

### Successful Course For Firemen Held

Three courses, basic training, instructor training and Red Cross lay-instructor, highlighted the 15th annual school for firemen held at the Texas A. & M. College, May 29-June 2 by the Department of Chemistry in cooperation with the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association. Over 400 firemen were enrolled from 274 Texas towns. Dr. C. C. Hedges, head of the Department of Chemistry, was director of the firemen's school.

Where a community has a fireman successfully taking the 27-hour intensive basic training course or the fire department instructor course, and returns to his home department, that community gets a three percent reduction in the whole town fire rate.

The annual school for firemen is held primarily for training regular or volunteer firemen in small towns and rural communities. Fire departments of the larger cities send department officials to assist in giving the drills and evolutions which make up the basic training course. This year, officials of fire departments of Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, Fort Sam Houston, Waco, Beaumont, Luling and Seguin demonstrated the nine drills and evolutions featured.

Report was made to the firemen's school on fire instructor training conducted by the Industrial Extension Service of the Texas A. & M. College in cooperation with the State Board for Vocational Education. This showed fire department instructor training was given to 1,146 firemen during the past year. These included a 30-hour instructor training course to 299 firemen; 10 hours of fire training to 293 building attendants; industrial and military fire brigade training was given 443 men, and 96 attended 15-hour classes at an officer's training conference.

### College Airport Available For Use

With the closing of the large Army Air Corps indoctrination center at Texas A. & M. College, Easterwood Field, the College Airport will be available for extensive civilian flying operations by July 1, Dr. Howard W. Barlow, acting dean of the School of Engineering, has announced.

Easterwood Field is reputed to be the largest and finest air field owned by a college or university in the United States. The airport comprises nearly 800 acres, about 400 of which are in the present limits of the field, the balance being available for approaches and future developments. There are three concrete paved runways 150 feet wide and 5140 feet long. Each runway has an accompanying taxi strip and a number of interconnectors to facilitate taxiing and traffic handling.

Present plans for the extension of these facilities for civilian use contemplate providing for storage, field service and repair.

Representing an investment of \$1,080,000, Easterwood Field is owned and operated by the Texas A. & M. College through the School of Engineering in cooperation with the Department of Aeronautical

Engineering.

Authorization for the establishment of a training school for aircraft and aircraft engine mechanics has been granted by the War Manpower Commission and funds will be provided by the State Board

for Vocational Education, acting through the A. & M. Industrial Extension Service, Dr. Barlow said. This course will be the forerunner of many similar ones to be established throughout the State. One is now being conducted at the

A. & M. War Training Center at Grand Prairie.

Additional facilities providing for flight and ground instruction for students at the Texas A. & M. College and local citizens will be provided as soon as possible.

These will be announced at the earliest possible date.

The blue of the sky and the colors of sunrise and sunset are due in a large measure to the presence of dust in the atmosphere.

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