Page 16 THE BATTALION Energy crisis brings flood of inventions Everything from toilet paper oil filters to motorized skateboards Rumbold. "The suggestion follow the media, what the

United Press International Louisiana businessman Willie Klump dreams of the day when America's motorists will drive hundreds of thousands of miles without changing their motor oil because

bought Klump-manufactured oil filters stuffed with toilet paper. In San Jose, Calif., Bill Posey envisions freeways jammed with people riding his motorized skateboards at speeds up to 35 miles an hour, while in Southern Pines, N.C., Peter Greenspan sees compressed air powered cars on the horizon.

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In a more conventional vein in New York City, scores of Stuart Pivar's gasoline-powered Microcars are already in use as he begins production of an electric-powered model.

They are among thousands of inventors across the country who have answered the call in the battle against rising gasoline prices and dwindling oil supplies. Annually they submit tens of thousands of ideas to government and private industry officials, and occasionally, as in Pivar's case, some of their inventions find their way to the production line.

"The private inventor is probably the best source of ideas available, said Dave Mello, a project engineer in the Department of Energy's energy-related inventions program, headquartered in Washington.

In the six years the program has been in existence, Mello said, the Energy Department has received 60,000 proposals from small inventors that range from the totally incompetent to the technically feasible

"About half of them are good enough to warrant further evaluation." Mello said. The Energy Department then submits the ideas to

evaluation.

Mello said "the winners" are then sent back to the Department of Energy to be considered for a federal grant. So far, the bureau of standards has recommended 128 ideas to the Energy Department for grant consideration

Among those in the field of transportation that have been pursued are advanced carburetors, a new spark ignition system, and what Mello cal-

automobile's systems running as efficiently as possible.

'Our goal is to give this little guy a chance at least to compete effectively," said Mello. "One man cannot run an enterprise alone. What are needed are specialists in marketing, specialists in finance, and other areas. All of those go into making a successful product

The U.S. Patent Office in Arlington, Va., also speeds up action on

the U.S. Bureau of Standards for led an "optimizer" to keep all of an energy and environmentally related inventions.

Don Stocking, of the patent office's Heat and Power Engineering Examining Group, said there has been a boom in recent years in solarrelated patent requests, while patent requests in other energy-related fields have remained stable.

Private corporations also offer another avenue for the private inventor to get his idea into production

At the General Motors Technical Center at Warren, Mich., the new devices section receives about 4,000 proposals each year from private individuals.

"Most of them are from your next door neighbor or mine, saying why don't you do something rather than saying how," said Jerry Rumbold, assistant director of the new devices section. "Very, very few of these are way off the deep end, just enough to keep us light hearted.

John Dobb, director of the new devices section, said that in 1978, General Motors received 3,800 proposals from inventors. "We purchased the rights to only

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Dobb said there are

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'For example, some

two of them to investigate further and pursue, and in both cases they related to engine design features or power train features relating to fuel economy," said Dobb.

'We're seeing an awful lot of suggestions on fuel economy, emission control, that type of thing," said



Regents

(continued from page 1)

The 11 men and the positions they were appointed to are:

- Dr. Dean C. Corrigan, dean of Texas A&M's College of Education. Corrigan is currently dean of education at the University of Maryland. He will fill a position which was left empty when Hubert became chancellor last year. Dr. P.C. Limbacher has held the job on an interim basis since then.

- Robert G. Cherry, assistant chancellor. Cherry was formerly assistant to the chancellor. He will continue to serve as secretary to the Board of Regents.

- Dr. Perry Adkisson, deputy chancellor for agriculture. Adkisson has been university vice president for agriculture until that office was phased out by the chancellor's proposal.

- Dr. O.D. Butler, associate deputy chancellor for agriculture. He has been the University associate vice president for agriculture.

Dr. Fred J. Benson, deputy chancellor for engineering. Like Adkisson, Benson was a university vice president for his area before the

office was eliminated.

W.A. Porter, director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Sta-tion. Porter has been the station's assistant director and is a professor of electrical engineering at Texas A&M. He will replace Benson.

- Heston Cherry and Edwin Fenner, associate deputy chancellors for engineering. Cherry's re-sponsibilities will involve plans and operations and Fenner's will be administrative. Both have been associate vice presidents for the University.

- Stanley H. Lowy and Terry E. Shoup, assistant deans for Texas A&M's College of Engineering. Lowy is a professor of aerospace engineering at Texas A&M. Shoup is a mechanical engineering professor at the University of Houston and will

assume his new position July 1. — Robert L. Smith, assistant ex-ecutive vice chancellor for administration. He is now assistant to the executive vice chancellor for administration

Regents give **Coach Metcalf** first contract

Head basketball coach Shelby Metcalf was given a five-year con-tract at Tuesday's meeting of the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

Salary terms of the contract were not disclosed.

Spec Gammon, sports information director for the University, said Met-calf has not worked under contract before.

"No one in the athletic department but the head football coach has been working under a contract,

Gammon said. Texas A&M had its best year ever in basketball this season, with a re-cord of 26-8. The Aggies progressed to the Midwest Regionals of the NCAA playoffs before losing to eventual national champion Louisville in overtime, 66-55.