

A&M Oceanographers Help With Desalination Planning

If and when the world's largest atomic power and sea water desalination plant is built on or off the coast of Southern California, what will it do to the nature of the ocean nearby?

The Office of Saline Water of the U. S. Department of the Interior has contracted with the Dow Chemical Co. and a team of Texas A&M oceanographers, headed by Dr. Willis E. Pequegnat, department head, to find out.

Projected at one of three sites south of Los Angeles is a huge combined installation that eventually will produce 1,800 (c) million watts of electricity for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Southern California Edison Co. and the San Diego Gas Co., and 150 million gallons of potable water per day for the Metropolitan Water District of Los Angeles to be fed into the Colorado River water supply that serves greater Los Angeles. The installation will cost more than \$400 million.

One of the potential sites, and the most likely one at present, would be a man-made island some 4,000 feet offshore opposite Sunset Beach. The island also would contain an elaborate marina. The other two locations are at Corona del Mar and at Dana Point furth-

er down the coast. The Bechtel Corp. is making engineering and economic studies to determine which location would be best.

The A&M team of scientists is specifically concerned with what will happen to the region, that is, the waters off the coast, as a result of the very large discharge of effluent water, several hundred million gallons per day.

This effluent water will have a high salinity, high temperature, contain little or no oxygen or carbonates and will have a lot of phosphates in it. The surrounding ocean is relatively shallow.

A&M oceanographers want to find out, as a highly scientific study for OSW, what will happen to marine life, both plant and animal, large and microscopic. They want also to forecast what these effluents will do over a prolonged period of time and to learn how much area will be affected.

No such information is available now. The nuclear power plant will be three times larger than any in existence in the U. S., and the problems that could arise from such a large operation could be significant. No one has such answers today.

Once the plant is built, A&M people hope to monitor the operation as a counting study.

For the past six months, A&M personnel have been making a detailed study of the offshore area in order to establish precisely what its oceanographic characteristics are now as a base line for later comparisons.

In addition to Pequegnat, these other A&M people are involved: Capt. Luis Capurro, former head of the Naval Oceanographic Office of Argentina and, at present, a physical oceanographer here.

Dr. William Clayton, who is creating an analog computer model using all of the data that can be had of the oceanographic characteristics of the area and to which effluent data will be fed. The computer will be able to tell the scientists what will happen.

Dr. Edward Ibert will make the chemical analyses. Dr. Leon Berner will work with Pequegnat in making extensive biological analyses.

OSW has granted A&M \$31,000 for the preliminary studies and it is expected that this support will increase many times when the pace and scope of the work increases this year.

Pequegnat says this study is unique and should provide most valuable scientific information as the work progresses.

Theater Offers 'Hope' Plays



GIFT FOR TEXAS' FIRST FAMILY
Peruvian Ambassador and Mrs. Celso Pas- visit to the Texas capital recently. (AP tor, right, present Gov. and Mrs. John Con- Wirephoto) nally with an inscribed silver dish during a

"Two Looks at Hope," featuring two plays, opens for a three-day run Wednesday night in the Fallout Theater.

"Hope is the Thing with Feathers," by Richard Harrity, and "Dope!" by Maryat Lee, lay bare the facts and problems of narcotic addiction.

The plays are timely in that they deal with an ever-growing problem confronting today's youth — drug addiction.

Both plays are being directed by Allan Pierce, a local commercial artist.

The cast for "Dope" includes Steve Thurman, Leon Greene, Glenn Dromgoole, Tim E. Lane, Cynthia Smith and Margaret Curtis.

Appearing in "Hope is the Thing with Feathers" are Jay Ferguson, Harry Howell, Dick Gustafson, Don Carter, Louis Wommer, Roger Williams, Fred Rich, Kirk Stewart and Kipp Blair.

Jean Reyna is stage manager for both plays, with Cynthia Smith and Kirk Stewart running the lighting. Linda White is in charge of costumes and Jim White will handle sound.

Curtain time is 8 p.m.

Meteorology Grad Students Both Writing Rain Theses

Two graduate students in the Department of Meteorology are writing their theses on "Rainfall," but that is as far as the similarity goes.

Carroll W. Bell of Pittsburg, Texas, chose for his thesis "The Study of Rainfall Distribution in the Middle Brazos Area" which includes Brazos, Washington, Milam, Robertson and Burleson Counties.

Bell started on his thesis in September and his rainfall catches will run from the first of September to the end of January. Rainfall is recorded daily in hopes of determining if there is a predominant rainfall pattern. According to Bell, in September the heaviest fell in circles of a three-to-five-mile radius, as was suspected.

Bell is a research assistant to Dr. Aylmer H. Thompson, associate professor of the Meteorology department. Here Bell studies cloud formations and records the humidity in the areas that have weather stations to try to derive a theoretical method of determining the humidity over the ocean where there are no weather stations. This project is being sponsored by the U. S. Weather Bureau, and Bell is using this job to finance his way through school.

Bell graduated from Pittsburg

High School and came to Texas A&M in September of 1947 and graduated in 1951 with a degree in animal husbandry. He was in the ROTC program, received a contract and went into the Air Force as a second lieutenant. He received a senior pilot and navigators rating and was promoted to captain while he was in the service. He is now a major in the reserve unit in College Station.

Bell came back to A&M in June of 1963, finished his bachelor's degree in meteorology in June of 1965, and hopes to receive his master's in meteorology this June.

Bell is a member of the professional chapter of the American Meteorological Society.

The other graduate student is Donald B. Hodges of New York City, whose thesis is "An Investigation of 3.2 CM Attention of Sub-Tropical Precipitation Through Use of a Dual-Frequency Equi-Volume Radar System." From his research he will eventually try to measure rainfall rates by radar. When a pulse of radar is sent out and it strikes raindrops, a certain amount of power is received back at the station, but with two different radars two different powers are received. From this difference something can be calculated

about the rainfall rate.

Hodges says "the first thing you must be able to do is measure accurately the power difference between the two radars." He has just finished comparing two ways of measuring the power loss, and found "one method is no good; the other method may work but will need further research to be definite. If radar was a more accurate instrument, it would help."

After graduating from high school Hodges attended Queens College in New York City and received a BA in history. While at Queens he was in the ROTC program, received a contract and went into the Air Force as a second lieutenant. He is now a captain and is making a career of the Air Force.

The Air Force sent him to Pennsylvania State University to study meteorology, where he received a B.S. degree. Hodges was assigned to a number of other places and in June of 1964 was sent to A&M. He will graduate Saturday with a M.S. degree in meteorology. From A&M he will be sent to Fort Ritchie, Md., where weather forecasting for the presidential flights is carried out.

Hodges is also a member of the professional chapter of the American Meteorological Society.

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