

campus

Number of realtors increases

Almost everyone in Texas knows someone who is licensed to sell real estate, and that trend is not likely to change soon, says Dr. Arthur L. Wright, research economist with Texas A&M University's Texas Real Estate Research Center.

In 1955 there was one real estate salesperson for every 1,106 Texans. Today it is one salesperson for every 172 citizens. That's about seven times what it was 24 years ago.

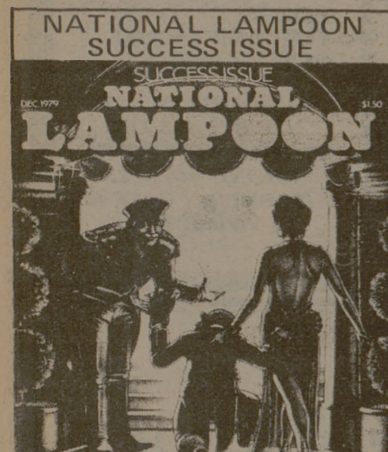
"While the numbers have been

climbing rapidly since the mid-1970s, it is expected a moderating effect will be experienced in the next five years as rising educational requirements are implemented," Wright said.

"By 1985, there will be a single license to sell real estate in Texas. In order to apply for licensure, applicants will be required to have 60 academic credit hours of instruction, the equivalent of 20 different college-level courses."

Wright made his predictions and reported his findings in a recent TRERC publication that examines the geographical distribution and concentration of salespersons and brokers in the state.

Statewide, the average number of brokers rose 3 percent in 1979.



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Chemical disposal problem at A&M

By LAURA CORTEZ

Radioactive and chemical waste disposal is not a problem confined to industry — it affects universities as well, and Texas A&M University is no exception.

Although the volume of the waste materials generated by the university is not as great as that generated in industrial use, it is still a significant amount and could cause problems if not handled properly.

Until this past June, much of the harmful chemical waste was disposed of at the university-owned landfill near Easterwood airport. And until August 1978, the radioactive waste was buried there as well.

But stiffer state regulations caused the Physical Plant, which handles disposal of chemical waste, and the Radiological Safety Office, which handles the disposal of radioactive waste, to put an end to the practice and find other means of disposal.

Richard H. Stiteler, university safety and health officer, is in charge of chemical waste disposal for the university. He said the Physical Plant has been developing procedures for disposing of these wastes in accordance with federal regulations for about the past six months. He said it will still be a while before these procedures "work their way up the chain of command" and receive official university approval.

Stiteler said the new procedures include the employment of RAD Services, a private contractor which picks up the waste materials from harmful chemical waste and takes it to a dump site in Alabama, and the use of an incinerator at the College of Veterinary Medicine as a means of disposal.

RAD Services has been employed by the Physical Plant since October. It picks up the waste from a holding area (the university's waste water treatment plant), packages it and takes it to Alabama.

Stiteler said the cost of this service is approximately \$100 for every 55 gallon drum picked up. RAD Services has picked up chemical waste materials from Texas A&M only one time so far, and Stiteler said that although he has not yet seen the bill, he would imagine that it is about \$1,000.

Until this past June, much of the harmful chemical waste was disposed of at the university-owned landfill near Easterwood airport. And until August 1978, the radioactive waste was buried there as well.

The Physical Plant is currently paying for the service and offers it to all of the departments which generate chemical waste (chemistry, biology, wildlife and fisheries, plant science, poultry science and civil engineering to name a few) free of charge, at least for the time being.

But many departments do not take advantage of the service and dispose of much of their own chemical waste by dumping it down the drain, as they have done in the past, Stiteler said.

"We are available to all departments to pick up their waste, and we're suggesting that they do take advantage of this."

"Most of the departments use us, but not as frequently as they should. We know that a great portion of the waste is still being disposed of down the sewer, and we can only assume that the proper procedures are being taken to neutralize the chemicals before hand."

He said that when the new procedures are officially approved, the Physical Plant will "push" the use of its services to a greater degree.

Another means of disposing of chemical waste is the incinerator at the College of Veterinary Medicine, which Stiteler said should be available for use for this purpose about Jan. 1.

He said this method is usually the best way of disposing of the waste, and added that the Physical Plant hopes to be able to dispose of 40-50 percent of it this way.

But prior to this past June, the University utilized two methods of disposal (in addition to chemical waste materials being dumped down the drain), Stiteler said. It was either taken to the university landfill or occasionally taken to outside dispos-

al sites by the Physical Plant or by the departments.

The Physical Plant quit disposing of the waste at the landfill, which had been in operation since 1932, when state regulations concerning harmful chemical waste dumping became more stringent.

"We felt that due to the restrictions which were coming down, it would be best to discontinue using it for chemical disposal," he said.

He said one of the requirements that the Physical Plant recently learned of that a permit would be needed in order to continue dumping chemicals or even garbage (which is also dumped at the landfill), Stiteler said.

He also said that the Physical Plant did apply for a permit to dump garbage at the landfill, but did not apply for one for chemical waste,

But many departments do not take advantage of the service and dispose of much of their own chemical waste by dumping it down the drain, as they have done in the past, said Richard H. Stiteler, university safety and health officer said.

since it was decided that the site would no longer be used for this purpose.

Stiteler said that to his knowledge, and to that of others he had checked with at the Physical Plant, the university has never had a permit to operate the landfill.

L.B. Griffith, Texas Department of Health, technical and regulation enforcement, said the university landfill was legally in operation as a "grandfather site."

"They didn't have the piece of paper but we knew they were there and we inspected them," Griffith said.

The situation with the disposal of radioactive waste materials is similar to that of chemical waste.

Dr. Richard D. Neff, university radiological safety officer and professor of nuclear engineering, said that there are approximately 150-200 labs on campus which use radiation for various types of research.

The radioactive waste generated by Texas A&M can be put in three categories, he said.

The first category includes paper, glass and gloves which are used in research involving radiation. The

second includes organic scintillator fluid (used for low level counting and as tracers in chemical reactions and in animal bodies) and the third involves animal cadavers.

Neff said that a little more than a year ago, the Radiological Safety

Stiteler said that the Physical Plant did apply for a permit to dump garbage at the landfill, but did not apply for one for chemical waste, since it was decided that the site would no longer be used for this purpose.

Office stopped burying the low level radioactive waste at the landfill near Easterwood Airport, where it had been disposing of it for at least the past 20 years, because the state required that it be regulated in order to continue the practice.

It had never been regulated before because the amounts of radioactive waste disposed of at the site were so low, that the Texas Department of Health did not think it was necessary, Neff said.

But among the new regulations are that have been imposed are that the area of the landfill where the radioactive wastes are buried be fenced off and that an environmental study of the area be done.

Rather than comply with the new regulations at this time, Neff said the Office of Radiological Safety Office hired Todd Research and Technical Division to pick up the waste materials and take them to one of the three dump sites in the country which accept the type of low level

In some spots the radioactive materials are buried 12 feet deep, and Dr. Richard Neff, university radiological safety officer, said that the quantities in each spot are so small that they present no danger.

radioactive waste generated by the university.

He said the cost of this service ranges from \$90 to \$150 depending upon the type of waste materials contained in the 55-gallon drums.

But he said there is a problem with this because the three dump sites where the waste can be taken (they are located in South Carolina, Nevada and Washington) are experie-

ing regulation problems. Neff said these sites are occasionally closed down for two or three weeks at a time.

"There just aren't any other sources in the country to dispose of low level waste," Neff said.

For the time being, Todd Research and Technical Division continues to pick up the radioactive waste materials generated by Texas A&M. But Neff said that he is concerned that if the problems with the dump sites continue, the company may refuse to continue doing so.

Representatives of Todd Research and Technical Division refuse to make any comments.

Both Stiteler and Neff said there is a possibility that they will go to the state and comply with the state regulations in the future, and resume use of the University landfill, dumping harmful chemical radioactive waste materials.

Although the landfill is currently in use for disposal of the harmful chemicals and radioactive waste materials from many years main buried there.

Stiteler said that there is a potential hazard due to the chemicals dumped there.

"You've got to look at it in a university and not in an industry sphere. There are small quantities of many different chemicals, opposed to industries which dump huge amounts of feter chemicals," he said.

Neff said that the radioactive waste is buried in various spots about a 50-acre area at the landfill and these areas are not marked.

"There's no way of knowing of all of those spots are," Neff said. In some spots the radioactive materials are buried 12 feet deep, and Neff said that the quantities in each spot are so small that they present no danger.

When asked if a person if it would be any harm to a person who happened upon one of the spots where the radioactive waste is buried, Neff said.

"The likelihood of a person coming out there, and the likelihood of finding one of these spots in a 50-acre area are pretty slim."

Neff added, "It would not be a good idea, but there's no hazard."

"It's just not a good idea to go around with radioactivity."

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MSC Craft Shop — Where Creative Ideas Bloom

Reward offered for sculptor

A reward is being offered by the College Station Police Department for information leading to the identification of the person or persons involved in the theft of a wooden totem sculpture at Oaks Park in College Station last weekend.

The stolen wood head is a 19th century Texas A&M university band uniform and is 18 inches tall and 12 inches in diameter. The sculpture, embedded in concrete, was sawed off 15 inches from the ground.

Oaks Park was designated a dent park by the city. The city commissioned 12 students studying viromental design at Texas A&M design and carve the totems at party areas.

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