

## A brown golf ball? A wooden egg?

# Dome home rouses curiosity

By PAUL ANDREWS  
Suburban Writer

**BOTHELL**—"It looks like a huge brown golf ball," said a duffer at the Wayne Golf Course here. "It looks like a big wooden egg," said a waitress at a Bothell short-order restaurant.

Few who see it can resist commenting on the geodesic dome being built by Steve and Janet Bondelid near the banks of the Sammamish River.

"We still get asked a lot, 'What's it gonna be, what's it gonna be?'" said Bondelid, who feels that by now it should be obvious that the structure will be the couple's new home.

**AIDED BY** relatives and friends, the Bondelids have been working on the dome since last April. They have managed to nearly complete the exterior despite frequent interruptions from curiosity-seekers and assorted dome freaks.

The Bondelids might have guessed that the dome would draw some notice when they discovered that it was the first of its type ever approved by the King County Building Department. The geodesic dome isn't the first to be built in the county, Mrs. Bondelid said, but it is the first with plans detailed and workable enough to be approved by the Building Department.

The couple decided to build the structure after seeing photographs of geodesic domes in a magazine last year. "We'd looked at a lot of floor plans, but nothing struck us as very interesting until we saw these domes," Mrs. Bondelid said.

**FROM THERE**, they purchased a copy of "Dome Book 2," a paperback compilation of various dome designs edited by Lloyd Kahn, and developed plans for their home

based on the "shake dome" on page 53.

"It's a good structure to build, because it's very strong, and you get a lot of cubic space for the size of the enclosure," Mrs. Bondelid said. To test just how strong the dome was, the couple soldered together a 14-gauge copper-wire model of the structure, a foot in diameter.

"Steve found he could sit on it," Mrs. Bondelid said.

The geodesic dome, developed by Buckminster Fuller, consists of a series of triangles and sub-triangles, usually in the overall form of an icosahedron. It derives its great strength from distributing weight on any part of its surface throughout the surface structure.

The Bondelid dome—a hemisphere with a 30-degree truss—is 40 feet in diameter, with a floor area of 1,250 feet. It has two basic levels—a garage and basement below, and kitchen, bathroom, bedrooms and sunken living room above.

**A LOT OF** window space is provided for, including a pentagonal skylight at the top of the dome and a picture window overlooking the river. There also will be star-shaped skylights sloping down from the top of the dome.

When it is finished, the dome also will have a loft, a sun deck, a hanging fireplace and a circular stairway leading up from the lower-level entrance. The dome will be insulated with polyurethane foam, which the couple plans to paint for the interior.

About 7,200 cedar shakes are being used to cover the exterior. The round basement windows actually are old picture-tube covers which Bondelid, a television repairman, saved. "He thought maybe

they would come in handy some day," Mrs. Bondelid said.

Neither she nor her husband had done much construction work before building the dome. Their combined background included building a horse stall and putting together a dog house.

"My dad and family have sort of always done things by ourselves, so I wasn't really afraid to tackle something like this," Mrs. Bondelid said. Their construction techniques so far have included quite a bit of improvisation—"your imagination is taxed heavily building a dome," Bondelid said.

**ALL TOLD**, the Bondelids figure they will have spent about \$12,000 on the dome by the time they are fully moved in next spring. They also are doing their own plumbing and as much of their own wiring as the county code permits.

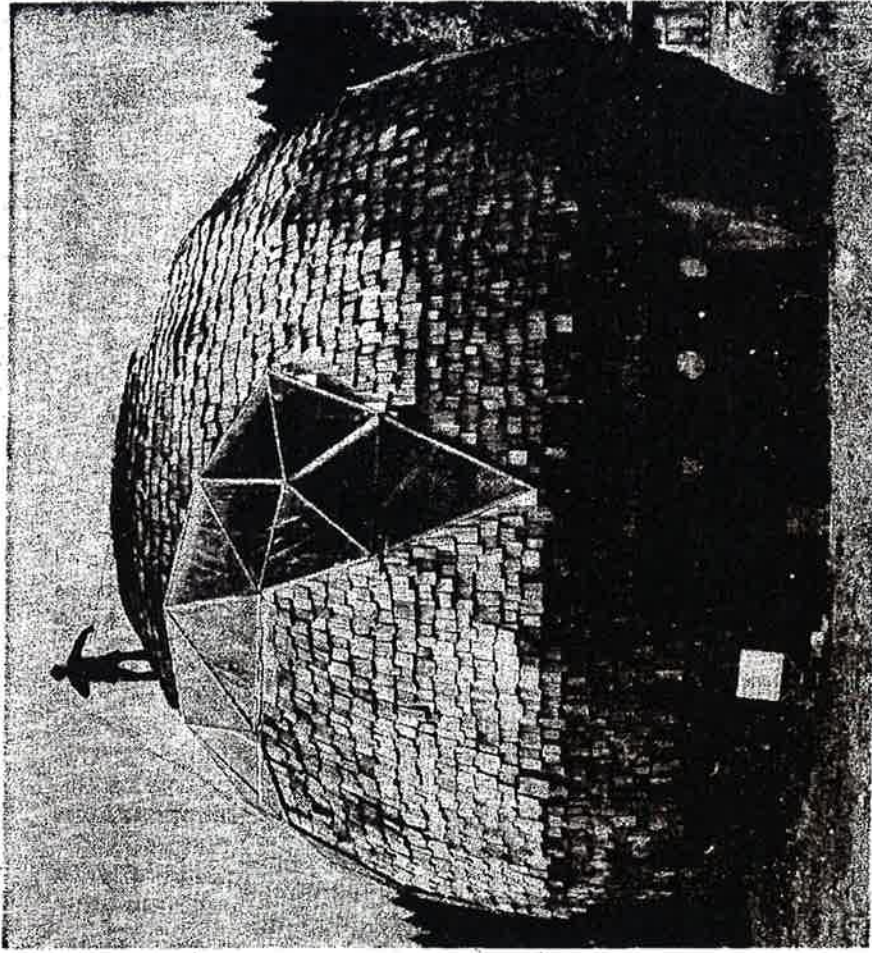
The Bondelids, who live in a rented home across the river from the dome, hope the curiosity-seekers will taper off as the structure nears completion. "We're going to put together a scrapbook on the building, and then if people really want to see it, we'll just hand them the book," Mrs. Bondelid said.

For now, they explain the structure to passers-by with a sign posted near the garage entrance. "Be It Ever So Hexagonal, There's No Place Like Dome."

By ALF COLLINS

Suppose you could remodel your home with the cost no object. That you could select all the goodies you want.

Then suppose you were required



Steve Bondelid checked for loose shingles

## Better housing in the cards



testing friends and fellow students and found that "it works with about any class of people."

Playing the game has generally created a great deal of involvement among participants because they are dealing with the personal space

8656 NE 170TH ST. - BOTHELL  
STEVE & JANET BONDELID HOME