

Campus Names Whooping cough soars

Ag design wins fourth

Texas A&M University graduate Larry N. Smith of Ottumwa, Iowa, and Gerald J. Ripps of San Antonio shared a \$250 fourth prize in the James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation annual competition, it was announced yesterday.

Smith and Ripps, who graduated last spring, won the award with a system design for hay baling and handling. The agricultural engineering majors' design employed three machines for complete mechanical handling of hay, a bale accumulator, a unit grappler and transport trailer. The system produces an interlocked stack of conventional bales.

They prepared the contest project while undergraduate students in Dr. Wayne LePori's class.

The Lincoln Foundation 1977 contest gave \$23,800 in awards to 67 students of engineering and technology and their 26 colleges. Awards were given in four areas, graduate and undergraduate structural and mechanical division.

Designs are judged by a jury of engineering educators on originality, ingenuity, project feasibility and degree of engineering competence.

Flight training finished

Wings and special Air Force flight training have been accomplished by four Texas A&M University graduates.

Navigator wings were won at

Mather Airforce Base, Calif., by 2nd Lts. David W. Landry of San Antonio and Robert K. Pair of Pearland.

Second Lt. Ralph E. Gholson of Fort Worth, who earlier received his navigator wings there, added navigator-bombardier training at Mather. He is being assigned to Kadena Air Base, Japan along with 1st Lt. Nathan L. Witt of Seymour. Both will fly with Pacific Air Forces units.

Witt recently completed flight training at MacDill Airforce Base, Fla., in the F-4 Phantom fighter-bomber.

Pair, now with a Strategic Air Command unit at Grand Forks Airforce Base, N.D., and Witt both graduated from Texas A&M in 1975. Gholson and Landry, remaining at Mather for advanced training, completed bachelor degree studies here last year.

All four were commissioned through the Air Force ROTC program.

A nationwide whooping cough outbreak has hit Texas. The outbreak has almost doubled the number of Texas cases reported, from a total of 36 in 1976 to 74 just through mid-October 1977. It has reached epidemic proportions in Atlanta, Ga.

The disease (also called pertussis) is rarely serious in adults and older children, but it causes pneumonia in about 10 percent of the cases in very young children. Severe cases also can cause brain damage.

Unless they are immunized, small children do not have any protection from the disease, the Texas Medical Association said. Immunization does not provide absolute protection from whooping cough but it can greatly decrease chances of having a serious case or of getting the disease at all.

Although this schedule can vary, children usually are given whooping cough shots in this sequence of ages: 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, and once between 3 and 6 years of age. Above age 6, children usually are not given the vaccine. The whooping cough vaccine often is combined

with diphtheria and tetanus vaccine in a DPT shot.

There may be several reasons for this Texas outbreak.

Some doctors say adults spread more than half the reported cases. Since the vaccine's effectiveness wears off after approximately seven years, many adults and older children catch the disease and then infect young children at home. Because they have no natural protection babies often have the most serious cases.

Adults and older children often have had whooping cough or the

immunizations already. They only feel like they have the flu when they get whooping cough again.

Major symptoms of whooping cough often include hard coughing followed by a noisy gasping for air. Victims may cough out large amounts of mucus during these attacks. Physicians can run a special test that often will confirm whooping cough cases. But it may be too late to protect small children by that time because the infectious state can last as long as eight weeks. It usually is shorter with a physician's treatment.

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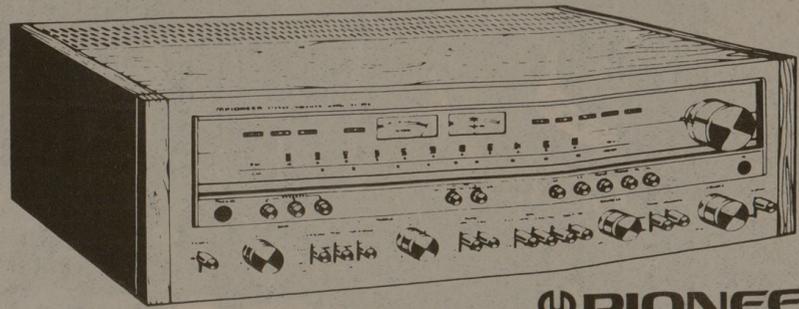
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