

\$125,000 System Donated By Mobil

Data processing equipment specially designed for seismic analog recording and valued at more than \$125,000 has been given to Texas A&M by Mobil Oil Corporation.

J. A. Lester, general manager for the firm's Geophysical Services Center in Dallas, headed a group of Mobil officials which visited the campus Tuesday for presentation of the seismographic equipment to A&M President Earl Rudder and other university representatives.

Lester said Texas A&M was awarded the unique equipment on the basis of its programs in geophysics, oceanography and geology.

Rudder, noting the system is one of the most valuable corporate gifts ever received by the university, said it will "add a new dimension" to A&M's research and teaching program.

The equipment was designed by Mobil for its own use. The firm has since developed a more sophisticated computer system with a higher through-put.

Dr. Terry W. Spencer, head of

A&M's Geophysics Department, said the system will be the only one of its type on any campus in the nation.

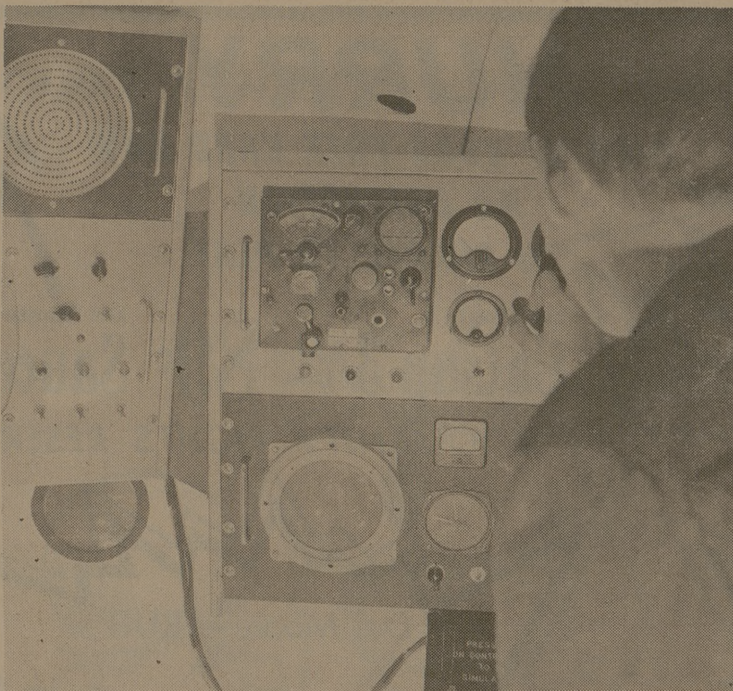
The machine and associated print-out devices will be installed at the Texas A&M Research Annex and be available for student course work and graduate and faculty research.

"Availability of this equipment," Dr. Spencer observed, "will permit a level of processing considerably more sophisticated than anything that has been possible previously."

Dr. Richard A. Geyer, Oceanography Department head, said the system will be particularly useful for oceanographic seismic work. He said it will improve the quality of the records to interpret the marine structural condition in the Gulf of Mexico.

One of the first jobs for the newly acquired equipment will be processing a large volume of marine seismic data which A&M scientists recorded recently in the Gulf.

Accompanying Lester for the ceremonies were M. D. McCarty,



BE THE CAPTAIN

Students are able to go inside the 3/4 scale of the Submersible ALVIN and sit at the controls of the craft. By pressing certain buttons on the control panel the occupant can see what happens in a simulated dive. The ALVIN is a part of the Hydro-Space Fiesta which will remain on display until Saturday Noon.

engineering and manufacturing superintendent for Mobil's Geophysical Services Center, and D. H. Sheffield, processing services supervisor.

Sheffield, 1954 A&M graduate, will assist university personnel in

installation.

Joining Rudder, Spencer and Geyer in formally accepting the equipment were Dr. Robert R. Berg, head of the Geology Department, and Dorsey E. McCrory, development director.

Campus Briefs

Aggie Makes Bid For Legislature

W. E. Howard, a Texas A&M senior majoring in political science and history, has announced his candidacy for state representative of the 18th district.

A resident of the Bryan-College Station area and a Vietnam war veteran, Howard, 26, was named an "Outstanding Enlisted Man" while serving aboard the USS Brush in 1963.

As a former student of Victoria College, he was president of the College Forum. At A&M, he has been active in the Political Forum, a student committee in the Memorial Student Center.

Unitarians To Hear SA Minister's Talk

"Man's Greatest Danger—Religion!" is the topic to be presented by the Rev. William A. DeWolfe at the Sunday evening 8 p.m. meeting of the Unitarian

Fellowship at 305 Old Highway 6 South, College Station. Mr. DeWolfe, minister of the First Unitarian Church of San Antonio, will explore in his talk the attitudes and ideas of Martin Buber, the Jewish Existentialist philosopher.

Agronomy Society Names President

Gary McElvaney of Channelview has been elected president of the Texas A&M Student Agronomy Society.

McElvaney, a senior, was named to the post by his fellow students during the January meeting of the organization.

The society is affiliated with the American Society of Agronomy. Student members are majors in agronomy or plant and soil sciences.

Other officers for the spring semester are Michael Deike of Winters, vice president; David E. Schoenogel of Moulton, treasurer; Billy Ray Schuette of Moody, secretary; and Charles R. Tischler of Pilot Point, reporter.

Aggie Graduate Wins Air Medals

Three Texas A&M graduates have recently been assigned Army posts in Vietnam and Germany.

Second Lt. Eugene C. Oates of Bryan and Pfc. William Schmidt of Fayetteville, both 1963 graduates, drew Germany assignments, respectively.

Oates, who studied civil engineering, was assigned plant leader of Company E, 10th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, near Kitzingen. A science graduate, Schmidt went to the 71st Artillery's 6th Battalion near Cam Ranh Bay.

Capt. Gaylon M. McClintock, 1963 education graduate of A&M, was assigned as assistant staff officer of the 43rd Medical Group in Vietnam.

McClintock and Oates were commissioned at A&M.

An Egyptian temple at Thebes took 2,000 years to build.

Computers Ease Problems Of Statistical Research

From streamlining the "Monte Carlo Method" to checking for teen-age grandmothers and other inconsistencies, Texas A&M University's Institute of Statistics is embarked on research studies which have increasingly wide applications.

The whole field of statistics once was considered a pretty dull arena. Calculations were laborious and the statistician was often regarded as a part-time juggler who spewed forth figures to prove ill-conceived assumptions.

But now scientists, doctors, manufacturers, engineers and even the man on the street are coming to realize that neatly-applied numbers may have it where common sense stumbles.

For example, a chemical engineer may have to consider as many as 50 ingredients in a single production process or a manufacturer may want to stamp as many items as possible out of a single sheet of steel. This is where the statistician, who now can call on lightning-fast computers for calculations, enters the picture.

"We're sort of jacks of all trades who have to be in communication with a large area of specialties," says Dr. Herman O. Hartley, director of A&M's Institute of Statistics.

The institute, one of the largest in the nation dealing with applied statistics, is participating in an interdisciplinary study of optimizing engineering design and operations. The investigation, funded by the Department of Defense, is part of the Project Themis program.

In its simplest terms, optimization is the best way to perform

a particular task, whether it be stacking boxes in a warehouse or designing an electronic circuit to do a job at the least cost.

"Very often, what we find agrees with the immediate 'common sense' answer, but sometimes not," says Dr. Hartley.

"A very good example of successful optimization is the transportation problem," he notes. "How do you transport specified quotas of commodities from origins to destinations, given certain costs, routes, times, etc?"

This sort of problem, when taken from the mathematical approach, "saved industry millions of dollars," observes Dr. Hartley.

In designing methods for government and industry, statistical researchers have sometimes used the so-called "Monte Carlo Method" of simulating a series of operations.

"But this is a long and expensive calculation," Dr. Hartley pointed out.

The A&M Institute is nearing completion of a study for the Army Research Office on a method of streamlining the Monte Carlo approach.

One important research project at the institute is funded by the National Institutes of Health. This is an attempt to analyze "unbalanced" data in medical or biological situations. Normally, scientists design experiments to give balanced data, but with human medical treatment, such data is either incomplete or unbalanced.

The NIH is interested in this in studying treatment of patients—like cancer radiotherapy—in the

hope the analysis will give guidelines on the most successful therapy under varying conditions.

For the Census Bureau, A&M institute is using high-speed computers for data editing.

"Let's say you get a questionnaire and you find a 'teen-age grandmother'," says Dr. Hartley. The high-speed computer program written by the statisticians would automatically monitor and correct this inconsistency.

The statisticians at A&M are using new techniques for sample surveys as applied to rice industry operations. There also is a project with the Department of Interior for optimization of water resources.

Dr. Hartley, who has doctorates from the universities of Boston, Cambridge and London, is willing to question any method he does not think quite right—even the well-known PERT (Program Evaluation and Review Technique) method which "was used to build the first nuclear submarine."

"While it had a good impact, it made people think—we've covered PERT is biased," Dr. Hartley states. "It's too optimistic. It imagines that projects can be completed in a shorter time than they can be." But he adds that conservative underestimates by people involved in PERT projects balance the error.

Research and educational projects in which the Institute has been active in contracting during the five years of its existence are funded at approximately \$1.5 million.

BATTALION

Political Announcements

Subject to action of the Democratic Primary May 4, 1968.

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"SPRING AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS"
Application forms for Spring Award Scholarships may be obtained from the Student Financial Aid Office, Room 303, YMCA Building during the period February 12th - March 31, 1968. All applications must be filed with the Student Financial Aid Office by not later than 5:00 p.m. April 1, 1968. Late applications will not be accepted. 531230

Pre-veterinary Medicine Students
All students who expect to register in pre-veterinary medicine for the Spring Semester 1968 must have their courses approved by their Academic Advisor. A form signed by the Academic Advisor and listing approved courses must be presented at registration. 5231fn

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