



Workers wheel out the Long Duration Exposure Facility (LDEF) which will determine how materials react to long-term exposure in space. Material will be placed in trays that will be attached to the LDEF. The LDEF itself will be ejected from the space shuttle in the Earth's orbit. Courtesy photo

## A&M prof to send experiment on first regular shuttle flight

Research expected to help scientists balloons fly higher and longer will be conducted by a Texas A&M engineer on the first regular flight of the space shuttle.

Materials from which high-altitude balloons are made will be exposed to the earth orbit radiation environment. They will be above most of the earth's atmosphere from the fall of 1980 until spring, 1981.

After 6 to 9 months exposure, balloon films, tapes and lines will be retrieved by the shuttle and studied by Dr. James L. Rand for degradation of mechanical and radiometric properties.

"We expect to gain data to support other National Aeronautics and Space Administration programs involving flight of extremely high-altitude, scientific balloons," explained Rand, professor of aerospace engineering.

His experiment, designed by aerospace engineering senior Elaine Wagner of Dallas, will be mounted with others aboard NASA's Long Duration Exposure Facility.

The LDEF bearing the Rand-Wagner experiment will be in the shuttle cargo bay on the NASA craft's first operational flight. It is expected to be launched about August, 1980.

Requiring no manipulation while in space, Rand's passive experiment will occupy one-third of one of the LDEF's 38- by 50-inch experiment trays. Up to 76 trays will be bolted to the facility in "billboard" fashion.

With all experiments tested and aboard, the 30-foot-long, 14-foot-diameter polygonal aluminum facility will be placed in earth orbit about 345 miles up.

Rand, who has performed research in high-altitude balloon design, performance, shape and stress analysis, said polyester, polyethylene, nylon and Kevlar films, tapes and lines will be tested in the earth orbit environment.

"At extremely high balloon altitudes, oxygen content is different," the engineer added. "The oxygen occurs in very small amounts there, but it will affect balloon materials in ways we need to know."

Present balloon missions of two days are common. Keeping a balloon-borne payload aloft four days is the current limit. Developments in materials through studies such as Rand's are aimed at 60-day and more missions at 25 miles and higher. Such flights would allow long-term studies of the upper atmosphere and deep-space radiation sources whose emissions never reach the earth's surface.

## Pine pitch seals wounds

### Folk medicine researched

United Press International  
PARKERSBURG, W.Va. — Old-timers used to take used motor oil and mix it with sulphur to cure "the scratches."

Those troubled by cold sores of the mouth simply chewed on yellow root.

There are other old cures that abounded in an era when clinics and doctors weren't available, and John Eilertsen wants to know about them.

The Point Pleasant resident is working on doctoral papers at Parkersburg Community College, and issued a plea for help in his research of outdated cures.

Results of his research will be shared April 5-7 with people who attend Heritage Days-79, a campus festival.

"People learn by their mistakes and by their successes and home cures reflect the traditional stored knowledge and wisdom of our past generations," Eilertsen said.

"The study of folk medicine offers us an understanding of, and appreciation for, the life styles and struggles of past generations. It gives us a perspective of the ideas, knowledge and values that were deemed worthy enough to be passed from generation to generation."

Among the cure-alls he has learned to date:

- Making a dog inhale smoke from burning shoe leather to cure distemper.
- Using pine pitch to seal wounds and prevent infection.
- Applying the inside of a strip of slippery elm bark to a boil to "draw it out."
- Giving catnip tea to a teething baby.

Eilertsen says there were many other "remedies" he'd like to hear about from West Virginians. He also wants to know how people in the old days doctored their animals.

## Bank shows little gratitude when honest man returns extra \$75,000 in account

United Press International  
DALLAS — George Killick has a somewhat unusual problem: his bank won't take back the \$75,000 it mistakenly put in his account.

Killick says he planned to try once more Tuesday to surrender the money to Republic National Bank if the bank doesn't chase away the news media again.

"I want to get rid of it, it's becoming a real pain," Killick said Monday.

Killick's predicament began when his bank statement arrived Feb. 5 and he found an extra \$75,000 erroneously had been added to his account.

"What a neat deal, I love this," I thought at the time," Killick said. "But I wanted to be honest and return it."

First he withdrew the money and put it in a certificate of deposit so he could segregate it from his own funds. Then, he cashed the certificate into 750 \$100 bills.

Thinking his tale a humorous one, he tipped the news media on his plans to present the money to bank officials Monday. But when he arrived, he learned reporters had been ordered off the premises.

That made Killick angry, so he turned around and went home without giving back a single cent.

"Hey, I want to give it back," he said, "but I want to give it to the president of the bank (with the media present)."

Killick also sees a bit of irony in his situation — the bank had refused him a loan three days before he received his bank statement.

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