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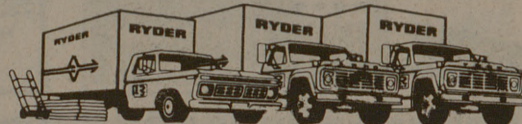
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Projects varied at NSC

Nuclear reactor 'busy'

Nuclear drugstore. Nuclear detective. Nuclear school. These descriptions fit Texas A&M University's Nuclear Science Center (NSC) which houses one of the busiest nuclear reactors in the United States.

Ten thousand samples a year are irradiated in the Texas A&M reactor, said director John Randall, and those samples vary from isotopes for medical research to prehistoric Indian pottery.

The NSC was established in 1960 by the Texas Engineering Experiment Station as a service to Texas A&M, other universities, state and federal agencies, as well as to private and commercial enterprises. The center allows Texas A&M to offer the state's only nuclear engineering degree.

In 1976, nearly 800 Texas A&M students in eight fields of study received hands-on course work at the reactor, the largest in Texas.

Although training Texas A&M

students is one of the prime objectives of the Nuclear Science Center, they are not the only ones learning how to safely operate a reactor and other nuclear equipment.

Texas State Technical Institute at Waco uses the facility to train students in nuclear technology while several commercial utility companies also plan to train personnel here.

The initial crews for the historic N.S. Savannah, the world's first atomic-powered merchant ship, were trained by NSC professionals, Randall said.

The facility has been asked by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to irradiate moon dust so NASA scientists can analyze the chemical composition of the lunar dirt.

Like a gigantic nuclear drugstore, the NSC "fills prescriptions" for physicians all over the Southwest by irradiating gold grains which doctors

implant in patients, usually as treatment for prostate problems.

The center is also called upon to aid in criminal investigations. Hair samples have been matched more closely than with other techniques, bullet fragments have been traced back to the name brand they bore and sophisticated analysis has been used to determine if gold collector's coins were real.

Several criminals have been convicted on the basis of evidence obtained by NSC studies and at least one acquittal resulted.

Texas A&M's one megawatt reactor is also being utilized in the field of neutron radiography, which complements x-rays of material by serving as reverse x-ray.

Instead of picking up heavy metal, bone or other bulky foundations, neutron radiography acts to highlight the rubber, plastic, paper, wax and water deposits that x-rays miss.

The technique is employed when examining composite material used in the manufacture of aircraft for weaknesses or potential trouble spots. Bell Helicopter and the Air Force are already involved in the program.

Using neutron radiography, Randall said, the image of a birthday candle can be registered through two inches of lead.

Other projects are just a start. Exxon uses irradiation from the NSC to trace output and rate of corrosion in oil wells, a technique that may be applied to offshore units in order to prevent massive spills from damaged piped.

Medical research is exploring the areas of heart attacks and cholesterol analysis by utilizing isotopes.

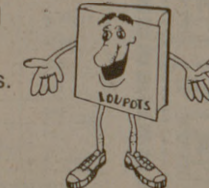
Oceanographers and geologists use the facilities to trace amounts of uranium in soil, meteorite and glacial sediment samples, and as an aid to increase uranium discovery.

In agriculture, the effects of trace metal on cattish, arsenic compounds in environmental samples and the amount of iron taken from the soil by plants have all been studied.



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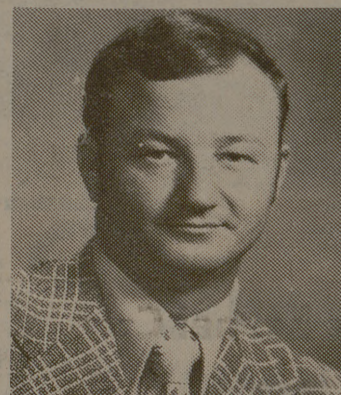
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SPECIAL NOTICE

OPTIONAL BOARD PLAN

Summer students may dine on the board plan during the first session of summer school at Texas A&M University. Each board student may dine three meals each day except Sunday evening if the seven day plan is elected, and three meals each day, Monday through Friday, if the five day plan is preferred. Each meal is served in the Commons.

Fees for each session are payable to the Controller of Accounts. Fiscal Office, Coke Building.

Board fees for each plan are as follows:

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