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Oldest postoffice marks year 50

United Press International
NEW YORK — The oldest, continuously operated local postal service in the world marked its 50th anniversary this year by issuing a special set of five stamps. The service is located on the rocky little island of Lundy, 11 miles off the coast of England, which went into the postal business a half-century ago when the British Postal Service closed its local office. The stamps the island office issues are called Lundy Locals and they are used on about 60,000 items a year to pay the cost of getting the mail to and from the mainland.

the nation

Salt-filled rods store energy

United Press International
SAN JACINTO, Calif. — A six-foot tall rod made of polyethylene and filled with a salt that melts at 81 degrees Fahrenheit is proposed as a good way to keep your home or office warm at night.

It does nothing but absorb heat during the day and radiate it at night. Certified Energy Systems of California recently introduced the "Energy Rod," called, more accurately, a "phase-change thermal energy storage unit."

The rod, four inches in diameter, captures and stores heat above 81 degrees, such as sun-radiant heat streaming through windows during the daylight hours.

Richard Lindholm, vice president of the company, said each rod stores 2,600 BTUs of latent heat and 16 BTUs of specific heat.

A BTU, or British Thermal Unit,

is the amount of heat it takes to raise one pound of water by one degree.

The idea is to expose a group of energy rods to sunlight or other heat sources, let them absorb heat and then radiate out the BTUs when the temperature falls below 81 degrees.

"The phase change is when it freezes or liquefies," Lindholm said. "It has a freezing temperature of 81 degrees. Above that it liquefies. And it does all its changing at 81 degrees just as water changes to ice at 32 degrees."

"As a liquid it stores heat just as a battery stores power."

There are two different types of designs, he said, passive and active.

"As a passive design, set it in sunlight behind a window. When the sun goes down, pull the shades to close off the heat loss and it radiates heat into the room.

"In an active design, you would

build a storage box and duct work with fans, or you could vent a clothes dryer—which throws off a lot of heat—and then close it up and duct the heat into the room later."

A collection of 36 energy rods takes up two square feet of floor space, he said, and a single rod, weighing 34 pounds, equals the heat storage capacity of 14,577 pounds of rock or 2,624 pounds of water.

The materials used in the rods include a high molecular weight, high density polyethylene for the container, and Salt Hexahydrate for the phase-change material inside.

Certified Energy Systems came into being about two and one-half years ago, Lindholm said, after he, his brother, Marvin, who is president of the company, and other partners had experimented with various methods of solar heating.

They began working with a pro-

duct made by a Nebraska energy rods but said the problems with the casing.

"In the process of trying suitable storage systems, we across the Dow Chemical Co. (ri!), the salt we now use, used marketing and manufacturing.

How much would it save on energy cost for the average home? Lindholm said depending on the size of the home and its construction, savings on fuel cost could be as 60 to 80 percent.

The rods require no maintenance, just proper storage, carry a guarantee and wholesale price about \$30.

"The idea is," Lindholm said, "rods can use heat from radiators from furnaces, machinery, operations, or cooking—can no longer afford to waste

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Carcinogens can be left out

Science able to cure cancer

United Press International
CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The word "carcinogen" entered the average American's vocabulary when cancer-causing chemicals turned up in such things as soft drinks, hamburgers and maraschino cherries.

Carcinogens — substances able to cause cancer — occur naturally in some foods, but the majority are additives put there as artificial flavors, colors, sweeteners or preservatives.

It might be hard to imagine that Americans could lead the same life style without some of the questionable chemical compounds used in the food and manufacturing industries.

Not so, says Dr. Johnathan King, a geneticist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He thinks it is possible to have the same quality of life — if not the same life style — without filling the world with carcinogens.

"I can't think of a really major car-

cinogen that is absolutely necessary and can't be replaced with something else," he said.

Scientists have estimated 75 percent to 90 percent of all human cancers are caused by environmental factors, including chemicals in foods or environment.

Maraschino cherries were once colored with Red Dye No. 2, which has since been banned by the Food and Drug Administration because the chemical was found to cause cancer in test animals.

The cherries are still red because they are colored with Red Dye No. 40. An FDA spokesman said No. 40 has undergone extensive tests and there is no evidence it is harmful — although the agency is still studying it.

But either of these synthetic food colorings could be replaced with a natural substance, King said, and still produce red cherries.

Given a choice between food with carcinogens and less colorful foods

without them, King said, "I would inevitably choose the color-free foods — only they're not that option."

"The trouble is people don't want to suffer through four or five years of cancer or a slightly maraschino cherry, and what they choose?"

The problem, therefore, is not one of making the public aware that companies put chemicals in food, King said.

"It's not sufficient to let the right choice because no one is going to tell you they (the ingredients) cause cancer," he said. "The laws because there are very strict."

Ultimately, King said, "we should use available tests and toward eliminating hazardous chemicals from food."

"With our modern science, we have the capacity to not intentionally introduce products into our environment that are damaging to human health," he said. "Get chemicals at the source, at the site of production, before it gets into the marketplace," he said. "Identify it before man damage is done — don't introduce it into human society."

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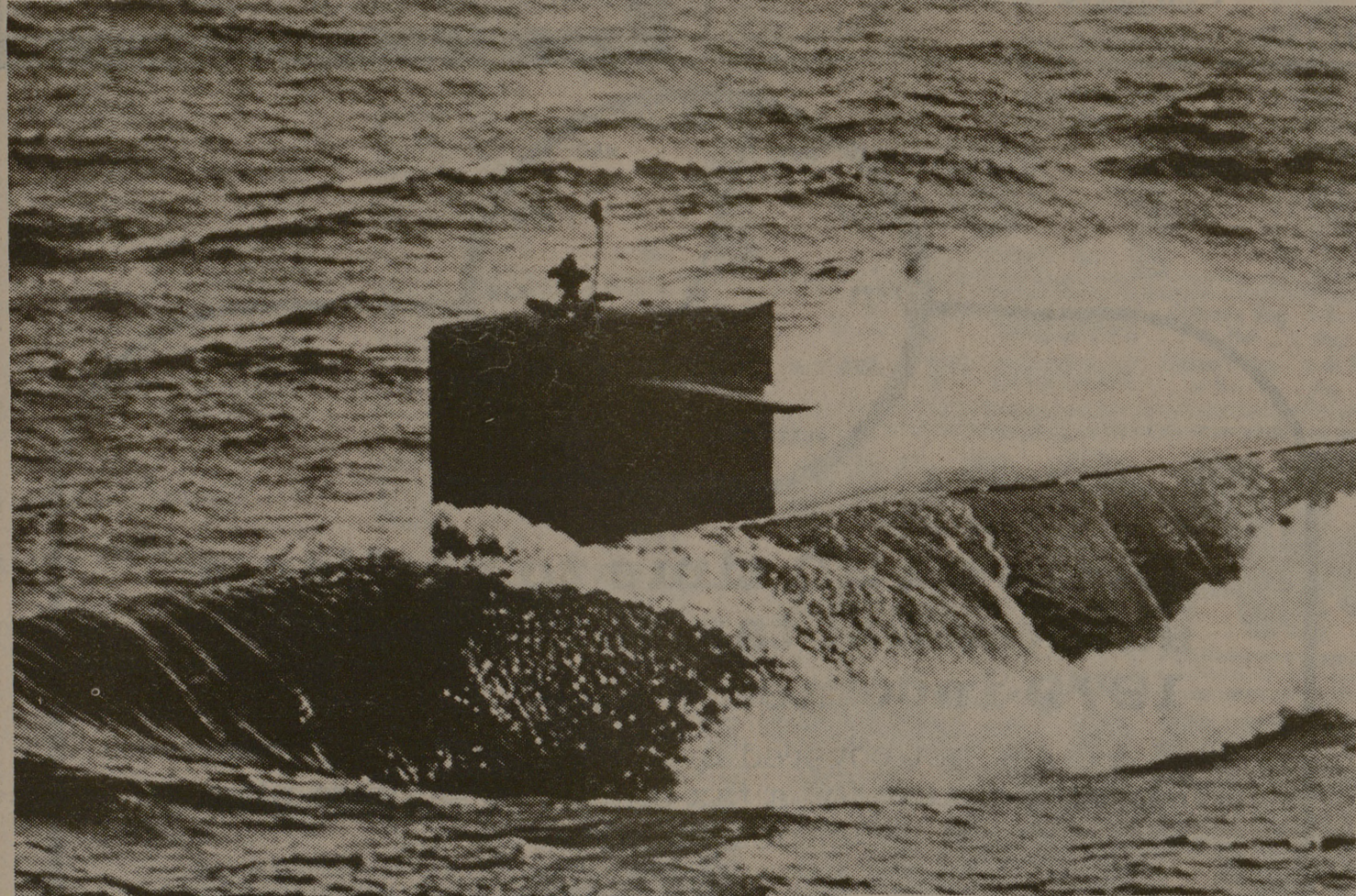
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