

From Wittenberg Alumnus of Nov 1949

Leipper Heads Oceanography Research Off Texas Gulf Coast

One of the major marine investigations in the nation is under the direction of Dale F. Leipper, '37. He became acting head of the new Department of Oceanography at Texas A. and M. College on Sept. 1.

Mr. Leipper's teaching and research will be a continuation of two years of study by the Texas A. and M. Research Foundation of marine life in the Gulf Coast area. The research work got its start seeking causes for the increasing losses of oysters.

During his first semester at the college Mr. Leipper is familiarizing himself with the Gulf Coast Region and the persons interested in its oceanographic development. Following his indoctrination period, he will select a staff to fit the particular needs of the area.

His instruction at the college, on the upper class and graduate levels, will include information about everything "in the Gulf of Mexico waters, around them, above them and below them." To tackle the almost limitless subject matter he will be associated with the college's basic departments of biology, geology, chemistry, physics and geography.

During the war Mr. Leipper served as oceanographer and weather officer with the Army Air Forces in the Aleutian Islands. He has been with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, Calif., since 1946. A native of Ohio, he was a member of the famed Wittenberg Brass Quartet of Salem, O., young men who played and attended school together for eight years. He took his M.A. at Ohio State University and did further graduate work and taught at the Scripps Institution and the University of California.

Dr. Leipper Elected Prexy

Dr. Dale F. Leipper, head of the oceanography department, was elected president of the Educational commission of the A&M Consolidated school district at the annual meeting in the CHS cafeteria Monday.

Mrs. Phillip Goode was elected vice president and Mrs. Raymond Rogers was elected secretary-treasurer.

The main speakers were Dr. Joseph Griggs, superintendent of schools at Huntsville; and B. H. Dewey jr., state representative, 44th representative district.

Griggs spoke on "Legislation, Past and Future, Which Will Affect Our Public Schools".

Dewey's topic was "Legislation Enacted by the 53th Legislature Pertaining to Our Public Schools".

A German band and flute group from A&M Consolidated High presented a short musical program.

Members of the band included Mickey Williamson, Ann Williamson, Tom Ivy, Nancy Smith and Ernest Tanzer.

The flute group consisted of Ann Williamson, Mary Varvell and John Harrington.

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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Leipper
939 Grossmont Ave., E.C.
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Money, Ships Plentiful . . .

Oceanography Department Offers Fine Opportunity

For the first time this year A&M is offering a complete course in one of the newest fields of research—Oceanography. With Dr. Dale F. Leipper at the helm of the department, A&M is offering to graduate students after only one year of existence, a course ranking at the top in variety and number of hours offered, with other schools who have this course.

Oceanography has to do with almost everything, but the five basic aspects are biological, study of plant and animal life in the sea; physical, the physics of the sea including ocean waves, water movements, transformations of energy, and other physical characteristics; geological, dealing with land and ocean relationships; chemical, constituents and reactions of the sea; and meteorological, dealing with the winds and weather.

Wide Open Field

One of its biggest attractions should lie in the fact that it is a wide open field for men trained in the basic sciences. At present there are so few trained men in this field that a recent A&M grad-

uate in Wild Life Management who took one three-hour course in the new department, has been employed by the U. S. Navy Hydrographic Office as an Oceanographer. Money and ships are plentiful, but trained men are not.

Opportunities are almost everywhere as this study is important to everyone, but especially to the navy, the oil industry and fisheries. Five research projects are being carried on by the department right now. They are a Survey of the Gulf of Mexico, study of the Marine Pipe Line problems, Co-operative Oceanographic investigation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, study of Biological Oceanography sponsored by seven major oil companies on the coast, and the Dow Chemical Oceanography Research fellowship.

Jakkula Saw Need

The Department was first conceived by Dr. A. A. Jakkula, head of the Texas A&M Research Foundation who recognized the need in connection with research in the famous Louisiana oyster research project. The Board of Directors

gave their approval in January, 1949, and courses were offered for the first time in February, 1950.

Dr. Leipper was asked to come to A&M in 1949 to organize the Department. He was graduated from Wittenberg College in Ohio with a B.S. degree in Mathematics, received his master's degree from Ohio State and his Ph.D. from Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California. He was called to service shortly after his graduation from Wittenberg. Stationed in an isolated spot with an aircraft warning service of the Signal Corps on the West Coast, he first became interested in the field when he noticed an article in a newspaper that said applications were being taken to Meteorological cadet school at UCLA.

He spent his year there studying the weather and learning how to forecast height of waves for landing purposes. The next year he was stationed in the Aleutian Islands forecasting weather for the air force and the navy. He was then sent to Anchorage, Alaska, where he was put in charge of an oceanography research unit at the Air Force weather central.

Dr. Leipper has about forty-five students taking courses in his department this year. Nine of these are majoring and thirteen are minoring in Oceanography. The first degree is expected to be awarded in 1951 or 1952.

Studies On Cruise

Not the least of the attractions of this new field is the manner of studying the ocean. Since the Gulf of Mexico is nearby and it is considered to be one of the most ideal research spots in the world for oceanographic study, cruises from the coast are planned for every three months.

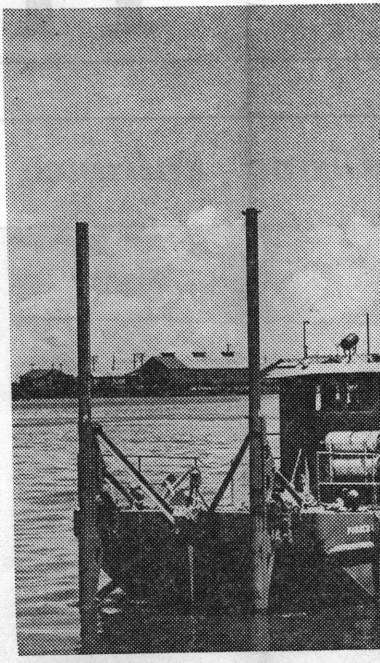
These cruises cover the whole Gulf leaving for the first part of the journey from Galveston and traveling to Yucatan and on to Havana; the second leg of the trip, down the Florida coast; and the third cruise covers the coast of Mexico. The boat acts as a floating laboratory giving the students a chance to study Oceanography in its natural form, not just from textbooks or maps.

Arrangement have been made by the department to attempt a study of ocean currents in the Gulf through the use of "drift cards," post cards encased in plastic envelopes that float. Ten thousand of these will be dropped by plane all over the Gulf of Mexico. They are printed with instructions to mail in the cards.

This experiment is being made in conjunction with the Texas Game, Fish and Oyster Commission, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission.

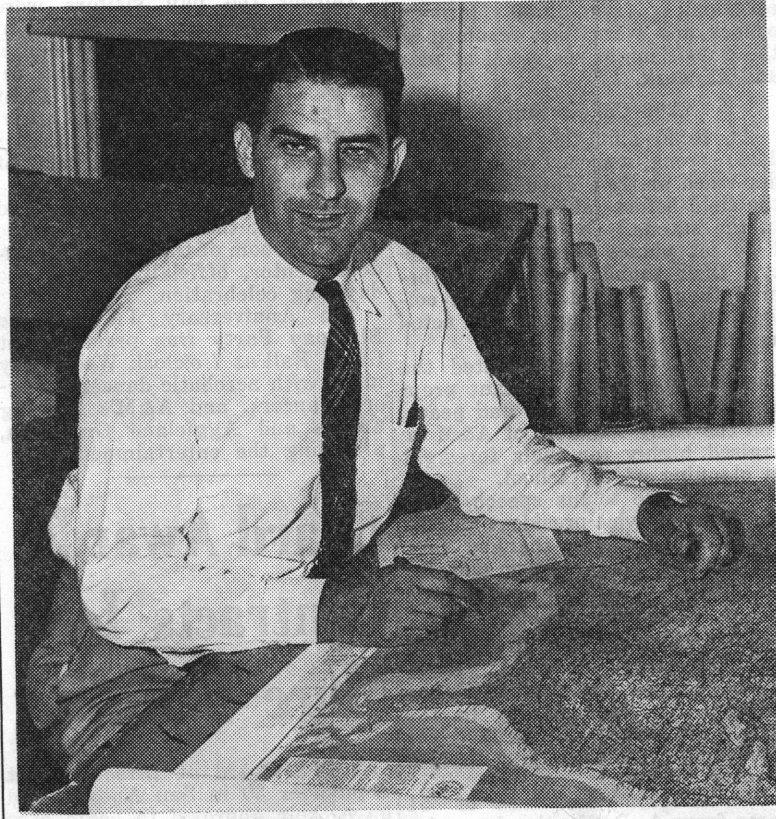
Staffing the Department of Oceanography are Dr. Donald W. Hood, '50; Dr. Leipper; Dr. John

Oceanography



This barge-type boat serves as a laboratory for oceanography students. Its most unusual feature is that it can be lowered into the ocean for studying in shallow water. It was built and made in the water with depth in mind.

Head of the Department



Dr. Dale F. Leipper considers the Gulf of Mexico one of the best spots in the world to study all types of conditions pertaining to the Ocean. He has organized the Department of Oceanography at A&M and has big plans to make it the finest and best-rounded Department in the country.

Hert Leipper
Mount Ave., E.C.
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Will pick up Friday

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1950

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Oceanography Department New Opportunity

... in Wild Life Management who
took one three-hour course in the
new department, has been employ-
ed by the U. S. Navy Hydrographic
Office as an Oceanographer. Mon-
itors and ships are plentiful, but
trained men are not.
Opportunities are almost every-
where as this study is important
to everyone, but especially to the
Navy, the oil industry and fisher-
ies. Five research projects are
being carried on by the department
right now. They are a Survey of
the Gulf of Mexico, study of the
Marine Pipe Line problems, Co-
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tion with the U. S. Fish and Wild-
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Jakkula Saw Need

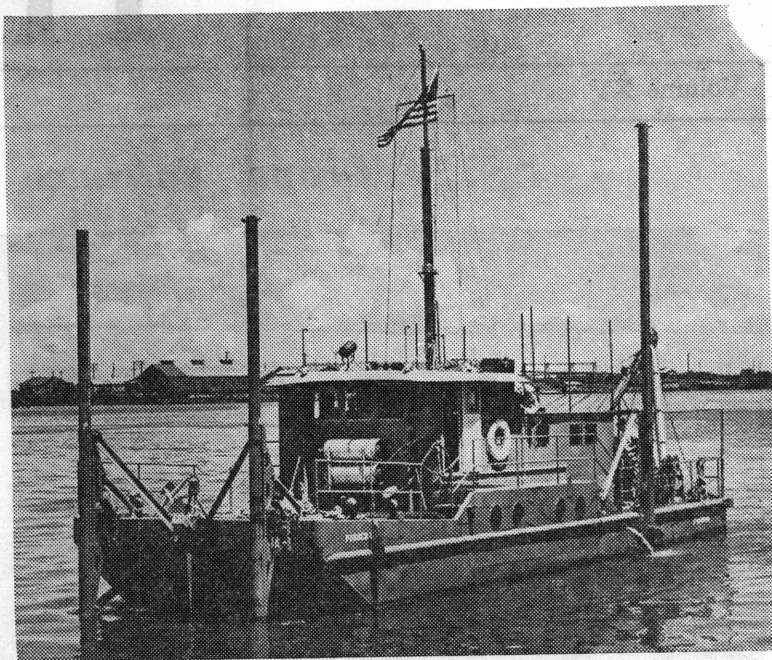
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Oceanography Laboratory



This barge-type boat serves as a sea-going laboratory for Oceanography students. Its most unusual features are four legs which can be lowered into the ocean bed to form a stationary platform for studying in shallow water. It carries ten men and tests are made in the water with depth instruments, mud temperature probes and cover.



The Battalion Award Winners for 1953

Resting after the Student-Prof Banquet recently were this year's winners of The Battalion Awards. They are (left to right) Dr. David H. Morgan, dean of the college; E. D. Parnell (back) professor of poultry husbandry; Joseph H. Sorrels, professor of civil engineering; Lt. Col.

Robert L. Melcher, counselor in the Third Division; Dr. Dale F. Leipper, head of the oceanography department; Lt. Col. Charles R. Stapp, associate professor of air sciences and tactics.

From Milwaukee Industrialists:**\$150,000 Schooner Given A & M Group**

One of the finest seagoing classroom and laboratory ships in America, presented as a gift to the Texas A. and M. College Research Foundation, will soon be sailing regularly from a Texas port to explore the mysteries of the Gulf of Mexico for the A. and M. oceanography department.

Valued at \$150,000, the ship was given to the school by two Milwaukee industrialists, Erwin C. and Robert A. Uihlein, president and vice-president of the Schlitz Brewing Co.

The three-masted schooner, 120-feet long, and called the "Atlantic," is presently docked at Milwaukee. The A. and M. foundation will send a crew to Wisconsin about March 1 to sail it by way of Lake Michigan to Chicago, down the Chicago river, the Illinois river and into the Mississippi to the gulf. It will then ply the Gulf from New Orleans to Galveston.

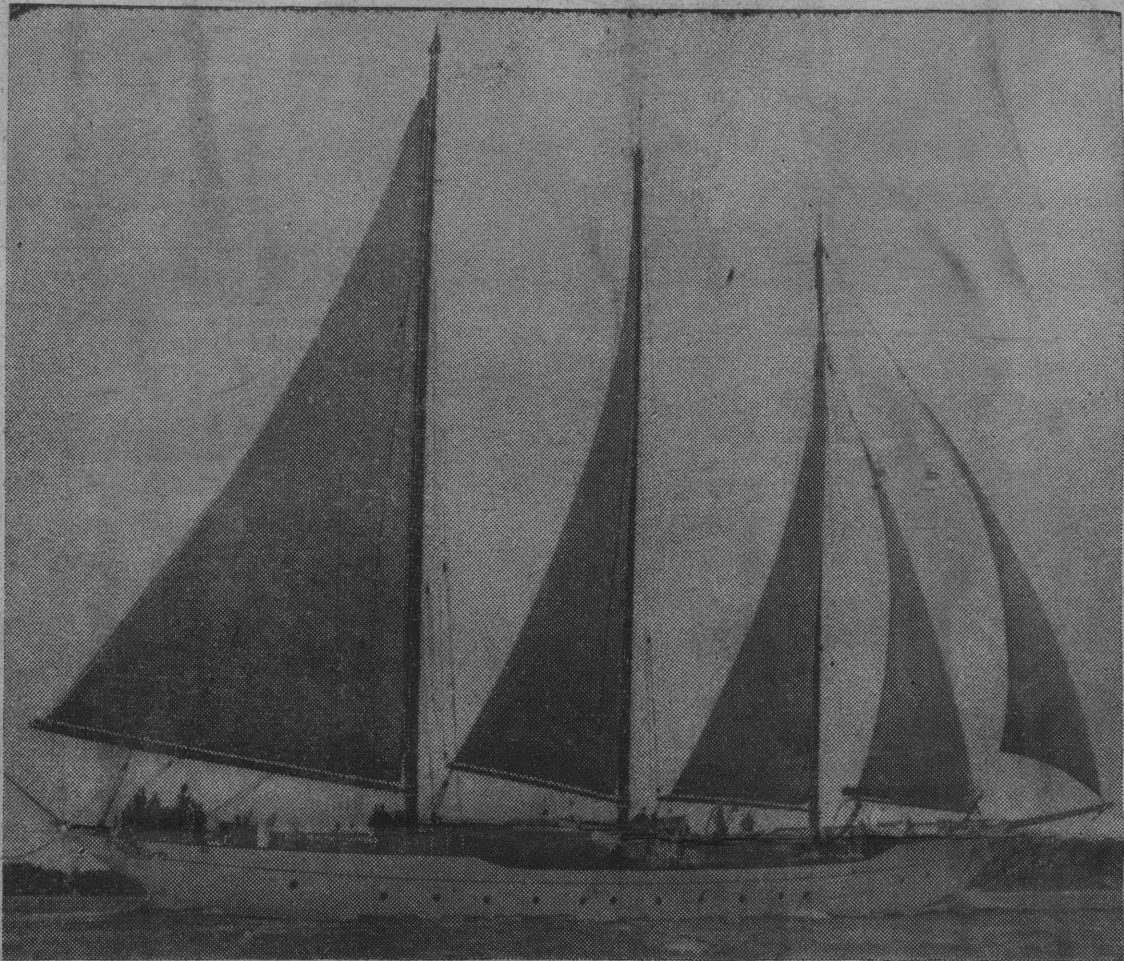
The "Atlantic" was commissioned by the U. S. Coast Guard during World War II and served in submarine detection work between New Orleans and Trinidad.

Meanwhile, the Uihlein brothers, in announcing the gift, the Uihlein brothers said: "She is one of the finest schooners afloat today. We are very happy indeed to have been able to present it to the Texas A. and M. research foundation."

The ship is now registered as a yacht and has a 370-horsepower auxiliary. It will cruise under power at nine knots and sail under 11 knots.

It has a steel hull, teak deck trimmed in mahogany, and accommodations suited to classroom, research laboratories.

The "Atlantic" normally carries a six or seven man crew



The good ship "Atlantic" . . . presented to A. and M. College by Erwin C. and Robert A. Uihlein, executives of the Schlitz Brewing Company.

and at least 10 scientists. It can cruise several weeks without returning to port.

The A&M research foundation has some \$40,000 in funds from various grants which will be used to install scientific equipment on the vessel.

When installed, it will have a complete electronics laboratory; chemical, biological and

physical laboratories, a fathometer, navigation aids, devices for sampling, dredging and coring the Gulf bottom for study and other equipment.

A&M will use the ship to sail regularly for oceanographic research and teaching, principally in the Gulf coast area. Research projects can also be carried on for individuals, indus-

try and governmental agencies in need of information about the Gulf.

The research foundation is a non-profit corporation, with headquarters on the campus of the A. and M. College of Texas, which conducts studies in many fields, using the staff and facilities of the Texas A. and M.

(See SCHOONER Page 3)

Dr. Myron Ligda Is Added To Oceanography Staff

Dr. Myron G. H. Ligda, meteorologist specializing in applying radar to weather observing, has been added to the staff of the Department of Oceanography, A. and M. College, it was announced by Dr. D. F. Leipper, head of the department.

He joins the college from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he received the degrees of SM and ScD with majors in meteorology. His undergraduate work for major in astronomy was done at the University of California.

Some of Dr. Ligda's experience has been with the U. S. Air Force. He has served as staff weather officer of the 102nd Fighter Wing,

Massachusetts Air National Guard, and as radiological defense officer. During World War II he held teaching, research and administrative posts in Panama and in the Canal Zone.

Dr. Ligda is author of several technical publications. His doctorate thesis, "Radar Scope Photography and its Use in Studying Frontal Structure," deals with the movement of precipitation areas detected with radar. He has written several papers concerning the military application of radar and radar storm detection.

His professional memberships include Sigma XI, the American Meteorological Society and the American Astronomical Society. He is married and has two children.