

Atom Power Seen Upholding Living Standard

Electric power generated from atomic energy may likely be our only solution to the problem of supplying future generations with a standard of living comparable to that which we enjoy today.

Donald J. Sengstaken, 1712 Derby, Birmingham, a mechanical engineer currently working with Atomic Power Development Associates, Inc., Detroit, told the Long Island section of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers last week about the many problems being solved by the group in producing plans for an atomic-electric power plant.

In emphasizing the need for increasing participation of private industry in the field of atomic development, Sengstaken said, "not only are present coal and oil fuel costs rising, but supplies are dwindling."

At our present rate of usage known reserves of coal, oil and gas fuels would last about 600 years. Experts predict that the world's output of electricity and other forms of power must be doubled by 1975 and more than doubled again by the year 2000. At this



DONALD SENGSTAKEN

rate, the world's reserves of conventional fuels would last a mere 100 years. Our own children would begin to feel the shortage.

"IN URANIUM and thorium the world has a new source of fuel which is estimated as being at least 23 times greater than the combined known reserves of coal, oil and gas... possibly sufficient to last the world for perhaps 2000 or 3000 years."

AFDA is a nonprofit corporation formed by 44 private companies pooling money and technical know-how to do the research and design work on a nuclear power plant.

The Power Reactor Development company located in Detroit, a similar non-profit organization of 26 companies, proposes to build and operate this plant on the shores of Lake Erie about 30 miles south of Detroit.

The AFDA "breeder" reactor design actually produces more atomic fuel than it consumes to make power.

er. It includes a blanket of normally "inert" material around the core that is converted to fuel by the nuclear radiations obtained in making atomic power. These radiations are partially "soaked up" by the blanket in the process of creating fuel. The blanket also helps prevent escape of neutrons.

Sengstaken said much will be learned from the full-scale test work to be done on the actual components of the equipment in Detroit. He emphasized that "we will test all of the new materials and parts under simulated operating conditions before installation in the atomic power plant. Nothing is left to chance."

Sengstaken received his master's degree in mechanical engineering from Columbia University in 1947. He has been on loan to AFDA from the Long Island Lighting Company since September, 1955.

Mediterranean Duty

Seaman James H. Bernard, 1501 1/2 E. 10th St., Birmingham, is now on duty with the U. S. Navy aboard the attack cargo ship U.S.S. Tankin. The ship left the states last month for training exercises with the U. S. Sixth fleet in the Mediterranean.

Virginia Hood Is Commissioned

Virginia E. Hood was commissioned Friday as an ensign in the US Naval reserves. A daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Hood of Henrietta street, Birmingham, she enlisted in the WAVES early this year and reported March 1 to the US Naval School's command station, Newport, R. I.

Ensign Hood has completed the officer candidate portion of the course and after more instruction in a specialized field, she is scheduled to graduate from the school June 22.

Makes Solo Flight

Navy Ensign Duncan M. Laidlaw has made his first solo flight and is receiving instruction in precision air work at Whiting Field Naval auxiliary air station, Millington, Fla. A son of the Walter C. Laidlaw, 704 Tottenham, Birmingham, he attended Beloit college before entering service.

E. Lincoln Paving

A new start on May 7 on widening of Lincoln from Elton east, will be made by Birmingham commuters. They have insisted previous action creating an assessment district, now that a small parcel at the street's end recently has been annexed to the city.

County Highway Development Told In Special Booklet

Oakland county planning commission has released a 43-page booklet on highway development in the Detroit metropolitan area with emphasis on Oakland county's future role in highway planning.

The booklet, traces the growth of the road system in Southeastern Michigan.

Methods of obtaining engineering and financial solutions to meet existing and future road building needs are reviewed. The freeway-toll road controversy, federal aid programs, as well as the state highway program are digested in the booklet.

THE BOOKLET is a forerunner to a technical plan of integrated highways being prepared.

Free copies are available by writing to George N. Skrubbs, director, Oakland county planning commission, 1 Lafayette, Pontiac.

Household goods of every description are offered for sale in the Classified Columns of The Birmingham Eccentric.

Value of Oakland County farm products sold in 1949 was \$9,338,000, of which \$5,078,000 was livestock and dairy products, reports the Oakland County Planning Commission.

Wider Southfield Gets Tentative Nod

Widening of Southfield from 14 miles to Lincoln has received tentative city approval.

Birmingham commission set May 14 for hearing on making this half-mile stretch 32 feet wide with curbs. Parking would be permitted only on the east side.

Cummings Petition

Referred to City Manager D. C. Egbert for recommendation is a petition asking for pavement on Cummings, 14 Mile to Chapin.

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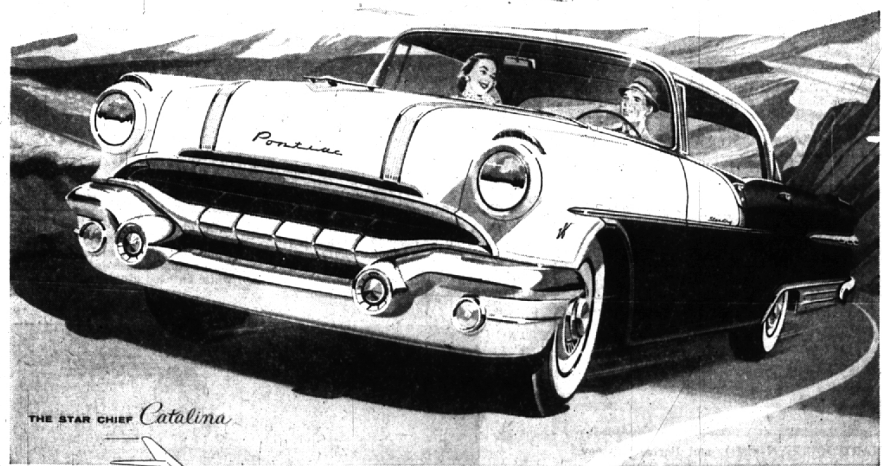
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