

# The "Behind the Scenes" Program for the AOCS 1971 Spring Meeting



In addition to the superb technical program that will be offered and which has been highlighted in recent issues of the Journal, other Planning Committees have been putting forth an extra effort to make the 1971 Houston Spring Meeting of the AOCS a most complete experience for all those attending.

The Plant Trips Committee, headed by R. H. Hammond of the De Laval Separator Co., has arranged for "behind the scenes" tours to the NASA Complex, Port of Houston, Texas Medical Center, and the Anheuser-Busch facility.

The Nasa Manned Spacecraft Center tour will consist of a walking tour through Buildings 1, 5 and 29, the latter two just recently opened to public inspection. At Building 1, the Visitor Orientation Building, visitors will view three vehicles from the Apollo Program that have been in lunar orbit and returned to Earth, along with moon rock samples from recent space flights and many other related items of a scientific nature. The 800 seat auditorium in Building 1 will feature film strips of recent Apollo missions, all in brilliant color, and for the most part, not available for viewing except at the Manned Spacecraft Center near Houston. Building 5, the Mission Simulation and Training Facility, contains the Lunar Surface Laboratory. In this area, the astronauts practice simulated lunar surface extra-vehicular activities as well as the deployment of the Apollo Lunar Surface Experiments Package (ALSEP), and other lunar topology experiments. Building 29, the Flight Acceleration Facility, houses a man-rated centrifuge designed to train crews, test equipment and evaluate the physiology of men under space flight stresses. The centrifuge has a 50 ft arm which swings

a three-man gondola to create G-forces astronauts experience during lift-off and re-entry conditions. Our visit in May will, no doubt, reflect many new scientific findings that will result from the January-February 1971 Flight of Apollo 14.

The Port of Houston, the third largest U.S. port in total tonnage moved, will be viewed in air conditioned comfort aboard the Port Commission Cruiser, "Sam Houston." The two-hour cruise of the Port and Ship Channel will provide a close-up inspection of some of the greatest petroleum and chemical complexes in the world.

The guided tour of the internationally famous 134 acre Texas Medical Center will permit AOCS members to view first-hand one of the largest "brain pools" for medical science in the nation. The center, representing a total investment of over \$137 million, is still expanding and at present has over 2400 students enrolled in various educational programs.

The recently completed Anheuser-Busch facility will feature the 10,000 square feet red carpet tour plus a behind-the-scenes visit to various process sections. Coupled with this will be a visit to the soon-to-be-completed Asiatic Gardens, which, in addition to fine restaurants, will allow the AOCS members to view many Asiatic animals in their natural habitat with only the water between the tour boat separating them.

With the above, and more to be announced in the February issue of the Journal, we are confident that you will agree that 1971 in Houston will be the finest Spring Meeting ever!