

# Firemen Training School Begins Large Expansion Program

Firemen Training School has started a multi-million dollar expansion program designed to give municipal and industrial fire-fighters the most modern training of its kind in the world. The three-phase, four-year program is funded by special Texas Legislature appropriations, equipment donations and creative engineering by Chief Instructor Henry Smith and his seven-man staff. Smith said the training field, completed, will be valued at

more than \$3.4 million. Total acreage will be expanded from 26 to 60.5 acres. "This investment will be returned many fold through educational benefits," Smith emphasized. He knows classroom theory instruction is important, but contends fire-fighting is learned best under actual conditions, giving firemen experience to react safely and correctly on the job. The firemen's school, operated

under TAMU's Engineering Extension Service, trains thousands of city and industrial firemen each year, both on and off campus. During the summer, three one-week schools are held for municipal, industrial and Spanish-speaking firemen from throughout the world. Almost every week night one of Smith's men is in a Texas town conducting a training session for volunteer firemen. Smith reported the expanded

training facility will be used constantly for municipal and industrial fire training, research testing, recruit training, communications training, special industrial schools to meet the needs of various companies and evaluation of new products for the fire service. One project, designed and supervised by the staff, is nearing completion. It's a \$95,000 high-pressure water supply system capable of pumping 5,000 gallons per minute (GPM). The three

pumps can produce 200 pounds per square inch of pressure, and replaces fire truck pumps used previously. The pump system is not included in the appropriated funding. Phase 1 projects came from a \$385,000 1971 Legislature appropriation. Bids were let in November for a multi-level residential training building, hose and pump training structure and chemical fire control building. The three-floor resi-

dential building will be used to teach fire control, rescue and extinguishment techniques in commercial, residential and apartment-type dwellings. Smith noted the structure will enable the fire-fighter to receive training under adverse conditions which he normally encounters. Also purchased from Phase 1 funding was a 1,000 GPM triple combination, diesel-powered pump (standard fire truck) at \$43,500, a 400 GPM, 500-gal-

lon mini-pumper for \$17,000, a \$14,500 specialized grass rural fire-fighting truck with 300 gallon tank and a \$26,000 salvage and light plant truck with five kilowatt power system, flood lights and portable generator. The first truck is expected to be delivered in January. Phase 2 funding of \$396,000 was approved by the Legislature last summer for Fiscal Year 1973. Construction projects in the design phase include a six-story and basement reinforced concrete drill tower. Its use will include hose and ladder training, simulated high-rise fires and rescue operations from multi-story structures, such as hotels, office buildings and apartments. A breathing apparatus structure with smoke and gas chambers will have a unique heating system, Smith said. The forced air heater built into the building will be able to produce up to 400 degree heat to give firemen actual conditions when entering burning structures. One example of manufacturer assistance to the overall program is the fire department communications training center. Smith noted it will contain all types of modern communications equipment, including voice writing. Departments will send communications people here to train at the facility, with almost all of the new equipment donated by various manufacturers. Also included in Phase 2 is a retail warehouse to show firemen practical techniques in containing and extinguishing fires in retail, wholesale and multi-occupancy warehouses. This structure will provide actual conditions, including high-piled hard and soft goods such as cotton bales. Equipment to be purchased from Phase 2 money are a "snorkle" aerial platform truck and a second 1,000 GPM triple combination truck. Phase 3 covers the 1974-75 biennium fiscal years. Smith said he expects to seek approximately \$500,000 for that two-year period.

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## Child Care Applications Available Now

Applications for the Student Government-sponsored Day Care Center will be available in the MSC starting Thursday from the Student Programs office.

The new director, Roberta Inglis, will have interviews with parents when they turn in applications.

The Day Care Center will definitely open Jan. 15 and applications will be due before Jan. 8.

The top priority for accepting a child is a single parent with a child; second priority is if both parents are attending school; and the third priority is one parent going to school while the other is working.

The fourth priority is one parent going to school while the other is at home and the fifth priority is any special case.

One of the parents must be attending A&M to be eligible and the age limit is two-four years of age. Costs will be \$50-55 per month.

## Summer English Program Set

A&M has scheduled a new summer academic program offering intensive English language study to university-level foreign students.

The English Language Summer Institute for International Students begins May 29 and continues through Aug. 17, announced Thomas H. Williams, director and modern languages instructor.

Williams said the course is intended primarily to help adults master English pronunciation, intonation and grammatical patterns, plus reading and composition skills.

International students can expect to spend 30 hours each week in the classroom and an additional five hours in the language laboratory, Williams pointed out. Classes will be limited to 15 students.

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