



NASA

ROOM FULL OF BUNNIES—Technicians wear lint free “bunny suits” to prevent contamination of propellant system components shown packaged in plastic. They will be used in the Saturn V first stage and are prepared at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s Michoud Assembly Facility, New Orleans, operated by Chrysler Corporation and the Boeing Company.

TECHNOLOGY

TV Speeds Ship Traffic

► FOR THE first time on any canal in the world, closed circuit television and a telemetering system is being used to increase vessel traffic through the Welland Canal of the St. Lawrence Seaway system.

The TV monitoring helps direct vessels through the canal by giving instant information on the position of ships on four 800-foot locks that take traffic in one direction at a time.

On a typical day more than 40 large ships pass through the canal’s eight locks on the 325-foot section between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

TV pictures are transmitted simultaneously from three locks using the same coaxial cable, relying on the technique of frequency separation.

Three cameras are positioned at each lock. The first is on a 100-foot tower and shows vessels awaiting passage as well as entering the lock. The middle camera is within 15 feet of the lock wall and shows the vessel entering the lock as well as the lower water level after the lock has been drained.

The third camera is on a 50-foot high tower and looks down the canal, showing vessels waiting passage.

All of the cameras have tilt, pan and zoom and are controlled from a central office.

The transmission of control data for the cameras is a secondary use of the telemetry system.

This telemetering system, designed and developed by the Bell Telephone Company of Canada, provides data on the condition of the lock controls and navigational signals along the canal.

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PHYSIOLOGY

Researchers Menace British Frogs

► THE COMMON frog has almost been eliminated in Britain because of its use in biology teaching and in university research, the British Association for the Advancement of Science was told in Nottingham, England.

Uncontrolled exploitation of a species of animal or plant for research can quickly and easily “remove it from the realm of usefulness,” said Prof. J. W. S. Pringle of Oxford University.

The fauna of the sea around marine biological stations have been depleted to the point where irreversible changes may have been caused in the natural environments, Prof. Pringle added.

Physiologists now compete with one another for the remaining specimens of the squid in the seas around Britain. The situation is possibly even worse in North America, he said.

“We are cutting our own throats if the discovery and use of a valuable species is not also accompanied by a proper study of its natural habitat and way of life,” Prof. Pringle pointed out.

“The problem is going to get a lot worse when the new curricula of biology teaching in schools get under way, with their demand for a much greater variety of animals. Who is going to supply these? And if someone does take on the job of providing them, what safeguards have we that they will not be content to rely on the so-called natural supply, that supposedly inexhaustible reservoir of life which is so rapidly being exhausted?”

“Let us not forget that we are living on borrowed time. We have got by so far and we can no doubt continue to get by for a short while by acting as predators on a bounteous nature which provides us with the material which we study. But let us not forget our guardianship. Let it not be said by future generations that we ourselves have despoiled the treasure-house of nature and done nothing to prevent its falling into decay. Let us sometimes think of future generations of comparative physiologists and do what we can to ensure that they also enjoy the subject as we are able to do.”

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