

Singing Cadets Lauded By Critic

(Editor's Note: The following review of the Singing Cadets' performance in Fort Worth appeared in Tuesday's Fort Worth Star-Telegram. It was written by noted critic E. Clyde Whitlock.)

By E. CLYDE WHITLOCK
A lusty, healthy outpouring of disciplined song was delivered Monday night when the Singing Cadets of Texas A&M College appeared in concert in the Stripling Junior High School auditorium under auspices of the Fort Worth A&M Club and the Fort Worth A&M Mothers Club.

There are those of us of the graybeard generation who remember when the standard repertoire of the college glee club was the ilk of "The Spanish Cavalier" and "Solomon Levi." No more. Probably in no sphere of musical activity has such an advance in standards been accomplished, an index of cultural growth among students and people.

This group of 46 students from a school where there is no formal music department pursues this activity without recognition, for the inspiration they get from it. Under these circumstances the ultimate in choral niceties is not made sacred cow, but let it not be thought that on the other hand there is no vocal discipline or refinement of interpretation.

The program contained a bit of everything. There were show tunes, as "Say It With Music" and a bit from "South Pacific"; the barber shop quartet in a sentimental mood; westerns such as "Chisholm Trail" and "Colorado Trail"; spirituals, real and simulated; folk tunes and mountain tunes, and an "Easter Anthem."

Nor was the classical neglected. "In Stilly Night" by Brahms was done with understanding. It may be a surprise to many to know that one of Brahms' professional activities was directing a men's singing organization.

The musical conscience and loyal spirit of the group evidently derive from the director, Robert L. Boone, who came up through the public school music field, and who in his own right is a vocalist of superior gifts. In intonation, accuracy of ensemble and diction the

choral performance is according to the best standards.

Boone as a soloist gave "Maria," "Song of the Open Road" with fine resonance, a big rousing tone and convincing delivery.

One of the indispensable assets of the group is its accompanist, Mrs. June Biering. Here is not a brash teenager. She will not mind if we suggest that she may be a grandmother. But do not be misled. Here is fire, natural technical facility on the piano keyboard and creative musicianship which assures that, though she played from score, about two-thirds of the notes were her own creation. It is a gift, and valuable.

Probably the most impressive portion of the program were the patriotic numbers, sung with a conviction which was reassuring. There were "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "Paul Revere's Ride," in which diction in varied tempos was remarkable, and "Texas, Our Texas," of which the group has made one of the most effective recordings on their own record disk. The program closed with the final section of Randall Thompson's "Testament of Freedom," which is a setting or chorus of passages from the writings of Thomas Jefferson. This fourth section closes with this declaration: "The God who gave us life gave us liberty at the same time; the hand of force may destroy, but not disjoin them."

For the singing of the "Fight Song," seven former singing cadets were called from the audience to come forward and join, which they did with a will.

McIlheran Chosen To Attend Ad Week

Colyar McIlheran, senior journalism major, has been named as one of the nation's top 100 advertising students and is attending "Inside Advertising Week," ending tomorrow in New York City.

Last month McIlheran was picked to represent A&M in New York after being declared the outstanding graduating senior in advertising at A&M.

THE BATTALION

WHITELEY

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this area. The Nuclear Science Center was established to fill the

Now Have Courses For Space

And as we enter the space age A&M is offering courses in space technology to train engineers in this important field. These are only a few of the changes that have occurred in the past 15 or 16 years. But they show that A&M can change and has changed to meet the needs of the people of Texas. I feel confident that A&M will make even greater changes in the next 15 years.

But these changes have occurred in the past. What about the future? The material offered in the courses that are taught will change! It will become more advanced. Due to the amount of knowledge that has accumulated in the past, it will be necessary for the college to receive better trained students from our high schools.

These students, in order to finish college in four or five years, will have to know more when they enter college than some of us knew when we were sophomores or juniors in college. The college will need to have our support in order to bring this about. We must demand for our children the best possible training in grade school and high school. Our support in this area will help the college to do a much better job in teaching our children.

There will be changes in the ratio of graduate students to undergraduates. The ratios between agricultural, engineering and liberal arts students will change. These changes will be influenced by the law of supply and demand and by the calibre of student that A&M graduates.

If A&M is to grow and take its proper place in the educational system of Texas, it must make changes in policy so that it can fulfill its obligations to the people of Texas. The administrative officers, the staff and the faculty are fulfilling their roles in the development of our school. What is the role of the former students in this development?

This is difficult to define. We who have graduated from A&M

need in this vital field of study. And only recently the Maritime Academy was established to train marine transportation and engineering officers.

to work for the good of A&M. This means that we give of our best when asked to perform a service. Third, we must sell A&M by promoting the college at every opportunity. We must tell other people about the fine job that the school is doing even though we may not like some of the policies of the college.

A&M cannot fulfill its role in the educational system of Texas without the support and good will of the people of Texas. We need to tell again and again the dynamic story of its accomplishments. Through the decades, Texans' good will toward and assistance to A&M has been tremendous. The net balance in the bank of public good will is still high. But time may run out on us one of these years.

We need to mobilize all of our resources promptly behind an effective public relations program. I don't mean that we should open a public relations office. We simply need to tell the story of A&M to friends and acquaintances in a sincere, simple and straightforward manner.

Second, we can give our time

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