



# The Battalion

Saturday — Cloudy, intermittent light rain, wind East 10-20 m.p.h. High 51, low 44.

Sunday — Cloudy, intermittent light rain, wind Southeast 5-10 m.p.h. High 57, low 47.

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## Car-Train Wrecks 'Joint Problems'

Car-train accidents are joint problems that require joint solutions, Under Secretary of Transportation Everett Hutchinson told participants in a grade crossing safety symposium Thursday at Texas A&M.

Hutchinson said the primary role of the Department of Transportation in the grade crossing problem is to provide leadership and assistance.

"The initiative is on your shoulders," the undersecretary reminded the 175 transportation authorities attending the three-day meeting hosted by the Texas Transportation Institute and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

"President Johnson has repeatedly called for a new partnership between industry and all levels of government in meeting the nation's goals," Hutchinson commented. "This meeting at A&M is proof that partnership can exist to everyone's mutual benefit."

"WE RECOGNIZE that we have a great problem," he continued. "That's what the Department of Transportation is all about—the focusing of normally divergent views on a single issue."

Hutchinson cited the need for a safety program that is much more than just another expensive federal project.

"It must be a program that will allow local implementation with a minimum amount of money," he pointed out. "We must find solutions that can fit into city and county budgets."

The speaker outlined aspects of the problem which can be tackled immediately. Among suggestions outlined in an 11-point program included:

A MORE accurate national inventory of the grade crossing situation is being undertaken. The Federal Highway Administration is working with state highway departments to complete and update grade crossing data.

State highway departments are being asked to take the lead in organizing diagnostic teams which will identify and recommend appropriate protective measures.

Hutchinson also cited several one-of-a-kind projects being implemented throughout the country which perhaps may be applied on a national basis.

"We are seeking to identify crossings considered 'high hazard' due to the volume traffic in such vehicles as tank trucks," he continued. "Many officials believe we can make real progress in a relatively short period of time."

HUTCHINSON said devices have been developed which can be placed in a truck or bus to automatically detect the presence of a train.

"And our research capability indicates a device may be developed which could detect a train and automatically stop the vehicle," he emphasized.

Hutchinson reported the Department of Transportation plans to identify crossings frequently used by school buses.

"We are working with school officials to reroute traffic or improve protection," he said. "It may be that any vehicle carrying schoolchildren should be required to stop at every crossing whether a train is approaching or not. This is already being done in some areas."

## Campus Security Moves Against Theft Increase

### Thieves Steal 21 Tape Decks

BY BOB PALMER

Campus Security officers have started foot patrols equipped with walkie-talkies and have increased the number of men on night duty to meet a rise in parking lot thefts.

Campus Security Chief Ed E. Powell announced the changes Thursday.

Since Dec. 1, 21 stereo tape decks, 2 batteries and 5 tires and wheels have been stolen from vehicles parked on campus, Powell reported.

"It's out of this world," Powell said of the lengthy list of articles reported stolen. "This beats everything I have ever run into in the way of theft."

"I AM SURE it is not students who are just taking a tape deck for themselves," he theorized. "It's either outsiders or a small clique of students with a pipeline to San Antonio or Houston."

Powell said he does not expect the thieves to market the stolen goods locally.

"We have just had bad luck in catching them," Powell continued. "We have been sitting in a parking lot each night, but while we were there they would strike at another spot."

"We are just too undermanned to be everywhere at once," THE SECURITY chief described his theory on how the thieves work.

"They have one or two guys watching while one breaks into the car and jerks out the tape deck," he remarked. "These decks are only secured by a couple of thumb screws and are easily removed."

"Two boys did report that they had their car broken into," he noted, "but since they had their tape deck bolted in, only the tapes in the glove compartment were taken."

The thieves are almost impossible to detect, Powell commented.

"Students are moving through the lots at all hours of the night, and unless we hear or see something suspicious, the thieves look just like students."

ANOTHER TRICK that the thieves possibly are using, according to Powell, is leaving the lot and not moving the car until the next day.

Powell praised the cooperation of students found in the lots at night when questioned by security officers.

"A&M is not the only school that has been hit by this problem," he said. "The University of Texas, North Texas and Sam Houston have lost much more than we have."

POWELL POINTED that another dangerous period is ahead as students prepare to leave campus.

"Every year we have people losing their clothes when they load their car the night before they leave. Some of them did not even lock their cars."

"Locking the car does not always work either," Powell said. "These thieves think nothing of throwing a brick through the window."

"Go ahead and load the trunk," he advised students, "but leave the rest in the room until you are ready to leave."

## Astronomers Form Group, Vote Officers

The Brazos Valley Astronomical Society elected Jim Thomas of Baytown president of the newly-formed amateur astronomers group.

The society will enable members of allied interest to do planetary, lunar, variable star and meteor observing, astrophotography and telescope making. Meetings and star parties will be scheduled once a month. Lectures and member presentations are planned on various aspects of astronomy.

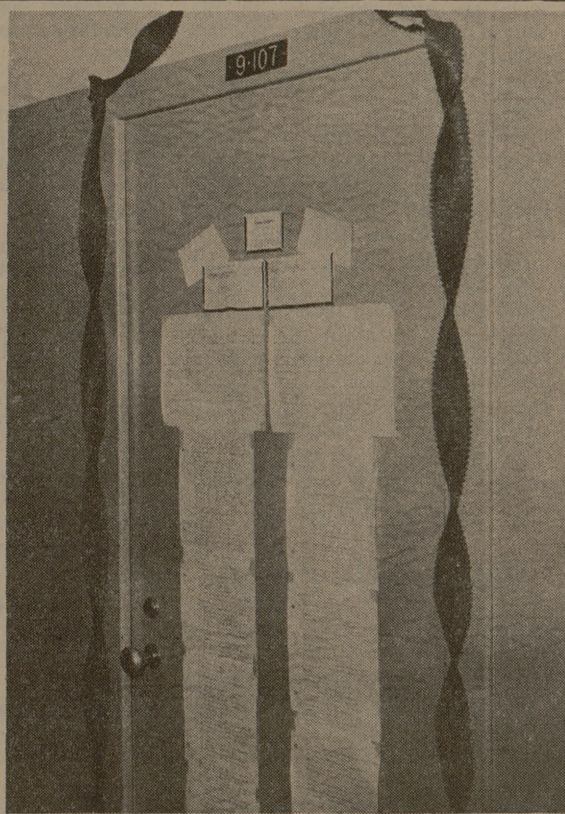
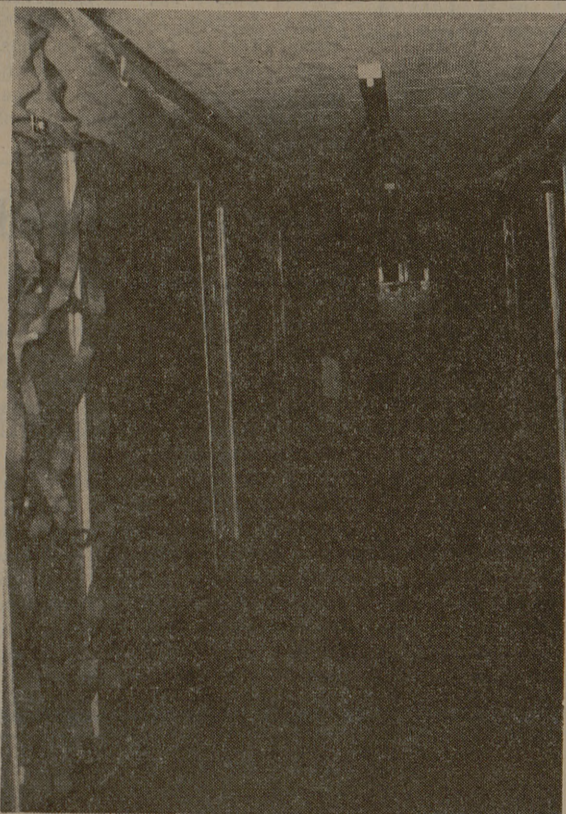
Dr. E. E. Vezey, Texas A&M Cyclotron Institute research scientist, is the society advisor.

About 20 members include A&M students, faculty-staff members and area high school students.

"Any interested persons of the area are invited to become members," Thomas said.

The society will meet again at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10, in Room 145 of the Physics Building, the president added. A star party is planned with members providing telescopes. Prof. Jack Kent of the A&M Mathematics Department will discuss satellite tracking in the event of inclement weather.

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DECK THE HALLS

Christmas spirit is running rampant at A&M, as these views of Dormitory 9 show. At left, crepe-paper ribbons festoon the hall and lend a green-and-red glow to the ceiling lights. At right, freshmen's "Letters to Santa" ask for fitting gifts for upperclassmen. Other dorm decorations around the campus include Christmas tree, mistletoe and holly wreaths.

## Hope Diamond Heir's Death Still Unsolved, J. P. Says

PLANO, Tex. (AP) — The cause of the death of 25-year-old Evalyn McLean, once an heir to the exquisite Hope diamond, will not be known for two to three weeks, a justice of the peace said. B. B. Carpenter, the magistrate, said the contents of the dead woman's stomach will have to be analyzed by a toxicologist.

However, he said an autopsy Thursday showed that Miss McLean's body bore no marks of violence. The Hope diamond has brought ill luck to many who have been associated with it.

THE BODY was found Tuesday in her ranch home where she lived alone. Carpenter said neighbors in this Dallas suburb went into her house when they became suspicious because of a lack of activity for several days.

He said the body was fully clothed in blue jeans and a sweater and lay on a heating pad on a bed. There was no indication of foul play, he said.

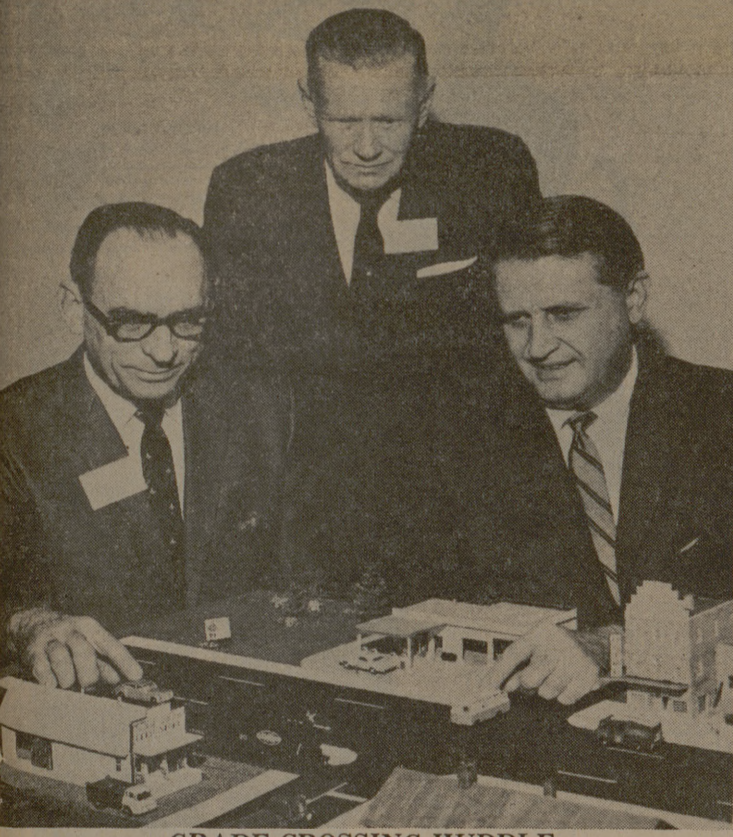
Funeral services were conducted Thursday and then the body was cremated.

Carpenter said Dallas County medical examiner Earl Rose said results of the work of the toxicologist would take "at least two to three weeks."

"THAT JUST leaves us nowhere," he added. "I can't make any formal ruling until we get that analysis."

Carpenter said neighbors of Miss McLean said she was "a moody person, rather strange, with few friends."

A former Dallas debutante, she was the daughter of John "Jock" McLean of Palm Beach, Fla. She never married.



GRADE-CROSSING HUDDLE

Railroad-highway grade crossing safety is the subject of this conference at Texas A&M. Charles J. Keese, A&M's Texas Transportation Institute director, reviews a scale model with Everett Hutchinson, under secretary of the U. S. Transportation Department, and Dewitt C. Greer, state highway engineer for the Texas Highway Department. The symposium attracted 175 men from 30 states.

## Johnson Spares Kind Words For Republican Congressmen

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Johnson, who voiced a sharply worded attack on congressional Republicans two days ago, made it a point today before a bipartisan White House audience to concede that Republicans aren't always wrong.

The occasion was an East Room ceremony at which Johnson signed into law a measure aimed at increasing consumer protection against flammable clothing, draperies, upholstery and the like.

But the chief executive quickly departed from his prepared text about flammable fabrics to ad lib a long section in which he had kind words for Republicans as well as Democrats — and in which he made a strong appeal for more consumer legislation.

With many Congress members in his audience, Johnson said, "You better get busy because the women of this country are getting tired of such things as diseased meats, dangerous gas pipelines and other hazards."

In referring back indirectly to his partisan address Tuesday at the AFL-CIO Convention in Miami Beach, Johnson said he didn't want to get personal or involve himself in a name-calling contest or say anything ugly about anyone.

Then he went on to declare that some congressional Republicans indeed have voted for the kind of legislation he espouses.

In a House speech Wednesday, Republican Leader Gerald R. Ford, of Michigan, had taken issue with the President's Miami Beach speech, in which Johnson said the "old Republican buggy can only go one way — and that's backwards — downhill." Ford retorted that "the Great Society of Lyndon Johnson has become a runaway locomotive with a wild-

eyed engineer at the throttle." Still ad libbing, Johnson noted he had asked Congress for twelve consumer protection bills this year and that four have been passed. He indicated he has strong hopes for two more before adjournment — interest rate disclosure and gas pipeline safety.

## Blood Drive Ends; 345 Pints Given For Servicemen

Texas A&M students stood in long lines Thursday to donate blood for U. S. servicemen in Vietnam.

Drive chairman John Daly of Corpus Christi expressed satisfaction with the 345 pints contributed during the three-day drive.

"We're planning another drive in February and we are looking forward to greater success," he commented. "Interest in giving was highest at the end of the drive."

Daly's observation was mirrored by students who waited several hours Thursday to make contributions. Eighty-five persons were in line at mid-afternoon.

Bill Carter, Student Senate vice president from Decatur, said increased facilities are needed to process more donors at one time.

A spokesman for Blood Services of Houston, the collecting agency for the sponsoring A&M Student Senate, said about 60 prospective donors were rejected because of colds and other reasons.

The total may climb slightly higher Friday. Students who have their own transportation could give Friday at the College of Veterinary Medicine where a Blood Services' mobile unit was to collect blood for a faculty blood bank.

## N. Vietnam Exaggerates Claim Of Casualties, U.S. Asserts

SAIGON (AP)—The U. S. Command said Thursday that North Vietnam has been making exaggerated claims of American casualties for the epic battle of Dak To last month, while minimizing Communist losses.

"The propaganda move," the command said, "was, in fact, a replay of the exaggerated claims made for the preceding battle of Loc Ninh. The North Vietnamese propagandist didn't even bother to change the number of claimed U. S. troops killed—they claimed 2,800 in each battle."

The command said "actual friendly casualties" Nov. 3-17, when the heaviest fighting took place in the Dak To area 270 miles north of Saigon, were 136 killed and 600 wounded. Americans and South Vietnamese killed

764 Communists during the same period, the command said.

Cumulative casualty figures for the whole month in that sector were 1,836 North Vietnamese killed, 280 Americans killed and 1,037 wounded, the command said. South Vietnamese losses were described as light.

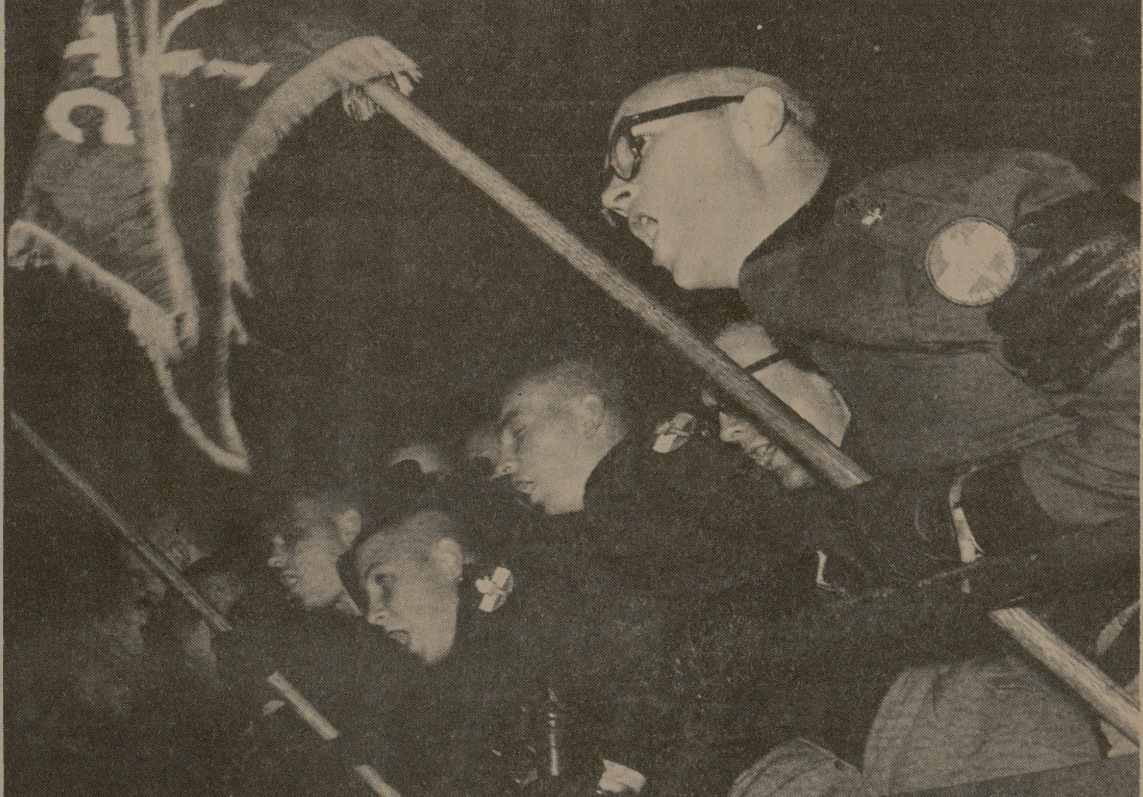
## Greenhut Article Runs In Journal

Dr. M. L. Greenhut, Economics Department head at Texas A&M, is the author of a recent article in the "Journal of Regional Science."

Greenhut said "Interregional Programming and the Demand Factor of Location" deals with adjustments required of a mathematical programming model which considers impacts on location of different pricing systems over an economic space.

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GIG 'EM

Freshmen "hump it" during Thursday night's yell practice, the last before A&M's Jan. 1 Cotton Bowl game with Alabama. Head Yell Leader Neal Adams urged students at the yell practice to get to the Cotton Bowl by noon, because pre-game activities will move the singing of the War Hymn back to around 12:10 p. m.