A 3-STORY MOBILE, TOO

NEW GEOLOGY BUILDING IS BEAUTIFUL & FUNCTIONAL

BY DAVE RUSH

Mrs. Wiess and her three daughters filled a great need at Rice when they donated the beautiful and functionally well-designed Geology Building located on the northwest side of the campus.

Modern Spirit

By looking at the external features of the building such as the stairs on either end, the open corridors on all three floors, and the sculptured bricks, one could get an idea of the modern spirit and aesthetic finesse with which the building was planned but a closer look is necessary if one is to appreciate its real value.

Myriad of Purposes

The first floor serves a myriad of purposes with its departmental offices, reading room, map room, introductory lab, and convertible lab-lecture room.

It boasts a beautiful seminar conference room with adjoining tea kitchen. Another room is filled with rock cuttings of samples from major oil fields throughout Texas.

The machine shop is equipped to make any precision instruments that may be needed to carry out research in the various parts of the building. The loading dock and adjoining rooms make it possible for large samples to be received, broken up, cut, ground, and polished. A special acid bath may be used to separate the fossils.

Seismological Room

One of the most interesting rooms is that to be used as a seismological observatory. It will be the first one like it in this area and should be of much interest to students as they will be able to observe the seismograph readings of the earth's quiverings in a special display window.

"Tote Trays"

The second floor is devoted to geophysics (study of the physics of the earth), paleontology (study of fossils), and structural geology (study of layer configurations). There are three geophysics, three paleontology, and two structural geology labs on this floor. Throughout the building and especially on this floor are rows and rows of 3000 sample drawers called "tote trays." These trays and the ample number of storage rooms conveniently located are obvious advantages.

X-Ray Instruments

The third floor is the home ground for research in petrology (study of rocks), mineralogy (study of minerals), and geochemistry (study of earth's chemistry). Besides two petrology, one mineralogy, and one geochemistry lab, the main features of this floor are a second stage sample.

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(Continued from Page 1) preparation room and X-ray and radiometric florium instruments.

Pipes In the Basement

The basement, too, is fully usable. It houses the pipes which are necessary to cool and heat the building. It contains the hydraulic piston that runs the elevator.

In addition, there is a gamma ray spectrometer room. One of the most flexible aspects of the entire building is a system of “chases” which enable spot repairs on any pipe in the building as well as access to ducts and other areas necessary for installing new equipment.

A mobile is to be installed which will be three stories in height and will depict the evolution of the earth.