

Work environment studied

Noise, stairs, presses hazardous

Noise, stairs, and the way punch presses are designed are all potential dangers to the working man. The TAMU Occupational Health

and Safety Institute, headed by Dr. Ralph J. Vernon, has released the results of tests conducted in the three areas.

"Two studies were conducted to determine the effect of noise on color discrimination and the perception of visual display information," Vernon said. "This study was in relation to human error which could result in accident or injury if the visual signs were misread."

"Young male subjects were exposed to a noise level of 100 decibels for five time-periods ranging from zero to 60 minutes," he said. "These were followed immediately by visual perception tests where slides were projected for a half-second and the subjects recorded what they saw."

"Tests indicated there was a significant difference on visual perception after a one-hour noise exposure compared to no exposure," Vernon said. "This indicates that after extended exposure to high noise levels, errors in visual perception may result. Those errors could lead to incidents having severe consequences."

The color-discrimination test gave no evidence that noise affects the ability to tell colors. Red, yellow and green were used because they most frequently appear on control panels.

Stairway studies showed that a variation as small as 3/8 inch in the height of a stairstep can cause the average person to miss a step.

"Available statistics indicate that falls on stairways have a high frequency of occurrence with a resulting high severity of injury," Vernon said. "The objective of this research was to provide information on the need to maintain uniform stairway riser heights. This is a significant dimension in preventing falls of persons on stairways."

Movies of subjects climbing stairs

showed that the clearance between the subject's toe and the edge of the stairs decreased as the subjects went higher. Also, the more a person used a set of stairs, the smaller clearance became between toe and the leading edge of the stairs.

"Leading edge clearances demonstrated to be as low as 3/16 inch adds a variable which may not be acceptable in stairway design," Vernon said. "In other words, it would interfere with successfully ascending a stairway without accident."

A third research project was to place the lever on a punch press so that a worker couldn't injure himself.

"Since punch press operators are

often injured when hands or fingers are accidentally placed under the descending ram, the reason for the research was the prevention of injuries to operators," Vernon said.

Research concluded that a two-hand trip device for a machine operating at less than 200 strokes per minute isn't safe because the operator could still get his hand in the press after activating it.

To put the handle in a safe place would require longer arms for humans. TAMU researchers concluded that stopping injuries would require a machine that places the stock under the ram and ejects the stamped part without requiring the operator to place his hands in the point-of-operation.

Roeseler takes post as planning head

Dr. W. G. Roeseler, a Kansas City consulting city planner and transportation specialist, will become head of TAMU's Urban and Regional Planning Department, on July 15.

His appointment was announced by Dean Raymond D. Reed of TAMU's College of Architecture and Environmental Design. The college includes the Urban and Regional Planning Department.

Roeseler succeeds Prof. J. H. Hinojosa, who is on a year's leave of absence serving as a consultant to the government of Nicaragua. Dr. Vergil G. Stover, professor of civil engineering and research engineer for the Texas Transportation Institute, has served as acting department head since February.

The new department head has headed his own firm for the past five years. He was previously associated with consulting firms in Kansas City and Cincinnati. On two different occasions (1950-'52 and 1954-'56) he served in key positions on the City Planning Commission of Kansas City. He was planning director in Palm Springs, Calif., from 1952 until 1954.

He was an assistant professor in public administration at the University of Kansas City and visiting lecturer at the University of Missouri at Kansas City in the mid-1950s. He later served as an Alfred Bettman Foundation lecturer at the University of Cincinnati.

Roeseler is a past president of the Missouri chapter of the American Institute of Planners and is a member of that group's examining board. He also is a member of the Transportation Research Board.

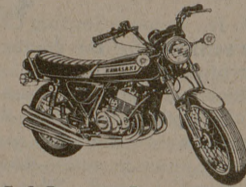
Transportation Systems Planning Group.

He earned his Ph.D. in urban sociology and economics at the University of Hesse in West Germany in 1948. He conducted post-doctoral work at the University of Wisconsin in 1949 and earned a municipal administration certificate through the International City Managers' Association in 1953. He received an LLB in 1958 from the Blackstone Correspondence School of Law in Chicago.



Dr. W. G. Roeseler

Three for the road.



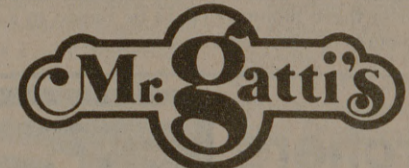
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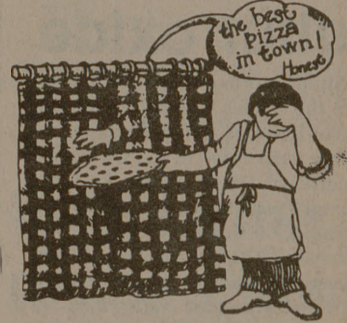
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Sun Oil Co. makes grant to TAMU

Sun Oil Co. of Dallas presented TAMU's College of Business Administration a \$1,000 check on July 3.

Making the presentation was Martin W. Helley, senior organization analyst and 1966 TAMU graduate.

Accepting the gift for TAMU were Dr. John Pearson, dean of Business Administration, and Dr. B. Douglas Stone, head of the Management Department.

Helley explained that the check from SUNOCO's Management Service Division will be earmarked for two scholarships in the Management Department.

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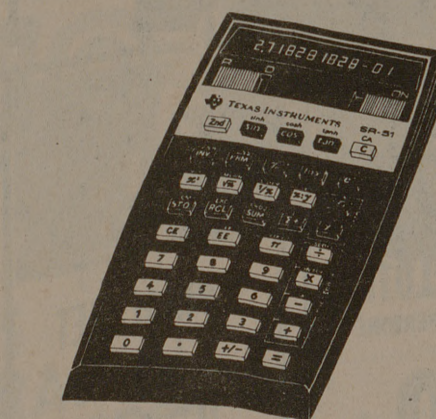
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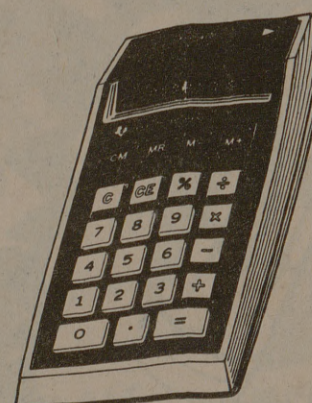
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