

Campus Expansion Project Underway

By WILLIAM N. POWERS
Battalion Special Writer
Demolition of one of the smokestacks behind the Chilled Water and Central Power Plant is only part of a major utilities expansion project presently underway on campus.
Purpose of the project is to provide increased power generating capacity to meet the rapidly growing electrical load requirements of A&M University through 1970 and to prepare the way for the

air conditioning of more buildings. W. H. Badgett, director of the Physical Plant, said.
The plant has been expanded several times since the installation of boilers in 1916 and the first turbine generator in 1930. The most recent power generation addition, a steam boiler and turbine generator, occurred in 1956 and 1957.
Engineering studies indicated at the time that this equipment should be adequate for power

needs through 1966. Shortly after this addition, however, the electrical load began to accelerate at an increase of 18 per cent annually as compared to 7 per cent in previous years. This increase was due to the fact that today more buildings with greater electrical requirements are being built and many older buildings are being air conditioned, said Badgett.
After much research it was decided that a central chilled water plant would be an economic ad-

vantage over individual air conditioning units for each building. Two 1,000-ton absorption chillers were installed and placed in operation in 1962, Badgett said.
"At the present rate of new construction and the air conditioning of old buildings, the expansion of our Chilled Water and Central Power Plant is expected to carry us through 1970," claimed Badgett.
The installation of a 14,000 kilowatt generator, a 175,000 pound-per-hour boiler and three 1,000 ton

absorption chillers is underway. Three more 1,000 ton chillers, to be installed in the future, are included in the expansion plans, added Badgett.
To provide space for the expansion, one of the smokestacks is being removed. This stack isn't needed since the three low pressure boilers it had served have already been removed.
The stack now being torn down was originally built over 200 feet high during World War I. Light-

ning struck the stack in 1958, crumbling a portion off the top. It was at this time that the top 12 feet was removed, Badgett said.
Workmen are presently busy with air hammers and sledge hammers chipping off pieces and dropping them down the center to be hauled away. This is all a part of the continual growth of the university, Badgett noted.
According to the University's contract with A. P. Kasch and Sons of Big Spring, Texas, the

additions to the plant should be in operation by April 30, 1964, and all work completed by June 30. Buildings under contract which will include air conditioning are the new dormitories now being erected to house over 1,100 students and the dorms which are being renovated, Dormitories 14, 15, 16, and 17. Engineers have been employed to prepare plans for the air conditioning of Bolter Hall and a portion of the Mechanical Engineering Shop.

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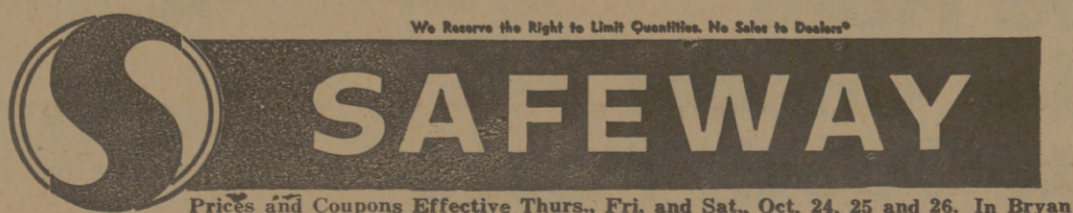
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