

Before the closing of the Suez Canal, Egypt's foreign-exchange earnings from the canal amounted to some \$200 million a year. Her earnings from the tourist trade amounted to some \$100 million.

At The Movies

by Mike Plake

Trips have been made. Searches have been conducted. All for the love of a recent movie. And this week, at least, all in vain. Perhaps that's too broad a statement. Although "Sergeant Ryker" is an old television show, it is a recent release, (of the old television production).

And although "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" has been showing in Houston four months, Dallas, six months, and in Beaumont, at least two months ago, it is recent. Well it's not as old as "Sergeant Ryker," anyway.

"The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" has been reviewed previously in The Battalion, and that review has been duly corrected. Two aspects of the movie, however, deserve a third mention.

THE LENGTH

Almost three hours of shooting, humor, violence, shooting, and shooting. Never before have so many bullets been shot so many times at so many Italian extras.

(This statement, if found by the readers to be in error, may be corrected by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Borin Klosky, P.O. 2333333, Siberian Salt Flats, Siberia.)

TUCO

Eli Wallach should be nominated for an academy award. As the "Ugly," he outshines everyone else in the movie. He acts; Clint Eastwood and Lee Van Cleef shoot.

Eastwood smokes a stubby cigar. Lee Van Cleef smokes a pipe. Tuco eats cigars.

Wallach takes the role of Tuco and makes it into a funny, dangerous, double-crossing rat.

It is Tuco who gets the rope around his neck in Eastwood's con game. It is Tuco who makes Eastwood walk into the desert while he rides. It is Tuco again, who helps Eastwood shoot the bad guys. And in the end, it is Tuco who gets the shaft . . . er, the noose.

For all that, and the beating he takes from the fat Italian Union Sergeant, he should at least have been nominated.

If you calculate your film viewing pleasure in part by the film footage and the bad guys shot.

down, see "The Good, the Bad, and Tuco, the rat."

"Sergeant Ryker" is listed in the credits as "based on a television production."

But if there was anything added, it's minor. In it, you see television heavies you thought had retired, and you see Bradford Dillman when he was skinny and Peter Graves without gray hair. Lee Marvin, while listed on the marquee as the star, is overshadowed by the performance of Dillman.

Even though it is an old television production, and it has the overall aspects of a film made for television, "Sergeant Ryker" keeps the viewer in his seat.

Ryker has been convicted and sentenced to hang as a Korean defector. Dillman finds some reasonable doubt as to Ryker's guilt as established by the military court-martial, and it goes from there. Ryker's wife (Vera Miles) enters the picture, long enough to convince Dillman he is in love with her and that Ryker deserves a new trial.

The end is surprising, if not spell-binding.

Watch for it, in a re-release on "Saturday Night at the Movies" next year.

Bogota University Graduate In Lufkin As IAESTE Visitor

International relations struck oil at Texas A&M with the visit of Alfinso Salcedo of Colombia, a Bogota university petroleum engineering graduate.

Salcedo, 27, is in Lufkin on a six-month work visit as the result of A&M student participation in the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE).

The distinguished - appearing Colombian is doing mechanical shop, field and office work with the Lufkin Foundry and Machine Co. through arrangement of the company president, Robert L. Poland, a 1942 A&M graduate.

IAESTE EXCHANGES students on a one-for-one basis. Since its inception at A&M last year, five Aggies have become involved. Eddie Herrera of Edinburg worked at Madrid, Spain, with an aircraft firm last summer.

In June, Agustin Fernandez of Eagle Pass will go to Madrid,

Chris Kupper of Marlin, Clydebank, Scotland; Ron Cox of Danville, Ill., London, and Gary Sheffield of Texas City, Trondheim, Norway.

Salcedo stayed with Fernandez, visited with A&M's IAESTE participants and eight Colombians studying at A&M and toured the campus during a three-day weekend visit.

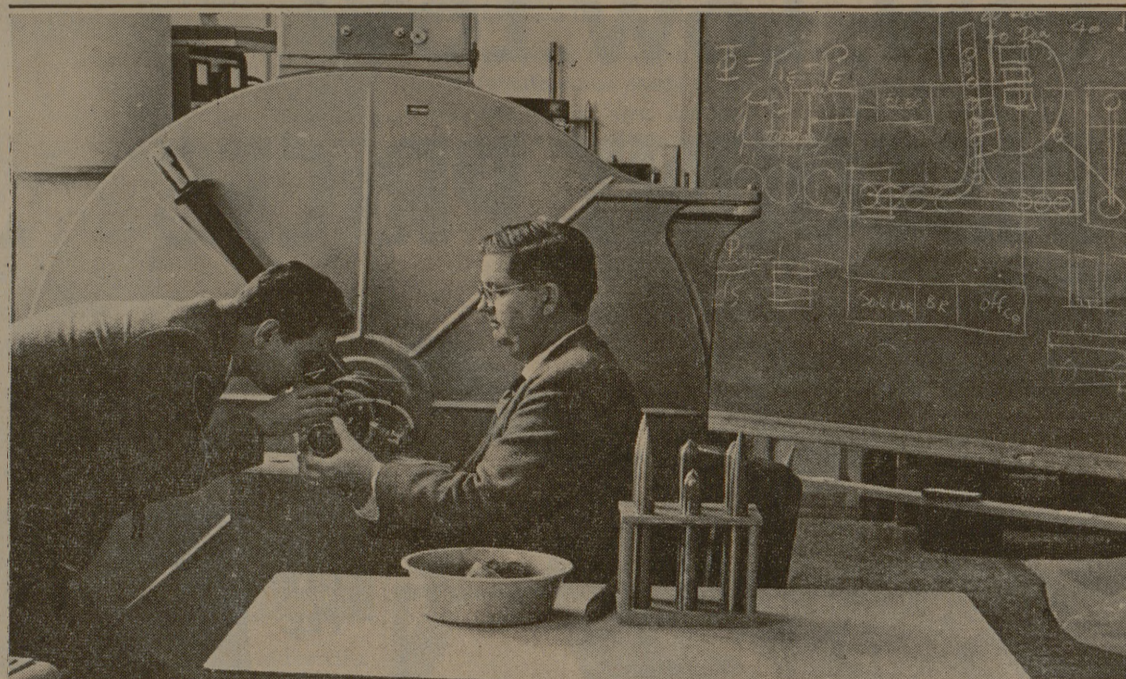
"I AM ENJOYING an excellent experience," the recent Universidad de America graduate remarked.

With Herrera as guide, Salcedo attended a Town Hall performance of "The Association," dined with Colombian Aggies, watched the annual drill meet and made a campus tour with special emphasis on the Petroleum Engineering Department.

Dr. W. D. Von Gonten, assistant professor, opened the department's research and instruction labs for his observation.

"Alfonso was impressed with the facilities," Herrera noted.

"This experience is very good for my English and I'm gaining valuable technical knowledge through my work at Lufkin," Salcedo added.



TERRAMECHANICS RESEARCHERS

Dr. Louis Thompson, right, and co-worker Dr. Ayhan Cetiner adjust a camera capable of taking 1.5 million exposures per second which will be used in studies of earth penetration. On the table are various projectiles which have been fired into earth materials at Texas A&M University's new Terramechanics Laboratory.

Lab Studies Might Bring Underground Planet Probe

Researchers here are going underground in a new study which one day may lead to subsurface exploration of planets and better understanding of our earth.

The A&M engineers already have constructed a laboratory in a big aircraft hangar at the Research Annex where they are using a spider-legged, 20-foot-tall "gun" and high-speed recording equipment for experiments in a new engineering science dubbed "terramechanics."

Specifically, the studies are concerned with what happens when the earth is penetrated by projectiles or is moved with explosive suddenness.

Experiments in terramechanics were begun about seven years ago by the Sandia Corporation of Albuquerque, N. M. Sandia, a Western Electric subsidiary operating under a non-profit contract with the Atomic Energy Commission, is also involved in nuclear weapons research.

ALREADY, a variety of projectiles have been dropped by Sandia from aircraft in western states, Florida and Alaska. At Easterwood Airport tests were conducted by Sandia engineers and A&M researchers, including Dean Fred Benson, dean of engineering, and Dr. Louis Thompson of the Civil Engineering Department.

The heavily-instrumented projectiles have burrowed to surprising distances—as much as 220 feet—and have given researchers new information about the forces and reactions of the earth.

Dean Benson and Dr. Thompson have acted as consultants in theoretical analysis for the company. Around a quarter-million dollars worth of equipment for the new laboratory and funding for the research at A&M have been provided by Sandia.

OUTSIDE OF possible military applications of the work, there are a number of immediate and long-range scientific and economic possibilities.

With calculations derived from experiments, engineers may be able to design a space probe which would penetrate the surface of the moon to investigate the structure underneath, or to find out what lies at and beneath the surface of planets like Venus, Jupiter and Mars.

"Sandia has shot projectiles hundreds of feet into cemented alluvium—ground so hard you couldn't dig it with a pick—in Nevada," explained Dr. Thompson.

"We want to learn more about how earth materials react in short times. We might even learn more about plowing. At the moment,

it would be very difficult for anyone to describe what a plow does in mathematical or theoretical terms," he added.

The A&M research engineers want to work out dependable predictions and formulas for the mechanics of penetration into everything from rock to water.

Some experiments already have been conducted at the facility.

"WE'RE SHOOTING small projectiles into earth samples in highly-controlled tests," said Dr. Thompson. For some of these experiments, a tall gun shoots 1 1/4-inch projectiles into earth samples by compressed nitrogen. Later, the group will work with larger projectiles and may even build a rocket sled device.

Included in the lab's equipment is a big camera which can take a million and a half pictures per second. There is only one other like it in the world. In addition, the lab boasts a number of high-speed recording devices and electronic monitors.

Texas A&M provided the funds with which the aircraft hangar was rebuilt into the laboratory. A concrete block bunker in one part of the hangar houses monitoring equipment and protects the research engineers during the tests.

THE RESEARCHERS are even shooting projectiles into stacks of roller bearings to gather data.

Dean Benson's specific area of interest in this project is the immediate, workable principles of earth penetration can be applied. In addition, Dr. James M. Nash and Dr. Ayhan Cetiner are programming differential equations using methods developed at Los Alamos for projectile entry into water.

Dr. Herman Hartley, director of the Institute of Statistics, and Charles Gates are designing experiments.

Dr. Charles H. Samson Jr., head of Civil Engineering and Dr. Lee L. Lowery Jr. are studying wave propagation in projectiles during penetration. Dr. G. D. Hallmark and Max Adams of Electrical Engineering are studying radio wave propagation through the earth.

IN PREVIOUS work, the research engineers have discovered some interesting effects in dropping projectiles into the earth. Projectiles with fairly blunt noses form "nose cones" of soil as they burrow into the earth. Those nose cones are often highly compressed.

"For the present, we're not interested in anything exceeding the speed of sound," said Dr. Thompson. "Maybe we will be some years later. Actually the problem in the supersonic range is theoretically less difficult."

The researchers have learned that the Russians are doing somewhat similar work, but the A&M facility may be unique.

"It is our intention that the terramechanics laboratory be a truly outstanding facility. It perhaps will be the only one of its kind," said Dr. Samson.

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