## Ten million in heroin seized Computer detects dope truck

HIDALGO, Tex. — A Wisconsin family has been arrested and \$10 million in heroin has been seized - one of relatives. of the biggest dope hauls in Texas history — during routine use of a sophisticated computer system at the International Bridge. Officers tem, 28 pounds of heroin, estimated to be worth at least \$10 million on the underworld market, was confissaid without the computer system cated. the couple ordinarily might have escaped detection.

The arrests came Sunday afternoon when a pickup truck rolled to a stop at the bridge checkpoint. The couple inside, accompanied by a small child, appeared to be a family on a normal Sunday outing, officers

Routinely, a checkpoint employe punched the numbers from the license plate into a computerized system called "Treasury Enforcement Communications" or "TEC machine.

Sometime before Sunday agents from the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency had fed information into the computer indicating that the occupants of the vehicle were the subjects

of a drug smuggling investigation.

Moments after the employe punched the numbers into the computer, a response came from San Diego, Calif., more than 1,200 miles away, indicating that the vehicle de-served special attention. An employe directed the pickup truck to a secondary inspection area.

A search of the truck revealed that about 28 pounds of "Mexican brown" heroin was concealed inside the door

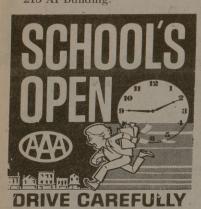
panels, authorities said. Officers arrested Manuel Nunez of Marshall, Wis., and his wife on charges of attempting to smuggle heroin from Mexico into the United

U.S. Magistrate Cruz Tijerina arraigned the couple and set bond at \$750,000 each. The pair was ordered



The freshman class will meet today in 301 Rudder Tower at 7:30 p.m. The motorcycle club will meet tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in Rudder

The TAMU Horseman's Association will meet tomorrow at 7 p.m. in 215 AI Building.



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held in the Cameron County jail at Brownsville in lieu of bond. The child was released to the care

Because of the computerized sys-

The "Mexican connection" had been derailed by electronic equip-

'It sure looks like they would have been passed through here if it hadn't been for the TEC machine," U.S. Customs Port Director Wayne Smith said.

They just appeared to be out for a Sunday drive, a man, his wife and small child. We see thousands of cars like that every day," Smith said.
The computerized system has

been used for several years although most motorists are not aware their license plate numbers are being checked as they drive up to the border crossing.

The system can be used to check for stolen cars and for persons wanted by city, state or federal officers in any part of the country.

SCOTCH BRAND

MASKING TAPE

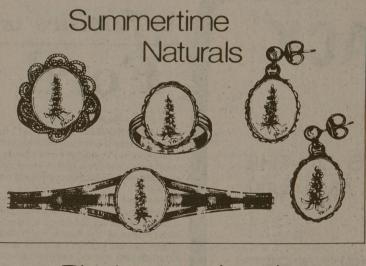
The spokesman cited an example of a case where the machine might indicate that the driver of a particular vehicle was wanted on an outstanding warrant issued by police in

In that case, a federal officer would temporarily detain the vehicle while a telephone call is made to Chicago to determine if the person is still

The driver could then be detained by local officers if Chicago officers still wanted him or her arrested.

The computer system at San Diego is linked to all border check stations in the United States and carries information from the National Crime Information Center, the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications networks, the National Auto Theft network and Interpol, the international police organiza-

This communications network is so effective that persons trying to avoid apprehension often think there's been a tip off," M.R. Blackwell, director of Customs at the Roma, Tex., international port of en-



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