

Profits go for repairs

Texas A&M to supply C.S. with water for 4 years

By MARK PERRIN

Traverse the desert, and then you can tell what treasures exist in the cold deep well. Sink in despair on the red parch'd earth, and then you may reckon what water is worth.

— Miss Eliza Cook

The worth of the water system at Texas A&M University is hard to measure because water is supplied to on-campus residents and many College Station residents.

But the water system's profits can be measured and in the fiscal year ending in August, there was a net profit of \$126,574, excluding heated or chilled water.

The profit was measured by selling water to College Station and to dormitories.

The water system also produced over 1.9 billion gallons of water last fiscal year, according to the financial report of University Utilities in the Texas A&M controller's office.

If the requirements of Texas A&M double, the present water system, with no additional expansion, could meet the demand.

All of the water is produced by Texas A&M's nine wells which can pump 11 million gallons of water a day. When an additional well is completed in the fall of 1979, the pumping capacity will be 14 million gallons a day.

Last year, between 5 million and 6 million gallons were used on the Texas A&M campus each day. About one-third of all the water used on campus was used by the utility plant.

Because Texas A&M's water supply is greater than its demand, it has been able to sell water to College Station since 1972.

Bennie Luedke, water and sewer superintendent for College Station, said the city buys 1 million to 1.5 million gallons a day.

He said that in January 1979, College Station's water buying contract with Bryan expires. College Station will then start buying most of its water from Texas A&M. Luedke said the city is

still negotiating a contract with Bryan to buy a small amount of water from them after the contract expires.

Texas A&M can't furnish all of College Station's water supply during peak demand hours, so it will still need to purchase some water from Bryan.

When College Station starts buying most of its water from Texas A&M, it will purchase about 3 million gallons a day, Luedke said.

College Station will continue to buy water from Texas A&M until it completes its own water system about four years from now.

George Ford, director of public services for College Station, said the city pays Texas A&M 43 cents per 1,000 gallons. The University Utilities financial report stated that last year 1,000 gallons of water cost Texas A&M 38 cents to produce.

If production costs and purchase price remain the same next year, Texas A&M will make \$150 a day from the water it sells College Station, if an average of 3 million gallons is sold each day.

The production cost of the water is not expected to increase next year. Since the price of the water is determined by the cost of production and distribution, it is not expected to increase either.

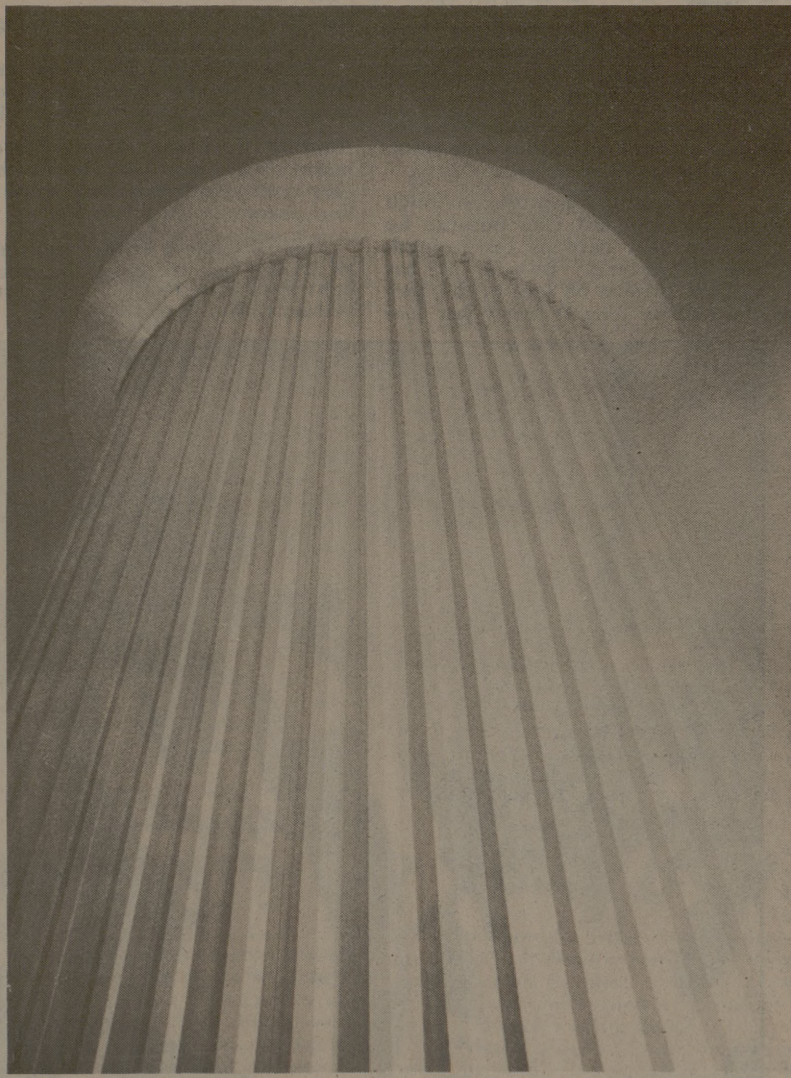
Texas A&M's water system does not make all of its profit by selling water to College Station. Much of the profit comes from water that is used on campus.

R. Clark Diebel, Texas A&M controller, said the ideal situation would be for the water system to break even every year. He added rates for the water could not be set to break even because the production and maintenance cost are not known beforehand.

He said even if the water was sold at cost to the dormitories and apartments on campus, dorm fees would not be reduced because the cost is spread out among so many people.

However, no student fees have ever been used for utility expansion. Instead, the projects are financed by revenue bonds. The profit from the utilities is used to pay off the bonds.

Diebel said that Texas A&M



The great blue tower holds 2 million gallons of water.

Battalion photo by Ed Cummins

has made a profit from the water system for several years, and all the money is spent in the physical plant.

"The profit is used for repairs and extensions of the water system, such as the expansion on the west campus," Diebel said.

"The money is used to bring utilities to new buildings, but is not used to put them in the new buildings," Diebel said.

He also said the water system needs reserve money for

emergencies and repairs because of the high cost of the equipment and the replacement parts for the water system.

The water system is an extensive one. The wells are located about eight miles from the campus in a field northeast of Texas A&M's Research Annex off Highway 21. A ground storage reservoir at the field pump station feeds the water into two transmission lines.

These lines feed into two

two-million gallon storage tanks at the pump station at Finfeather and F&B roads. The pumps at this station send water to some parts of the campus and also pump water to the blue water tower located on campus.

The water tower, completed in 1975 at a cost of about \$785,000, has a two million gallon storage capacity.

One of the reasons for building the large capacity water tower was to provide protection during emergency periods. The water tower provides adequate storage for water used to fight fires even during peak demand periods, such as hot afternoons in the summer.

In case of an electrical blackout, the water tower would be able to supply the campus with water without depending on the wells or pumps. How long the water could last depends on the number of people on campus and the season of the year.

From the water tower, the water is distributed to parts of the campus that don't get their water directly from the pump station.

Counting both storage and pumping capacity, the water system at Texas A&M can furnish about 16 million gallons in one day in the case of fires of other needs.

On a day-to-day basis, the 11-million-gallon pumping capacity is almost equivalent to the amount of water a town of approximately 75,000 people would use in one day, depending on climate and location.

Texas A&M adds one part per million of chlorine to the water before it is consumed. This kills any bacteria that may be in the water. The Texas State Health Department inspects the water system and tests the water annually.

The present water supply is expected to exist until the year 2000. No plans have been made for the system past this date.

The water level at the well site is dropping due to growth of College Station. All of the deep well water levels are dropping a few feet each year. The system depends on rainfall to maintain the level of the water table.

Two courts rule Mormon will fake

United Press International

LOS ANGELES -It took more than a year — six months of preliminaries and a seven-month trial involving scores of witnesses — for the "Mormon Will" of Howard Hughes to be declared a fake in a Nevada court. A California court took an hour to agree.

Superior Court Judge Jack Swink ruled Tuesday after about an hour of testimony that "without any question the will is invalid, a forgery and a fake."

He declared the "will" an attempt to secure the multimillion dollar Hughes estate by fraud, and said he would ask the district attorney's office to investigate.

The document also was declared a fake by a Texas court, even before the main ruling in Las Vegas, Nev., last June.

The dispute in the Los Angeles court, covering Hughes' California possessions, was suspended earlier until after the outcome of the Las Vegas trial, which heard months of testimony, including the conflicting opinions of many handwriting analysts.

Former Hughes aide Noah Dietrich and attorney Harold Rhoden, who fought to establish the document's legitimacy in the Nevada trial, did not appear to defend the "will" in the concluding session in Los Angeles.

No legitimate will has been found to determine the disposition of Hughes' fortune, which is bound up in legal actions by his former business assistants and distant relatives. Most of it is expected to go to taxes.

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Student filmmaking spurs contests

NEW YORK — A New York sales promotion firm has come up with an unusual marketing scheme for a somewhat unlikely collection of clients designed to capitalize on student interest in filmmaking.

TRG's marketing device is a group of contests called FOCUS, an acronym for Films of College and University Students. About \$30,000 worth of merchandise and scholarship prizes are being offered by TRG clients including Playboy

magazine, U.S. Tobacco Co. and Universal Pictures.

The object, of course, is to build wider acceptance among the students of the sponsors' products.

The chief competition is open to students who produce non-commercial 16mm films on campus. The films may be documentaries, experimental fiction films or cartoon animations with narrators. They must have been produced within the past two years, and be no more than 30 minutes long.

Universal Pictures is offering \$4,500 in filmmaking scholarship prizes and Playboy is offering \$4,500

in film study scholarship prizes. TRG Communications, Inc., said some 1,000 American colleges offer at least 2,000 courses in motion pic-

ture as an art form or an education and documentary tool and almost 300 offer fairly complete technical courses in filmmaking.

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