

Swing - A. and M. Style

By *Bill Murray*

Famous in this part of the country is the Aggieland orchestra of Texas A. & M. The orchestra, led by Tommy Littlejohn, plays for all the official Aggie Corps dances as well as other dances, here and elsewhere.

It consists of thirteen members, all musicians of real merit, of whom five play the saxophone and clarinet, four play brass-wind instruments, and four the rhythm and stringed instruments.

Of the thirteen members, nine are also members of the Aggie Band. In the orchestra, Greenville leads as a home town, claiming five members; while Tulia, in the southern Panhandle, is the home of two.

The Aggieland plays popular music of all types, including ballad tunes, swing, and novelty numbers. Most of the instrumental arrangements the Aggieland uses are Benny Goodman arrangements by Fletcher Henderson. A number of the orchestra's selections are arranged by orchestra member Jack Littlejohn, who also composed several of the songs the Aggieland is playing this year. Those composed and arranged by Jack include "My Heart Skipped a Beat",

"I'm Living My Life for You", and "You're the Simple Reason for the Mood I'm In".

During the Christmas holidays the Aggieland will make its annual tour covering a great part of Texas, to play for A. & M. club balls and other dances. The orchestra will play every night from December 17 through January 1. As yet three dates are still open.

Their list of playing engagements during the Christmas vacation is as follows:

- Dec. 17—Tyler
- Dec. 18—Open
- Dec. 19—Kaufman
- Dec. 20—Open
- Dec. 21—Victoria
- Dec. 22—Marshall
- Dec. 23—Waxahachie
- Dec. 24—Temple
- Dec. 25—Weestache
- Dec. 26—San Angelo
- Dec. 27—Lubbock
- Dec. 28—Amarillo
- Dec. 29—Wichita Falls
- Dec. 30—Greenville
- Dec. 31—Orange
- Jan. 1—Open

The personnel of this popular musical organization is as follows:

Tom Littlejohn, of Tulia, Tommy, the leader, plays the saxophone and clarinet, and is also a vocalist with the orchestra. This is his fourth year as a member of the Aggie Band and the Aggieland orchestra. Like most of his musicians, he is a devotee of the swing music of Benny Goodman and Artie Shaw.

Jack Littlejohn, also of Tulia. Jack's contributions include playing the first tenor saxophone and the clarinet, arranging many of the orchestra's numbers, and performing as a vocalist. This is his third year in the Band and the orchestra.

Lowell Riggs of Amarillo. Lowell is a Band junior now playing his second year with the Aggieland. Lowell plays the first saxophone and clarinet—and he can really swing it when he gets the notion. He has had some ten year's musical experience, during which period he has played with the staff bands of radio stations KGN and KOB and on the band of the Hilton Hotel Chain. He has played
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The members of the Aggieland Orchestra, left to right, Gene Bond, Max Perkins, Lowell Riggs, Jack Littlejohn, Tom Littlejohn, second row, Charles Berry, Henry Baushausen, Gerald Elder, Joe Germany, Murray Evans, Wilbur Kuehne, third row, Sonny Pendery and Bill Blakemore.