

SEEK SHELTER IN TEL AVIV AIR RAID ALARM  
People leave an auto and run for shelter when an air raid alarm was sounded in Tel Aviv, Israel. (AP Wirephoto via cable from Tel Aviv)

# TTI Tackles New Road Hazards

Researchers at Texas A&M's Texas Transportation Institute are determined to make the highway a less hazardous obstacle course.

Fresh from victory over the dangerous highway sign, TTI is now ready to take on other deadly obstacles, such as bridge piers and concrete abutments.

Jack Keese, TTI executive officer, says his organization's basic concept is simple: "If an out-of-control vehicle can't crash through an obstacle safely, then make the obstacle as safe as possible to crash in to." Neither of the alternatives is particularly attractive, but they both beat getting killed, he observes.

THE A&M RESEARCH group's getting killed, he observes.

THE A&M RESEARCH group's sign was won on the basis of an ingeniously designed slip-joint base which breaks free when struck by a vehicle.

Such "break-away" signs have been adopted by the Texas Highway Department — and several other state highway departments — for all new construction and are rapidly replacing the embedded signs on existing thoroughfares. Little damage and no serious injuries have been reported in more than 60 known accidents involving the new signs.

TTI is now applying this same "break-away" principle to freeway light posts in a project being conducted for the THD in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Public Roads. The light post project was initiated by Dr. N. J. Rowan, TTI assistant research engineer.

WHAT TO DO about obstacles such as concrete abutments is another matter. Keese believes the answer rests with impact attenuation devices. In other words, padding.

Impact attenuation, or energy absorption, devices range in con-

cept from sophisticated water-filled hydraulic systems to a simple series of medium-sized posts erected in front of a rigid object to slow down a vehicle before collision.

Whatever the means, impact attenuation devices must be designed to crush or give way without rebounding, as rubber would.

TTI is experimenting for the Bureau of Public Roads with foam plastic and foam glass. Either of the materials can bring a 60-mph vehicle to a complete stop in 12 feet with an average "G" force, Keese notes. Such circumstances would create a "safe" crash, assuming occupants of the vehicle were wearing seat belts, he adds.

KEESE SAYS placement of 15 to 20 feet of the foam plastic or glass in front of immovable objects should be adequate. TTI plans to test this concept soon at its Safety Proving Grounds at Texas A&M's Research Annex

## State Board A&M Award Is \$166,664

The State College Coordinating Board has awarded \$166,664 to Texas A&M for continuation of its work in four community service and related programs.

A&M President Earl Rudder said \$67,960 has been allocated for the university's educational program in data processing and \$48,010 for a community service program in transportation.

Two additional grants of \$25,347 each have been awarded for educational programs in local law enforcement and community service seminars.

A&M was one of six Texas institutions sharing in a \$464,378 Coordinating Board allocation, which included \$304,591 in federal funds.

near Bryan. The project is under the director of I. J. Taylor, Safety Proving Grounds coordinator.

Impact attenuation devices would replace improperly used guard rails and supplement the ones which are being used properly. Guard rails, Keese points out, are designed to redirect out-of-control vehicles, while impact attenuation devices absorb shock once the collision has occurred.

## Cochran Elected To Society Post

Dr. Robert G. Cochran, Nuclear Engineering Department head, has been elected vice chairman of the Education Division of the 6,000-member American Nuclear Society.

Cochran, who served on the executive committee of the Education Division last year, will be installed during the June 12-15 national ANS meeting in San Diego, Calif.

The Education Division of ANS has registered more than 400 members from universities, colleges and industry since its inception two years ago, Cochran noted.

Prior to moving to A&M in 1959, Dr. Cochran was associate professor and director of the research reactor at Pennsylvania State University. He is a former research physicist and group leader at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Cochran, who earned his Ph.D. in nuclear physics at Pennsylvania State University, has been a technical consultant for several industrial, educational and governmental agencies, including the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission and the USAF.

A member and former chairman of the Research Reactor Sub-Committee of the National Academy of Science, Dr. Cochran is a member of the American Physics Society and American Society for Engineering Education.

Why so much emphasis on making highway obstacles safer? Keese pointed out that of the four million persons injured and nearly 50,000 killed in the U. S. in 1965, approximately 50 per cent occurred in single-car accidents—hitting signs, trees and other fixed objects.

If only one-fifth of those accidents had involved "break-away" signs or obstacles protected by impact attenuation devices, he observed, 5,000 lives could have been saved.

# Bryan Father 'Is Pleased' As Family Attends A&M

What's the outlook for a Latin American family with nine children and parents who never went past the second grade?

Mike Hernandez Sr. of Bryan, who heads the family fitting this description, is not complaining. In fact, he's rather pleased with the situation and optimistic about the future.

When Texas A&M opens its doors this fall, three of the Hernandez sons will be among the registering students. Two other brothers have already graduated from A&M and still another plans to enroll just as soon as he completes high school.

A sister also will be on the campus this fall, taking special courses and working as a secretary. Another sister is now working as a secretary at the university and has also taken special courses.

THE OUTLOOK was not always so bright for the Hernandez family. The father, a former cotton-field foreman and independent gravel truck driver, often had to take some of his children out of school to help in the cotton fields. This meant missing a portion of their classes, but, with a lot of determination and help from cooperative Bryan teachers, they completed their studies.

Throughout these difficult times, Hernandez was active in church work. He founded Bryan's first Spanish Methodist church, now known as Oak Grove Methodist, in 1948 and served as its first minister. All members of the Hernandez family have been active in the church and have held or currently hold numerous offices in both it and the

Rio Grande Conference.

THE HERNANDEZ family also is making a name for itself at Texas A&M.

Leo, 21, is a sophomore education major who works part time for the Inter-American Education Program in the College of Liberal Arts. Last year, he won first place in the Aggie Talent Show with an interpretive reading of "God's Creation." He also is a member of the university's Singing Cadets.

Moses, 18, graduated from Bryan's Stephen F. Austin High School this spring and will enter A&M in the fall. He recently won a \$1,000 scholarship for submitting the winning essay in the "Voice of Democracy" contest. He has been invited to attend the American Academy of Achievement's Salute to Excellence next month in Dallas. When not in school, Moses works for the International Shoe Co. in Bryan.

Two of the Hernandez daughters, Lita and Isabel, also have

taken select courses at A&M while working as secretaries in the Activation Analysis Laboratory and Oceanography Department, respectively. Both graduated from business college. Isabel's husband, Benjamin P. Robbins, teaches adult education at Anson Jones Junior High in Bryan and plans to enroll at A&M this fall.

The two oldest sons, Mike Jr. and Andrew, graduated from A&M and both reside in Houston. Mike, 31, teaches in the Spring Branch school system and Andrew, 30, is an accountant for a major oil company.


THE THIRD daughter, Mary Lena, graduated from high school in California where she resides with her husband, Raymond Butler, and their three children. She, too, is active in church and community work.

Daniel, 16, is the youngest member of the Hernandez family. He attends Stephen F. Austin.

(See Family, Page 8)

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## True Addresses Contest Banquet Saturday Night

Dr. Herb True, research psychologist and a past president of the National Labor Management Foundation, will address the Texas State Plumbing and Pipefitting Apprentice Contest Banquet Saturday night at the Ramada Inn.

True's talk will highlight four days of contests involving regional winners of plumbing and pipefitting contests, announced Richard Pulaski, state plumbing and pipefitting apprenticeship coordinator for Texas A&M's Engineering Extension Service.

Winners in plumbing and pipefitting categories will be announced at the banquet, Pulaski noted.

A senior partner in the True-Kemp Organization of South Bend, Ind., Kansas City, Mo., and New York, True is known for his unique knack of driving home "the meat and potatoes message of his speech," Pulaski explained, yet keeping his audience smiling or applauding throughout by use of visual aids, music, drama and quips.

True earned the Ph.D. at the University of Iowa, the Master of Science at Northwestern University, and the Bachelor of Arts at the University of Oklahoma. He was professor of marketing at the University of Notre Dame for six years before becoming president of the National Labor-Management Foundation.

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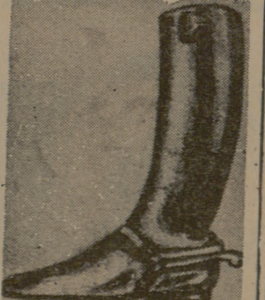
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