than 40% of the Earth’s natural resources. If each American valued the quality of self-reliance enough, and actively sought to produce as much as he could of what he consumed, we could solve our problems simply and effectively in far less time than five years.

When the comfort and convenience of people spoiled by luxury is threatened, they are bound to have a reaction. When it was announced that a 55 mile per hour speed would save gasoline, even before speed limits were officially imposed, many drivers began slowing down. This voluntary response could vanish quickly unless backed by regulatory action, but it proved that Americans can willingly respond to meet an emergency. It restored my faith in my fellow Americans, who, when threatened, are too compliant and too complacent to do their part. Now let’s hope many people will begin inquiring into alternate designs and products that consume less energy, yet provide the conveniences we seek in our daily lives.

In only two ways are animals likely to be directly affected by the energy crisis: one benefit and one hazard. The number of animals killed on the nation’s highways should drastically decrease when speed limits are controlled at 55. It’s far easier to brake to a stop or otherwise avoid hitting an animal at 55 than it is at 70. Animals kept in classrooms, on the other hand, may actually suffer, with their thermostat regulated at room temperature. Many little animals, kept in classrooms as pets, cannot withstand these lower temperatures.

The humane society would like to contact every school board throughout the United States with this warning so that classroom animals can be protected. But there are over 25,000 schools in this country, and we have no way of contacting them all. Kind members can help protect classroom animals by writing to the superintendent of your local school district, with the above information and the suggestions found in your December newsletter on this subject. Quote whatever information you need from these articles, then ask the superintendent to inform every school and teacher how classroom animals can be protected during the energy crisis.

The energy crisis may bring with it a mixed bag of blessings, along with some minor inconveniences like higher prices. What the environmental movement, the Environmental Protection Agency, and all the other anti-pollution efforts have failed to do, the energy crisis may very well accomplish, because even the most complacent American to be aware that there are problems. It may even force a large majority of them to get involved in helping solve the problem of pollution. All may be forced to some of the pollution we had begun to eliminate, but it will also open new inquiries into alternative energy sources that have been ignored. Right now Congress is calling for intensive research into the possible use of the sun’s rays as a source of energy. Right in the suburbs of the nation’s capital are six or seven houses that are heated by solar energy. The first one built has been heated by solar energy, for some energy is being experimented with this and other energy sources, independently, without adequate funding to research their work properly, because until this time no one cared. Now perhaps Congress will get involved and give them the funds they need to design the methods of using alternate sources of power.

We have the technology to solve virtually any crisis we can anticipate. Certainly we have the technology, if properly applied, to let the sun, the wind, the water forces of nature help us to have a more comfortable life, with power to spare. But to do so we must reassess our thinking; apply it to use technology so it will do us the most good. Bigger is not always better. Totally new Index page for 1974

In every way we try to keep costs down so more animals can be helped. Here’s one way you can help: You’ll need a new Index page for the main ‘Subject of the Month’ topics appearing in your newsletters during 1974. You can make your own Index page, patterned after the one included in this new Index page, so we don’t have to make one and send it to you, together we can save about $75.00 for helping animals.
WHOOPING CRANES THREATENED BY BOMBERS

The Air Force practices bombing raids on Matagorda Island, near the wildlife refuge that is the winter home of the whooping cranes. They don't use real bombs, but the Interior Department claims the planes' high-speed, low-level flights are upsetting the birds. Fifty-five cranes were counted last year; only 46 have been seen this winter. Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger could issue an order to practice the bombing raids somewhere else. He is a birdwatcher himself, and if enough KIND members wrote him, he might help protect the whooping cranes. Write him at:

CASEY BROWN IS OUR THIRD PRIZE WINNER IN LAST SUMMER'S PHOTO CONTEST. THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN AT THE PITTSBURGH ZOO. CASEY HAS BEEN A KIND MEMBER ALMOST FROM THE FIRST, AND SHE IS NOW 17.

WHALE POSTER/PETITION PACKET

HELP SAVE THE WHALES. Use the poster to tell about the problem and the petition to let people sign their protest to the killing of whales. This packet can be used in school in the front lobby, the hall, the library, or just circulated in each classroom. Be sure to get permission to put it up, then order the packet for just $1.

Every 12 minutes a whale is killed.

THE BACK TO THE LAND MOVEMENT

There is a lot of interest in escaping the 'rat-race' tension of the city and returning to a more natural life. Young people in particular are questioning the values of the modern world, sometimes searching out and establishing values for themselves which are most commendable and worthy of their depth of thought and sensitivity.

Pioneers are made, not born, and if you have the determination to seek out and adopt special values, there is greater opportunity to do so today than ever before. Seven years ago when I made an attempt to 'get back to the land' most people thought I was foolish. Maybe I was. But with grit and determination, and the help of many faithful friends, I've done it.

Saving money for the big jump took sacrifice. The cabin I built strictly by hand, carrying every stick of lumber up the hill to the house site. The water pipes froze and burst several times the first winter, because I hadn't insulated them. My electricity was turned off during a storm because the first bill was sent to the wrong address. When there was snow on the ground, I had to pull the groceries up the hill on a home-made sled, because the car couldn't get through the snow.

I wouldn't have made it without a lot of volunteer help of friends that I hadn't counted in the bargain when I first made my plans. I'm indebted to them. If I had it to do over again, I wouldn't have done so many things the hard way. Like the cement mixer. I have one now. But because of its cost, I refused to buy one, and mixed all the cement by hand.

If you want to begin planning habits for a more natural life, use modern conveniences to your advantage, so the transition will be easier than it was for me. I have had to compromise on things, too. But life is full of compromises, and our challenge is to select the compromise that is the best choice.

Sharing my experiences may help you when you come to making decisions about your own life style. Future articles will present some of the actual problems encountered in a move from city to country living, and the change of life style that has resulted.

CINDY, MY FRIEND OF NEARLY 12 YEARS, WHO WAS STOLEN. THE TATTOO ON HER INNER FLANK WAS THE ONLY THING THAT PROMPTED THE THIEF TO RETURN HER. (SEE PET THEFT STORY, OCTOBER NEWSLETTER).
Jethro and Clem were two wolves proud and brave. They lived in the wild, avoiding human contact, but they were known for their loyalty and bravery. Jethro and Clem were two wolves proud and brave. They lived in the wild, avoiding human contact, but they were known for their loyalty and bravery.

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ECOLOKIND IS FOR YOU

If you have been receiving the DEFENDERS newsletter, you are now being sent the EcoloKIND newsletter, because you have graduated. EcoloKIND is being sent to every DEFENDER KIND member who will become 15 during this year. EcoloKIND is the senior division of KIND members who are 15-18. As you become more of an adult, you will find additional ways you can help animals and your efforts will be more effective. Please keep us informed on how you have been able to help needy animals.

TIME TO RENEW

If you haven't renewed your KIND membership for 1974, do it now. Use the form below and send your dues in right away.

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EcoloKIND is published monthly for members ages 15-18 by KIND, youth membership division of The Humane Society of the U.S. R. Dale Hylton, Editor

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