

SOLAR HOUSE POWERED BY DELCO REMY BATTERIES



The Giant as drawn by architect Robert McGill.

Deep within a woods lies an unusual structure -- one that depends on Delco Remy for life. The uniquely shaped building uses solar power in conjunction with Delco Remy 2000 solar batteries.

"When most people think of batteries, they think of them starting cars," Vic Cook said. "Delco 2000 batteries power my entire house, the Giant, and do it for free." Cook alone conceived, designed and built the earth home powered by solar energy. "I want to show people that we have an energy source that's renewable and that we can use."

Cook's unique energy plant is a solar system comprised of Delco 2000 solar batteries, solar panels, a gas generator used to power a washing machine, and a battery charger. The concept works by using photovoltaic energy -- electricity made from sunlight. The solar batteries work as a storage system at night for the energy gathered from the sun during the day. Inside the Giant, the lights, refrigerator system, cellular telephone, big screen television, alarm system, workshop and music recording suite all receive power from those batteries.

EPS Circuits -- Page 6

have to destroy our planet to have a good lifestyle and the Giant exhibits that."

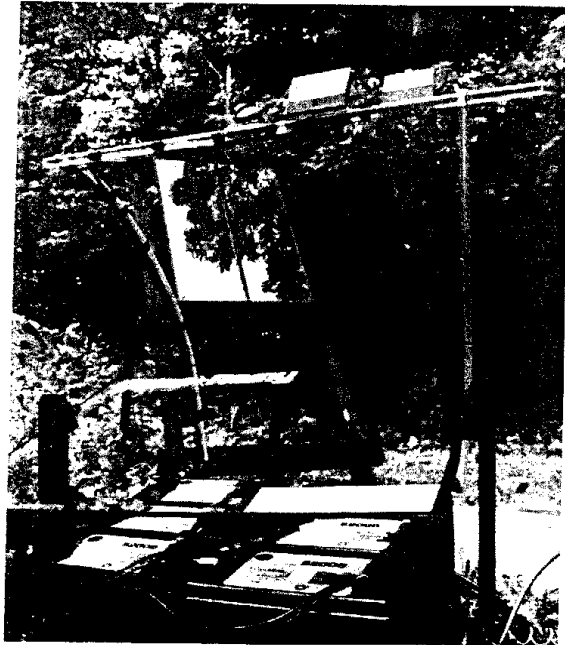
The same theme lies behind his choice of a name for the home. According to Cook, as Neil Armstrong declared landing on the moon to be a giant step for mankind, Cook declared the Giant to be a giant step for the environment by being so energy and cost efficient.

Cook accomplished his dream using several unusual tactics. First, he researched boat design for structural strength. A year later his research ended with a scale model of a house that would be built from nature, powered by nature and withstand 200 mile per hour winds.

Next, he built. Cook said the Giant cost approximately \$4,000 and 26,000 hours to build. He kept costs low by performing approximately 95 percent of the work himself and by using natural resources. "Almost everything I needed was free," he said. "I bought most of the other things I needed -- windows and nails -- at sales."

Most free items came from his surrounding three acres of land.

Cook said the solar home, nestled in a woods in Pendleton, Indiana, is the product of a childhood dream. "Years ago, when I read about air and water pollution, I hoped to make a difference in how people viewed the environment," he said. "I built the home as an environmental statement. We don't



The Delco Remy photo-voltaic Delco 2000 batteries store the solar energy needed to power The Giant. (Photo by Dave Edwards)

The home was constructed from dead and dying trees he found there. The floors are made from stones found near and in Fall Creek, only a few feet away. Cook even made most of his furniture and a refrigeration system from the trees.

But no matter how unique or important a statement is, to be successful it must have an audience. Through several news and magazine articles and a popular Public Broadcasting Service documentary, A Giant In the Woods, Cook believes that audience can continue to grow.

According to Cook, the Giant has brought thousands of people per year to participate in environmental workshops. Workshops are held by reservation from mid-April through October. After completing the workshop, participants are invited back to the Giant free of charge. For further information, contact Sue Blakely on (317) 778-2757.

Although Cook has seen the Giant become a reality, his dreams continue. Future plans include a solar powered laser show, a solar passenger car and an electric Indy 500 race car. "The solar battery can have a tremendous impact on our lives," Cook said. "We can't wait on legislation to save the environment."

- Norma Smith, Editor

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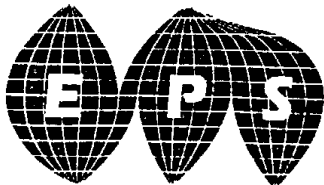
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