

# 'Inner Space' Engineering Important

By Lt. Comd. Don Walsh, USN Oceanography Graduate Student

No salute to engineering would be complete without some mention of manifold application of its arts to the world ocean environment. While the scope of effort in this area is miniscule compared to current aerospace technology there is no doubt that it is only a matter of time until the two are comparable.

The world ocean covers nearly 71 per cent of the planet which we call "Earth" and we talk confidently of landing on the moon by the end of this decade but the fact is that we know relatively more about the moon than we do about the three-fourths of our home planet covered by water.

Fortunately, the past decade has seen a recognition of this problem and the multisience of oceanography has made great advances in this period. But you cannot have "instant science" and it will be years before we have adequate scientist personnel to explore and analyze this vast medium.

A MORE serious problem is the development of a technological base which will provide application for the knowledge that the oceanographers gain. The ocean engineer will be the man who translates environmental information into useful tools of com-

merce and national defense in the ocean environment. Unfortunately, many have not recognized that implementing our shortcomings in ocean sciences is not the same as developing a capability to apply this knowledge to practical problems in utilizing this medium.

The mineral resources in the

ocean waters, upon the ocean floor and beneath it can provide the raw materials and energy (from petroleum) to improve the lot of everyone on earth. In addition, the oceans will be the "mine" from which we will eventually draw the bulk of our fresh water via saline conversion processes.

ALL OF THESE applications involve the translation of the scientists' basic knowledge of the environment and its processes into efficient, profitable operations. This translation is the job of the technologist, the ocean engineer. At present there are less than a half-dozen institutions in the United States that offer degree programs in ocean engineering.

This is not to say that we do not have any such people today for those few who are currently working as ocean engineers have learned their trade in the best of all schools... experience. But it must be recognized that both the "apprenticeship" and the "converted oceanographer" methods of developing ocean engineers are not very efficient and that formal education is the best way to develop the badly needed human resources in this area.

TEXAS A&M University which has the third oldest school of oceanography in the United States, has offered some course work in ocean engineering since the founding of the Department of Oceanography in 1949. Currently the Department of Civil Engineering is offering a full degree program in this area in a program that is geared for rapid growth as faculty and facilities become available.

Beat t.u.

## Water, Sewage Works School To Attract 800 Next Month

More than 800 persons are expected to participate in the Texas Water and Sewage Works Association's Short School here March 5-10.

Joe Sorrells, short school director and professor of civil engineering at A&M, estimated 60 per cent of the registrants will earn 20 hours credit toward water or sewage certification by the Texas State Department of Health.

W. J. Weems of Abilene, president of the Texas Water and Sewage Works Association, will open the first general session at 8:30 a.m. March 6.

A&M Engineering Dean Fred J. Benson will welcome representatives of cities throughout the state to the 49th annual short school. Water and sewer super-

intendents and city engineers usually head the list of registrants. Another feature of the first session will be a slide presentation, "The Murder of Silence," presented by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Ralph E. Fuhrman, executive secretary of the Water Pollution Control Federation in Washington, will address a general session March 8. Leo Louis of Gary, Ind., president of the American Water Works Association, also will speak.

The Singing Cadets of Texas A&M will provide entertainment for the association's annual banquet at 7 p.m. March 8 in the MSC Ballroom.

Technical sessions are set throughout the week. Beat t.u.



### TRUCK-TRAIN WRECK SETS TOWN AFIRE

A \$400,000 seed and lumber plant and a three-story apartment were wiped out by fire after a loaded oil truck collided with a moving freight train of the Southern Railway at The Plains, Va. Oil from truck and two 5,000 gallon tanks aboard the train spread the fire in high wind. The burning truck can be seen in center of photo, directly behind the railroad tracks running horizontal, lumber yard is at right center. (AP Wirephoto)

## New Orleans Death Hushes Informants On Conspiracy

NEW ORLEANS, La. (AP) — David W. Ferrie's death created fear Thursday among some people who claimed to have information relating to Ferrie on Lee Harvey Oswald in connection with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Ferrie, labeled by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison as a prime informant in his investigation of the assassination, was found dead in bed Wednesday. A preliminary autopsy report attributed death to a brain hemorrhage. A coroner's report Thursday ruled out murder, leaving suicide, natural causes or accidental death as possibilities.

A WOMAN who was about to give The Associated Press details she said related to Oswald's activities in New Orleans was frightened into silence. She warily greeted a reporter at her home. "You see that," she said, directing attention to a snubnosed .38 caliber revolver placed on a nearby chair. "I don't say anything might happen to me. But I just won't talk to you. I have nothing more to say."

Another person on the periphery of the case, David Lewis, a bus station baggage clerk, dropped out of sight Wednesday night. Neighbors said the Lewis family had suddenly left town. Lewis had told newsmen he feared for the safety of his wife and four children because of his knowledge of a possible conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

HOWEVER, Lewis appeared at the district attorney's office Thursday.

Before going into Garrison's office he said: "I'm not worried about myself, but I am about my family. Maybe there has been too much said about me already."

but they know my name and know what I look like and they know where I work, so that's it."

A former private investigator, Lewis claims to have known Oswald, the man named by the Warren Commission as Kennedy's assassin.

Coroner Nicholas Chetta ruled out murder as a possible cause of Ferrie's death.

"THERE IS no evidence of any

### Economics Staff Hires Professor From Missouri

Dr. Russell Thompson, currently on the University of Missouri faculty, will join the Economics Department this fall.

A&M Economics Department head Dr. M. L. Greenhut said Dr. Thompson will be associate professor of economics and mathematics at A&M, and will teach advanced courses in econometrics and mathematics.

Thompson earned his Ph.D. in economics and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in business administration at the University of Minnesota. He recently directed a National Science Foundation Institute in the Mathematics of Optimization at Purdue University. Earlier, Thompson was a NSF Faculty-Science Fellow in mathematics at Purdue.

Among Dr. Thompson's publications are mathematical articles in the "American Economic Review" and "Metroeconomica." Thompson also is lead author of a monograph, "Computational Methods: Regression Analysis, Two-Stage Least Squares, Linear and Integer Programming." Beat t.u.

violence," he said. "There is no evidence of murder."

The Orleans Parish coroner said the specific cause of death was an aneurysm — a small sacular aneurysm of a cerebral artery. He said such aneurysms frequently rupture, spilling blood into the brain. He likened this to the failure of an inner tube with a weak spot.

A large quantity of pills for vascular disease was found in Ferrie's apartment. But the coroner said even an overdose of these could not cause an aneurysm.

CHETTA FIRST fixed the time of death as Tuesday evening. After talking Thursday with George Lardner Jr., Washington Post reporter who said he left Ferrie at 4 a.m. Wednesday, the coroner said he could not "rule out the possibility Ferrie might have died as late as 4 a.m."

The coroner said the death would remain unclassified until a toxicological report was completed in about a week.

Garrison termed the death an apparent suicide. Chetta said there was nothing to indicate a suicide except an unsigned, undated typewritten note saying death was a "sweet prospect." Tests showed that the note, found on the dining room table, was typed on a typewriter in Ferrie's cluttered apartment.

GARRISON, who created international headlines by launching his own investigation into the assassination, described Ferrie's death as a temporary setback to his investigation. He said he felt Ferrie was on the brink of producing significant information. Nevertheless, he said, he remained optimistic that his investigation would proceed and produce results. Beat t.u.

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