

UNDERGOING TRAINING

# Two A&M Graduates May Be Astronauts

Two A&M graduates, one a native of Bryan whose family still lives here, have been chosen to train in the U.S. man-in-space program as possible future astronauts.

They are Navy Lt. Commander Carl Birdwell Jr., whose father Carl Sr. is manager of the Exchange Store, and Maj. Byron F. Knolle Jr. of Houston.

The two, along with another Texan, Lt. Cmdr. Walter W. Stollar of San Benito, began training at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.,

in June for the purpose of possible participation in the Dyna Soar, Gemini and Apollo projects.

Birdwell, 34, has been in the Navy since 1945. He was born in Stephenville and attended high school there for several years but moved to Bryan-College Station during his college years.

In the fall of '45, he enlisted in the Navy cadet training program. The Navy sent him to school at Southwestern College in Georgetown for another semester.

Birdwell has been a pilot ever

since he enlisted in the training program.

"Carl used to lie out in the back yard," his father reports, "and watch planes fly overhead. Then he would tell us about the day he would be in one of them."

His father said Carl was so interested in flying that when he was young he would sneak out and spend money he made selling newspapers to take flying lessons.

Birdwell received a NASA physical examination in April at Pensacola, Fla.

## Grant Forms Study Group In Chemistry

A \$650,000 grant from the Robert A. Welch Foundation has been accepted by the Board of Directors to establish a chair for research.

President Earl Rudder said income from the grant will be used to endow a professorship known as the "Robert A. Welch Chair of Chemistry."

"It is with great pride that we accept this generous gift from the Robert A. Welch Foundation," Rudder said. "This endowment will enable A&M to enhance its programs of excellence in science."

Established by the will of Robert Alonzo Welch, a Houston philanthropist, in 1952, the foundation has now approved a total of more than \$8.6 million to foster and encourage fundamental research in chemistry in Texas.

"The Robert A. Welch Chair in Chemistry" for which this endowment is made, will be perpetual and actively maintained by A&M permanently," according to foundation trustees.

The trustees are Daniel R. Bulard, chairman of board of directors of the Mound Company; Wilfred T. Doherty, Mound Company president; Lester Settegast, general counsel for the company; and Robert J. Wolfe, president of Wolfe Oil and Gas Company.

The Department of Chemistry has long been an integral part of scientific education at the college.

It currently has 21 full-time faculty members who have received their formal education in 34 different academic institutions. They are assisted by 38 graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.

Also within the department is the Chemical Thermodynamic Properties Center, sponsored by the American Petroleum Institute and the Manufacturing Chemist Association. The center is devoted to research studies leading to best or critical data on "key" compounds.

## First State 4-H Horse Show May Be Held Here Next Year

Livestock officials in the Department of Animal Husbandry may stage Texas' first statewide 4-H Horse Show next Aug. 22-23.

Dr. O. D. Butler, head of the Department of Animal Husbandry, has headed a study group to provide a means of recognition for Texas' rapidly-growing 4-H horse program.

A series of halter and performance contests are now being rec-

ommended to Texas county agents as an outgrowth of the meeting—along with suggestions on how to best form 4-H horse groups in counties that don't yet have them. Many already do.

How fast each Texas county develops its own 4-H horse program has to depend on not only a county agent's initiative, but how much support is given the effort by breeders and other youth leaders in each county.

The state 4-H show, as planned, calls for each county to send a number of its top young horse owners to the state meet—the number to depend on the club's total membership. By even the most conservative estimate, this should produce a 4-H youth show involving several hundreds of horses. A total of 15 classes are being planned for the two-day show. Nine of these would be halter classes, the rest performance classes. In the halter division there would be classes for all types and sizes of mares and geldings.

The show is also being scheduled in conjunction with A&M's third annual Horse Short Course, so that horse-owning families can come to see—or take part in—the 4-H show, then stay for the two-day short course.

## Nothing Stops Fearless Bride During Wedding

An act of nature could not snuff out one August wedding in the All-Faiths Chapel.

Just as the organist was hammering out "Here Comes the Bride," and the blushing bride herself was about half way down the aisle, the electric organ went silent due to a power failure and the whole auditorium was plunged into total darkness except for a few decorative candles on the altar.

Courageously, the bride kept walking steadily toward her groom as though nothing at all had happened. After such a display of fortitude, no one else dared call the ceremony to a halt.

The officiating minister, Rev. Byron R. Lovelady of the College Station A&M Methodist Church, must have had the scriptural passages memorized, for it would have been quite impossible to read the vows in such dim light.

However, the whole ceremony turned out to be quite beautiful after all, and at 8:23 p.m. Rev. Lovelady pronounced Coach Dick Johnson and Marlyse Abbot man and wife.

The couple is living in College Station.

## Aero Engineering Department Now Has New Name

The Department of Aeronautical Engineering became the Department of Aerospace Engineering Sept. 1.

The new designation, which recognizes the broader scope of this aspect of the School of Engineering, was formally approved during the summer by the Texas Commission on Higher Education.

Aeronautical engineering has been a part of the engineering curriculum here since 1940. In recent years, more emphasis has been placed on the aerodynamics, structures and propulsion of missile and space craft as well as aircraft as industry moved in this direction.

## Lutheran Church Names New Pastor

The Rev. Luther Rostvold has been installed as assistant to the pastor at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

Rev. Rostvold, 31, is a native of Nashvauk, Minn. After high school he attended Hibbing Junior College until entering the U. S. Army. There he served as tank driver and clerk-typist. He also worked with the Army Service Club, planning all types of programs for servicemen.

## Summer Events Viewed

This section of The Battalion's Back to School Issue is devoted primarily to happenings over the summer and the appointment of new college personnel since the conclusion of the last regular semester last May.

Needless to say, everything of consequence that took place over the summer could not be included because of space limitations. This is particularly true with new personnel, since the summer saw a vast turnover of professors as well as the administrators featured on pages 6 and 7.

Of course, it was difficult to view some of the summer's many occurrences without also looking into the future. This, too, is done in this section . . . as witnessed in the stories and pictures on the new Plant Sciences Building and four of the first Texas Maritime Academy cadets.



Summertime Frolic

With summer school came coeds, and with coeds came dances. The swingers pictured above were attending a "Roaring 20's" dance, one of the many events staged weekly by the MSC dance committee.

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