

# Research Vessel Loses Coring Rig

Texas A&M's research ship Alaminos lost its core-sampling rig off the Florida coast in the Gulf of Mexico, research scientist John Antoine has reported. Oceanography staff member, said the crew was trying to get a core sample of an escarpment about

800 fathoms deep when the mishap occurred.

The core-sampler is a 40-foot pipe with a 1,500-pound weight suspended from a cable on a winch topside. The 40-foot pipe is normally held about 15 feet from the bottom of the ocean.

When a sample is needed the pipe is released and falls 15 feet before striking the ocean floor. Normally, upon contact, the weight forces enough material up the center of the pipe for a good sample.

It is then relatively easy to pull the rig out with the winch, he said.

"Apparently, on our first try, the pipe must have sunk its full 40-foot length because the winch couldn't handle the weight," Antoine explained.

"We figured the winch was pulling about 15,000 pounds when the drive shaft sheared.

"After the shaft broke we tried to pick up the rig with the ship's anchor hooks, but the wire was bad and the captain decided not to risk it.

"We had to abandon the core-sampler and that blew our initial project for the rest of the trip," Antoine lamented.

It had been determined from cores taken on a previous trip to the area that the sediments were about 100 million years old.

"We were sure we could get samples of an outcrop dating back to the Upper Cretaceous period of the Mesozoic era," he continued. "The fossil remains and pollen spores (fossilized) usually give good information as to the age of the outlay."

Antoine said researchers plan to return when a new core-sampling rig is purchased.



**OFFICIALS DISCUSS UTILITIES**  
W. W. Lynch of Dallas, left, president of Texas Power and Light Company and an A&M graduate, talks over plans for the Texas Community Improvement Program with Dr. R. E. Patterson, dean of agriculture. Utility company executives met here this week to discuss university programs supported by the firms.

## Panel Discusses Education Goals

Higher standards of teaching and better trained teachers was a common prediction of a three-man panel discussing the future of education here this week.

The Texas Association of School Boards regional workshop was held at the Ramada Inn. About 75 attended a buffet dinner and heard the panel, "Action for Public Education." The workshop was sponsored by the Department of Education and Psychology.

Concurring on improved teaching techniques were Penrose B. Metcalfe of the State Board of Education, association executive secretary Donald G. Nugent and Dr. Terrell W. Ogg, superintendent of Crockett schools.

Metcalfe, lawyer, rancher, legislator and state board member for 16 years, noted improved standards and training will re-

quire better pay for teachers.

"It is better than it was," the recent A&M Muster speaker remarked, "but could still stand considerable improvement. The board is not a lobbying group, either. In virtually all our bi-annual reports to the Legislature, we've recommended increased pay."

Nugent pointed out that the Classroom Teachers Association is attempting to get new laws passed, one legalizing teacher negotiations with school boards and a second establishing teacher tenure in the state.

Ogg declared the future of state education would require sweeping changes in curriculum, school district organization, longer school terms organized after-school supervision of study and getting children in school at earlier ages.

### Mothers Club Group To Meet Saturday

The Federation of Texas A&M Mothers Clubs will elect officers Saturday during their annual spring meeting.

Business sessions for the statewide organization are planned Friday in the Memorial Student Center.

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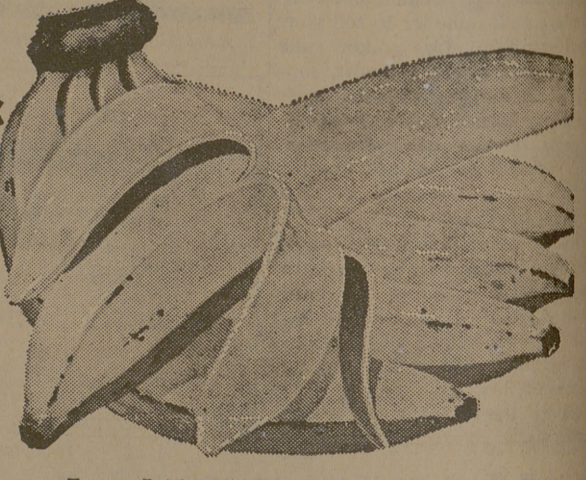
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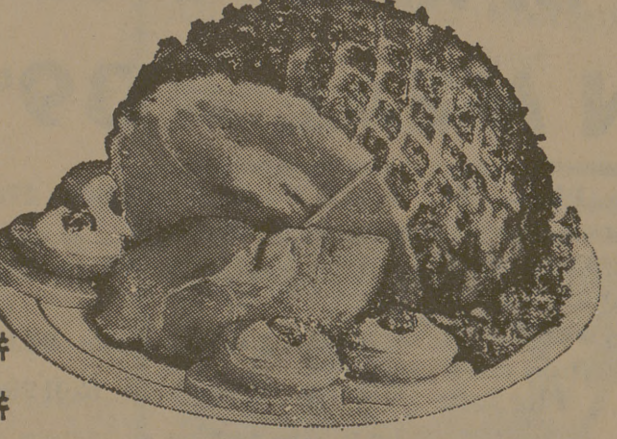
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