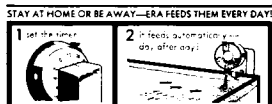
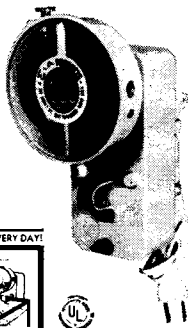


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from abroad

PANAMA

Copper deposit found

A major field of high-grade copper, said to equal or better the rich deposits now being mined in Chile, has been discovered in the rain forest of Colon Province in northern Panama. The region, covered with trees 200 feet high, is west of the Panama Canal and about 12 miles inland from the Caribbean Sea.

The find has been confirmed by Panamanian President Marco A. Robles, who said estimates indicate the deposits might amount to many millions of tons.

Tests of ore samples showed the copper content ran as high as 4.5 percent, with unusual quantities of molybdenum, vital in steel hardening processes, and five times more valuable than copper.

The Government believes the discovery could have an important economic effect upon Panama. However, it is expected to be at least three years before the wild and isolated interior region can be opened sufficiently to permit mining.

Lee Gebhart

MEXICO

Measuring subsoil water

Mexico is investing 130 million pesos (\$10 million) in an inventory of subterranean waters, to insure a constant supply of potable water.

Although reservoir reserves stand at 84 percent (4 percent more than last year), the search for subsoil waters is motivated by regional conditions where scarcities exist, such as in Juarez and Monterrey.

"The cheapest drinking water is that pumped from subsoil pools," Secretary of Hydraulic Resources José Hernández Terrán says, "because it requires no treatment unless the water is hard."

In Monterrey, an industrial city of two million, the underwater search division set up by the department has proven existence of water in nine lime deposit sites from Huasteca Canyon to Seat Mountain, and drilled deep wells to provide drinking water.

The problem in the Juarez Valley, bordering the United States, was aggravated by the fact that its well water is saline. But drilling to 1,150 feet produced sweet water.

In Mexicali, one well is producing 40 liters of water per second. Three drilling rigs going down 1,968 feet located an underground pool of sweet water which is not being exploited, but which has been labeled promising in

meeting water shortages in this border area.

New water pools have also been located in Hermosillo where there has been a chronic over-exploitation of subsoil waters since 1964. Water has been found at 984 feet. In this zone water engineers went through a blue clay area to locate water pools. This method is also producing results in Guaymas, where water has been scarce and underwater deposits show intrusions of seawater.

In Monterrey, drilling brigades have gone down as far as 7,560 feet to hit water. One well, in the Cerrito (Little Hill) zone, supplies 200 liters per second.

For Mexico City, in cooperation with the Federal District Government, the department is drilling wells in the Lerma region to boost water flow to the city via rational exploitation. Saltillo, another borderline zone, has wells now pumping 400 liters per second.

Mexico's major dams now have reserves of 38.2 billion cubic yards of water, with an added 200 million cubic yards in smaller irrigation works. Total water reserves are at 50 billion cubic yards, Secretary Hernández Terrán says.

According to these official figures Mexico has enough irrigation waters to last until the end of 1970.

Emil Zubryn

SWITZERLAND

Swiss trade show in Peking

Swiss scientific instrument manufacturers are exhibiting in Peking. The aim is to further step up recently increasing trade. China has asked the Swiss to play down luxury goods and concentrate on quality, precision products for science and technology.

The organizers expect about 30,000 professional and technical visitors to the exhibition.

Forty-six firms will participate.

Swiss exports to China have totaled 260 million Swiss francs during the past three years (a Swiss franc is \$.23). Chinese exports to Switzerland totaled 198 million.

Of the Swiss exports, half have been machines and machine tools and one-fifth precision instruments. Swiss watch exports rose from 8 million francs in 1966 to 18 million francs last year.

Two-thirds of China's exports to Switzerland have been in raw and manufactured textiles and one-third in agricultural products.

David Alan Ehrlich