

May 30, 2010

Green house admissions

Ojai couple's modular energy-efficient home is a benefit to environment and their wallets too.

**By Wendy Dager
Special to The Star**

When Bill and Helen Haff purchased their energy-efficient modular home last year, they knew it would be an eye-opening experience, but they weren't entirely prepared when they saw it in black and white.

The couple, who moved from Boston to Ojai in October, bought their Craftsman-style manufactured home from Modular Lifestyles Inc. Among its amenities were R-42 cellulose recyclable paper insulation and a solar paneled roof.

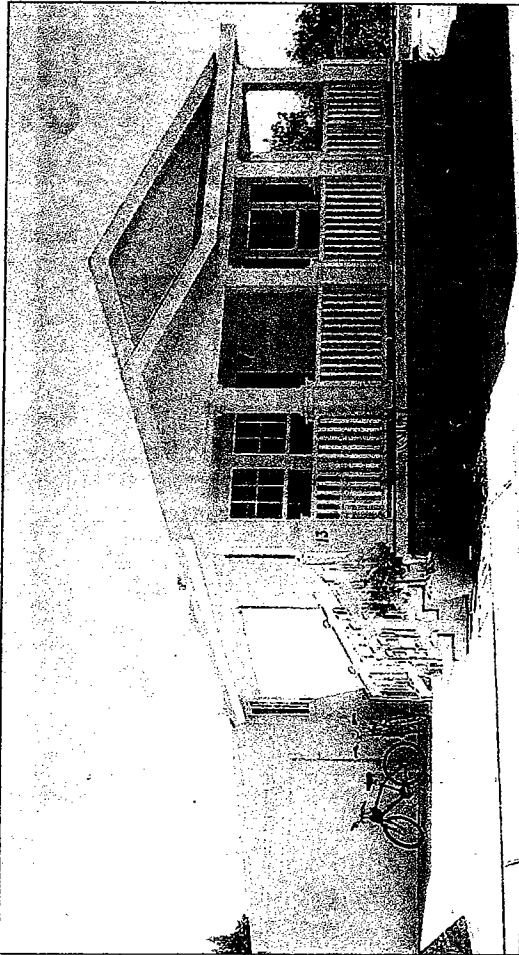
"If we generate more than we use, it goes out into the grid. We're like a power station and can be paid the market rate for electricity." Bill Haff, homeowner

Bill Haff, who has been tracking his utility usage, says these factors contribute to his low monthly Southern California Edison bill. For Jan. 10 to Feb. 19 the bill was just \$19.48, reflecting 160 kilowatt hours of electricity use, with the balance of 158 kilowatt hours generated by the solar panels. In that same period, a neighbor who lives in a conventional manufactured home used approximately 600 kilowatt hours.

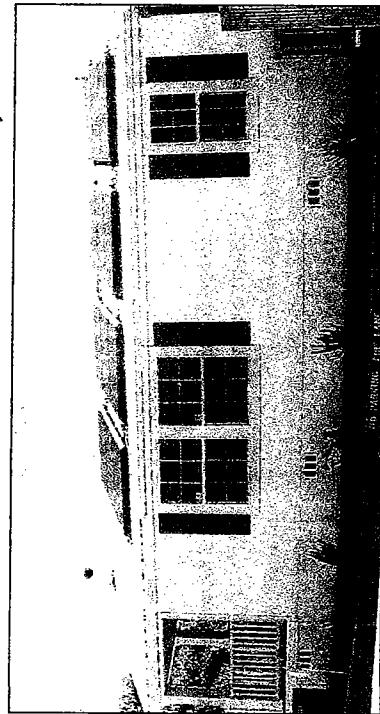
The Haffs' solar panel system cost \$18,000, but, with tax credits, the actual amount will be around \$13,000. It is also possible that, by the end of the calendar year, the Haffs will be able to get their electricity at no cost.

"Then, if we generate more than we use, it goes out into the grid," said Haff. "We're like a power station and can be paid the market rate for electricity."

Green manufactured homes information: <http://www.modularlifestyles.com>.



Photos courtesy of Bill Haff



Solar panels placed on Bill and Helen Haff's modular home in Ojai have been paying off since the moment they were installed. Their electric bill from January to February was only \$19.48.

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