

# Carnegie Library to receive facelift

## Federal grant helps to fund restoration project

By Monique Lunsford

THE BATTALION

The Carnegie Library in downtown Bryan was a center of educational enhancement and information for almost six decades.

Now, because of a \$621,740 federal grant, the city has the opportunity to extend its appreciation to the historical treasure by renovating what time has inevitably worn down.

The library was built in 1902 with funds from Andrew Carnegie, an early 20th century steel tycoon and philanthropist. It was the first of 12 libraries

built by Carnegie in Texas, and is one of only two remaining.

Clara Mounce, chief librarian of the Bryan library system, said the city wants to restore the library to how its original appearance.

"We're going to restore it and put it back into the lives of those who used it," she said.

Mounce said the city plans to renovate Carnegie into a research library that will consist of a genealogy records collection, local history documents, photo collections and a Texas history collection.

She said the installation of an elevator, bathrooms for the handicapped, a new roof and exterior work on the library's columns are some changes that are being considered.

"We haven't been notified on what to do," she said. "The city is currently playing the waiting game."

"The library is on the historic register, so we have to consult with the Texas Historic Commission," she said.

The Texas Department of Transportation awarded Bryan the grant for improvements to the library's interior and exterior.

This amount will include the costs of site work, contingencies, architectural

and engineering fees, rehabilitation and construction.

The funds will be dispersed through an arrangement in which the Statewide Transportation Enhancement fund, a special program of the Texas Department of Transportation, pays 80 percent of the grant, while Bryan provides 20 percent.

The program recently awarded more than \$94.7 million of federal aid to be used toward projects in Texas with \$180 million to be used over a six-year period in the state.

Joe Brown, a public information officer for Bryan, said the library served

as the main branch until 1969, when the city built a new library. The building is empty right now, but it has been used by the Brazos Valley Community Action Agency for various purposes.

Denise Fischer, a DOT public information officer, said this grant is significant for the transportation department.

"This program is intended to support projects that do not fall within the traditional scope of transportation," she said.

Joann Powell, Bryan community development project coordinator, said even though the library did not fall under transportation, it connects under certain criteria.

"We had to relate the project to the transportation system in terms of proximity, function and impact," she said. "There were 10 major categories, and the one we looked at was historic preservation."

"Then we had to describe the project, justify the proximity issue and how restoration would be a benefit to our community and the Brazos Valley," she said.

The city applied for the grant in October of last year.



Jennie Mayer/THE BATTALION

The Carnegie Public Library in Bryan, built in 1902 by Andrew Carnegie, awaits remodeling. The historic landmark will be returned to its original appearance 18 months after the project begins.

Once the proposal for the project was drawn and submitted, it had to endure a review process on both the local and state levels.

Out of 82 proposals submitted statewide, Bryan ranked 45 on the funding list, Mounce said.

The rehabilitation of the library is expected to take 18 months once it is started.

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*—Clara Mounce, chief librarian of the Bryan library system*

# New Doppler Radar opens eyes for weather forecasters

By Christine Johnson

THE BATTALION

A new Doppler Radar system will provide Brazos Valley residents with advanced warning of severe weather, beginning this summer.

The radar can detect a tornado 20 minutes before it hits, transmit live pictures of storms, and measure wind velocity and direction in clouds.

The system, part of a joint effort by First American Bank and KBTX-TV, will become operational between early August and mid-September.

Dr. Michael Biggerstaff, assistant professor of meteorology, said the Doppler system allows wind structures within storms to be seen. From these structures, certain patterns associated with tornadoes and storms can be seen before the resulting weather occurs.

Jim Baronet, general manager of KBTX, said

he thinks the new system will be an improvement over the existing one.

"Live radar will give us a real time reflection, and we will be able to see the storm as it happens," he said.

Baronet said live radar is rare in Texas.

"I only know of four other similar systems: Houston, Dallas, Waco and Sherman," he said.

Even though the Doppler Radar system has a range of 75 miles, it will allow transmissions to be exchanged with Waco's system for a total range of 210-250 miles.

"We think it will be pretty effective, and it is a needed thing in the community," he said.

Carla Wimberley, assistant to the president and chief operating officer of First American Bank, agrees the new Doppler Radar system will be a big asset to the community.

She said First American's main purpose in entering the agreement was concern for the

community.

"If it could save someone's life in the future, then it is worth it," she said.

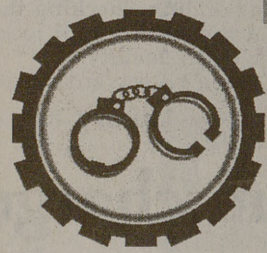
Although Texas A&M University also has a Doppler Radar system capable of live transmissions, Biggerstaff said, it is mainly used for research and teaching, not broadcasting.

A&M's radar has been made available to companies such as KBTX, but no one is available to operate it daily.

Because the A&M system is sponsored mostly by government contracts for specific research, its mission is different than broadcasting companies, he said.

The Doppler Radar system could be used in conjunction with A&M's for teaching students, Biggerstaff said.

"I am real pleased about this," he said. "Having another Doppler on line will be a great benefit to everyone."



## POLICE BEAT

The following incidents were reported to University Police Department between May 24 to June 3:

### Aggravated Sexual Assault

5/25 - Texas A&M Research Park - The victim reported she was assaulted by an acquaintance on May 20.

### Burglary of Vehicle

6/2 - Parking Area 30 - Nine compact disks were stolen from the victim's 1986 Mazda.  
5/26 - Parking Area 51 - Someone entered the victim's vehicle and removed an A&M payroll check, several

savings bonds and an insurance refund check.  
5/29 - Memorial Student Center Loading Dock - An Alpine pull-out cassette stereo player and an Alpine stereo adapter were stolen from the victim's vehicle.

### Criminal Mischief

5/29 - Horticulture Road - A car left the road and struck a "Keep Right" sign.  
6/1 - University Center Garage - A sharp instrument was used to make a two-foot scratch along the right rear door of the victim's vehicle.

### Criminal Trespass

5/28 - Houston St. @ Russell St. - A subject incorrectly identified himself and was issued a Criminal Trespass Warning. His true identity was later obtained.  
5/30 - A subject provided false information in an attempt to conceal his identity. The subject had attempted to flee

from a College Station police officer and was apprehended after a short foot chase.  
6/1 - An individual living in a wooded area on the West Campus was issued a Criminal Trespass Warning.

### Disorderly Conduct

5/26 - Boyett @ Patricia St. - A subject was detected running nude through the residence hall area. The suspect ran across University Drive and tried to obtain clothing from a convenience store owner. The suspect was found hiding in a field and was arrested.

### Driving While Intoxicated

Various locations - Three people were jailed.

### Indecent Exposure

5/28 - Evans Library - The victim observed an individual with his genitals exposed on the fourth floor of the library.

### Minor in Possession

5/30 - Hensel Park - One citation was issued.

### Misdemeanor Theft

Various locations around campus - Six bicycles were stolen.  
6/2 - Koldus Building - A petty cash fund containing \$94.00 was stolen from a first floor room.  
5/26 - Southside Parking Garage - A fund containing \$25.00 was stolen from a locker in the maintenance area.

### Public Liveness

5/31 - Hensel Park - Two individuals were reckless about their conduct in a public place and were arrested.

### Supplemental Information

5/26 - Recovered property - A Smith and Wesson .357 caliber revolver was stolen from the victim's 1987 Dodge pickup truck. The police in Oshawa, Ontario recovered the weapon during a period of "Gun Amnesty" when firearms were accepted from the public. The weapon is being sent to UPD for release to the owner.

## THE BATTALION

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SUSAN OWEN, Night News editor  
MICHELE BRINKMANN, City editor

JAY ROBBINS, Opinion editor  
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Writing Coach—Timm Doolen

The Battalion (USPS 045-360) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer sessions (except University holidays and exam periods), at Texas A&M University. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840.

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