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Here—and this is supplied by solar collectors. Insulation is claimed to have a virtually unlimited life.

Why hydrogen? Because it's the only way known to store hydrogen. It is best stored as Time-Action Diesel (see 1984 Road Test, p. 100). Instead, conventional hydrocarbons are first into fully saturated hydrocarbons. The only fuels that resulted were kerosene and gasoline. Other methods of hydrogen storage as compressed gas or liquid form are more costly and potentially dangerous.

What's cooking?

In the Huesman's kitchen, hydrogen fuel—the name and even concentrated applications were converted by Tarpon to Billings' catalytic system. First, the primary air supply is closed off. In a two-stage system, air is heated with natural gas before it reaches the burner for a greater air-to-oxidation ratio. With hydrogen this isn't necessary, so that in the hydrogen flame—back in enough oxygen to support combustion. The hydrogen is ignited electronically.

Because hydrogen has a vertical heat distribution, the flame is hot on top with little heat radiated to the sides—the gas soon is covered with a steel-wire catalyst to spread the flame and distribute heat more evenly. This also keeps the combustion temperature so that oxidized nitrogen are not formed.

Hydrogen also fuels the Huesman's domestic water heater; the supplemental gas burner, a heat pump provides primary space heating and an condensing artificial log in fireplaces, and an outside bathroom.

Vehicles, too, are included in the

Hydrogen-powered vehicles.

- A dual-fuel Cadillac Seville, with two hydrogen tanks, can run 50 to 60 miles on an overnight charge of hydrogen. The car uses a spark plug to liberate hydrogen from the hydride storage tanks (see "Cooking"). To run on regular gas, you merely flip a switch.

Hydrogen-powered cars like this, with a single hydride tank mounted behind the driver's seat, will run for an hour on a two-to-three-minute charge, according to Billings. Engine heat also heats the hydrogen in the vehicle (see "Cooking").

Billings' Huesman is an impressive step toward the hydrogen revolution. We'll follow their progress—keep you informed.

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