

RAIN THROUGHOUT STATE
BREAKS GENERAL DROUGHT

The first general rains in months fell over drought-stricken Texas yesterday and today.

The much needed moisture came in the form of a slow steady fall, and the weather bureau said conditions were ideal for it to continue through the next few hours.

Farmers and ranchers were hopeful it was the beginning of the end of one of the most general droughts in recent years. Grain crops had suffered and spring plowing had been delayed in many areas.

The heaviest rain was in the Abilene and Wichita Falls sections. At mid-morning Abilene reported 41 of an inch and Wichita Falls 27.

The Weather Bureau said it was raining in the Panhandle, West Texas, the Rio Grande Valley, South, East and North Texas.

In Dallas rain fell throughout the morning. It was the first real moisture in 155 days, the longest drought on record for that section.

Dallas County Agricultural Agent A. B. Jolley said farmers had stopped sowing crops of any kind. Along the coast a heavy fog prevailed. It was so thick at Houston to cause cancellation of nine airline flights.

The rain came on the heels of one of the hottest December spells in recent years.

PEACE SEEN IN BERLIN
BY STATE DEPARTMENT MAN

HOUSTON, Dec. 15.—(AP)—A State Department official today said he expects an agreement between the western powers and Soviet Russia on the Berlin situation sometime next spring.

Geoffrey W. Lewis, special assistant to the assistant secretary for occupied areas, said the settlement will come "after the Russians have been shown the air lift can work in the winter."

"It will work," he commented. "General (Lucius) Clay says it will work and I know it will. There will be rough days. There will be periods of fog, but a reserve is being built up to take care of these periods."

Lewis said the Russians could stop the air lift at any time but realize the consequences and to date have shown no inclination to start a shooting war.

He said it would be impossible for the western powers to leave Berlin unless they want to turn the whole of Europe over to the Reds.

There are only two things the United States wants of the Russians," he added. "The United States wants territorial expansion to stop and wants the Russians to cease their international activities."

CHINESE COMMUNISTS
ISOLATE PEIPING

PEIPING, Dec. 15.—(AP)—Chinese Communists completed the isolation of Peiping today.

They cut the railway to the sea after the government itself closed the city's airfields.

Authorities disclosed that all traffic to Tientsin was cut when the Reds attacked and destroyed sections of the railway near Langfang, 30 miles southeast of Tientsin.

Repair gangs were proceeding to the scene, but authorities were in the dark over the number of Communists operating in the area. The railway often has been cut by guerrilla raids.

DALLAS WANTS SEPARATE
COMMUNICATION UNIONS

DALLAS, Dec. 15.—(AP)—Dallas and southwestern members of the Communications Workers of America are "strongly in favor of remaining independent of both the CIO and AFL," Ray Hackney, CWA State Director, declared Tuesday.

Hackney's statement came as CWA President Joseph A. Beirne, in Washington, announced that the 230,000-member independent union might merge with either the CIO or the AFL early next year.

GOVERNMENT LISTS
GI MEDICAL COSTS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—(AP)—Private medical treatments for ex-GI's cost the government \$41,437,739 last year.

The Veterans Administration said today the average charge was \$4.18 for the 2,785,430 treatments, given 761,168 war veterans.

In addition 805,004 patients got 1,680,183 treatments from VA staff doctors. The agency did not disclose what this medical care cost.

SCRAP COMES BACK

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—(AP)—The economic cooperation administration said today three nations have resold to American business about one-fifth of nearly 100,000 tons of aluminum and lead scrap they bought with Marshall Plan dollars.

WEATHER

East Texas—Cloudy and mild, showers and occasional rain in east portion this afternoon and tonight. Colder northwest portion tonight. Thursday partly cloudy, colder in interior. Moderate to occasionally fresh southerly winds on coast.

West Texas—Partly cloudy this afternoon, tonight and Thursday. Colder tonight and Thursday. Lowest tonight near freezing in Panhandle.

General Simpson Commissions
Cadets in Guion Hall Ceremony

Cadet commissions were awarded last night in Guion Hall to officers of the Cadet Corps by Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson, USA (Ret.).

Gen. Simpson told the cadets that they were fortunate in being able to be cadet officers, since the training they would receive in the various positions would be invaluable.

He also said that they should employ the basic fundamentals of personnel management in exercising their duties. This training will help you in civilian life as well as in the military service, he stated.

As each cadet stepped across the stage, saluted, and received his certificate, Gen. Simpson congratulated him.

Colonel Boatner, PMS&T and Commandant, gave the introductory speech of the evening in which he stated that he was proud to be commandant of such a fine group of cadet officers. He also stated that of all the commanding generals in the army, he had rather serve under Gen. Simpson.

The background of the stage was arranged with the various flags of the ROTC units with two cadets acting as honor guards.

Prior to the ceremonies, Gen. Simpson was guest of the Cadet Corps at their annual Christmas dinner in Sijba Hall.

During his army career, the general served as an infantry officer and general staff officer in various assignments.

He is a graduate of West Point, the Infantry School of Fort Benning and the Army War College in Fort Leavenworth. During the latter part of World War II he was Commanding General of the Ninth Army.

A special ceremony presided over by Dr. J. P. Abbott, five slide rules and numerous plaques were awarded first and second place winners from each school of engineering and from the architecture department.

Included in the program was an historical sketch of the slide rule contest by C. W. Crawford, head of the mechanical engineering department and a speech of congratulations by H. W. Barlow, Dean of Engineering.

Crawford also presented the special prizes of slide rules to the highest scoring participants. Recipients of special awards in order of highest score were M. D. Folzenlogen, Bob Chapman, Stephen R. Rokke, Kenneth Stout, and Charles E. Schoettlin.

Contest winners were as follows: Aeronautical Engineering I. C. Trauth, Jr., Houston, first; Jack Craig, Dallas, second; Agricultural Engineering L. A. Homes, Donna, first; Architecture William C. Bybee, Amarillo, first; Paul L. Shaffer, Big Spring, second; Chemical Engineering M. D. Folzenlogen, Dallas, first; Kenneth M. Wiggins, San Augustine, second; Civil Engineering James S. Noel, Lockhart, first; Baxter Honeycutt, New London, second; Electrical Engineering Kenneth Stout, Sherman, first; D. E. Walston, Woodboro, second; Geological Engineering

Commencement
Plan Fails

Mid-term commencement exercises, proposed for January 1949 graduates, will definitely not be held, W. E. Street, director of the faculty committee on graduation, announced Tuesday.

A recent poll conducted by the Senior Class turned down the proposal by a vote of 298 to 71.

Turkey, Carols, Candles, Santa
Highlight Mess-Hall Yule Meal

With Christmas turkey shortages the fatterest thing from their minds, Aggies got their fill of food last night at the annual Christmas supper.

The menu itself was a challenge to any appetite and to many a student who overestimated his capacity it was an undoing.

Meeting the hungry eyes of corps members entering the mess hall were candle lit tables well supplied with turkey, dressing, fruit, lima beans, rolls, sweet potatoes, coffee, milk, and mince pie.

After the fourth helping of turkey and third helping of dressing many were unable to summon the energy to stand up, much less walk.

Entertainment was provided in the form of a Christmas selection of songs including a new rendition of "Jingle Bells" by the Singing Cadets.

Santa Claus made his appearance between the second helping of sweet potatoes and the third helping of lima beans. Complete in standard regalia, he strode down the main aisle tossing various kinds of candy bars to anyone within throwing distance.

Decorations were the eye catching attractions, though. Multicolored lights on the ceiling, long streams of red and green crepe paper, greenery tied with red bows, and a pictorial representing the nativity all added to the atmosphere of the occasion.

Included among the guests were Colonel and Mrs. Boatner, Chancellor and Mrs. (Ed) Gilchrist, Colonel H. H. Horner, Lt. General and Mrs. Wm. H. Simpson, USA (Ret.), and other members of the faculty, administration, and military department.

North Texas Club
Cancels Meeting

A regular meeting of the North Texas A&M Club scheduled for Thursday December 16, has been cancelled, Hal Dunagan, vice-president, announced today.

Reason given for postponing the meeting was the nearness of the Christmas holidays.

The club picture will be made after the holidays.

AIRLIFT TO INCREASE

WISBADEN, Ger., Dec. 15.—(AP)—The number of C-54 Skymasters flying the airlift to Berlin will be increased to 225 by the end of this month, U. S. Airforce Headquarters announced today.

At present 206 C-54s are assigned to the airlift.



Various lines of grapefruit were on display during the recent Horticulture Show. Here is a small section on the citrus display.

Folzenlogen Wins Top Honors
In Annual Slide Rule Contest

M. D. Folzenlogen, a chemical engineering student from Dallas was awarded top prize for this year's Annual Slide Rule Contest at 2 this afternoon in the Annex gymnasium.

Dean of Engineering H. W. Barlow presented the award, a large engraved plaque and a slide rule.

Charles E. Schoettlin, Port Arthur, first; Lynn Estep, Jr., Dallas, first; Fred Stanley, Lubbock, second; Mechanical Engineering F. J. Dougherty, Liberty, first; C. E. Bailey, Dallas, second; Petroleum Engineering R. L. Robinson, Gladewater, first; Charles H. Rowin, Breckenridge, second.

In the division for students with prior college work Bob Chapman of Houston won first, Stephen R. Rokke of Sioux Falls, S. D. won second, Gus Fox of Dallas took third and Kerry D. Savage of Teague won fourth.

Two graduates of Peabody College have been added to the library staff, according to Paul Balance, librarian. Miss Mary Hodges has been appointed to succeed Mrs. Billie Jo Peirce at Cushing Memorial Library, and Robert E. Betts has been named librarian of the Texas Engineering Library.

Miss Hodges comes to A&M from Atlanta, Georgia, where she served as assistant chief of the library division of the Veterans Administration. Previous to that, she was librarian at a VA hospital in Memphis, and during World War II she was with the Navy Library Service.

Betts is a native North Carolinian and was previously acquisitions librarian at the University of Idaho. Before that, he served with the Social Security Board, the Library of Agriculture Library and the Army Medical Library.

ENGLISH HEIR CRISTENED
LONDON, Dec. 15.—(AP) Buckingham Palace announced last night Princess Elizabeth's baby will be christened Prince Charles Philip Arthur George of Edinburgh.

Weatherford Club
Picture Scheduled

All Weatherford A&M Club members are requested to meet at 7:30 Thursday night in the YMCA to have the club picture made for the 1949 Longhorn, according to F. H. Blackburn, club president.

Military students are to wear the number one uniform and non-military students are requested to wear ties and coats.

Four Players Will
Have Operations

Four Aggie football players will undergo knee operations this week and in January in an effort to be ready for the 1949 Southwest Conference campaign.

Clarence Lawson, freshman fullback from Wichita Falls, and Hulin Smith, junior center from Grand Saline, are scheduled to have knee operations on Thursday (Dec. 16). Bobby Dew, junior halfback from Corsicana, and Hugh Meyer, sophomore center from Gainesville, plan operations between semesters—or late in January.

Lawson took part in only one freshman game last season after re-injuring a knee he previously had hurt while playing high school football at Wichita Falls. Smith, a transfer from NTAC, saw some service with the Aggie varsity the past season. However, his participation was limited because of the knee injury.

TSPE Chapter
To Meet Monday

The Brazos chapter meeting of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers will be held Monday, December 20 in the Electrical Engineering Building at 7:30 p. m., according to T. R. Newton, chapter secretary.

Votes of the recent election will be canvassed and the new officers announced, Newton said.

Concrete Bandstand to
Be Erected in Grove

"Construction of a concrete and brick bandstand in the Grove will begin around February first, and we hope will be finished by April," C. G. "Spike" White, director of student activities, said today.

"Plans for the band stand," he continued "include three rooms in the rear of the structure, two for rest rooms and one for storage purposes."

"The stage, which will stand four feet from the ground, will be flanked by two doors leading to two more storage rooms. Concrete stairways will lead up to both sides of the stage."

"Designed by Carleton W. Adams, A&M System Architect, the structure will stand approximately 30 feet high. The band stand designed in a modernistic style will resemble one of the outdoor band stands of one of our large cities."

"Corrugated aluminum sound reflectors, plywood ceilings in rest rooms, new concrete walks on both sides of the structure, will be other features of the band stand."

"Construction will be supervised by Reese Spence, head of the office of physical plants, and bids will be opened January 11 at 2:00 p. m.," White continued.

Money appropriated by the Board of Directors for construction comes from Exchange Store profits, Student Activities Fund, and College Funds.

"It is hoped," White concluded "that construction of the stand will be completed in April so that it may be used as a possible site for such scheduled dances as the Senior Ring Dance, the Sophomore Ball, and the Cotton Ball."

The note of permission must be brought to Room 100 Goodwin Hall where the student will sign a roster showing what room he will occupy Saturday, December 18, is the deadline for signing the roster.

Similar demonstrations will be held at 7:30 p. m. Tuesday and at 2 p. m. Wednesday in the Animal Industries Lecture Room.

Chief Investigator For House Group Is Former Student

Robert E. Stripling, former A&M student, is now chief investigator and administrator for the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Stripling attended A&M as a pre-medical student after his graduation from Allen Military Academy, and later attended T.U. He was born in San Augustine 35 years ago.

When Martin Dies was elected to congress, Stripling obtained a patronage job as doorkeeper in the House. Stripling became the first employee of the Dies Committee when that committee was set up in 1938.

After 15 months service in WW II, he returned to the House investigating committee in 1946.

A&M Sends 3 To
ASAE Convention

W. S. Allen, extension agricultural engineer for buildings and Price Hogoboom, associate professor, and P. T. Montfort, professor, in the Agricultural Engineering Department, are attending the annual winter meeting of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers in Chicago.

Montfort is a member of the council of governing board of the society. Allen was recently made a member of a sub-committee on farm housing. The committee as a whole is made up of a number of extension housing specialists from other states. A special meeting will be held following the regular sessions.

The superintendents and judges for the 1949 Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, which will be held in Fort Worth January 28 through February 6, have been announced.

The superintendents and judges from A&M are F. I. Dalberg, superintendent of swine; Fred Hale, judge; J. M. Jones, superintendent of sheep and angora goats; Dr. J. C. Miller and Roy W. Snyder, judges; A. L. Darnell, superintendent of dairy cattle; and G. W. Barnes, superintendent of steers.

Texarkana Club
To Plan Party

The student Texarkana Club will hold an important meeting at 7 Thursday evening in Room 106 of the Academic Building, according to Paul Ravesies, president of the club.

Purpose of the meeting is final discussion of plans for the Christmas party to be held December 20 in conjunction with Texarkana former students.

Entertainment at the party will include the showing of the films of the recent A&M-SMU football game.

Aggies to Attend Illinois Meeting

During the Christmas holidays, three Aggies will attend the missionary conference of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship in Urbana, Illinois, according to Don Grubbs, reporter for the Aggie Christian Fellowship.

Those attending are Ken Kunihiro, agriculture student of San Antonio; Lyman Osborne, chemistry major from Pampa; and Frank Poole, petroleum engineering student of Houston.

The conference will begin December 27 and will continue until January 1.

As the shades of night fall once again, curl up in a big, wooden easy chair in front of the cheery radiator and read comic books and your weekend is complete.

Oh, well, you could always study.

Meats Cooking
Demonstration
Held Monday

Demonstrations on methods of cooking meats were given by Miss Edaline Stohr of Chicago at 7:30 Monday night in the Animal Industries Lecture Room.

Miss Stohr stressed economy in the purchase and preparation of meats. She prepared such dishes as "Budget-Wish Steak," and "Mexican Luncheon" out of the relatively cheap cuts of meat to demonstrate how the housewife can economize without reducing the palatability of the meat.

She stressed the importance of using the proper cooking methods and the beneficial effects of using low temperatures with all methods.

In the preparation of the meat dishes, Miss Stohr discussed and demonstrated how to properly cook meats by using the moist heat method, the dry heat method, and the liquid method.

At the end of the demonstration, names were drawn and the lucky ones received one of the meat dishes prepared during the demonstration.

Similar demonstrations will be held at 7:30 p. m. Tuesday and at 2 p. m. Wednesday in the Animal Industries Lecture Room.

2 Staff Members Added by Libraries

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Slow Boat to Boredom . . .

Around midnight, you can always drop in at Hank's Toodle House for a light meal of peanut butter and crackers topped off with a cup of superb coffee (bring your own cup, sugar, and cream).

Now, you go back to your home to crawl in bed and discuss the exciting events of the night with your roommate until the wee hours.

Sunday morning, you can get up and go into the reading room where the day's newspapers are scattered conveniently near the line of thrones.

The afternoon may be spent at the theater. One of them has talkies now, you know.

A tasty Dutch lunch is served on Sunday evenings at Cafe Duncan by the famous chef, Antoine Penniston.

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A&M Ag Engineer
Is Named Member
Of Drainage Board

Roy C. Garrett, assistant professor, of the Agricultural Engineering Department, has been named a member of a four-man board of engineers. The board will review the engineering features and technical aspects for a proposed drainage project for the Big Creek watershed in Fort Bend County.

The project involves a proposed drainage development of farming area along the Gulf coast of Texas, comprising 270 square miles.

Members of the board are Garrett, Mason G. Lockwood, Houston; C. E. Ramser, Washington, D. C.; and J. R. Iakich, Denver, Colorado. They were selected by Harry P. Burleigh, of the Bureau of Reclamation, Austin. The meeting in Houston last week was called by H. E. Robbins, regional director, Bureau of Reclamation, Amarillo.

Lockwood is a member of the firm of Lockwood and Andrews. Ramser was formerly with the US DA and Iakich was formerly chief drainage engineer with the Bureau of Reclamation and is now consulting engineer for the bureau with headquarters at Denver.

Galveston Club To
Talk Dance Plans

The Galveston A&M Club will hold a meeting at 7:30 Thursday evening in Room 129 of the Academic Building to discuss final plans for the annual Christmas dance.

The dance will be held in the Marine Room of the Galveston Pleasure Pier on December 23. Music will be furnished by Les Brown and his Aristocrats.

Tickets may be purchased from any club member.

Dance Scheduled
In Falls Hotel

The Aggeland Orchestra will furnish music for the holiday dance to be held in the Falls Hotel, Thursday, December 30 at 8:30 p. m., according to Herbert Radle, club president.

Decorations of the ball room will be in keeping with the Christmas spirit.

A final meeting of the club before the holidays will be held at 7:30 p. m. Thursday in Room 228, Academic Building, Radle said.

Cowtown Aggies
Slates Annual Pic

The Fort Worth A&M Club will have its picture made Wednesday night at 7:45 in the Science Hall Lecture Room, said Bill Evans, vice-president of the club.

The meeting will start at 7:15, at which time plans for the Christmas dance will be completed.

For the club picture, corps members will wear uniform number one, suits with ties will be the garb for non-corps members.



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