

Oceanographers Moving Forward With Advanced Research Equipment

Oceanographers at Texas A&M are throwing away their string. In the past they have dabbled in the deep with cords, chains, cables and wire for samples and data. Equipment is on the way to take man where only instruments could reach before.

The vast knowledge to be unfolded may transform gloomy depths where blind instruments groped.

Development of subsurface oceanic areas, believe Dr. Willis E. Pequegnat and Dr. Horace R. Byers, hinges on production of deep-submersible vehicles. Byers, dean of the College of Geosciences, predicts the advent "for rather sensational deep trips."

"I hope to see them within the next few years," said Pequegnat, head of the only land-locked oceanography department in the U. S. A&M is one of seven U. S. oceanography centers with balanced programs of instruction and research.

Groups of men will be working beneath the surface soon, and living on the bottom for reasonable lengths of time, Pequegnat believes. Recent Mohole developments point the way.

"It must be approached with the right tools," Pequegnat warned.

"We've been working at the surface, which is the worst place," he enlarged. Below the surface is a 'steady climate' the

year around — away from wave action and air turbulence. And the temperature is constant."

With the right equipment, areas rich in oil, minerals, hydro-culture and of recreational value will be within reach.

"More oil exploration is being conducted on the continental shelf than on land," Byers said. "Drilling in the Gulf of Mexico will extend into deeper waters."

Pequegnat envisions submarine hotels.

"An underwater hotel would be extremely attractive. Quietness and temperature consistency would be unmatched anywhere on earth. Constructed in clear water next to a coral reef, the panoramic view would be gorgeous," he noted.

Texas A&M's part in opening this frontier lies in instruction and research, with 64 students currently in the all-graduate department. Twenty-six are doctoral candidates.

"That is a large number compared to the 39 graduates in oceanography since the department started in 1949," Pequegnat said. All of the 64 graduate students have financial assistance. A&M scholarships and grants, state and federal fellowships and scholarships and assistantships from industrial grants support graduate and faculty research.

Nine professors are involved in research and teaching, Peque-

gnat noted. The department includes five non-academic assistants. Two men are located at the Marine Lab in Galveston. Technicians, crew of the research vessel Alaminos and port officials raise the number.

The 26 doctoral candidates are now aligned with companies they will work for following graduation and their Ph.D. will be worth \$12,000 a year to start. Senior oceanographers' pay runs in the mid-\$20,000 range, Pequegnat said.

Students come to A&M primarily from other universities. Only five in oceanography are Texans.

Navy oceanographic labs and post-graduate schools and government agencies provide students. A&M is one of two instructing research facilities on the Gulf and is centrally located to U. S. research installations on east and west coasts.

A&M equipment includes the 180-foot converted freighter "Alaminos," two boats in the 60-90 foot class and one 30-footer. A&M is now building a craft "from the keel up" for oceanographic research purposes. It will be of twice the tonnage of the Alaminos.

"We are just beginning to realize the potential of the sea," Pequegnat added. "And we are now on the verge of intelligent use of its resources, other than for transportation or military

use. Indications are the need for oceanographers will tend to increase."

Prospective oceanographers need a background with emphasis on basic sciences, such as a bachelor degree in physics or engineering. The oceanographer handles electronic instruments which he should understand, and he delves into topics concerning chemistry, physics, biology and geology which will require mathematics, a sharp, imaginative mind and the ability to synthesize models, Pequegnat continued.

"We expect each student to take physical, chemical, biological and geological oceanography," he said, "then move into his field of special training to get depth and understanding."

Research at A&M is aimed at the Gulf of Mexico. The Gulf is the ninth largest body of water in the world. Texas has 500 miles of coast, one of the largest ports in the world at Houston and many others of moderate size.

"We are beginning to get a picture of the Gulf," Pequegnat said, "its history, origin, the role of sediment in building continental shelf and how it is encroaching on deeper water."

"We are striving to discover functioning from the sub-bottom up to the surface and lower atmosphere. The Gulf is 'our sea.'"



FAMILY BUSINESS: STUDYING
Ann and Tommy Durham go about the family business after classes at Allen Academy and Texas A&M. He is an education major and son of Carl Wilson Durham, owner of business colleges in 13 cities in three states.

Bulletin Board

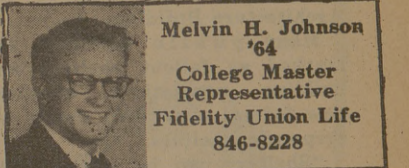
WEDNESDAY

Newman Club will meet at 8 p.m. in St. Mary's Student Center.

Hillel Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Hillel Building. Aggie Wives Bridge Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center.

THURSDAY

Waco-McLennan County Home-town Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Anderson Room of the YMCA.



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School Czar's Son Plans Big Future

The son of an educational czar studying at Texas A&M has plans of his own.

Thomas Carroll Durham, 22, is son and partner of Carl Wilson Durham, owner of business colleges across the Southwest.

He works on business college books during weekends at the elder Durham's ranch near Lexington. But the budding business tycoon considers his education a fulltime proposition right now.

Durham and his bride of three weeks, the former Ann Powell of Bellaire, put in full days with the books.

He is a senior education major. Mrs. Durham is a sophomore at Allen Military Academy's junior college in Bryan and plans to study psychology at A&M.

"Education is the thing," Durham believes. "My goal is to get into the business college, help it grow and go north."

The Durhams have 13 business colleges in San Antonio, Houston, Pasadena, El Paso, Victoria, Beaumont, Corpus Christi, Phoenix and Tucson, Ariz., and San Diego, Calif. They are scouting Monterey, Guadalajara and Mexico City and want to spread northward.

Technical schools offering welding, auto transmission, computer and radio-television-electronics training are underway in Houston.

"I'm auditing animal hus-

bandry courses at A&M. Ann and I have a ranch of our own — but only a couple of donkeys," he noted.

An archery buff, Durham will remain at A&M for graduate work. He once planned to complete accounting and finance studies at an Ivy League school. "I chose A&M not only because it's the finest school in Texas, but because it's close to the ranch, and our fields are leaning toward technical fields," he said.

Tommy studied military science at Allen Academy before coming to A&M. At ROTC camp at Fort Sill, he was second in his summer camp company.

"I like the military method," Durham said, "and believe I could thrive under it. But starting graduate work immediately is most important."

He'll probably get right into it. The Durhams apply a "do-it-yourself" attitude to education.

NEA Executive To Speak Friday

Kenneth Dawson of the National Education Association in Washington, D.C., will be featured speaker for the Industrial Arts Teacher Education Conference Thursday through Saturday.

Dawson, executive secretary and treasurer of the American Industrial Arts Association, is consultant for the annual three-day conference. Dr. Chris H. Groneman, head of the sponsoring Department of Industrial Education, named Dr. Leslie V. Hawkins conference director.

"Current Trends in Industrial Arts" will be Dawson's topic of discussion to 600 participants Friday.

Dawson taught industrial arts and science in Montgomery County, Md., Mytheville and Roanoke, Va., public schools. He instructed at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and the University of Maryland.

The native of Newark, Ohio, was graduated from VPI in 1952 and acquired his master degree from the University of Virginia in 1955. The Ph.D. was awarded from Maryland in 1965.

Member of Phi Delta Kappa and Iota Lambda Sigma and other professional associations, Dawson has contributed to many publications and is listed in "Who's Who in American Education."

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