

Earthquakes predicted

What was previously considered an act of God may become the dominion of Texas A&M University researchers.

A team of geophysicists and geologists headed by Dr. John M. Logan of A&M's Center for Tectonophysics are getting a line on physical properties of faults that apply to earthquake prediction as well as the production of oil and gas.

"Most earthquakes take place along existing fault zones which are composed of country rock (wall rock) with a gouge zone between," explained Dr. Logan. "In order to make predictions of earthquakes, we need to know the properties of the material in the gouge and its interaction with the country rock."

"Our first step is to simulate the fault materials by mixing real min-

erals together in the laboratory and deform these at pressure, temperature and time conditions that are experienced in nature," Logan said. "The intuitive feeling of most geologists is that gouge material is weak and poorly consolidated," he noted. "One of the main results so far of our research is that, simulating conditions from the surface to 15 kilometers, although it starts as

poorly consolidated aggregate material, the gouge material soon becomes compacted and made rock-like as a result of the movement of the country rock."

As a result, the gouge material in the fault becomes stronger than would be suspected," Logan said.

What we hope is that a knowledge of the mechanical properties of fault gouges will allow us not only to predict but possibly, someday, to control earthquakes," he added. "One method of control that has been proposed is to pump fluids into existing fault zones. This changes stress, producing a small release of energy rather than the quick sudden release we see in an earthquake."

To this end we are looking at properties of fluid flow in fault gouges," Logan said. "This has applications not only in earthquakes but also in the production of oil and gas which should be of considerable interest to the energy industry."

A&M professor emeritus to study the Soviet poultry boiler situation

Dr. J. H. Quisenberry from the Texas Agriculture Experiment Station is becoming a recognized authority on the Soviet poultry industry.

The researcher, now professor emeritus with the Texas A&M University poultry science department, is on his fourth trip to the Soviet Union.

Quisenberry says the purpose for these latest missions is to record poultry broiler data and to discuss the possibilities of using larger volumes of U.S. feed grains in Russian broiler rations.

He says the U.S. Feed Grains Council, actually an international

organization, is composed of leaders in the feed grain shipping industry. The council seeks a more even flow of grain in an effort to level out erratic supplies and prices. It also sponsors seminars to show importing countries how to use grain more efficiently.

American grain producers should benefit from the Council's programs, Quisenberry said.

He said Soviet poultry production research and production emphasis is now on broilers because the government recognizes poultry meat as a quick and efficient source of protein for human nutrition.

Quisenberry described Soviet

poultry scientists and producers as "progressive-minded."

"They generally know what is required in poultry rations to get desired results, but their problem is that they don't always have access to ingredients at economical prices. This is where the U.S. Feed Grains Council can help," he said.



Juli Reynolds and Travis King, Texas A&M University students, show off a trophy won during a Snow Ski Club trip to Colorado. Fifty volunteers, including Reynolds and club

president King, skied the downhill slalom. There were 48 finishers with times good enough for the Continental Airlines trophy.

Labs to be models for Peru

Anthropological laboratories at Texas A&M University were toured by the head of one of Peru's leading research centers who said his country wants to use the labs as a model for facilities planned there.

Dr. Carlos Lopez-Ocana said he is also exploring the possibility of a student exchange between A&M and the National Agrarian University in Lima. Lopez-Ocana directs the Peruvian university's Center for Investigation of Arid Zones (CIZA).

Establishment of an ethnobotanical lab in Peru would give South America its first such facility, Lopez-Ocana said. His country hopes to have this lab working by the end of 1978.

Although CIZA is concerned with nearly all scientific disciplines from agriculture to zoology, its director made the Thursday stop specifically to consult with A&M researchers Dr. Vaughn Bryant and Dr. Glenora Weir about equipping a palynological laboratory.

Peruvian researchers were excited to A&M's reputation in the field of palynology after Weir participated in a project late last year funded by the National Science Foundation and operated by the

National Agrarian University and the University of Missouri.

To study how best to conserve, renew or efficiently utilize their resources, CIZA scientists are gather-

ing data on meteorology, physics, chemistry, human and social sciences, soil science, agriculture, hydrology, biology, zoology, geography and anthropology.

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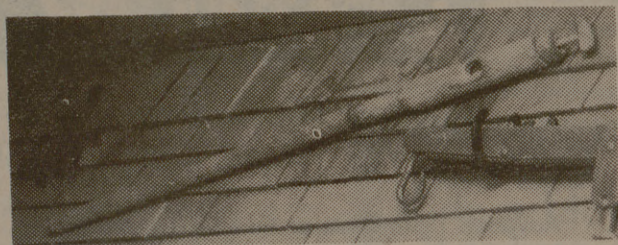
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