

AEC Plans To Use Nuclear Power To Blast Open Untapped Oil Reserves

Washington—UPI—The Atomic Energy Commission has announced plans to blast open with nuclear explosions what may be the largest untapped oil reserve in the world.

The first shot, part of the AEC's Plowshare program to demonstrate peaceful uses of atomic explosives, is expected some time in the fiscal year starting July 1. A tentative site has been picked in northwestern Colorado.

The commission outlined the project in its 25th semi-annual report to Congress. The report disclosed no spectacular advances in civilian atomic power and mentioned weapons only briefly.

The AEC has scheduled no weapons tests for the new fiscal year. It does, however, expect to conduct Plowshare experiments starting not earlier than late summer.

Can Recover Oil

The commission said nuclear explosions can break up huge masses of oil-bearing shale so that the oil can be recovered. It added that shale deposits in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming "are believed to be the largest untapped oil reserve in this continent if not in the world."

The three-state reserve has been estimated at 3,000 billion barrels.

The report said the AEC and Bureau of Mines have reached "an inter-agency cooperative agreement" in connection with the shale project and that the oil industry will

be invited to participate.

Tentative plans are to use a nuclear device equal to 10,000 tons of TNT. It would be fired at the end of a 1,450-foot tunnel 900 feet deep in a mesa situated in the Maghogy Zone of the Piceance Creek Basin in Garfield County, Colo.

The project would cost about \$1,500,000, not counting the explosive. The AEC has \$7,500,000 in its new budget for Plowshare.

Other Tests Planned

Another oil recovery project has been proposed for the Athabaska tar sands of northeast Alberta. The Richfield Oil Co. of Los Angeles and representatives of the Canadian and U. S. atomic commissions have discussed informally the feasibility of a 2,000-ton test shot in the spring of 1960.

The AEC's semi-annual report said atomic industry "continued a gradual growth in 1958." Private industry, it said, spent about \$70 million of its own money on power reactors compared to \$40 million the year before. Total federal and private spending on power and propulsion reactors was about \$400 million, up \$100 million.

Nuclear fuel and explosives production "met or exceeded" goals. Weapons proof-test in the Pacific last year are going into the stockpile. Although no new tests were scheduled, "emphasis continued on research and development . . . to improve and increase the U. S. arsenal of nuclear weapons."

Other highlights:

SPACE—A flightless forerunner of nuclear spacecraft is almost ready for tests in Nevada. "Encouraging results" were obtained in research on an atomic Ramjet "with essentially unlimited range" within the atmosphere. A tiny nuclear generator is being developed with 20 times the power of the five-watt gadget recently demonstrated at the White House. Two other types of auxiliary power plant for space vehicles are nearing the test stage.

NUCLEAR NAVY—Congress authorized 12 new atom-powered naval craft, bringing

Grange News

Gold Hill Grange

At a meeting of all the officers of Gold Hill Grange called by the Master, Charles Foote, plans were discussed for the making of better programs for the year ahead. The meeting was held at the hall Thursday, Jan. 29, with all but one officer present.

Many plans and projects were presented and will be carried out as time permits.

First of these plans was a program for the next regular meeting of the Grange, Feb. 5. All members and guests are asked to come in old-time costumes, the older the better. This is in keeping with the Centennial celebration of this year.

There will be a program of tableaux and music and there will be a display table of old-time pictures, relics, utensils, books, curios, and those attending are asked to bring anything they may have for this table.

Grace Bruce, Publicity

4-H Club News

Lone Pine Merry Maids

The Lone Pine Merry Maids 4-H club in cooking, third year, and child care, met Jan. 24 at the home of their leader, Mrs. Millie Edwards. Roll call was taken, and refreshments served by Linda Betz.

Mrs. Edwards served coffee to the three visiting mothers, and Miss Mary Lou Garner, county extension agent, who later showed films on child care.

The next meeting will be Feb. 14 at 10 a.m.

Path Jones, Reporter

Fancy Chiefs

Our last meeting of the Fancy Chiefs 4-H club was held at Linda Sommers. We had a model meeting for the younger group. Our next meeting will be at Joyce Crittendon at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14.

Cassie Cutbuth, Reporter.

total authorizations to 38 — three surface ships and 33 submarines.

ATOMIC PLANE—"Many important milestones" were passed. They included ground operation of turbojet engines in parallel from a common nuclear heat source and 47 flights aboard a conventionally-powered plane of a one-

million-watt reactor designed to test crew shielding. By the end of fiscal 1960 the Defense Department and AEC will have spent nearly one-billion dollars on this project without actually building a plane.

ATOMIC PLANT—The nation's investment in atomic facilities reached \$7,240,000,000 on Dec. 31.

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Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

Unwanted Passengers Are 'Ship Worms'

Many boats, great and small, sail out of ports carrying more passengers than the captain or crew of the craft know anything about. They are silent, unseen, unwanted passengers. Within the very framework of the craft may be a colony of "living augers" at work day and night to bring the boat to a state of total collapse.

These unseen passengers are the so-called "shipworms," constantly working on the boat's planking until the structure becomes paper-thin—almost a wooden shell. These "worms" belong to the family of creatures to which the oyster and the clam as well as the other mollusks belong.

Many mollusks are really benefactors to mankind. Many others are tolerant to our nearness or utterly oblivious to our presence. Very few are actually destructive. However, one in particular has caused man considerable embarrassment and tremendous expense. Boat owners especially have suffered from the destructiveness of the wood-boring "teredo" worm.

A True Mollusk

Peculiarly enough this character is a true mollusk, a soft bodied animal with a living shell that works within the wood parts of a boat or any other wood that is immersed in water. Eventually, if not killed, it will completely destroy the planking.

The presence of these destructive "worms" in warm sea water has made necessary the expensive painting of boat hulls with copper base paints to discourage somewhat the attractiveness of the wood to the home-seeking teredo worm. The worm's destruc-

tiveness is due solely to the animal's desire for a home. They do not actually live on wood, as is the case of the land termite, but use the tunnel in which to create a limestone tube.

Many boat owners claim the teredo worm will not work in teakwood. The reason for this aversion is not known, but as this wood is too expensive for most fishing boats, other measures must be resorted to. Copper sheathing or copper base paints are partly the answer. The tiny teredo mollusk enters the wood through a hole no larger than a pin prick.

Makes Cavity

As soon as he enters he begins eating at the wood in order to make for himself a roomy cavity. As he continues to grow he enlarges the tunnel, always eating lengthwise of the wood, or following the line of least resistance by following the grain. If he encounters a knot or bolt or another teredo worm, he turns aside, but continues eating and growing.

The teredo worm has a long, cylindrical, transparent, almost gelatin-like body, with a tiny pair of shell-like valves on the head. The stream of seawater entering the opening made by the worm carries the wood-dust back out and brings in food and a fresh supply of water. Within the teredo's body is a long U-shaped tube that captures the microscopic animal and plant life constantly being brought in with the water. For this reason a boat in motion would probably bring more food to the worm than a boat that was tied at the dock, although standing boats in quiet waters are more liable to infestation.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1959)

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JOHN S. CLARKE

Glasgow, Scotland—UPI—John S. Clarke, 73, onetime secretary to Nikolai Lenin, died in a hospital here Friday.

In addition to his post as Lenin's secretary Clarke followed a number of other careers, including lion taming, archaeology, exploring, zoology, journalism and politics.

He was a member of the Royal Commission of Fine Arts for Scotland, a Laborite member of Parliament and author of the book, "Russia under the Red Terror."

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SENTENCED TO DEATH

Bowling Green, Va.—UPI—A 56-year-old hobo has been sentenced to death for shooting to death two women before the eyes of their family. William Brown was convicted and sentenced Friday for the murder of Mrs. Jean M. Brooks, 33, and her mother-in-law, Mrs. Katherine Brooks, 76, last Nov. 14 as the younger Mrs. Brooks' four children and two other adults looked on.

Djakarta, Indonesia—UPI—The National Organization of Policemen's Wives decided their husbands may have two wives but only the first one may belong to the organization.

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2—Gloria Swanson creates a lovely new spring number in Acetate/Rayon crepe. Three-quarter sleeves. Tucked satin midriff belt. (Other styles with matching jackets). **14.98**

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See the exciting spring news in coats, here! You'll see new styles, from high-rise looks to top-interest looks . . . new fabrics, in textures that delight eye and hand . . . vivid new spring colors.

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Mann's MEDFORD

PWC Approves County Control

Portland—UPI—Regulations aimed at giving counties more responsibility in administering social security programs were approved by the state public welfare commission Friday.

The new rules, which go into effect in April, provide that counties no longer will have to submit each social security case decision to the state office for review and approval.

Counties long have sought more direct control of their program.

Instead of submitting cases to the state, the Commission's field service division will review each county's operations once every three years and will study a sampling of case actions. The state agency also will fulfill its role of over-all administrator by means of written instructions to counties and by supervision through field offices.

The Commission also approved, tentatively, revised medical care policies, subject to final review by Dr. James Stewart, its new medical consultant. One provision is that patients may not be hospitalized more than seven days under the welfare program unless "additional justification" is given by the physician in charge.

Boy, 12, Killed In Roseburg Fire

Roseburg—UPI—Fire swept through a two-story frame house here early yesterday causing the death of a 12-year-old boy and burning three members of his family, one seriously.

Firemen identified the victim as Mike McKenzie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger McKenzie. McKenzie was in Community hospital in serious condition suffering second and third degree burns. Mrs. McKenzie and another son, 8-year-old Jeff, were less seriously burned.

Firemen said the fire, of undetermined origin, started about 1:05 a.m. and trapped the family in the upstairs bedrooms.

FIND BIG FLOWER

Padang, Sumatra—UPI—The Indonesian forestry service announced yesterday discovery of one of the world's largest flowers—a trumpet-like bloom 24 inches in diameter and 70 inches high. They said the flower, a member of the amorphipallus family, was found in the jungles on Sumatra's west coast.

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