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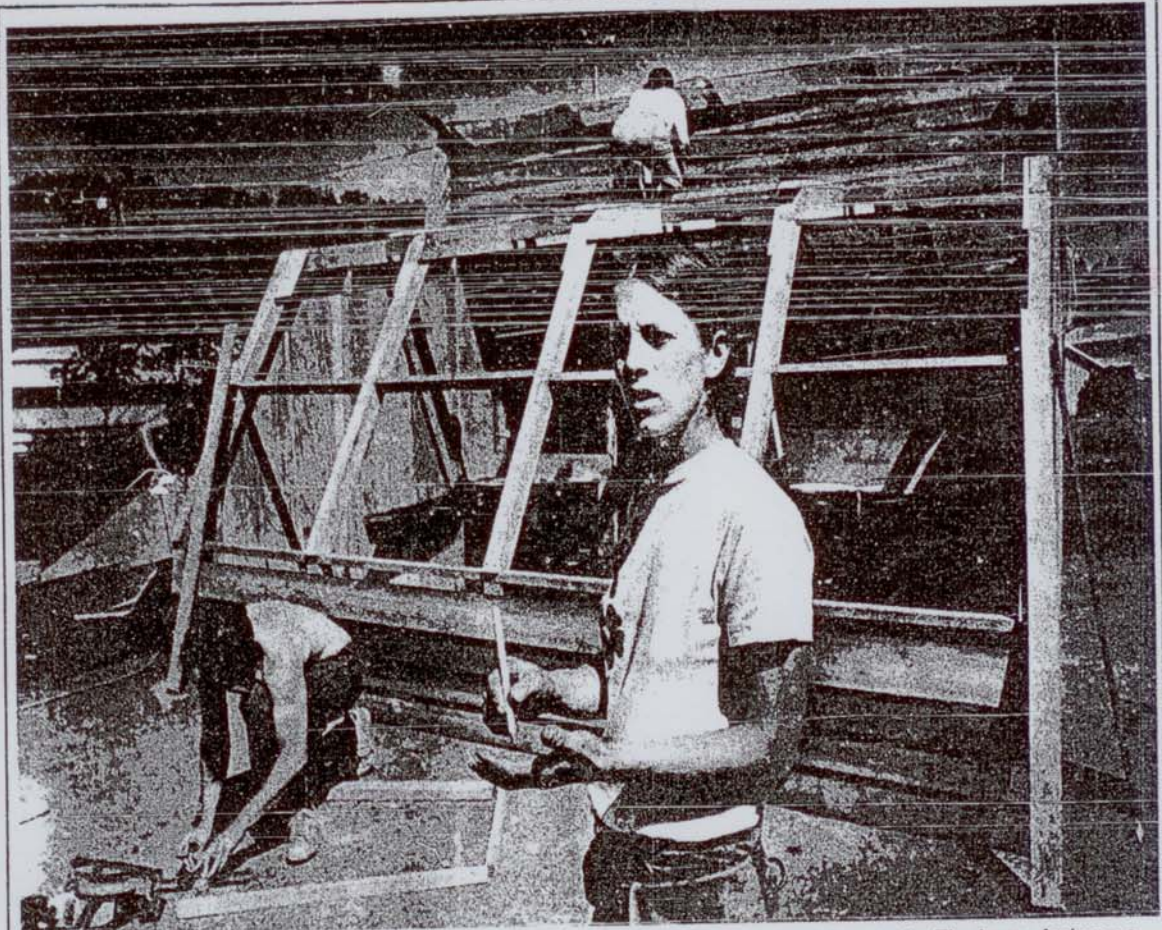
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Martha Rose and her co-workers put the finishing touches on the "integral home" that is one of the key exhibits at the Northwest Alternative Energy Fair

opening today at the fairgrounds. The house features a number of energy and resource saving devices. (Daily World Photo by Kathy Quigg)

Energy fair features unique home

By MARGARET CERVENKA
World Staff Writer

ELMA—The two-room model home under construction at the Grays Harbor County fairgrounds evokes memories of days past, with its bare wood walls, compost toilet and wood cookstove.

But builder Martha Rose and others believe the energy-, space- and resource-saving structure points to the future, as Americans come to the realization they are living in a country — and world — of limited resources.

The "integral" house is just one of the many energy-saving ideas that will be featured today, Saturday and Sunday at the Northwest Alternative Energy Fair, located at the county fairgrounds just east of Elma.

The integral home contains a number of concepts and devices that not only save energy but often serve more than one function and complement each other.

THE ATTACHED greenhouse, with its plant beds, water barrels and insulated concrete floor, can be used as a place to grow food and can also store heat to warm the rest of the house, said Rose, who owns and operates Rose Construction Co. of Elma.

She also noted that the room could be used as a dining area or lounge—or whatever other use struck the homeowner's fancy.

"Your imagination is the only thing that holds you back," she said.

The compost toilet cuts water use and produces a pathogen-free compost that can be used as fertilizer for houseplants or outside trees and shrubs.

When the wood cookstove is cooking, it also heats the home, and it can be used as a food dehydrator by hanging racks of food above the stove.

EVEN THE walls of the model home illustrate a method of eliminating waste: the lumber

used is mostly old-growth fir salvaged from a completed logging operation and would have been burned as slash.

Other features of an integral house can include insulated shutters, a sprouting system, a "grey water" system for filtering and re-use of bath and dishwater and an insulated cabinet cooler that Rose said can store probably 90 percent of the foods normally kept in a refrigerator.

Rose said she will try to include as many of these features as possible in her integral home exhibit. All of the home components included in the exhibit have been donated by different people and businesses, she explained.

Rose acknowledges that a home with so many energy- and resource-saving features may not appeal to all tastes.

"Not everyone may want all these features," she said. "We need to choose the ones that are right for us."

"But I think people don't

realize all the options. The idea of this exhibit is to show people the options...how far they can go."

THE COST of such energy-efficient homes can be comparable to or less than the cost of a more traditional-style home, Rose said, depending on the individual tastes of the buyer.

In her construction, Rose prefers to keep houses simple and eliminate shag carpeting, extra doors and walls and other indoor "finish" items that she says are the most expensive parts of a new home.

Some "extras," such as thicker outside walls and increased insulation, cost more initially but pay for themselves in reduced electricity bills, Rose said.

Returning to the simpler life of the past in resource-saving, integral homes can put people "more in touch with the earth and her boundless gifts," she says. "Living lightly is what it is all about without sacrificing quality of life."

Iranians say Carter plotted siege