



TALKING OVER OLD TIMES—(left to right) Harry Boyer, chief of housing, talks over old times with James Martin and his dog Alita.

We All Have Problems

Just An Ordinary Fellow

By DAVE McREYNOLDS
 Battalion Managing Editor

James Martin describes himself as "an ordinary guy who has a handicap." But, to the ones that know him he is quite a person for an "ordinary guy".

Martin is a 35-year-old student at A&M majoring in agriculture. That is ordinary, but the difference is James is blind. He has been so since he was six years old.

Married and the father of two boys Martin's problems are common to those of most students attending college in that finances and housing give him lot of headaches.

But, James being in the class of 1944 at A&M, has spent a lot of his time not only going to school, but working at various enterprises and meeting lots of people.

He has done everything from raising chickens to playing piano and organ with Hank Thompson's band.

He first came to A&M back in 1940 after his graduation from the Texas School for the Blind in Austin. He was a "good freshman" as he describes it, getting the "usual run of indoctrination that most fish received back in those

days and still remembers the sting of a Sam Brown belt."

Majoring in pre-law then James left A&M to go back to Austin and enter Law School at the University of Texas in 1941 and in 1942 went after his first seeing-eye dog.

Makes Straight A's

Things were a little different in Law School than Martin had counted on so in 1945 he returned to A&M for a special course in Poultry Husbandry, during which he made straight 'A's' all the way. "We had quite a time then," James said. "There were three of us blind boys and three disabled veterans in the course and not a whole man among us."

Martin went on to describe how they would work together to drive a Model A owned by one of the boys into Bryan for a visit and on one occasion ended crashed into a post office box.

"The boy that drove had a good left eye but couldn't see out of the other one," Martin laughed. "So another of us would sit on the right side of the car with a good right eye and call signals. One day it was real foggy and the guide on the right side of the car mistook

a telephone pole for our regular landmark and we turned in the middle of a block and ended up wrapped around the mail box."

"But, we really had a lot of fun."

Martin left A&M soon after and returned to his home in Parker County near Weatherford to raise chickens and turkeys. In 1948 he and his girl, Nelda, eloped to Fort Worth and they have been married now for nine years.

They have two sons, Wyman, 5, and Tony, 7. Receiving a lot of credit for Martin's ability to do things and get around is his dog, Alita. She is the second dog Martin has owned and is still a bit shy of people.

"She got used to people quite a bit when I used to play in the band," Martin said. "One of the boys used to try to make friends with her with cheese crackers and after a while she put up with him, but she sure looked for those crackers every time he came around."

Uses Braille Notebook

Martin uses a Braille notebook to take lecture notes and then transfers this to permanent notes on a typewriter upon returning home.

He can type 60-70 words per minute and his wife reads his lessons to him from his textbooks.

"I guess I will make out alright if the college will stop putting up these new buildings," Martin grinned. "Used to, I could start over at Mitchell Hall and go all over the campus but this place sure has changed."

The Martins are residing with an aunt, Mrs. Joe Orr, until they can find an apartment of their own.

By The Books

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M. (AP)—There's nothing like following military regulations to a T.

Regulations say every government building must have a door and a means to lock it.

At Kirkland Air Force Base here, there is a 20 x 40 foot building with only two sides—the ends being open. The building houses a truck. In one of the sides there is a door—as the regulations require. Furthermore, it has a hasp on it so it can be locked—as the regulations require.

Veterinary Appointments Announced

Appointments, including instructors, assistant professors and an associate professor, were announced recently by Dr. W. W. Armistead, dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, at A&M.

Dr. W. M. Romane, '43, has been appointed instructor in the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. His duties will be in the large animal and ambulatory clinics.

Dr. John P. Davis Jr., '53, has returned as an instructor of veterinary medicine and surgery. Dr. Davis replaces Dr. E. M. Jordan, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, '43, who resigned to enter private practice in Dallas. Dr. Davis resigned his instructorship at the SVM in 1954, to enter private practice in Florida.

Dr. Paul F. Jungerman, '47, has been appointed assistant professor with the Department of Veterinary Microbiology. After graduating with highest honors in his class, Dr. Jungerman operated a private general practice in Aurora, Miss. for nine years. He replaces Dr. E. E. Roth, '48, who resigned to accept a position with the Department of Veterinary Science, LSU.

Dr. R. R. Bell, a 1953 graduate of the University of Georgia, has been appointed associate professor of veterinary parasitology. He was an instructor from 1952 to 1955, when he resigned to become research parasitologist at North Carolina State College. Dr. Bell received his Master of Science degree from A&M in 1955.

Dr. James E. Neal, a 1951 graduate of Alabama Polytechnic Institute, is on leave from the Department of Bacteriology of that school to pursue graduate study in veterinary microbiology at A&M. During his stay here he will be employed part time as assistant professor for the research project on ornithosis.

Dr. R. T. Dubose and Dr. J. R. Watkins, '56, have been appointed instructors in the Department of Microbiology. Their duties will be primarily in research projects under direction of the SVM and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Dr. J. N. Beasley, '49 has been appointed assistant professor of veterinary parasitology. His principal duties will be in connection with the research projects directed by the SVM and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. From July, 1949, until July, 1951, Dr. Beasley was instructor in the Department of Veterinary Science at the University of Arkansas. After one year as instructor in veterinary medicine and surgery at A & M he returned to the University of Arkansas where he was associated with the Poultry diagnostic laboratory for three years. Dr. Beasley has done graduate study at Ohio State University and at A & M. He received the Master of Science degree from the latter school in May, 1956.

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Entered as second-class matter at Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Member of:
 The Associated Press
 Texas Press Association

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