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CLOSED DEC. 25?

MERRY CHRISTMIS

uter Provides Brains In Marriage With Cyclotron

Nixon-Eisenhower dominate the nuptial headlines, A&M is quietly preparing for a marriage of its bwi -between a cyclotron and a

Nuclear scientists feel it's a perfect match. A giant "atom smasher" is grand, they agree, but it's even better if it has a

Other cyclotrons have flirted

While Onassis - Kennedy and John C. Hiebert, who is presiding IBM 360/65. over the marriage, but none has involved the magnitude of the A&M operation.

The university's 88-inch variable energy cyclotron — largest nuclear research installation of its type in the Southwest — will highly sophisticated second-generation computer. The 7094 served needs. as the main data processing unit here before delivery of a new marriage. Quite the contrary,

A LARGE portion of the interfacing equipment came from NASA's Manned Spacecraft Center at Houston, courtesy IBM. The NASA equipment, phased out of the space program following installation of more powerbe paired with an IBM 7094, a ful computers, required extensive modification to meet A&M's

It isn't, however, a shotgun

million-dollar machines has been planned since 1966, with the courtship beginning a year ago, shortly before the cyclotron was placed in service.

Formal date for the wedding has not been set. Dr. Hiebert, associate professor of physics, confides the event could come next month but will likely be sometime in February. Several "data acquisition" tests have

been successfully conducted, he

ON-LINE DATA acquisition is the first of three relationships which Cyclotron Institute personnel visualize for the marriage. They emphasize that initially the computer will only be interfaced with the cyclotron's experimental equipment, rather than with the cyclotron itself.

Within a few months, Hiebert foresees an expanded role for the

computer, possibly controlling of the brawn, while the computer some of the experimental parameters. Still further in the future — perhaps five years — the computer may be used to control

the entire cyclotron. One obvious question crops up when assessing the marriage: and analyze it instantaneously." which of the machines is the male and which the female? can be readily ascertained the 300-ton cyclotron furnishes most nificance

has visions of running the show.

"The big advantage of mating the two devices," Dr. Hiebert explains, "is that we will be able to accumulate the data in the computer in real time, display

While the marriage may not be the year's social sensation, many Without drawing conclusions, it observers feel it may more than make up for it in scientific sig-

with small computers, notes Dr. CRANBERRY SPRAY

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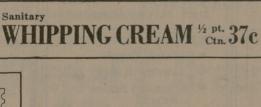
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