

Research Annex

Abandoned facilities now asset

The Texas A&M Research Annex, nine years old, is classic proof that a major disappointment can be converted into an area, state and national asset.

The establishment of the Annex in 1961 proved to be an ingenious move toward trying to alleviate the economic crisis accompanying the 1958 closing of the Bryan Air Base and A&M President A. R. Luedeck pointed out the university's increasing need for additional space in order to expand its programs.

Old-timers will recall that the Air Force graduated its last class in June of 1958 and soon thereafter left the base to a caretaker crew of 18 men, who were responsible for maintenance, security, and fire protection. Texas A&M received control of the installation from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in May, 1961, and there has been no indication of regret from any quarter.

Thompson receives teaching award

Herbert G. Thompson, associate professor of marketing at Texas A&M, was awarded the College of Business Administration Outstanding Teaching Award for 1969-70 during the college's annual spring faculty banquet this week.

Dean John E. Pearson presented the award, noting Thompson's outstanding record as a teacher since joining the Texas A&M faculty in 1951.

Honored with retirement plaques were business faculty members Williams E. (Bill) Eckles, assistant dean and director of the Executive Development Programs, and Edward S. Packenham, professor of accounting.

Thompson, a native of Ohio, received B.S. and M.B.A. degrees from Miami University of Ohio. He came to Texas A&M from Western Michigan University.

all aspects of its total program—teaching, research, and extension. Thirty-eight activity units of various colleges and departments within the university utilize the well-kept buildings and land areas. The additional space for research activities, classrooms, laboratories, and storage has been vital to continued growth and improvement.

The economic contribution to the community is equally noteworthy. The Annex provides full-time jobs for more than 200 persons. The equivalent of 50 full-time jobs is added by part-time student employment. Salaries and expenditures for supplies and materials represent an annual \$2.2 million boost to the local economy.

In addition, the students enrolled in special classes conducted at the former air base represent considerable buying power. Average enrollment in these classes is 85 to 100.

Because of a well-planned program of building modification and routine maintenance what might have been a ghost camp or an open pasture is a complex of useful facilities. While approximately 100 buildings have been removed, more than 100 remain, and these are in excellent condition. Maintenance and operations superintendent John Martine heads a 47-man department responsible for this improvement.

A number of University activities make extensive use of the property. The Texas Transportation Institute uses buildings, land, runways, taxi strips, and parking aprons in conjunction with its nationally recognized research programs in such areas as highway materials, pavement design, highway illumination, structural research, and safety.

Texas Engineering Experiment Station facilities include laboratories for research in proteins for human food, energy and propulsion, flight mechanics, gas dynamics, propeller performance, rocket testing, testing of air moving

devices, and a research and instrument shop as well as other activities.

College of Agriculture usage includes activities in agricultural education, agricultural extension, animal science, range science, soil sampling, wildlife science, and plant sciences.

The College of Veterinary Medicine uses buildings and pastureland for laboratory teaching and research in a number of areas. Major users from the College of Engineering include the Nuclear Engineering Department and the Electric Power Institute. The Colleges of Sciences and Geosciences also make effective use of the facility.

The Texas Engineering Extension Service operates its schools for civil defense training, electric and telephone training, and police training and its Institute of Electronic Science at the Annex.

The Bryan-College Station area can justly be proud of the Texas A&M Research Annex. Its economic impact on the area is significant.

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