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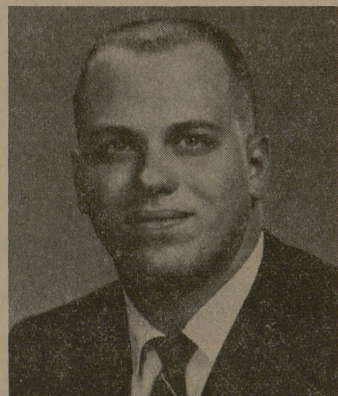
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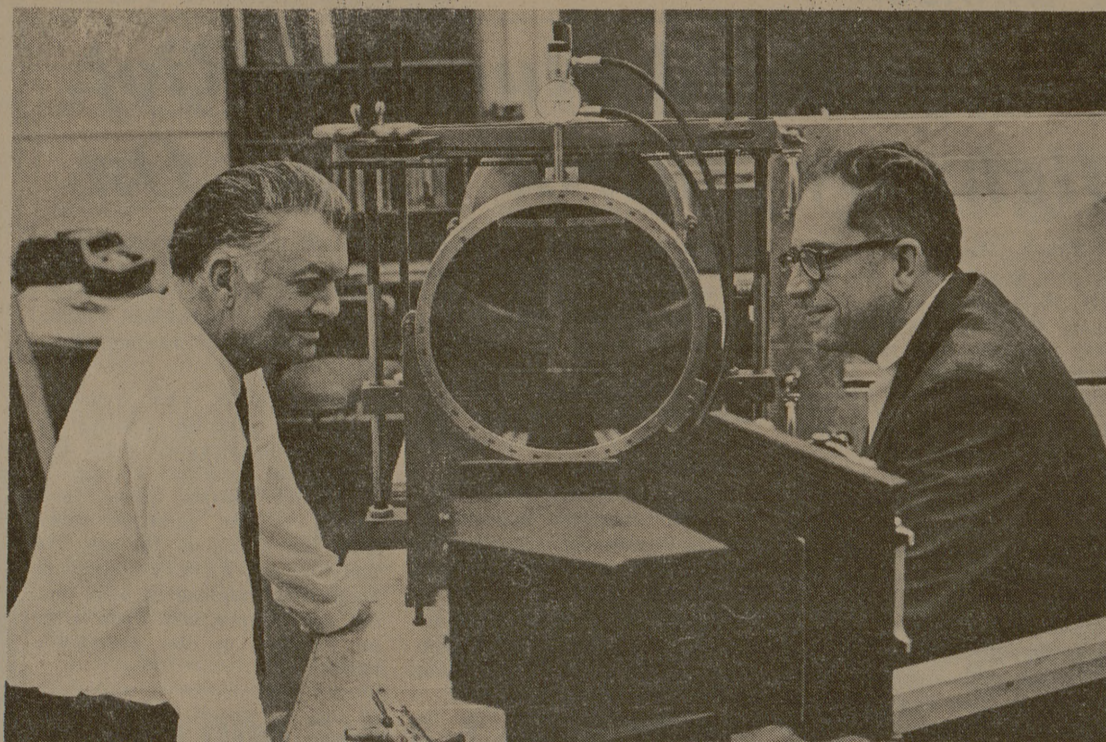
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TECTONOPHYSICISTS

Dr. J. W. Handin, l., and Dr. G. M. Sowers look over a photographic test device which measures the strain in various materials. The Texas A&M University scientists are studying the behavior of rock under extreme conditions with an eye toward possible prediction of earthquakes and better detection of underground nuclear explosions.

Scientists Complete Lab To Study Earth's Crust

Scientists at Texas A&M are completing a laboratory to simulate conditions deep in the earth. By studying rocks under these conditions, they hope to gain knowledge leading to prediction of earthquakes and better detection of underground nuclear explosions.

The subject has the jaw-breaking title of "tectonophysics," but means simply the study of those structures and forces involved in deformations of the earth's crust.

In A&M's new laboratory, rocks will be subjected to pressures up to 10,000 times that of normal atmosphere and heats of more than 900 degrees F.

UNDER such conditions, rock often becomes ductile—it becomes more "taffy-like." Sometimes, however, it appears to remain brittle—like many rocks at the earth's surface—due to mechanisms not well understood now.

Dr. J. W. Handin, director of the Center for Tectonophysics, said "one of the things we can do (in the laboratory) is look for these brittle mechanisms." One theory is that release of water from certain types of rock may cause it, he continued.

Dr. Handin and others of the center are among earth scientists who previously explained a series of earth tremors in the Denver area as the apparent result of water being pumped into a natural fracture zone.

THE WATER reduced the effective pressure across the fracture, allowing it to slip and create tremors.

In laboratory experiments where water pressure varied in rock, it was found as the pressure gets higher, the rock gets weaker and more brittle.

"There are certain hydrous (water bearing) minerals such as serpentine which dehydrate at some critical temperature and release water," Handin said. "This may be important in earthquakes from about 30 to 60 miles deep in the earth."

The scientists at the center also will be designing test instruments to simulate some of the effects on rock of an underground nuclear explosion.

The center's work is funded at about \$115,000 a year by the Ad-

vanced Research Projects Agency with contract administration by the Corps of Engineers.

The scientists also simply want to have a better understanding of rock fracture. This could lead to discovery of new methods of breaking rock or of preventing failure in slopes, foundations, or underground openings.

INVOLVED in the studies are Drs. Mel Friedman, John Logan, D. W. Stearns, and G. M. Sowers.

Dr. Friedman is studying mechanisms of deformation, rock

fabrics and stored elastic strain. Dr. Stearns is looking at large scale mechanisms and structural problems, while Dr. Sowers is investigating instability problems, fracturing and folding and photo-mechanical model analysis.

Dr. Logan and Dr. Handin are occupied with stress-strain properties, mechanisms of deformation and the influences of confining pressure, pore fluid pressure, temperature and time from the surface of the earth to about 11 miles deep.

Open-Housing Amendment Fate Deemed Poor By Mansfield

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate refused today 58-34 to table and thus kill the administration's open housing legislation.

It has been offered as an amendment to another bill urged by President Johnson to provide Negroes with federal protection in the exercise of their civil rights.

Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana offered the motion to table the open housing amendment, saying he did so reluctantly but in the hope this would improve the chances of passing the civil rights protection bill.

HE SAID in his judgment the necessary two-thirds majority cannot be obtained at this time

to shut off debates on the open housing proposal and told his colleagues "it is best now to face the realities."

If Mansfield was correct in his assessment of the situation, the rejection of his tabling motion would indicate that no civil rights bill will be passed by the Senate.

The showdown will come Monday when another vote will be taken on whether to put the Senate's debate-closing cloture rule in effect.

AN attempt to invoke cloture Tuesday failed. The vote was 55-37, or seven short of the necessary two-thirds majority.

Mansfield told newsmen that if the cloture move fails again Monday that will be the end.

"Twice is enough," he said. "We will have exhausted every effort."

GOP senators split 18 to 18 on Tuesday's cloture vote after Senate Republican Leader Everett M. Dirksen of Illinois urged the Senate not to gag itself by voting to close debate.

Queen Choices Due By March 15

The Senior Class of 1968 nominations for Vanity Fair and Cotton Pageant Queens must be in by March 15. Nomination forms will be filled out when pictures (portrait 5x7 or larger and a full length shot 3x5 or larger) are submitted to the Student Programs Office. All pictures will be returned.

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Irish Bartender, 33, Climbs Into Coffin

LONDON (AP)—Irish bartender Mike Mealey, 33, donned his green pajamas, said "Farewell, lads" and climbed into his custom-built coffin Wednesday—to spend two months in a grave.

Sean, Paddy and Mick were there, and all the other lads from the Irish community in Kilburn, North London, to wish Mike good health and send him off in the true tradition of the Irish wake.

Then they shouldered the wooden box that will be Mike's home for 61 days and bore him off to an eight-foot grave in a vacant lot nearby.

MIKE, gravedigger when he lived in Ballyporeen, County Tipperary, wants to set up a world record for being buried alive.

W. C. Whitman stayed 45 days under South Carolina soil last year to establish what he claimed was a world record. But Mike believes another American stayed

down 57 days "about 100 years ago."

"So I'll come up on the queen's birthday," said Mike. That's April 21.

MIKE, married with a wife and baby son back in Ireland and another child expected in April, should be comfortable in the coffin.

Its lined with foam rubber three inches thick and has two holes, six inches in diameter, cut into the lid. One will be the entrance for food down a shaft. The other will supply fresh air.

"I'll spend most of my time reading. I'm taking a pile of boring books down with me," said 170-pound Mike prior to his descent. "I'm told I'll be able to smoke while I'm in the coffin, so it won't be so bad."

There are 380,000 Indians living on reservations in the United States.



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