

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: CORNEL BAKER

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AT THE NORTH DAKOTA POWER USE CONFERENCE recently, we were pleased to give a paper on the subject of the future of battery power on the farm. This source of power for farmers holds great promise for lightening many chores and helping automate applications. Next schedule for the talk is at Ohio State's Farm and Home Electrification Council in May.

THE NEW HOUSTON INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT which is to open this year will feature battery-operated electric trains to carry passengers from car to plane, according to a news release in a well-known trade journal. Lead-acid batteries will operate the trains on a 1400 foot loop traversing the terminal, and the engineers estimate that about 206 persons will use the facility during each peak 2 minute period by 1970. It's all electronically controlled, operating unattended.

DESIGNATED AS THE FIRST NATIONAL ELECTRIC CAR SYMPOSIUM, San Jose State College of Engineering (California) was host to about 600 interested registrants recently. A number of impressive paper were given by a variety of professional and government people, but we think the "show was stolen" by West Penn Power's VP Bill Sturm and his "Little Red Wagon". He didn't actually have it there, but the story of how West Penn decided to do something about the electric car, using available materials, had the audience on the edge of their seats. Mr. Sturm made it clear that his company was in the power business, not the auto business, but he hoped that the ALLECTRIC would be a challenge to the industry.

SPEAKING OF ELECTRIC CARS (and who isn't these days) several electrical groups in Japan have test vehicles on the streets. These are conversions of existing cars, three of the four using lead-acid batteries, the other using alkaline (nickel-cadmium) batteries. We have a composite sheet showing some of the specifications of these vehicles; if you would like to have a copy, just ask. (It has also been announced that the city of Osaka will convert all their combustion-engine buses to battery power -- we are following this one, too.)

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WE WILL AGAIN BE EXHIBITING AT THE EDISON ELECTRIC INSTITUTE SALES CONFERENCE this year, but this will probably reach you too late to serve as an invitation to your utility people to visit us. Hope to see you there, anyway.

A BATTERY GADGET WE HEARD OF is a specially designed cap containing a catalytic agent that combines into water vapor the hydrogen and oxygen gases given off in charging. This vapor condenses and returns to the cell from which it came, reducing loss of electrolyte, prolonging battery life, and minimizing corrosion. Called, appropriately enough, HYDRO-CATYLATORS.

HERE'S ANOTHER THAT SOUNDS LIKE AN ANSWER TO A PRAYER - a fast charge that will allow 99.9% of a battery charge to be replaced in 30 minutes, a practice long known to have possible disastrous effects under present methods. The new gadget (?) is a charge controller mounted right on the battery in place of one of the caps. It senses the pressure build-up from gassing and lowers the charge rate needed, accordingly. Under this control, the inventor claims that 90 percent of the charge can be done in the first 10 minutes, 99 percent in the next 10 minutes, and 99.9 percent in yet another.....all safely and without battery damage!

A FORK-LIFT TRUCK RODEO that promises to be the very finest that we have helped arrange is shaping up for Akron, Ohio, on May 23 and 24. All of the electric companies serving the whole northern section of the state are sponsoring the affair, and we are very excited about it! If you are in the area served by the following companies and have any interest in the selling, buying, or using of material handling equipment this one is for you: Toledo Edison Company, Ohio Power Company, Ohio Edison Company, and Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company. The show is to be held at Ohio Edison's Fairlawn Service Center.

THE BATTERY BOOSTER IS FREE . . . SEND US THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF YOUR CO-WORKERS, IF THEY HAVE AN INTEREST IN BATTERIES AND BATTERY APPLICATIONS. ALSO, IDEAS AND NEWS ITEMS PERTAINING TO THE SUBJECT ARE WELCOME.