

Auto crash barriers tested here

Transportation department awards contract to TTI

TAMU's Texas Transportation Institute received a contract from the U. S. Department of Transportation for tests and evaluation of barrier concepts. This work will include 43 full-scale vehicle crash tests.

The study will be conducted by a team of recognized experts in highway safety, Drs. E. Buth and R. M. Smith. They will direct the program at the TTI Highway Safety Research Center.

In earlier research in this area, the staff has developed and evaluated several impact attenuator designs that have been most effective in reducing fatalities and severity of injuries in single vehicle collisions with roadside obstacles," Buth pointed out.

One of the designs Buth described was the steel drum barrier or crash cushion. It is designed to be put in front of rigid objects to soften the impact if an auto strikes it.

"Cushions like this have been installed in a number of hazardous sites on the nation's highways and have proved to be very effective," Buth pointed out. "In the recorded incident, a young couple escaped with only minor injuries after a 70 mph head-on collision with a rigid

divider protected by a steel drum crash cushion."

Dr. T. J. Hirsch of TTI received the Automotive Safety Foundation's Paul Gray Hoffman award for the development of the steel drum crash cushion.

"Efforts to make the highway more forgiving for single vehicle accidents have produced a number of safety appurtenances for the highway," Buth continued. "Breakaway" designs for sign and light supports have been developed and are being placed in service.


"Roadside objects that are too massive to employ the breakaway concept or that must remain in place can be protected with impact attenuators," he noted. "Guardrails, bridge rails and median barriers that offer smooth redirection capability with low impact forces for even the small cars yet restrain even the heaviest truck from penetration and an encounter with whatever happens to be beyond have received much attention in recent development work.

"These new studies will be devoted to making refinements in existing designs for these safety devices where needed," Buth said. "It will also demonstrate their performance under wider ranges of conditions and more restricted installation requirements."

Laboratory test data now available and being developed in other federally sponsored studies will be combined with information developed in this study to accomplish less expensive design and evaluation procedures for safety appurtenances.

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Safe levels sought for food additives

TAMU is doing research for the Food and Drug Administration to develop methods that allow the FDA to estimate so-called "safe concentrations" of food additives.

Principal investigator is Dr. H. Hartley, director of the Institute of Statistics.

Dr. Hartley noted that "If we use the simple question 'Is a particular food additive safe for human consumption or is it liable to cause cancer?' the public should expect a definite answer from the federal agency responsible, the FDA.

"Yet on closer examination, the question may be difficult to answer," continues Dr. Hartley. "For example, well known nutrients such as selenium which, in small doses, are vital to the subsistence of certain animals but which cause cancer in animals when administered in excessive doses.

"Thus the question must be posed as one of a safe dose level or safe concentration of the additive."

Dr. Hartley's plan of action includes an initial search of literature on carcinogenic testing. After that comes the development of highly

statistical methods that would permit estimation of which doses would be safe on a specific and low risk level.

Assisting Dr. Hartley are Dr. Charles Gates, statistics professor; Dr. James Matis, associate professor; James Darroch, assistant professor; Murl Bailey, associate professor of veterinary physiology and pharmacology; and Dr. James Nagyvary, biochemistry professor.

The researchers received a \$39,732 grant from the Public Health Service of the FDA, a division of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Symphony begins rehearsal

TAMU students prepare this week for work with the University Symphonic Band.

A new TAMU organization, the band offers membership to all students regardless of classification or sex.

The Symphonic Band is directed by Joe McMullen.

McMullen said the band will rehearse on Tuesdays and Thursdays this fall, from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. The first meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 3, will be in E. V. Adams Band Hall.

To have the rehearsal time open, McMullen said, students planning to participate should indicate symphonic band membership at Registration Headquarters in order to have those periods blocked out.

Returning preregistered students and new students may work in the two-a-week rehearsals during the course add-and-drop period.

The Symphonic Band made its debut last spring. Several concerts are planned this fall and winter.

Smaller ammunition researched

TAMU industrial engineers have been funded for a third year of research to find better and cheaper ways to produce small caliber ammunition.

The TAMU research foundation announced extension of the contract for systems analysis for the USAMC Small Caliber Ammunition Modernization Program (SCAMP).

Funded by the Department of the Army, the new contract period begins Sept. 1, 1974, according to the principal investigator, Dr. A. W. Wortham, professor of industrial engineering.

SCAMP was designed as "a mechanized program to reduce the production cost of small caliber ammunition, to provide a safer working environment, and to provide flexible production schedules," Wortham explained.

"This is the third year the contract will be in effect. In the first year, a quality control system was developed," he added. "Last year, a model was developed to simulate and evaluate production rates and costs. These evaluations are performed prior to actual construction of the whole system."

Smaller ammunition researched

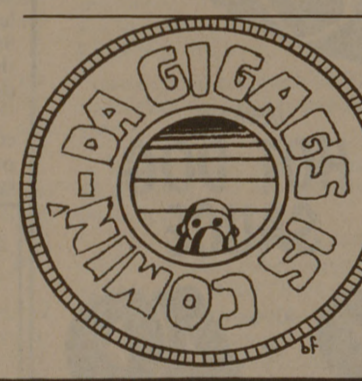
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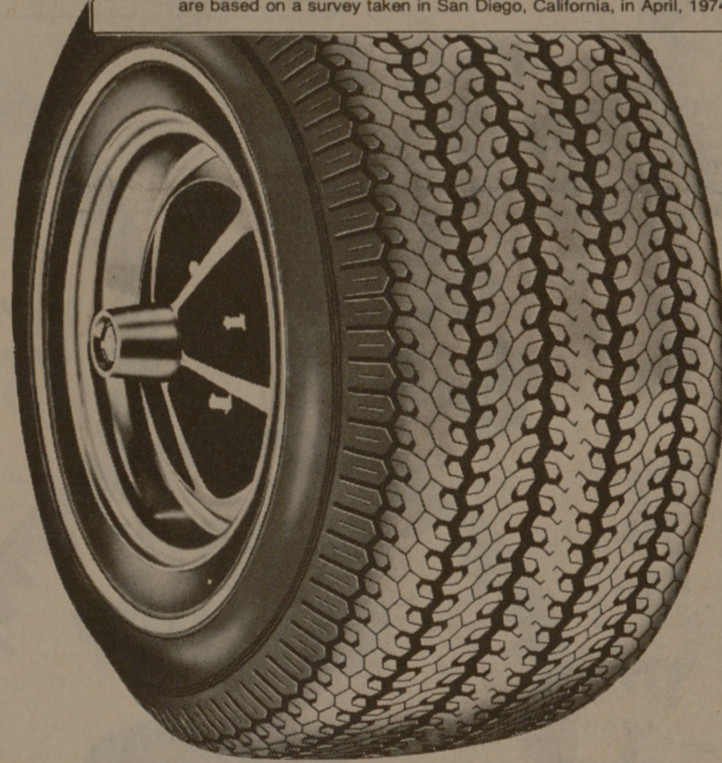


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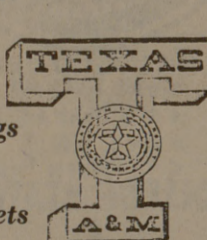
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