

\$39,177 grant awarded for ecology institute

A \$39,177 National Science Foundation grant for a six-week summer institute on ecology has been awarded A&M, President Jack K. Williams announced.

The institute, directed by Richard J. Baldauf of the Wildlife Science Department, will be held July 5 to August 13 for 35 secondary school non-biology teachers.

Baldauf said the institute will operate under the title "Population Resources and Environment: An Ecological Evaluation" with Dr. Donald R. Clark Jr. coordinating it.

"The basic idea," Clark explained, "will be to present prob-

lems mankind faces as being ecological in nature. Participants will be given enough ecology to understand why the problems exist, how we fit into them and what we can do about it."

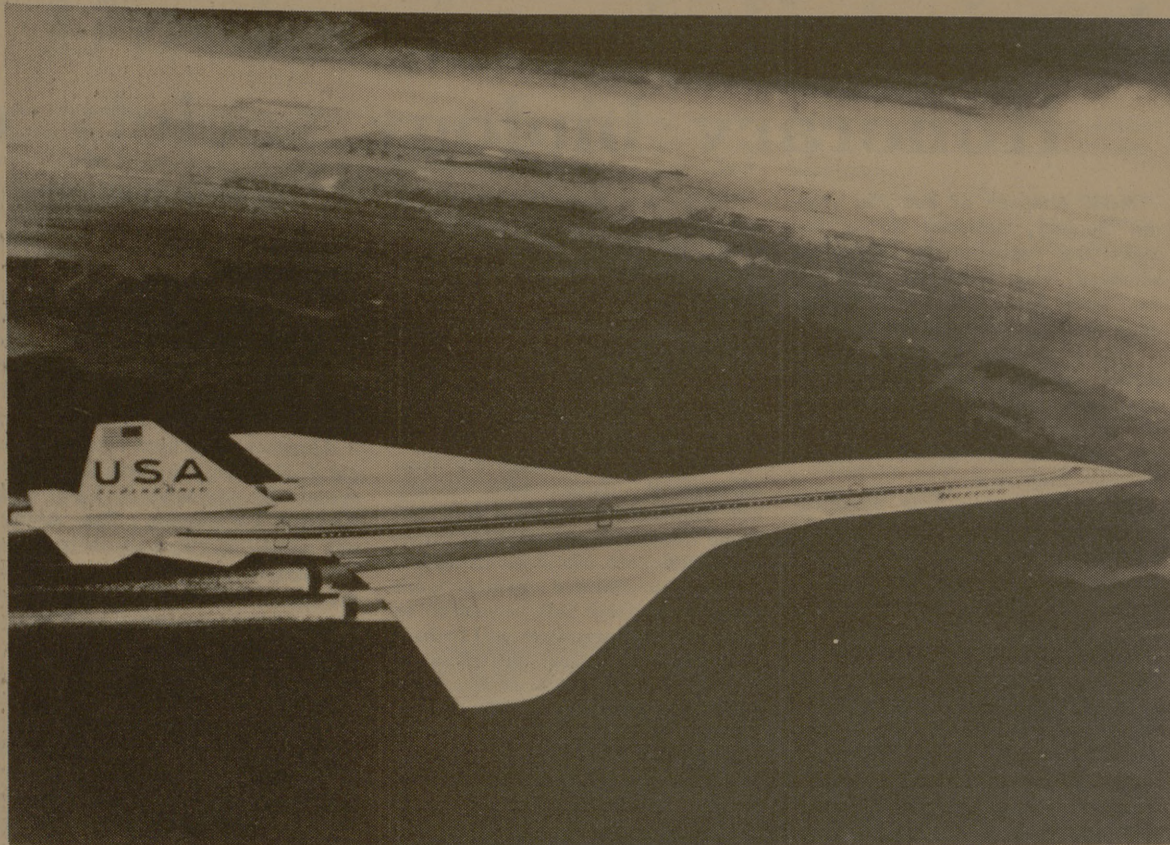
Mornings during the six-week institute will be devoted to discussion groups, lectures and presentations by faculty members in meteorology, entomology, biology, geography, wildlife science and soils and crop science, among others, Clark added.

Visiting lecturers include Dr. LaMont Cole, eminent ecologist of Cornell University, and Dr. Georg (cq) Borgstrom, world food authority of Michigan State, will also be heard.

Field trips to such sites as the Houston Ship Channel and West Texas bat caves also are planned.

"During the afternoons, I will be in charge of tying it all together," Clark said.

Participants will receive six semester hours graduate credit for the institute.



THE RECENTLY TORPEDOED but still alive supersonic transport is shown here. President Nixon wants it as the flagship of the nation's global air fleet but ecologists, worried about high altitude pollution and disturbances, have other ideas. (AP Wirephoto)

A&M geneticist connects eye trouble with heredity

Take 181 persons on one family tree, follow them through four generations, and 31 turn up with detached or partly detached

retinas in their eyes. Seven of the 31 are blind. After examination, eight members were found to be in immediate need of surgery.

A case for heredity? Dr. N. A. McNeil of A&M thinks so. The associate professor of genetics in the Plant Sciences Department lists a number of what he believes are solid conclusions after a year-long study of a large West Texas family:

—Detached retina in humans is inherited as an autosomal dominant gene. This means a child of a parent carrying the gene for the ailment stands almost a 50-50 chance of developing the trouble. The affliction can strike at any age.

—Very little research has been done recently on detached retina from the genetic standpoint. —Many doctors, and some ophthalmologists, are apparently unaware of its genetic nature. —Doctors who do recognize the role of heredity in the affliction tend to attach minor significance to it. —Frequent medical examination of persons subject to the affliction may prevent many cases of blindness.

The condition is a tearing or peeling of a thin lining on the inside rear of the eyeball. The lining contacts the optic nerve. When the weakness exists, sudden and complete tearing or folding of the lining can occur if the person's body is jolted or if the eyeball's interior pressure is suddenly increased. Pressure rises, for example, when a person bends over to pick up something or blows a wind instrument. Blindness comes swiftly.

In more typical cases, the peeling and tearing is a slow, painless process, and visual symptoms may be absent or overlooked. But blindness, when it strikes, is still sudden. McNeil says surgical repair is possible if the condition is detected early enough. The latest method is "spot-welding" the tear back into place with a laser beam.

Fight for Hughes empire continues; industrialist remains in Bahamas

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP)—While billionaire Howard Hughes reportedly vacations in the Bahamas, two groups are battling in court for control of his Nevada empire. Each has a document purportedly investing it with Hughes' authority.

Executives of Hughes Tool Co. are trying to prove he signed a proxy statement giving them full control of his \$300-million Nevada holdings.

Robert Maheu, who has managed Hughes' Nevada property since the industrialist arrived four years ago, has produced a note which he says is evidence of "his purpose to make me the trustee of his stock in the Hughes Tool Co. itself," which would have given Maheu control of almost the entire Hughes fortune.

The tool company executives fired Maheu Saturday and he sued. Claiming to be beyond the company's control, Maheu obtained a restraining order preventing the company forces from interfering with his stewardship of Hughes' Nevada operations.

In affidavits filed with the court and disclosed Tuesday, Maheu contended that:

—Hughes became ill in September and "thereafter his medical condition became progressively worse. He largely discontinued business activities."

—Hughes "left the premises or was removed" from his Desert Inn penthouse in Las Vegas Thanksgiving Eve through the back entrance of the hotel in a departure engineered by the tool company forces.

—Hughes Tool Co. planned to fire 155 key people in Nevada after it took control from Maheu.

The tool company men went to court Tuesday seeking to have Maheu's restraining order quashed and introduced the proxy statement, purportedly signed by Hughes, giving them the power to vote his tool company stock.

Maheu's lawyer said he had sent the proxy to Washington for analysis by a handwriting expert and offered to introduce an unopened telegram that he said gave the expert's analysis of the signature.

Judge Howard Babcock said the telegram would have to be introduced later in the hearing.

One of Maheu's affidavits contended that prior to March 1967 Hughes said he would make Maheu "trustee of his stock in the Hughes Tool Co."

Inserted into the affidavit was what Maheu described as a copy of a handwritten Hughes note to him. Addressed to "Bob" and bearing no signature or date, the copy said:

"I have your message. I do not feel your apprehension is the least bit unjustified. If I give

you my word to find a solution promptly, such as a voting trust for my Hughes Tool Co. stock, and if I put the formalities into a state of effectiveness for your scrutiny without any unreasonable delay, will you consider it done as of now, so your mind will not be filled with these thoughts in the near future?"

A tool company official said the note in no way said the voting trust would be given to Maheu. The official said the voting trust proposal mentioned could refer to a trust established for the purchase of Nevada real estate.

The tool company group and Maheu met for more than an hour Tuesday in the office of Nevada Gov. Paul Laxalt seeking a settlement. A state official who sat in, Gaming Commission Chairman Jack Diehl, said he expected "some solution" in a few days.

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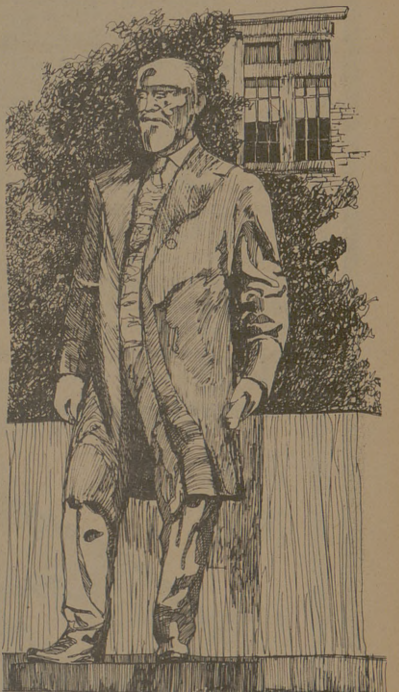
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Spring semester Hinson-Hazlewood College Student (TOP) loan checks will be released during the period of January 12 through January 15, 1971, at Bolton Hall, Room 104. You must present your fee slip or billing for the spring semester before your loan will be released. Loans will be released in the following manner: 10:00 A. M. Surnames beginning with A-L 3:00 P. M. Surnames beginning with M-Z Vet. Med. students' checks will be issued on January 4th in Room 210, Vet. Science Bldg., Vet. Med. College at 7:30 a.m. Alvin P. Borgman, Jr. Loan Supervisor

At 8:00 a.m., Thursday, December 10, there will be posted in the foyer of the Richard Coke Building, a list of those mid-year candidates who have completed all academic requirements for degree to be conferred December 12, 1970. Each candidate is urged to consult the list to determine his status.
R. A. Lacey, Registrar 5015

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