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Scientists To Try To Discover Origin Of Solar System

Scientists at A&M and the University of Colorado at Denver will try to unravel some of the secrets of the origin of the earth's solar system through a NASA-funded research project.

Dr. Marvin W. Rowe, professor of chemistry at TAMU, and J. Marvin Herndon, chemistry doctoral candidate, will join with Colorado scientists Prof. E. E. Larson and Dr. D. E. Watson in studying magnetic properties of meteorites.

The scientists are decoding magnetic messages recorded in meteorites during their formation some five billion years ago. The messages are in the form of remanent magnetism—the magnetism remaining in a magnetized body after the body is removed from the influence of the magnet field—in certain very primitive meteorites.

The researchers concluded in preliminary studies that there existed a magnetic field in the very early history of the solar system, one that existed even before the formation of the planetary bodies.

Some of the meteorites studied by the scientists in preliminary investigations indicated very faint

traces of magnetism, revealing the possibility that magnetic forces extended throughout the primitive dust cloud which predated the birth of the solar system.

The preliminary study, which resulted in Herndon being awarded the Ninger Meteorite Award for 1971-72, was begun in mid-1971. Cooperation from the Soviet Union, France, India and other East and West European countries, resulted in the team being able to examine all known specimens from the carbonaceous meteorites, a particularly rare type of meteorite best preserved from the period of origin of the solar system.

"We've had excellent cooperation from the Russians," Dr. Rowe said. "In fact, they have been cooperating with American scientists studying meteorites for more than a decade, and they have often cooperated in this field when the two countries cooperated in nothing else."

Dr. Rowe said that many theories established in early work on the project had been substantiated, and he felt more definite conclusions would be forthcoming

as the project progresses. One sidelight of the project led researchers to a potential method for determining the past temper-

ature history of the samples under study, as well as magnetic properties. Funded with a \$43,310 grant,

the project is being administered through the Texas A&M Research Foundation. The project has been funded for two years, Dr. Rowe said.

The project evolved from a conversation between Herndon and the two Colorado scientists during a geological field trip. His award-winning paper and preliminary investigations on the project set the stage for the in-depth study.

Window Shades Conserve Energy

Window shades cut down on energy required to cool a room since tremendous amounts of cold are lost through windows.

"Drawn shades reduce what architects call cold-or-heat bounce, which causes drafts," explained Patricia A. Bradshaw, housing and home furnishings specialist in A&M's Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

"Drafts make a room seem hotter or colder than it actually is—so residents often turn up air conditioners or change thermostat settings for comfort. As a result, additional energy or electricity is required.

"When energy savings—from drawn shades—are established

over an entire house, homemakers actually conserve considerable amounts—and cut down on electric bills at the same time."

Miss Bradshaw noted that the window shade industry piloted a special "June is Window Shade Month" program last year—and it repeated it this year.

It's purpose is to show homemakers how to reduce fuel used while creating attractive window treatments. June was chosen since it's the time when air conditioners "eat up" electricity.

However, energy conservation isn't limited to summer months, the specialist pointed out.

"Window shades also reduce heating losses during winter and fall."

Briscoe Proclaims Safe Boating Week

AUSTIN—Governor Dolph Briscoe has proclaimed July 1-7 Safe Boating Week in Texas, joining with the Texas Safety Association in urging all boaters in the state to observe safe boating practices.

"Each year an increasing number of Texans are spending more and more time in recreational boating in Texas waterways," said the Governor, noting that the number of boats now registered in Texas approaches 400,000.

"Our state is fortunate in having an abundance of lakes, rivers and streams and the Gulf Coast where Texans can enjoy the pleas-

ures of boating," Governor Briscoe said.

However, he continued to say that this increase in recreational crafts, "greatly intensifies the water safety problem."

"It is imperative that all boaters observe the basic rules of boating safety if we are going to keep the loss of life and property damage at a minimum," he said.

"The Congress of the United States, in recognition of the importance of such safe boating practices, has requested by joint resolution that the President proclaim annually the week that includes the 4th of July as National Safe Boating Week.

The Governor closed the proclamation of July 1-7 as Safe Boating Week in Texas by urging all persons, organizations and governmental agencies interested in safety afloat to publicize and observe safe boating week.

The Texas Safety Association, in keeping with the theme of the

"Safe Boating Is No Accident" says that planning and study of safety rules are necessary to avoid boating mishaps.

While each boatman will encounter specialized safety requirements for his particular boat and the way he uses it, TSA suggests a group of basics that make up the "Golden Rules of Boating":

1. Know your boat.
2. Don't overload.
3. Keep a good lookout.
4. Operate at safe speeds.
5. Respect the weather.
6. Take sufficient fuel.
7. Keep your boat in shape.
8. Carry necessary equipment.
9. Secure your boat properly.
10. Obey the law.

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