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CS Volunteer Firemen Are An Alert, Efficient Group

By RONNIE FANN
Battalion News Editor

With a high pitched wail, the siren above the B&U Building signals the College Station Fire Department to the scene of another emergency.

This completely volunteer fire department wastes no time in getting onto the trucks, and out of the station. Yesterday's alert dramatizes this point most clearly.

At 1:20 p.m. the siren sounded the alarm. Around 25 men in the B&U Building dropped whatever they were doing and raced for the fire trucks.

By 1:21 the chief's car had started up. At 1:22:30 one truck had started up, and by 1:23:30 all assigned pieces of fire fighting equipment were out of the station and on their way to Easterwood Airport to stand by while a plane with a gas leak made a safe landing.

The total time for this was about 3 1/2 minutes—not a record, but by all means commendable for a volunteer fire department.

"I am very proud of the men here," said Chief Glen G. Eimann. "This is a very fine volunteer department."

None of the members get any pay for their services except himself, he went on to explain.

The members of the department are on 24-hour alert. Since most of them work in the B&U Building, it is relatively easy for them to drop their work during the day, but at night, it takes them a little

longer to get ready.

This problem has been partially solved by the housing quarters for these men. They all live close to one another in an area they call the "firemen's circle" which is by the circle off Sulphur Springs Road.

Eimann says that the number of alarms received during the week varies with the time of the year.

"We sometimes receive six calls a day during the fall after the first freeze," he said. "These are usually grass fires or small brush fires, which are very frequent when the grass is dried out."

Campus Security does its part to help the fire department by clearing traffic and holding spectators back. They receive news of the fire or emergency by two-way radio, and are usually on the scene with the fire department.

Fighting fires is not the only function of the College Station Fire Department. The men are also trained in artificial respiration practices, first-aid, and life saving techniques.

"We keep the men well trained and ready for any emergency," commented Eimann. "Frequent practices are held to keep the men alert."



Practice Makes Perfect

The College Station Fire Department is shown here making one of their frequent practice runs to acquaint the men with the equipment and increase their efficiency. Shown are two volunteer firemen connecting hoses to a pumper truck under the watchful eye of instructors.

Skrivanek Tells Czech Group Of Life On Texas Frontier

Wild hogs, stampeding cattle and other rigors of Texas frontier life were described by an A&M language teacher when he spoke at a recent Czechoslovakian society meeting in Washington D. C.

The speaker was Dr. John M. Skrivanek, associate professor in the Department of Modern Languages. His listeners were members of the First Congress of the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences in America.

Skrivanek, a fourth generation Texas Czech born in Caldwell in Burleson County, teaches Russian and has taught Czech and Spanish.

He said he was surprised to learn at the society congress that the members were almost completely unaware of the Lone Star State's rich and colorful Czech history.

"Their mouths dropped open in amazement when they heard the facts in my talk, 'Czech in Texas,'" the professor said.

He told them that the first known Czech arrived in Texas in 1832 and was a good friend of Sam Houston. The newcomer's name was a Dr. Dignowity.

Czech families arrived in the 18-50's in Houston County and traveled by oxen to Austin County about 60 miles away. The trip took the pioneers six weeks.

Skrivanek said those early families built their dirt-floored log

cabins, cleared farm lands, reared many children and eventually survived everything that nature could throw at them.

Some of the many problems confronting the settlers were stampeding cattle and aggressive wild hogs. He said the cattle tore up fields and fences. And the hogs chased school children up trees or forced them to climb the nearest rail fence.

Today, descendants of these pioneers can be found running well-kept farms or working in business and industry in the cities.

Many of them, like Skrivanek, have become teachers.

He told the society members that Texas now has approximately 350,000 citizens of Czech extraction.

While attending the conference, Skrivanek made tape recordings for Radio Free Europe and Voice of America broadcasts. He discussed his work, his family, the history of Czechs in Texas and named some outstanding Texas Czechs.

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Manning Head Of State Association

Walter S. Manning, associate professor of accounting, has been elected vice president of the Texas Association of University Professors in Accounting. He served this past year as secretary-treasurer of the association.

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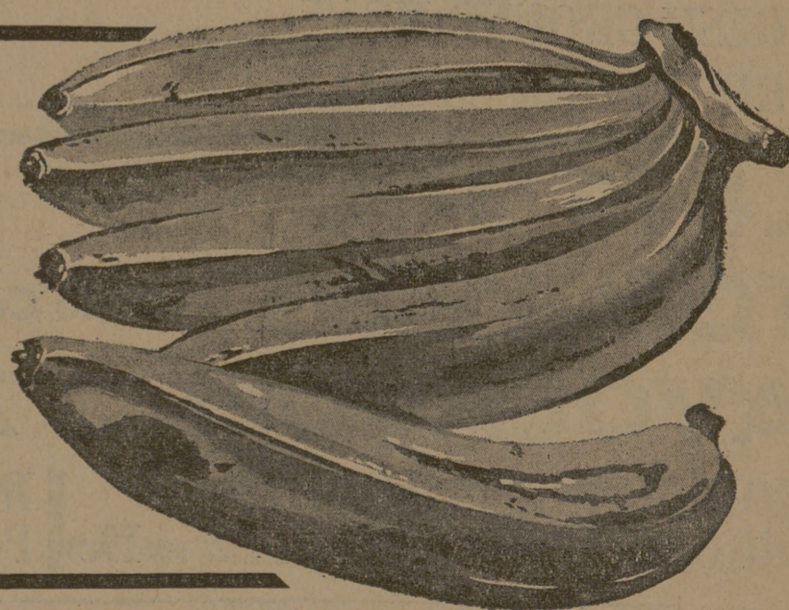
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