**Space Mirrors**

Giant Night Light Would Orbit Earth

By WALTER SULLIVAN  
N.Y. Times News Service  
NEW YORK — Kraft A. Ehrlich, a rocket engineer and proponent of ambitious space ventures, has proposed that giant orbiting mirrors be used to reflect sunlight onto the night side of the earth, preventing crop freezes and, perhaps, the climate's deterioration into a new ice age.

As an initial step a less elaborate system would provide nighttime illumination, allowing farmers to conduct round-the-clock planting or harvesting when conditions are ideal or bad weather threatens. Disaster areas, such as currently snow-bound Buffalo or an earthquake scene, could be lighted to permit all-night rescue operations.

The aim of the mirrors would be adjustable so that the beams of light could be delivered on demand. Sunlight could be marketed, much as in the future, perhaps through a system of pipes in the earth.

**15th Assault**

**East Area Rapist Attacks?**

A housewife was attacked and raped early today at her home near Crestview Drive and Madison Avenue, in what authorities say could be the 15th assault in the last 15 months by the east area rapist.

The method of operation is similar to the east area rapist, said sheriff's spokesman Bill Miller. However, Miller said that because of the continuing investigation into the rash of attacks no other possible evidence linking the east area rapist to the latest incident would be released.

The woman, in her early 30s, told police a man entered her home shortly after her husband left for work at 6:45 a.m. He bound her hands and feet with strips of cloth and raped her. Officers said he left the house at about 8 a.m.

The woman was alone at the time.

Authorities said the man wore a mask and gloves. In the 14 attacks attributed to the east area rapist, the man always wore a mask and gloves.

Officers said the woman, still bound, was able to crawl out of the house. Her screams were heard by neighbors who found her at about 8:30 a.m.

The man was described as white, 5-foot-8 to 5-foot-10 and about 150 pounds — the same general description of the east area rapist.

Last Thursday officers arrested William Paul Boren, 24, of Fair Oaks, in what they earlier called the 15th attack by the east area rapist. However, authorities later said that alleged attack apparently was a "copy cat."

In that incident, a woman in her 20s was assaulted in her home in Orangevale last Monday.

The attacks attributed to the east area rapist.

**Leave Tanzania**

Nairobi, Kenya (AP) — More than 100 North American tourists trapped for three days in Tanzania by a border closure were evacuated Sunday but hundreds of others foreign tourists remain stranded in the East African nation.

**Light Rain Expected, But It Will Be Little Help To Drought-Stricken California**

By TOM ARDEN  
Bee Staff Writer  
Rain will fall in Northern California tonight or Tuesday, the National Weather Service in Sacramento reported today.

But, said forecaster Warren Winden, it is expected to be light and virtually meaningless as far as drought relief is concerned.

Winden said there is a 30 percent chance of rain in Sacramento but the probability is much greater for the north California coast and inland northern mountain regions.

"I'm pretty sure we will be getting something out of it," he stated.

But because of mild temperatures the snow line, it is predicted, will be around 7,000 feet.

The storm approaching the northern part of the state, Winden said, was 500 miles out in the Pacific this morning, and its chances of giving rain to parched California land were increased by a weakening of the strong high pressure responsible for the drought.

Sacramento has had no rain since Jan. 12, and the seasonal precipitation total of 3.98 inches is 7.96 inches below normal for this date.

The Sierra Nevada is almost barren of snow. At Norden, near Donner Pass, snow tires may be necessary in a few days, according to the roads department.

**Obledo Announces Health Facilities Probe**

By JAMES LEWIS  
Bee Staff Writer  
The Brown administration, in a highly visible move to encourage nursing homes and other health providers to clean up their operations, today announced an investigation of 33 facilities around the state.

Twelve teams of doctors, nurses, auditors and health fraud specialists from the Department of Health and Social Services will work with 33 facilities, according to Health and Welfare Secretary Mario Obledo.

Benefit Payments, said the 75 members of the investigative teams will take about six weeks to examine 48 nursing homes, six regional centers for the developmentally disabled (retarded) and seven homemaker services.

Asked why the administration chose to publicly announce the investigation instead of first completing it, Obledo said he simply felt it was time to "wake up the people that there were some problems in the facilities" that people "would clean them up."

However, Obledo said he does not know how long the probe will last.