



Manuel F. Lizcano, Historian

Southwest Research Institute

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The column THE BILL

by Bill EEDDELL (SP)

YOU KNOW HOW RESEARCHER SART?

Always trying to figure what makes things like they are.

Well, Dr. Paul L. Czibesz of Southwest Research Institute, was wandering around old San Jose mission and saw the water mill

Nearby, where some very fine milling was

done back around 1750

and later.

Dr. Czibesz, whose business it is to notice such things, saw an advanced design for the water wheel, which was supposedly built sometime prior to 1752. The wheel that is the basis for water-power generators of today was patented in 1880 by one L. A. Pelton.

Dr. Czibesz (pronounced like Seabees) figures the padre who designed that wheel read a book on the subject published in Strasbourg in 1738. At any rate,, he says the old mission mill was capable of about two horsepower output from that water wheel. A conventional wheel of that time would produce about one-half horsepower.

And he says modern wheels can't better the efficiency of the Mission wheel.

now he's digging into the thing still more, trying to find out if Pelten's patented wheel is original.

Researchers are like that!

And just like that and idea was born, to do a history of the

Southwest Research Institute

Actually suggested some time ago by Paul Delts.

So let's see where we can go with this one.

The Rest is History

Credits

"Broadening ASHRAE's Horizons" ASHRAE President Tom Watson's theme for 20012-13

