

PA. SENATE SIDE

from Clarence F. Manbeck of the 48th District
The Pennsylvania Senate has just completed work on legislation setting up a network of military veteran information and assistance centers throughout the Commonwealth. The program is unique in that it brings together under one roof all the agencies that provide services for military veterans.

Already passed by the House, the Senate plan nonetheless must be reconsidered by the House because it has been amended by the Senate. But there is

little doubt the plan will finally become law. It is considered essential if veterans are to be made aware of the various benefits available to them.

Currently, many veterans spend weeks and even months going from agency to agency to find out what benefits they qualify for and how to get them.

As a result of what is often a frustrating effort, many veterans give up or fail to even bother and find out what is available to them. Often we lose their potential talent or service trained skills because they can't get

the schooling they want or the jobs they are qualified to fill.

The plan has a secondary purpose, but one essential to its long-range development. Officials hope to be better able to poll veterans on their needs and wants, expecting to both contact more veterans under the one-roof plan and to have a better exchange of information between the servicing agencies.

As proposed, the legislation would establish up to 15 centers across the State, the location of each to be determined on the basis of geography and population. Wherever possible, the centers would be located in existing State facilities.

Under the Department of Military Affairs, a staff

would be trained. Those selected would have previous experience in counseling veterans and have liaison with veterans organizations, county directors of veterans affairs, the Veterans Administration, State agencies, university counselors and any other groups or individuals who would be instrumental in resolving veteran's problem.

The program also will include a central information office with a State-wide toll free number.

As the State with the third largest population in the nation, Pennsylvania also has a large number of military veterans. In the Vietnam conflict alone, of the 2.5 million men and women who served in the

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Findlay, Ohio — (HK) — Fifty-six million dollars is a lot to pay for some land nearly 100 miles from civilization and completely covered with water.

armed forces, almost a half million were Pennsylvanians.

I don't think there is any argument that we owe our veterans every bit of help we can provide them with schooling, job counseling or housing. The plan establishing one-stop information and assistance centers is one of the best ways of doing it.

But, that's how much Marathon Oil Company recently paid the Federal government for the right to explore for oil and gas on off-shore acreage in the Gulf of Mexico.

Occasionally, the Federal government holds a sale of lease rights to specific off-shore acreage, which in recent years has been in the Gulf of Mexico. Marathon, along with other companies, offers sealed bids for some of these tracts. The winning bidder has rights for five years to search for oil and gas. If successful he retains the rights for as long as commercial production continues.

Off-shore drilling in the Gulf is nothing new for Marathon. In fact, off-shore drilling and related expenses have been taking a substantial bite out of company budgets since the 1930's.

The costs of seeking oil and gas in coastal waters are constantly on the rise. Indeed, one of the fastest-rising of them is the cost of the off-shore acreage itself.

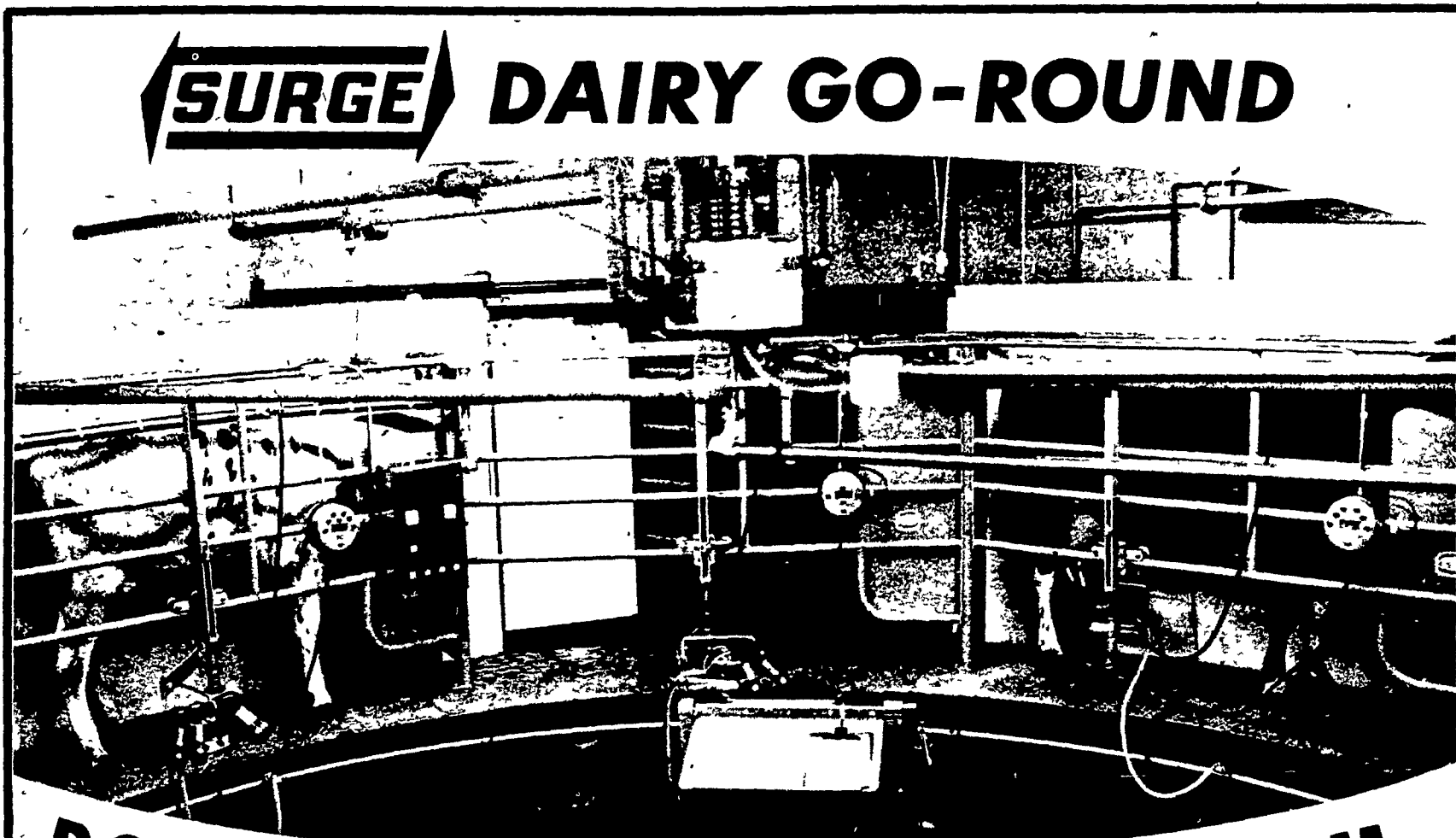
Water and weather combine forces to escalate both risks and overall costs. Today, drilling crews work in waters 400 feet deep, with still greater depths yet to be explored. This poses dangers, and it calls for equipment and technology vastly different from those needed to set up a drilling rig on solid land.

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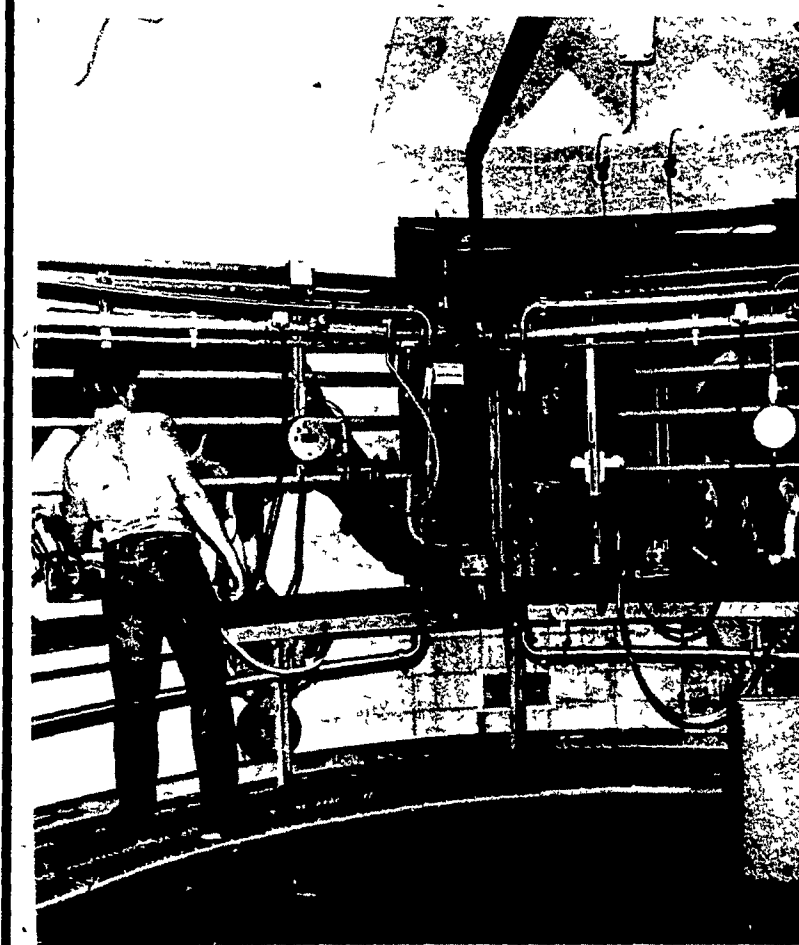


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