

# Researchers to study fuel of the future, wood alcohol

Chances for an auto fuel supply for centuries will be enhanced if an experiment by two TAMU researchers pays off.

Drs. R. R. Davison and W. B. Harris, a pair of chemical engineers, are outfitting a Datsun pickup to run on wood alcohol (methanol).

What makes this significant is the fact that methanol can be produced from coal, garbage, plant cellulose, oil shale, or any carbon source.

In addition, it burns cleaner, is less polluting and is without lead and sulphur that hurt engine performance. It also provides the same horsepower gas with much less engine wear.

"We're designing the engine to use methanol as partial or complete substitute for gasoline," Davison said. "We intend to get enough on the road testing to evaluate the maintenance, convenience, endurance and general driveability of the modified system."

The researchers say they believe it will help alleviate the U. S. foreign dependency on oil.

After 1985 methanol from coal can begin to plug the gap between gasoline demand and domestic oil production, they predict. Methanol will likely be judged a superior motor fuel in all respects except mileage in autos designed to take advantage of its characteristics.

"Furthermore, methanol is now being made from natural gas for a cost per BTU that is nearly competitive with premium gasoline and probably soon with regular," Davison said.

"The U. S. is coal rich," said Harris. "There is enough for hundreds of years. Proven minable reserves

consist of 200 billion tons of coal and lignite, while current production is 600 million tons per year."

This year three major surface mining operations in Texas are expected to yield nine million tons of coal. Production is expected to triple within 6-8 years with several electric power companies beginning plants using coal-fired boilers.

If all electric generating plants in Texas were converted to lignite-fuel boilers the estimated 20 billion tons of near surface resources in the state would supply all of Texas' current electricity needs for three centuries.

The deep basin resources are in excess of 100 billion tons. With the energy equivalent of just over 2 1/2 barrels of crude oil per ton of lignite, the state's resources are 20 times the proven crude reserves in Texas and 16 times the proven natural gas reserves.

# Engineer-craftsman gap bridged by newly developed programs

Texas A&M has developed three programs to bridge the gaps between the theoretical engineer and the nuts-and-bolts craftsman.

"We offer three different programs in that part of the field which requires the application of scientific and engineering knowledge and methods combined with technical skills to support them," said Dr. Everett R. Glazener, head of the

Department of Engineering Technology.

Engineering Technology offers specialties in many areas including Biomedical Engineering Technology, civil engineering fields, computers, electronics, design graphics and technical shop skills.

Coordinator of the E. T. degree is Dr. Daryle Morgan.

Industrial Distribution is aimed at preparing students for positions in sales, sales management and mid-management with wholesale distributors. Such work requires familiarity with the tools, materials and processes of industry as well as sales technique. Program coordinator is Dr. Don Rice.

Training in coordination of industrial functions is provided by Industrial Technology. Coordinator Dr. Clint Bertrand said that in such a

field the technologist "needs to be familiar with management procedures, production techniques, business principles and labor relations."

More information on the programs is available from the Engineering Technology Department.

# Senate bill is to limit term of FBI director

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate passed a bill Monday to limit the director of the FBI to a single, 10-year term. The vote was 70 to 0.

The measure is intended both to protect the FBI director from undue pressures by his superiors and to prevent him from becoming too independent or autocratic.

Under present law, there is no limit on how long the director may serve. The late J. Edgar Hoover served as FBI director from 1924 until his death in 1972.

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Official notices must arrive in the Office of Student Publications before deadline of 1 p.m. of the day preceding publication.

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To be eligible to purchase the Texas A&M ring, an undergraduate student must have at least one year of residence and credit for at least ninety-two (92) semester hours. A year in residence may consist of the fall semester or one of the above and a full summer session (both the first and second terms). The ring should be ordered by the student during the registration period. The ring should be ordered by October 21st in order for all records to be checked to determine ring eligibility. Students already having ninety-two (92) completed hours on record may order any time. Graduate students are eligible to order a ring (proof receipt) that they have filed for graduation in the clerk for mid semester graduates will be taken by the clerk starting October 24, 1974, and will continue through December 6, 1974. All rings must be paid in full when the order is placed. Students will save time if they bring grade reports along when ready to order. Students who fail to leave their names in advance will be asked to return later to allow time for records to be checked. The rings are due to arrive at the Registrar's Office on January 28, 1975. All rings ordered, regardless of whether on October 24, 1974 or December 6, 1975, will arrive at the same time. The ring clerk is in the Registrar's Office, 1200 S. 12th and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. of each day Monday through Friday. However, in order for rings to be checked, orders must be placed prior to 4 p.m. during this ordering period. We hope this information will be helpful and extend our congratulations.  
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