

A&M Tied To Seismic Station

The Geophysics Department has acquired a seismograph terminal that receives signals by telephone from the world-wide standard seismic station at Junction, Texas.

Dr. Anthony F. Gangi, professor of geophysics, initiated the proposal, the planning and the acquisition of the terminal. Dr. Gangi said the instrument at present measures only the vertical motions of the earth's crust, but the capability to measure horizontal motions will be developed soon.

The terminal signal, according to Dr. Gangi, is from a short period instrument with a peak response of one cycle. The terminal represents an investment of approximately \$4,000.

Dr. Gangi worked with Dr. Terry Spencer, head of the Geophysics Department, to obtain the terminal facility through departmental funds.

Dr. Gangi will serve as the director of the new installation. He said the terminal will provide the faculty and students in the Geophysics Department with an opportunity to do research in a variety of areas in geophysics such as seismicity, the rate of occurrence of earthquakes; microseism, ground motion set up by storms at sea, and the effect of depth in

the earth's crust on wave propagation velocities.

Edward (Smokie) Stover of the Geophysics Department is in charge of operating and maintaining the instruments in the terminal installation. He said the terminal is able to record earthquakes from all over the world.

"We were able to get an excellent record of the recent earthquake that destroyed Managua, Nicaragua," Stover said. "The Managua quake registered a magnitude of 6.2 on the Richter Scale."

Stover said that several other records of recent quakes off the Philippines and the Japanese mainland which exceeded 7.0 on the Richter Scale were recorded by the terminal equipment.

"The reason they were not publicized," he said, "is that they occurred at sea and no loss of life or property was reported."

There generally are fewer than six earthquakes a year from all over the world that have magnitudes exceeding 7.0 on the Richter Scale, Stover noted.

The Geophysics Department plans to cooperate with the seismic station in Denver, Colo. to improve communications on data acquisition from the Junction station.

Resonance by Steve Grayson

Buffalo Springfield was a rock group too far ahead of its audience to gain stardom. More or less, it was made of Rich Furay, Jim Messina, Neil Young and Stephen Stills. When they split in '69, Stills teamed with Graham Nash of the Hollies and David Crosby of the Byrds, while Neil Young began a short-lived solo trip.

So that left Messina and Furay, and they formed Poco. Messina has since departed to play with Kenny Loggins, but he left his country music leanings with Poco.

Poco has been around for three or four years now, its latest effort is called "A Good Feeling to Know." Messina's replacement, Paul Cotton, is every bit as skilled on the guitar and wrote three of the album's songs. A long-haired steel guitar player still looks odd but when it sounds like it does on "Good Feeling" everything seems natural.

This new record shows Poco at its best. Their country tainted rock is just right for the songs included. The title track is my favorite. It communicates what the lyrics say. The second best song is its version of Stephen Stills old Buffalo Springfield number "Go And Say Good Bye."

Poco's optimism is what grew on me as I listened to "Good Feeling" for the second time. On about the third listen I began to catch its rhythm and expertise at creating the desired tempo, not as simple as it would seem. In its "cosmic-country" category, "Good Feeling to Know" is at the top.

Recently, Crosby, Stills and

Nash got back together to do a new album. Neil Young declined the family reunion invite, since he was (and is) on an extended national tour with his back-up group, the Stray Gators. His concerts are all sellouts, and his performances have received good reviews. So, Young took advantage of his stardom to release an album that is below the standards his past musical efforts set. It is called "Journey Through The Past."

This double record deal is supposedly from a movie soundtrack, but if it really is from a movie, its probably from one of those that we'll never see, unless its at the Campus at 12 o'clock Friday night.

Young does an unusual thing on this album, most of the last side is other people's stuff. The Beachboys' "Let's Go Away for Awhile" in borrowed, as are the excerpts from Handle's "Messiah." I must credit Young with guts to sandwich between those works his own "Soldier," the only new song on the album. But whatever he was trying to say wasn't made clear enough.

The other three sides are different versions of old music. Included are numbers by C.S.N and Y, Buffalo Springfield, and a few off his own "Harvest" album, besides some Stray Gator efforts. "Journey Through the Past" doesn't compare with Young's other albums, since whatever is on "Journey" sounded better in its original version.

Both these records were provided for my analysis by Donnie and Ed at Budget Tapes and Records in Northgate.

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