

Tech obtains home; hopes to sell old one

United Press International
AUSTIN — The Senate Inter-governmental Relations Committee Thursday recommended passage of a bill by Sen. E.L. Short, D-Tahoka, to allow Texas Tech University to sell the president's home.

Short said the university has acquired a new home for its president and sale of the old home would give Tech a substantial profit.

Short said the old home was purchased with tax money for \$65,000 in 1969 and now is appraised for \$125,000. He said the home will be sold for \$127,600.

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A&M engineers working to save energy

Cheap groundwater cooling system tested

By KETH TAYLOR
Battalion Reporter

A way to store groundwater in the winter for cooling use during the summer is being studied by three Texas A&M University engineering professors.

Dr. Donald Reddell, Dr. Richard Davison and Dr. William B. Harris have been working on the project since last spring. The project involves pumping groundwater to the surface, aerating it, then returning it to the water table for storage, Harris said.

The earth is a good insulator and the water can be cooled almost to freezing, Harris said.

When summer comes, the cooled water can be extracted and used for air-conditioning, the chemical engineering professor said.

Water cooling and storage began Christmas day and has been able to operate for 12 days since then, Harris said. Recent warm weather has temporarily stopped the cooling process.

When in operation, the system will be able to process 150,000 gallons of water in a day, Harris said. The only limit on how much water can be processed is the size of the spray pond where the water is cooled, he said.

At the spray pond, the water is exposed to the air through a sprinkler system. After the water is cooled, it falls into the pond and is pumped back underground.

The process does not create any environmental problems because the water is pumped back into the water table and prevents possibilities of land subsidence, he said.

The process is inexpensive. The main cost is the initial capital to construct the aeration system and buy the pumps. After this, only routine maintenance is needed to keep the system operating, Harris said.

A mathematical model was made of the project and a computer showed that the system should work. The results of the project will not be known until summer when the water will be extracted and its temperature and quantity will be measured.

Harris and Davison worked on a similar solar energy project in



A sprinkler system sprays water so air can cool it. It will be pumped underground and used for cooling this summer.

1975. That project involved heating water by solar energy and storing it for winter use. The project, called Solaterre, stopped after funding was discontinued.

The present project is being funded by the energy storage department of the U.S. Department of Energy.

Harris said he and Davison are also making a study on the possibility of using geothermal energy in the new dorms being built on the west campus. This would involve using water heated by the earth's internal heat, Harris said. The professors are raising funds to test theory on the west campus.

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Texas A&M Sports Car Club offers races, rallies for all enthusiasts

By KIPP SHACKELFORD
Battalion Reporter

High performance car enthusiasts don't have to go to the Indianapolis 500 any longer to see and participate in live racing events. Now they're held locally by the Texas A&M Sports Car Club.

The club sponsors a variety of activities, including autocross, rally and drag races.

The biggest event, held every two weeks by the club, is the autocross. It is a timed run, less than a mile in length, around a marked course. This event emphasizes driver ability and is usually held in the Zachry or Olsen Field parking lots.

Autocross class rules are taken from the Sports Car Clubs of America rule book. Cars are handicapped, with some getting a head start, so that each will have an equal chance in the competition.

Entry fees for this class are \$2.50 for members of the club, and \$3.50 for nonmembers.

The rally is a timed scavenger hunt in which a navigator rides in the car along with the driver. At the outset, he is given a list of instructions giving him hints of where he will find certain objects, and guides the driver over a 30-50 mile course, deciphering the clues as he goes.

Trophies and class points are also awarded for this event.

The drag races the club sponsors are based on stock categories and elapsed time (ET). The elapsed time is the time the car takes to cover a quarter of a mile.

These races are held at local drag strips and are run according to the rules of the tracks attended.

One of the most challenging

events is the Aggie Cross, a high speed autocross, held annually at the Texas World Speedway.

The club rents the track for a day with money earned by working there on such jobs as pumping gas in the pit areas during races and cleaning up the grounds afterwards.

This year's Aggie Cross is scheduled for April 21 and includes 11 classes for all production cars, race cars, trucks, four-wheel drive vehicles, and a special class for women.

James Bittle, president of the Sports Car Club, said the club stresses that owning a car is not a necessary requirement for club membership. "Our club is for any

high performance enthusiast, whether it be purely interest, or actual participation in the races," said Bittle.

He said the organization is an excellent way to meet people with common interests in cars. The club holds car clinics, which give members a chance to help one another with problems on their individual cars.

The club will travel to Austin Sunday to participate in an autocross with the Texas Spokes club, a regional sports car club with divisions in Austin, Houston, and Temple.

The Sports Car Club currently

has 80 members, of whom 10 are women.

"When the Sports Car Club began, more emphasis was placed on racing of small sports cars. Now we try to make members, male and female, with any type of car, they have a place in our club,"

Vickie Becker, secretary-treasurer of the club.

Becker said she feels the club much more organized this year than in the past.

Dues for the Sports Car Club are \$5 per semester or \$9 for a full membership. Club meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m. in room 502 of Rudder Tower.

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