

A&M Plans First Debate Tournament

Invitations have been mailed to 24 Texas senior and junior colleges for the debate tournament which the A&M Discussion and Debate Club is going to sponsor on March 10 and 11, Harry E. Heirth, club sponsor, announced. This will be the first tournament of this type ever to be held at A&M. The invitations were addressed to member schools of the Southwest Conference (including the University of Arkansas) and junior colleges near here that may be interested, Heirth said. A&M is planning to enter three freshman teams in the junior division and four teams in the senior division.

Club Officers' Conference On Campus Jan. 21

More than 150 former students are expected to attend the fourth annual club officers conference to be held at Texas A&M College January 21-22. Past and present officers of Texas clubs and other states will be on hand. In fact, some are already on the campus. The conference is to be held for the purpose of orienting new officers in the matter of club management and for the exchange of ideas relating to A&M club work. Panel discussions with student body leaders, faculty, Association of Former Students officers and club representatives, are included on the agenda.

Registration will begin at 1 p.m. January 21 in the lobby of the YMCA. At 2 p.m. the officers will go on an officially conducted tour of the Memorial Student Center, expected to be completed in September. J. Wayne Stark, director of the Center, will be in charge of the tour.

The main business session will be held Sunday morning, following a breakfast at 8:30. The officers will attend the Brazos County A&M club and the Athletic Council banquet at Shiba hall at 7 p.m. Saturday, honoring the football team and the cross-country team.

Louis A. Hartung of San Antonio, is president of the Association of Former Students and Dick Hervey is executive secretary. W. N. (Flopp) Colson is president of the Brazos County A&M club.

Experiment Station Receives Grant

A research grant of \$7,250 has been made to the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. The grant is effective January 1, 1950 through December 31, 1950. The grant will be used in the "conduct of research project 'The Effect of Diet on the Embryonic Development of Chickens and Turkeys,'" Dr. R. D. Lewis, director of the station, announced.

non-agricultural industries". Several teams from the A&M Club are going to debate the same subject in Waco, February 4, when Baylor University will sponsor a tournament. L. J. Martin, co-sponsor of the local debate club, said. Visting debate teams to the A&M tournament will be housed in the vacant wing of Walton and in P. G. Hall.

A&M Debating History
A&M students have been interested in debating for many years. C. O. Spriggs, sponsor of Aggie debate teams for a number of years, recalled that when he came to A&M in 1926, debate teams were already on the campus. Spriggs worked with the teams from 1926 until 1935 when funds for the college became so low that debating was discontinued.

The Discussion and Debate Club remained dormant until 1946 when it was reactivated under the sponsorship of Karl Elmquist. Spriggs said that the most distant group that the A&M team ever debated on the A&M Campus was a team from Istanbul, Turkey. Last year an Aggie debate team won the deNison over a visiting team from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. The subject was on compulsory military training. The Aggies argued the negative side of the question.

"We are optimistic over debating prospects this year," Joe Fuller, club president said. "There seems to be a lot of interest on the part of several good debaters here, and A&M should do well in competition this spring."

Music Program Planned Today

A musical program for the benefit of the Negro children of College Station and the surrounding area will be presented Friday evening in the gymnasium of A&M Consolidated High School.

A girl's glee club, the elementary chorus, a boy's chorus, and a mixed chorus will present the program. Some of the pieces to be sung include "Lift Every Voice and Sing," "Jesus Joy of Man's Desiring," "Beautiful Dreamer," "Stars of the Summer Night," "De Boatman," "The Voice of the Old Village Choir," "Inflamatus," "Cheer the Weary Traveler," and "Good News."

Tickets are now available. Negro children will sell them from door to door. The price is 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children. The Campus Study Club is sponsoring the ticket sale, with Mrs. R. L. Lyle in charge. She will be assisted by Mrs. Lynn L. Gee.

Rotary Varieties Set in February

The first annual variety show staged by the Bryan-College Station Rotary Club will be held in the S. F. A. high school auditorium Thursday Feb. 2 beginning at 8:00 p. m.



The Maddox Brothers and Rose, popular recording stars, will appear in Guion Hall February 27. This popular hillbilly band has recorded such favorites as "Tramp on the Street," "Flowers for the Master's Bouquet," and "Whoo Sallor." These recordings have been on many of the Western Hit Parades.

The Fantastic Forties . . .

Texas Booms, Faces Fifties As Uncertainty Palls Scene

By WILBUR MARTIN

(This is the last of three articles on Texas and the Fantastic Forties.)

You could rent a four-room, furnished apartment for \$45 a month in Dallas on Jan. 1, 1940. That same day pork chops were advertised at 15 cents a pound and six cans of sardines for 19 cents. The first day of our decade was the beginning of some bewildering times and prices were a major item of the Fantastic Forties.

The high cost of living became an almost fanatical subject in the years right after the war ended. Thousands of veterans came back with a hundred dollars discharge pay in their pocket and not much prospect for anything but another hundred-dollar payment. They came back to glut colleges, to overwhelm trade schools, to dry up a job market that for years had gone begging.

War workers joined the veterans in a mass switch from the temporary to the permanent. Statistically, the times were abundantly prosperous. Banks had record deposits on hand; industry had set new records; crop values were astronomical.

In 1947, for instance, Texas' wheat harvest was a record 124,270,000 bushels. It brought high prices. The state's livestock was valued at \$996,369,000 in 1948. That same year some 892,632,000 barrels of oil was worth \$2,329,769,000.

Cotton, cotton seed, grain sorghums, corn, rice, nuts, and citrus growers were part of a multi-million dollar industry. And their production totals were in the millions of bushels and bales.

The Forties were a changing times. Many tried to keep pace. The state started a general reform of the prison system under a new general manager, O. B. Ellis. The Gilmer-Aiken school bills

overhauled the state's school system and provided for an elective board of education and an appointive superintendent. Miles of rural roads were authorized.

For a while, money ran free. It was easy to make during the war. There was a lot of savings stacked up for the years after the war.

Sports cashed in on this backlog of cash. So did the entertainment world. Baseball boomed until Texas had seven professional leagues. Football attendance mushroomed until almost every game of note was a sellout months in advance.

The pinch is on right now. Night club operators and bar owners are frank to admit that the lush days are over. But they're still far, far ahead of business in 1939.

These were funny times, the Forties. There was a period when most people just didn't give a hoot for anything. This was during the war. To a lot of people, it was "live now, for tomorrow you may die."

There was a period right after the war, a period of confusion, uncertainty. For a lot of people—especially veterans—there was a firm conviction that things were permanently snafued.

There's another period now. It's a period where the majority want most of all to be secure.

There are fewer applications for loans to start small businesses. There's a much smaller turnover among workers. "Hang on to it, you don't know what's going to happen" is the general attitude for many.

You'll find this feeling in all groups, the white collar class, the small business man, the industrial worker.

You can point to booming Texas: A new oil field in Scurry County; millions of dollars worth of new construction, highly varied industry, more people working than

ever before and making more money for the most part. You can quote statistics to show that the Forties are fantastic in the opportunities they provided. You'll still get his answer from many.

"Yeah, but I haven't got any of that." An ex-bomber pilot might have summed up these times.

"Look, I was in the army for nearly five years. I didn't get any of that easy money in war plants. I took the best job I could get. I haven't got a house of my own or an automobile. I'm in a rut and I know it. Three, four years ago I'd have said to hell with it and gone out looking for something better. But not now. I don't know what's going to happen today, much less tomorrow. I can't leave something for nothing. I don't know where I'm going and I'm sure as hell not getting there very fast. You tell me."

The Fifties might. The Forties can't.

Syrian Rodents Replacements For Pigs, Rats in Experiments

By LYTLE BLANKENSHIP

"They're lots of fun, but they surely are ferocious until they're gentled," said Paul Hodges, Biology student from Tomball, in reference to his new pets.

"What do they eat Paul?" someone asked. "Right now I'm feeding them dog biscuits."

"Dog biscuits?" "Yes, but that's just to balance their diet. They usually eat grain cereals, and sometimes they'll eat green vegetation such as grass and alfalfa."

No, Hodges is not raising animals that are part dog, part bird, and part cow. The animals in question are only little Syrian rodents known as hamsters.

Paul is keeping the hamsters because he says they make good pets, but the main importance of the little rodents today is their use as laboratory animals. They are, in many instances, replacing the guinea pigs and white rats for experimental purposes. Hamsters are important in research work on human diseases because they are susceptible to many things that man is.

When Paul first got his pets he thought he was starving them to death, since there never was any food remaining in sight. After a few days he cleaned out their nest, and much to his surprise he could not find anything but food. Hamsters have a pouch on each side of their jaw where they put their food while eating. After returning to their nest, the hamsters remove the food and store it.

College Gets Cash For Laboratory

The Gonzales chamber of commerce has given the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station \$1,500. The money will be used to aid in the construction and equipping of the poultry pathology laboratory at the Gonzales station. Dr. R. D. Lewis, director of the TAES, says.

Musical Depreciation Revue Rocks Guion 'Music Lovers'

District YMCA Officer Speaks For RE Week

D. Ned Linegar, regional YMCA secretary for Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas, will be one of the seven specialists to hold open forums and discussions during Religious Emphasis Week, February 13 through 17, according to Gordon Gay, associate secretary of the A&M YMCA.

Some of Linegar's special fields are Recreation and Religion, Personality Growth and Development, Christianity and Communism, The Campus Community, Education Is Not Enough, Brotherhood—a matter of Heart and Mind, and Moral Leadership.

The seven specialists will hold informal discussions in the YMCA each afternoon from 4 to 5:30 p. m. They will also be available for discussion in the dormitories at 9 p. m. each night.

The discussions will be operated on a come and go basis thereby letting the students without much time come and leave when they want to, Gay said. Subjects discussed will be at the discretion of the groups, and will be held before any size group.

Linegar received his A. B. Degree in 1936, from Miami University, then entered the University of Cincinnati to work on his Masters in the field of sociology. In 1938, he entered George Williams College to do sociology work in Group Work Education. While in Chicago he also studied at the University of Chicago Divinity School.

After graduation, Linegar joined the staff of the Pennsylvania State College Association, where he served until he accepted the executive secretaryship of the association at the University of Kansas in 1946. From this job, he accepted his present position. While at Pennsylvania State College, Linegar was secretary of the ministerial alliance, preaching often in local Lutheran and Presbyterian Churches.

Among other honors, he holds membership in numerous fraternities including Omicron Delta Kappa, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Phi Sigma, Tau, Kappa Alpha, and Tau Kappa Alpha.

Spike Jones Combines Gags and Gals, Madcap Melodies to Rate as Success

By DAVE COSLETT

More than 1,000 weary students forgot there were such things as final exams last night in Guion Hall as Spike Jones and Company, with at least the nominal aid of local personalities, proceeded to wreck music and the Guion Stage with his usual careless abandon in the "Musical Depreciation Revue of 1950."

Two action and laugh packed shows kept a total crowd of 3,000 persons thoroughly entertained. The funny man that seldom smiles combined corn, gags, sound effects, motion pictures, a few touches of real art, and an ample supply of utter bedlam to achieve his results.

Highlighting the show was Winstead "Doodles" Weaver, an extremely versatile comic who employed pantomime, slap-stick, impersonations, and a glib-tongue to draw from his audience varying response that ranged from slight titters to uncontrollable guffaws.

Baseball Game

What was probably his top performance came as a triple role pantomime of a base-ball game in which "Doodles" pitched, batted, and caught an imaginary ball. The cleverest rendition of the night was his job on his famous "William Tell Overture." Using motion pictures to graphically portray the action he desired, Weaver interwove names of local personalities ranging from Dean Penberthy through Art Adamson as participants in the hilarious affair.

Juggler King

Placing a close second to "Doodles" in the talent department was comic juggler Bill King. This lad threw more things around the stage than the rest of the band put together. His outstanding performance came as he stood on one foot on a stool, spun hoops with the other foot and an available arm, juggled hoops with the remaining hand, and balanced a spinning tray on an oversized cigar-like stick clinched between his teeth. Just to make it difficult, he also balanced a glass of coke on his head during the display. And did a little of the impossible with Indian clubs.

Another of the night's presentations was a strikingly beautiful. This was a Jones' version of "The Hawaiian War Chant" in which ultra-violet flights brought forth colorfully radiant costumes on an otherwise dark stage. Apparently unattached hands, hula-hula dresses

Lack of Space

Lack of stage space kept the City Slickers from getting in all of their regular routine, but they managed to muster a continuing barrage of skunks, frogs, pigeons, and dead bodies. Sound effects ran the usual Spike Jones scale from deafening to ludicrous. Though the show dragged in some places, it presented a fine example of the split-second timing that have put across the City Slickers' usually absurd routines and made of their originator a master of corn and musical satire.



Efreim Kurtz, director of the Houston Symphony will appear on Town Hall, February 6 in Guion Hall.

Symphony Concert Planned in Guion

By C. C. CLARK

An old favorite, the Houston Symphony Orchestra, returns to Town Hall on February 6. This is the orchestra's first performance here since the spring of 1947.

The February performance will be the first at College Station since Efreim Kurtz has assumed leadership of the orchestra.

In 1948 Kurtz was asked to assume the musical direction of the Houston Symphony and commissioned to reorganize the orchestra from top to bottom. Immediately upon his acceptance of this assignment, Kurtz set out on a flying tour of the principal cities of the country where he held auditions to select the best instrumental talent obtainable. During three weeks of this "time-table auditioning," Kurtz crossed the entire country three times and listened to more than 500 musicians.

Kurtz was signed to a three-year contract as director of the orchestra in 1948 and the number of musicians in the orchestra was increased from 78 to 85. The average age of the musicians in the

orchestra is 28. Kurtz has conducted opera, ballet and symphony orchestras on six continents.

He is now an American citizen but he was born in Russia and was forced to flee the Russian revolution in 1917.

Kurtz first visited the United States as principal conductor of the famed Ballet Russes.

He has served as permanent conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic, the Stuttgart Philharmonic, Kansas City Symphony and others. He has served as guest conductor of major orchestras including the San Francisco, Cincinnati, Detroit and Chicago. He estimates that during his twenty-four years as a conductor, he has directed more than 300 different symphony orchestras.

An expert linguist, Kurtz speaks five languages fluently, English, French, German, Russian, and Italian. In addition to the Town Hall performance on February 6, the Houston Symphony will also play for a matinee. The time and price for the matinee will be announced later.

Forestry Clubmen Meet in Santone

Fifteen A&M students in Range and Forestry and members of the department staff attended the third annual meeting of the American Society of Range Management in San Antonio, January 10-12.

More than 250 range technicians and ranchers from Texas and other western range states attended the program, according to Dr. V. A. Young, head of the department of Range and Forestry.

Students who attended the meeting were: J. P. Classen, Jr., John J. Derry, Glen W. Green, Harry C. Lawson, and Joe H. Nagy, J. T. Damerson, D. W. Hedrick, J. T. Hood, H. M. Kilpatrick, J. L. Lauchbaugh, Raymond M. Moore, J. A. B. McArthur, J. J. Morris, E. E. Ruby and W. J. Waldrip.

Dr. Young was a member of the arrangements committee for the annual meeting. He was also one of 20 members who received certificates of life membership in the society.

Other Staff members who participated in the range society program were: Dr. H. F. Reedy and Dr. Alfred H. Walker, extension range specialist.



Joseph Seigeti, violinist, will appear on Town Hall March 14. Seigeti will play in Guion Hall as the last virtuoso on the Town Hall Program.