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THIS CHAROLAIS COW is probably what you would call a contented cow. Rancher Jack Crosson, right, rigged up no less than a whirlpool bath for this cow after she developed lameness after giving birth to a calf. (AP Wirephoto)

**Faculty members design
radio marker beacon**

Two A&M faculty members have designed the first FAA approved solid state radio marker beacon, with two beacons part of the instrument landing system (ILS) under construction at Easterwood Airport.

Drs. C. R. Haden and Jack Stone, both electrical engineering professors, consulted on the beacon project for Antenna Products Corp. of Austin.

The beacon, Dr. Haden said, transmits a vertical signal picked up on a 75 megaHertz receiver when the aircraft flies over the signal. It tells the pilot the exact distance to the front of the runway.

Middle and outer beacons are being installed to serve Easterwood Runway 34. The outer beacon is 6.29 miles from the runway, the middle beacon is 3,050 feet out.

The ILS at Easterwood, scheduled for completion by mid-August, has three parts: a glide slope signal tells the pilot how low or high he is on the glide path approach; a localizer determines the drift left or right, and the marker beacons.

Haden and Stone used earlier concepts and a new solid state electronics design. It is the first to meet FAA specifications.

Dr. Haden noted some airports have three runway beacons, from the runway beginning to middle and outer markers. Others have only one, while urban airports may have three beacons on more than one runway.

The pole-mounted beacon system includes a transmitter the size of a two-drawer letter filing cabinet and a sending antenna.

Signals are received on a special radio which decodes to a tone identification, or it can be patched from the receiver to a light on the instrument control panel.

The new design is completely solid state and will operate in hot and cold weather extremes. It has an emergency backup power battery for a week's operation.

Dr. Haden said the improved instrument system should increase the time the airport is open, giving the facility a near all-weather landing capability.

The FAA has purchased approximately 300 of the beacon units for installation at approximately 100 runways. In addition, the U. S. Air Force has contracted for 50 units of a slightly different design.

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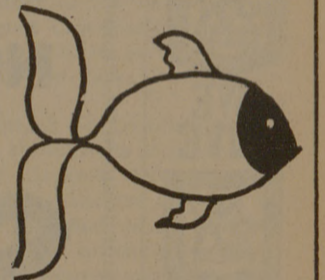
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