

## Most Steel Castings Not Produced Here

In spite of steel castings being bulky and expensive to ship long distances, 35 to 40 per cent of the Texas market is being supplied by producers from other states.

This was discovered by James R. Bradley, a specialist in industrial economics research at the Texas Engineering Experiment Station (a part of the A&M System).

He finds that nine jobbing steel foundries are presently producing castings in Texas and providing a total annual output of 33,135 tons, mostly in the carbon steel category, and that there is also production of castings by so-called "captive" foundries that produce solely for their parent concerns. All of the jobbing foundries have facilities for at least 25 per cent more production.

Eight of the nine steel jobbing foundries in Texas are located in the eastern portion of the state near the casting using customers, many of which are chemical or petroleum industries. The ninth jobbing foundry is located in El Paso. Harris county has three foundries with Bexar, Tarrant, Gregg, El Paso, Harrison and Angelina counties having one each.

All of the nine foundries use carbon steel and low alloy steel in making castings and three presently are using high alloy steel, to meet the demands of Texas customers. Only one produces malleable steel castings.

The size or weight of castings made by the foundries in Texas varies from 1/4 of a pound to 20,000 pounds. Very few of the castings produced in Texas weigh more than 5000 pounds, but the facilities are available should a customer have need of them. Both the electric melting process and

the open-hearth furnace method are used by the Texas concerns.

Industries which presently purchase steel castings from jobbing foundries in Texas manufacture in the following categories: Ordnance and accessories, agricultural machinery and tractors, construction and mining machinery and equipment, special industrial machinery, general industrial machinery and equipment, office and store machines and devices, valves and fittings, electrical generating transmission, distribution and industrial apparatus, motor vehicle parts and accessories, truck trailers, railroad equipment, furniture and fixtures and miscellaneous fabricated metal products.

In Texas it is common practice for a foundry to ship castings as many as 200 or more miles to a using industry. Most castings move by truck and in many cases the foundries own the trucks that transport the finished castings.

With the growth of various industries in Texas, the steel castings production will play a more important role, Bradley believes. As more users of steel castings locate in the state, the demand will be greater and Texas concerns should get a higher percentage of the market.

## Ag Prof President Of Pecan Growers

F. R. Brison of the Department of Horticulture at A&M has been elected president of the Federated Pecan Growers Association of the United States.

In the same election, which occurred during the federation's recent meeting in Biloxi, Miss., J. Benton Storey, assistant professor in the Horticulture Department, was named secretary.

The Federated Pecan Growers Association of the U. S., representing the bulk of all domestic pecan production in this country, is made up of the Southeastern Pecan Growers Association (which includes associations from Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, Mississippi and Alabama), the Louisiana Pecan Growers Association, the Oklahoma Pecan Growers Association and the Texas association.

In addition to being a nationally known authority on the academic side of the pecan industry, Brison also owns and operates a good-producing grove in Bell County.

He has been closely associated with pecans and pecan production, as well as other horticultural products, throughout his 30 years with A&M.



NO, THERE AREN'T ENOUGH girls to go around at the weekly MSC dance. The usual Aggie stag line is very much in evidence. Believe it or not, there is a girl in the picture. Look in the right background.

## Make-believe Forest Fire Practice Undertaken Here

A "mock" forest fire drill with practice conditions that would likely exist on a large blaze, was undertaken on Monday and Tuesday, July 22 and 23, by the Fire Control Department of the Texas Forest Service in the vicinity of Bon Wier, Newton County, Tex.

Purpose of the "dry run" was to test the effectiveness of fire fighting plans developed to cope with large fires and locate the weak spots. The present drill was directed toward having an effective organization on fires over

2,000 acres, representing a situation under blow-up conditions. It is an exercise similar to that carried out by the U. S. Army to check combat effectiveness.

The area of the mock fire had previously been marked out on the ground and signs were posted throughout the area giving information as to conditions theoretically present, such as wind velocity and direction, humidity and other pertinent factors. To coordinate work on the project fire and prevent loss of time a permanent camp

was established. Bedding, food and water were provided. The camp was also headquarters for radio communications and provision was made to care for mechanical breakdowns at this point.

Under normal forest fire conditions Texas Forest Service personnel with local landowners' assistance can handle the job. However, under explosive weather conditions wildfires can become large and more difficult to handle, requiring additional equipment and manpower.



FFA DELEGATES—Representing A&M Consolidated FFA Chapter at the annual State Convention in Fort Worth last week were Kenneth Cooner (left), president, and Edgar Feldman, vice president.

## Sophomores Vital To Ag's Thin Line

By ROGER COSLETT

Sophomores will be counted on to fill the blanks in the '57 Aggie football ranks as the Maroon and White field what may possibly be the thinnest and most inexperienced squad in the Southwest Conference race.

This rather grim outlook is the picture painted in the 1957 A&M football brochure prospects for 1957.

"Chief cause of the lack of depth and experience is the thin junior class players, who were freshmen back in 1955." Only three players of that group are on the first two teams now.

Loss of 12 departing lettermen will show up more seriously in the middle of the line. The top four guards, top two centers and right tackle are missing from this year's line-up. The loss of work horse performers fullback Jack Pardee and center Lloyd Hale as defensive line-backers will be sorely felt.

The brochure continues by saying, "there is no depth in any position except tackle and quarterback." Because of a lack of adequate substitutes at halfback any injury to star halfbacks Crow or Taylor might well prove "disastrous".

On the brighter side of the picture there are six returning regulars that played a lot of good football last year. Freshman fullback Gordon LeBoeuf will team with returning fullback Richard Gay in an effort to fill the shoes of the fabulous Jack Pardee. A task that will prove difficult if not impossible. LeBoeuf has proven a consistent performer in his freshman duties and in spring practice.

The defending champions lacked team speed in spring drills; an important factor in the unbeaten 1956 club. This was due in part to the many injuries in the spring practice that prevented their working as a unit. This speed will have to be developed early in the fall, further states the brochure,

if the Aggies are to successfully defend their title.

Also on the brighter side is the statement that the kicking game is in capable hands.

Numerous shifts may be made at the beginning of the season before a clocklike combination is produced but this writer feels that if the winning combination is there our capable coaching staff will find it.

## The Grove Schedule

A&M's summer Grove schedule is as follows:

Thursday July 25, "Houdini" starring Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh in Technicolor.

Friday July 27, "Run for Cover" with James Cagney, color by Technicolor.

Monday July 29, "Far Horizons" starring Charlton Heston and Fred MacMurray in Technicolor.

Tuesday July 30, "Jungle Men" with Johnny Weissmuller.

Wednesday July 31, "Ulysses" starring Kirk Douglas and Silvana Mangano with color by Technicolor.

Gates open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. Admission is 25c for adults and 10c for children under 12. Season tickets for the six week term are \$2.50 for adults and \$1.25 for children.

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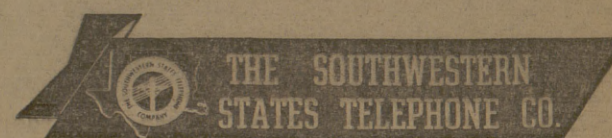
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## 73 Foreign-born Students At A&M

Seventy-three foreign students, representing 22 countries, are enrolled for the second term of summer school, according to the Registrar's Office.

Heading the list with most students enrolled is Mexico with 15, closely followed by Pakistan with 11 students enrolled. Other countries represented and the number of students from each are India, 6; Venezuela, Guatemala, El Salvador and Brazil, 4 each; Argentina, Bolivia and Cuba, 3 each; Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama and Paraguay, 2 each; Canada, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Honduras, Peru and the Philippine Islands, 1 each.

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## The Battalion

The Editorial Policy of The Battalion Represents the Views of the Student Editors

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