

Texas A&M University patrolman Bennie Shert stands beside one of the two new 1979 Pintos that have replaced two scooters. Campus police say they are more comfortable and efficient for patrolling. Battalion photo by Sam Stroder

University Police using two Pintos in patrolling

By CAROL HANCOCK
Battalion Reporter

Texas A&M University has gone miniature. To go along with its new small-car parking lots, the University Police Department is now using two small patrol cars.

A pair of Ford Pintos has been added to the police force for working parking lots, traffic and security work. Officers agree they're an improvement over the two scooters they replaced.

Col. Thomas Parsons, director of security and traffic, said better gas mileage and maneuverability are the main advantages of the Pintos.

Although none of the police de-

partment cars get good gas mileage, Parsons said the Pintos get about 14 miles per gallon. The larger cars, a Chevrolet Impala and two Ford LTDs, get about half that, he said.

Larger cars are needed for pursuit work, arrests and injuries. But the Pintos are better for routine work around the campus, Parsons said.

"It's kind of foolish to have an eight-cylinder car for campus-type work," he said. The Pintos are easier to handle, can fit just about anywhere and are especially good for patrolling the small-car lots.

The small cars are more efficient than the scooters for night security, Parsons said. The Pintos are more

easily seen, quieter and more comfortable.

The scooters are hard to see and hear out of at night and are cold in the winter. The police officers dislike them intensely, Parsons said. The Pintos eliminate the problems.

One of the few complaints Parsons said his officers have made is that the Pintos are hard for large people to get in and out of. Another disadvantage is the small back seats which Parsons said isn't used often.

Money for the Pintos came out of the University police budget. All police cars are leased from the University.

Shrimp spawn in captivity

A major breakthrough in shrimp mariculture has been reported by researchers at the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in Corpus Christi, with the first known successful spawning of the Gulf white shrimp in captivity.

The announcement was made by Professor Addison Lawrence, project leader for the joint effort of the Texas A&M University Sea Grant College Program, the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Spawning began June 27 and produced more than 1 million nauplii (larvae) in a 30-day period at the Marifarms, Inc., facility in Panama City, Fla. Three groups totaling 865,000 were raised to 17-day-old postlarvae with a 65 percent average survival rate reported. One-fourth of the postlarvae were then transferred to a grow-out pond at the Texas A&M Corpus Christi mariculture facility where they attained a size of 1.4 grams with a 59 percent survival rate after 29 days.

"Thus, laboratory maturation, re-

peated spawning, successful hatching, larval development and juvenile production has bed for the first time for this species," Lawrence said.

"The real significance of this is that now there is an indigenous, or native, species that can be seriously considered for mariculture. Before, all we could really consider were non-indigenous species.

"Texas Gulf waters have three native species, but the white shrimp is considered the best candidate for successful mariculture," Lawrence said.

Oil spill suit still possible despite talks

United Press International
AUSTIN — There is no guarantee that proposed U.S.-Mexico negotiations will resolve problems related to the Bay of Campeche oil spill, therefore a lawsuit by the state of Texas may still be necessary, Attorney General Mark White says.

"I don't think they've gotten any agreement except there are plans for discussions in the future," White said Monday. "We're still drafting papers. We're still keeping our options open."

White said he is consulting with Bob Krueger, special coordinator for U.S. Mexican Affairs, about de-

tails of the negotiations plan worked out by President Carter and Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo Saturday.

"It's not that clear cut or well-described," White said. "It's a little grayer than the reports indicated."

White said the Oct. 23 deadline set by a Houston federal judge for filing suits against SEDCO, the giant oil drilling company founded by Clements, may force the state to proceed with suits against PEMEX, the Mexican national oil monopoly, and the Mexican contractor that operated the rig, as well as SEDCO.

SEDCO, now headed by Cle-

ments' son, has asked the Houston court to limit its liability to \$300,000 under an old maritime law.

Clements, who placed his stock in the company in trust when he became governor, last week said White should sue if he thinks SEDCO is liable.

"We will be filing some form of litigation in response to the SEDCO suit, I would think within 10 days," White said Monday.

The attorney general said he is studying the case to see if the state could leave PEMEX out of the suit without relinquishing damage claims if the U.S.-Mexico negotia-

tions do lead to an agreement.

"We may file suit against two of the three and leave one out," he said. "We're reviewing that right now."

White said if Mexico agrees to pay all of the damages caused by the massive oil slick he would be satisfied.

"If there's been a complete payment of damages we wouldn't sue anybody," he said. "That's what we're interested in. We're not just trying to sue people."

White said it is too early to estimate the dollar value of damages caused by the oil.



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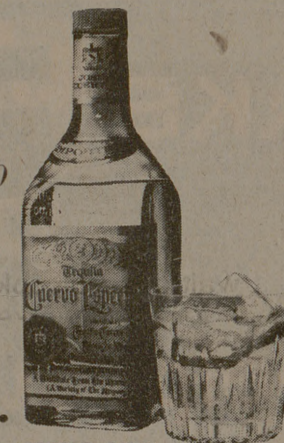
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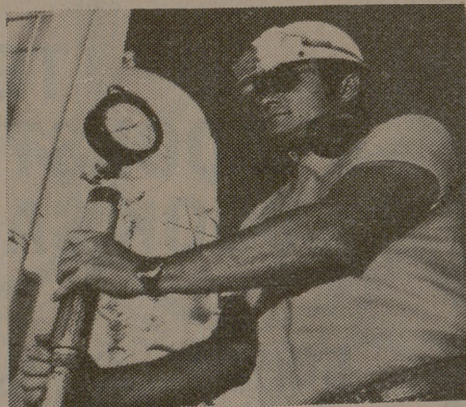
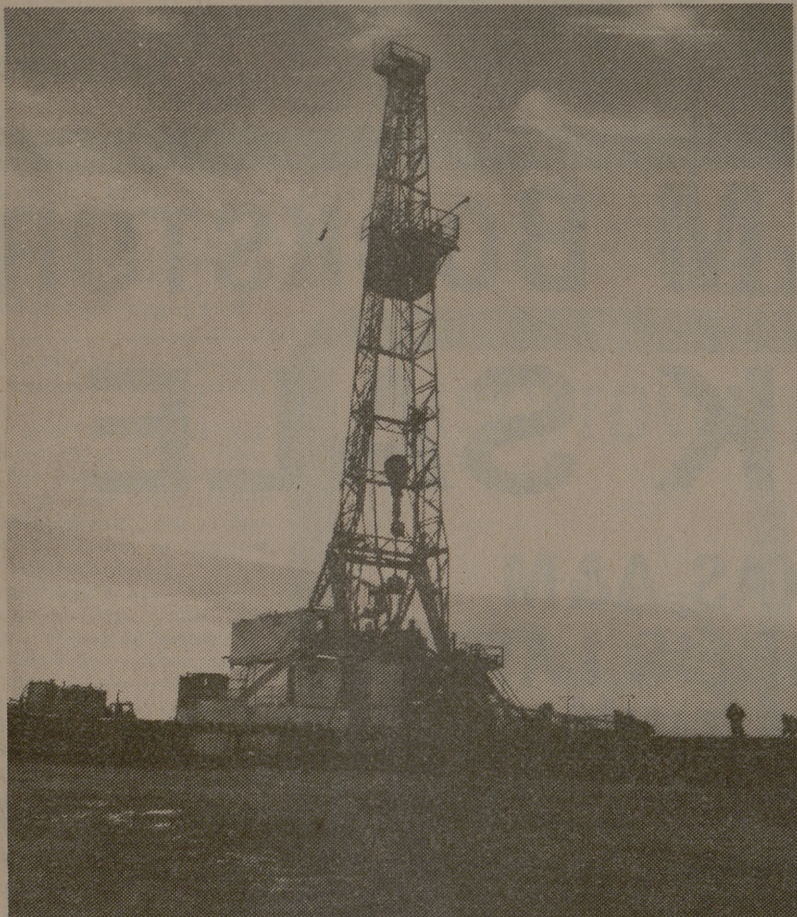
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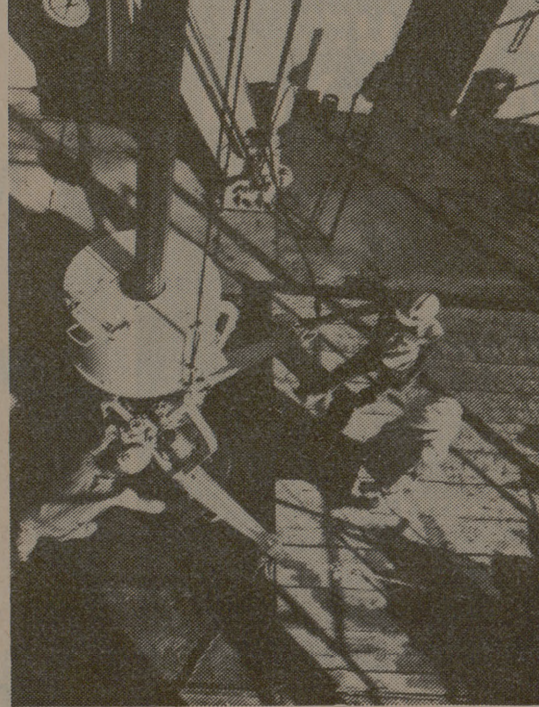
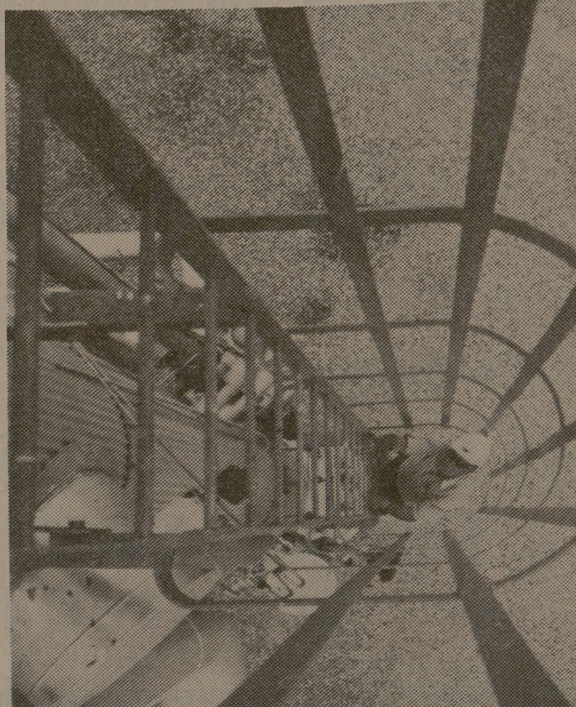
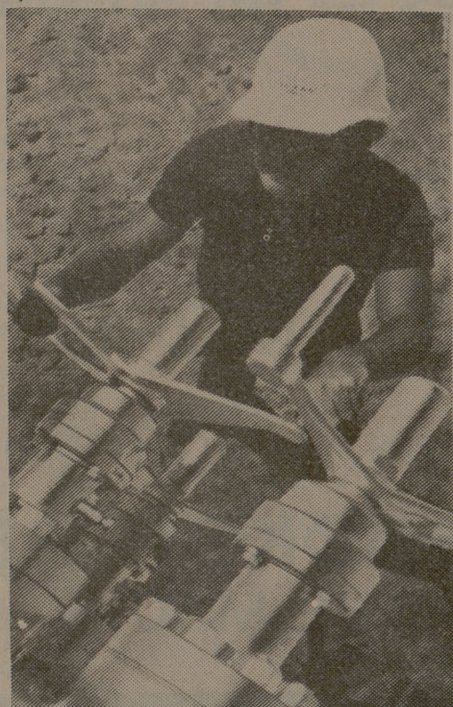
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