

Bride-To-Be



Miss Betty Jo Ross

Betty Jo Ross, Kenneth Schaake To Wed July 24

July 24 has been set as the wedding date of Miss Betty Jo Ross and Kenneth W. Schaake, both well-known on the campus.

Betty Jo, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Ross of Bryan, is now employed by the Extension Service at A&M. She is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin High School and attended North Texas State College.

Ken, who received his degree from A&M June 1, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Schaake of Eddy, Texas. He was graduated with a BBA degree. During his senior year the bridegroom-elect was company commander of B Infantry, a member of the Senior Court and Social Secretary of the Senior Class.

The wedding ceremony will be performed in the First Baptist Church, Bryan.

Mrs. A. F. Wilson of Houston, a high school classmate and long-time friend of the bride-elect, will be matron of honor. Mrs. Wilson is the former Miss Jo Ann Peacock. Miss Jean Black of College Station and Miss Ann Chambliss will be bridesmaids.

Miss Jean Marie Edge of Bryan will be soloist at the wedding.

After their marriage and a short wedding trip, the couple will live in Waco where Ken is employed with Western Auto Stores.

Caudill Gets Part In Seattle Meet

W. W. Caudill, research architect, Texas Engineering Experiment Station, had a leading part in the Sixth Annual Mountain Conference for School Administrators held in Seattle, Wash., last week. The meetings were held in Paradise Inn on Mt. Rainier.

Caudill participated in a panel discussion, "School Building Planning," was the principal speaker at a banquet, and met with the heads of the various sections within the state department of public instruction as a consultant to discuss statewide school building problems.

The Last Word

Trailer Area's Close Marks End of an Era at Aggieland

By VIVIAN CASTLEBERRY Battalion Women's Editor

All that is left of Texas A&M's trailer area is a plot containing a vegetable garden.

The rest of Trailerville moved out on the fifteenth of June. Five years, five months and five days after the first student moved into the area, it was declared no longer in existence.

Through these years and months and days 183 families had made their homes in the 97 lots in five areas at Texas A&M College. The trailer area, which at first was planned to be only a small-scale for-a-little-while project, had become an integral part of the housing units for married students at Aggieland.

First Residents

Among the first residents of the trailer area were the W. C. Abbey and the E. J. Creider families. The Housing Office remembers Creider as a Pennsylvania coal miner. While he was in the Army he had heard of Texas A&M College. As soon as the fighting had ceased and he could get his discharge, Creider loaded his wife and a small child and their clothes into the car and trailer and headed to Aggieland. T. R. Spence, manager of Physical Plants, brought some equipment from his own home to help the Creiders set up housekeeping.

"I remember," said one man in the Housing Office, "the way we turned handsprings to get those kids proper facilities for bathing and for cooking."

Creider took his degree from A&M in chemical engineering in 1949. The last address the Former Students Association has for him is Eastrop, La., where he was practicing the profession he learned while an Aggie.

Long Waiting List

From the time the trailer area opened until shortly before part of it was closed on June 15, 1950, there was a constant waiting list for room in the area. The trailers were all sizes and bore license tags from many states. Some of the tenants built rooms onto their trailers and transformed them into real homes.

One of the chief attractions of the trailer area was the low rent—the college charged only \$8 per month for rent of space and utilities, or \$9.25 per month if the student had built onto his trailer. Another attraction was the freedom enjoyed by trailer residents. While the College was the father protector of its students in the trailer area, tended the grounds, took care of all utility problems, the residents were families and the college never intruded on their privacy.

Though both houses were provided by the college, some of the trailers had their own bathroom facilities. All along during the past year as vacancies have occurred in other housing areas, trailer residents have been moved in by the college. Finally, on June 15, the closing date, 13 remaining residents were settled in College View apartments. Several other residents found homes outside the college housing units and a few moved their trailers to lots which they rented off campus.

The real story of Texas A&M's trailer area is not to be found in the 183 families who lived there, nor in the license tags from all over the country, nor in the low statistics, impressive though they be.

The real story lies in the triumphs and the heartaches of the families who called it home. The real story is in the births there and the messages of death that arrived there, in the grades that were made or the grades that were not made. Each of the 183 families would provide a very special chapter in any history written of Texas A&M's trailer area.

Butler's Vegetable Garden

That vegetable garden left at Trailer Park belonged to the Glen Butlers. He is a business administration major from Edinburg, Texas and when the area closed down he moved his trailer and his wife, Shirley, to another lot. The Don Martins went along with the Butlers. June Martin first came to the trailer camp as a bride. It was her first home and she found there the friendliness that she needed to bridge the gap of coming away from family to college with a new mode of living.

Take the Harold Taylors. Theirs is a fascinating story. They met in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, which is Conchita's home and where Harold



Trailer Area I from Houston Street is seen with the home of Bobbie and Henry Fears in the background. All of the trailers have now been removed from the area that once housed a total of 183 families.

was stationed with the Army. He wanted to go to college and his brown-eyed diminutive wife encouraged him in every way. She arrived in the United States in January and made her home with Harold's folks in Taylor until February. Then, enrolled in A & M and with a trailer all bought, situated and partly furnished, Harold Taylor brought his Puerto Rican bride to Aggieland.

It was on a cool rainy day three months later on April 26, 1949 that Harold drove his wife through a downpour to St. Joseph Hospital. It was still raining at nightfall the first time Conchita saw her first-born son.

Loved Living in Trailer

"He was the cutest little monkey I ever saw," Conchita remembers. "And I loved it in the trailer. We never had to worry about Glenn getting in the street. We had a fence built and I always knew that he was safe while I worked. Now..."

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Other girls liked the trailer area, too. In fact, not one person interviewed said she did not like living there.

Shirley Griffith, from Newburgh, New York, whose husband, Al, is a P.E. major, said that she found the lack of indoor bathroom facilities a little inconvenient when Sandra Lee was a tiny baby. "But," she hastened to add, "don't get the wrong idea. I loved it out there. I liked best, I think, the friendliness. We just couldn't get very lonely." Shirley would have good reason for becoming lonely, too. She is a long way from home.

Henry and Bobbie Fears, both from Tyler, said that the most appealing thing to them was the combination of privacy and helpfulness. "The trailers," Bobbie said, "were just like real homes, but when we wanted company, we were surrounded by it. Bobbie and Henry, who is a distinguished student in the industrial education department, are continuing their many hobbies in College View where they now make their home. They are both leathercraft and woodworking enthusiasts. Bobbie, when she is not working at the Exchange Store, also does handwork, sewing and crocheting.

Tragedy Comes to Trailerland

All of the trailer residents remember their worst tragedy. Many of them had just returned from a college dance on the slab when they found a college messenger looking around for the Feigenspans. Bea and architectural major Denny Feigenspan had not yet come in from the college entertainment. Friends went in search of them and Denny went up to college and took the message: his father, his mother, and his sister had been killed in an auto crash in West Texas. His brother-in-law and his tiny nephew were not expected to live, either. All trailer residents offered their aid and comfort to Bea and Denny. True, there was not much that they could do, but there is no doubt that the hand extended in the time of need strengthened the friendship among the residents of Trailer Area, Aggieland.

The James Ethridge's first bought their trailer in 1946 when James entered A&M for the first time. There were no facilities at A&M for them, so they joined the "overflow" at the Annex. Lucille remembers that "it rained for three weeks after we moved in. There was nothing but mud, mud! None of us wore shoes because we had to wade outside for our water and to get to the bath house!"

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Official Notice: Identification Cards which were made in connection with registration for the current semester, except for late registrants, are ready for distribution in the Registrar's Office.

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