

# Aggie entrepreneurs form chemical analysis service

Two TAMU post-doctoral chemists are bypassing corporate work to form their own chemical service company.

Dr. Bert Frenz and Dr. Jan Troup are utilizing their academic training and experience in X-ray crystallography to form Molecular Structure Corp., a service company designed to aid researchers in chemical and crystal analysis. The company began with only an idea about a year ago. However, by renting specialized equip-

ment to accomplish crystal structure study, they were able to develop their services and launch the firm.

With a basic appeal to both chemical firms with research labs, and universities with graduate research programs, the pair believe theirs is the only company of its type in the world. To complete crystal structure analyses such as those offered by the firm would require qualified operators and more than \$100,000 worth of

equipment.

Total understanding of chemical structures is important in several areas, according to Troup. He noted that, for instance, a complete analysis of a given drug might allow scientists to improve the drug's performance by slight re-arrangement of the molecular structure.

"We can furnish a complete analysis package, including drawings, molecular models, and other information for a fraction of the

previous cost," Frenz noted. "Also, a complete analysis has traditionally required several months to complete, but we can do the job, on a rush basis, in about three weeks."

"The information package we provide for our clients could be described as a sort of road map," Troup explained, "giving complete 'directions' for all the atoms in a given crystal."

The pair noted that they are negotiating currently for the pur-

chase of a mini-computer for use in their operation. Following that, they plan to acquire specialized X-ray equipment they have been renting. They are also seeking enlarged office space to house their equipment as the firm grows.

The students' departure from academic to business activities is unusual in their field. Most Ph.D.'s attempt to gain employment with large firms to gain experience before branching out on their own.

However, Frenz and Troup, while studying under Dr. F. A. Cotton, renowned research chemist and Robert A. Welch, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at TAMU, have gained extensive experience that enabled them to embark on their unique business venture.

Troup, who graduated with a Ph.D. in chemistry May 11 at TAMU and Frenz, who obtained his Ph.D. from Northwestern in 1971, have already gone interna-

tional with their young firm, completing single-crystal X-ray diffraction service for chemical firms in England and Canada.

"We plan to operate the company on a part-time basis, giving equal time to post-doctoral work and company business," Troup noted. "Then, provided we reach a sufficient level of business, we will enter the chemical service field full-time."

## Cavalry takes last trail ride for seniors

Parsons Mounted Cavalry rides into the sunset this week.

Members of the Texas A&M University organization saddled up Sunday for the last time, for a ride to Uvalde.

Nine riders and two pack horses plan to cover about 25 miles a day, riding farm-to-market roads on a 160-mile circle around the north side of San Antonio.

Bobby Huddleston of Uvalde is scouting the route which will take the riders into the hills northwest of San Marcos, along the "Devil's Backbone" near Wimberley, past Canyon Lake and, via Bandera, to Uvalde.

"We'll sleep wherever we can manage," commented Army Capt. James Holland, cavalry troop advisor. "We figure to meet some interesting people, and they'll usually know someone 25 miles on down the road with whom we can put up."

Besides forming a relaxing outing, the trail ride will call attention to the Corps of Cadets all-senior troop. Organized last summer, the 20 member unit rode at march-ins to football games, reviews, parades and a rodeo this year under command of Mike Collins of Dallas.

Huddleston's father, a vet at Uvalde, will take several drivers to Uvalde to drive the trail riders' rigs to the end of the route. Dr. C. H. Huddleston graduated with a doctor of veterinary medicine degree at Texas A&M in 1944.

Troop members making the ride, besides Collins, Huddleston and Holland are Bob Byrnes of San Angelo; Paul Hess and Pete Dunnam, Dallas; Ross McDaow, Columbus; Johnny Becker, San Antonio, and Fred Pronger, Stratford.

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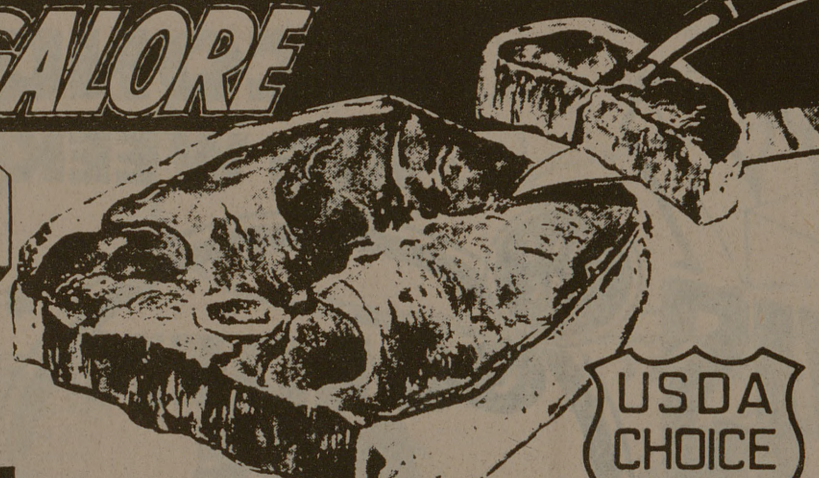


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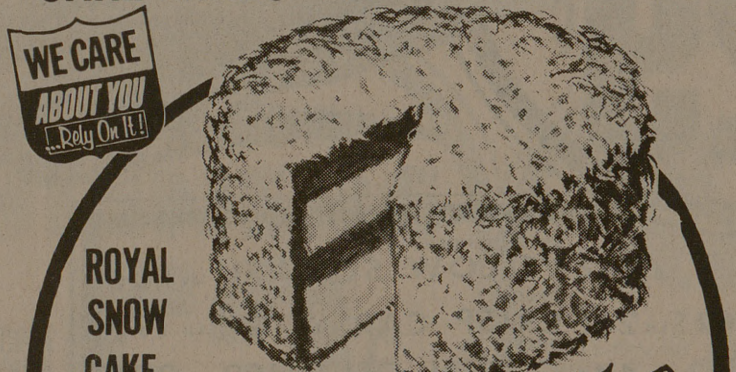
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