

UT gets Callier Center

Training facility to receive gift

DALLAS (AP) — Trustees of the national resource in the field of communication disorders such as speech and hearing with a comprehensive program of research, education, service and professional training.

At the same time, Erik Jonsson, board president of Dallas' Excellence in Education Foundation, announced the board is making an \$11 million gift to the University of Texas-Dallas and the Callier Center.

Present trustees would become an advisory council to UT-Dallas President Bryce Jordan.

Jonsson said of the Excellence in Education Foundation gift, "Our intent is to give on the order of 500 acres of land which, in time, it is hoped will prove to be a great endowment of enduring benefit in making available educational opportunities of excellence."

He said two-thirds of the gift will be for the university and the remainder for Callier.

Better than trains

Coal may be piped into Texas

Planners are looking ahead to when Texas will suffer from the energy shortage, and one of their possible solutions is to pipe coal from Colorado to Houston. Use of western coal is being investigated by Roy A. Smith and David Burleson, researchers with the TAMU Texas Transportation Institute. They have just released a report for the Governor's Energy Advisory Council which states that alternative energy sources must be developed.

"The fuel with the greatest potential for development is coal," said Smith and Burleson. "Various sources estimate that there is enough to supply the country's needs for up to 600 years."

Capacity of this line is expected to be 7.5 to 9 million tons of coal per year. Initial cost of the Houston Natural Gas Company line is estimated to be approximately \$250 million.

For long distances the slurry pipeline is thought possible to compete with rail transportation.

In order to move approximately 30 million tons of western coal a year into Texas by 1983, 3,000 unit train trips per year will be required. During one year up to nine 10,000 ton trains per day will be necessary to move the supply of coal to Texas. This is about 200 locomotives and 6,270 cars.

"For large amounts and long distances pipelines appear to be the most economical way for importing western coal," the report concludes. "The only problem with the use of a slurry pipeline is that none serving Texas exist at this time. It would be several years before one could be constructed if all the legal and environmental problems could be overcome."

TAMU sub 'Diaphus' seeking oil

The submarine "Diaphus," newest of TAMU's research vessels, will start its second major research operation in May, mapping oil lands in the Texas Gulf.

"During the recent public hearings, prior to Texas Outer Continental Shelf oil lease sales, concern was expressed over the possible effects of drilling on several coral reefs and snapper banks associated with suspected gas reservoirs," explained the project head, Dr. Thomas J. Bright.

"As a result, the Bureau of Land Management needs documented baseline studies of the areas. This will include physical, chemical, biological and geological studies of Baker, South Baker, Southern, Small Adam and Big Adam banks east and southeast of Corpus Christi. The studies will provide a basis of comparison for later environmental monitoring programs if they are needed."

Bright said he expects to start submarine operations May 11 and continue through June 22, including five different cruises to the five banks.

In an aside, Bright noted that a bathymetric mapping program in cooperation with Decca Surveys and the Bureau of Land Management will produce detailed bathymetric maps of 15 snapper banks on the Outer Texas Continental Shelf.

Arnold Bouma is head of the mapping portion, Dr. William R. Bryant and Dr. Richard Rezak will lead the geology effort, and Dr. Willis E. Pequegnat will study the biology of soft bottoms adjacent to the banks.

Speed limit bills passed by House

The Texas House has passed and sent to the Senate two bills dealing with the 55 mile per hour speed limit, State Representative Bill Prenal of Bryan said, Thursday.

HB 139 proposes to extend the mandatory 55 mph speed limit beyond its April 1 expiration date as set by Congress. The other, HB 528, would provide that the maximum fine that could be assessed on those convicted of speeding between 55 and 70 mph be set at \$25.

HB 528 also states that such speeding tickets issued under the bill could not be used to increase insurance premiums nor could they be used toward the total ticket count with regard to driver's license suspensions.

Prenal said such ticket fines now approach \$200 and can be used as the basis for increased premiums and license suspensions.

"HB 139 will call for an extension of the 55 mph speed limit for Texas until the federal government decides to eliminate the requirement," Prenal said.

The federal government has threatened to cut off a state's highway funds if it did not comply with the mandatory speed limit. Texas would lose nearly \$303 million in highway funds if this happened, Prenal said.

The original basis for requiring the lower speed limit was that cars run more efficiently at lower speeds and this helps to conserve gasoline, he said.

Both bills have been referred to the Senate Committee on Judicial Affairs.

Miss America may try A&M

WASHINGTON (AP) — Miss America of 1975, Shirley Cothran, had a brief visit Monday with President Ford in the Oval Office.

As they posed for photographs, the President chatted with Miss Cothran, a student at North Texas State College in Denton, about her plans to finish her education.

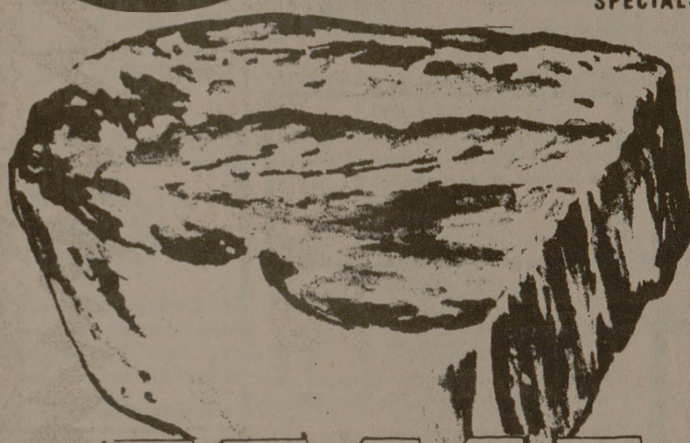
She told the President she would either return to North Texas State or go to Texas A&M.

Ford then recalled that he had given a commencement address last year at Texas A&M. "They gave me a good welcome, better than I got at my own alma mater," he said.

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