



Fourth In A Week

This grass fire, which occurred about one and one half miles out the Wellborn road Sunday around noon, was the fourth of its kind to start in that area last week. These men are trying to keep the flames away from a house that is out of the picture to the left.

Mexican Graduate Student Shows Persistence Counts

One of the foreign students currently enrolled at A&M is Hugo Alejo Velasco-Molina of Saltillo, Mexico.

Velasco is no newcomer to Agrieland, however. Ten years ago, he signed registration forms to pursue a master's degree in soil science.

At the time, he had just received his bachelor's degree from the School of Agriculture in Saltillo. The school's director urged Velasco to accept a scholarship for advanced studies at A&M.

"I WAS leery at first," Velasco recalls today. "I could only speak a few words of English."

A week later, he arrived in College Station to undertake a special English course, provided for foreign students each summer. As he had anticipated, Velasco was unable to crowd a knowledge of English into six-weeks.

"I remember I was the only one in my class to flunk," he related. "As a result, I lost my scholarship."

Velasco accepted a job picking cotton. At every opportunity, he studied English.

"I read books, went to the mov-

ies, talked with everyone," the Latin remembered.

THE MAN who recommended Velasco find a job was H. E. Hampton, a soil and crop science professor, whom Velasco credits with his later success at A&M.

In addition, two Aggies found out about Velasco's desire to learn English. They invited Velasco to share their room in the "Y", at no expense to him. They literally taught him to speak, read and write English.

Hampton saw Velasco in the fall.

"He (Dr. H.) told me that I was a new man," Velasco said with a grin, "and that I had made progress. He took me to the dean and I talked to him. The dean thought I had made mighty good progress and said I could have my scholarship back."

Velasco had little trouble enrolling that spring semester, but he took a "lighter schedule of classes, only 10 semester hours."

"Had most difficulty taking notes in class," Velasco recalls.

ANOTHER PERSON that encouraged Velasco to remain at A&M after his initial failure was

a fellow student from Saltillo, Ruben Castro Estrada.

"The friendship that exceeds here is very good," Velasco commented. "Ruben really encouraged me to stick around."

Velasco got his master's degree in soil science in 1956. He then accepted a position with an American firm on the west coast of Mexico as head of the research department.

Since then, he returned to the School of Agriculture at Saltillo as an instructor in soil science. He accepted a graduate fellowship to the University of California for doctoral work, but illness in his family forced him back to Mexico.

NOW VELASCO has a Rockefeller Foundation grant and is enrolled to complete requirements toward a doctorate. He could have returned to the University of California under a Rockefeller fellowship.

"I think this college ties in with the environment in Mexico more," he stated.

Velasco is fluent with English now. He won't have any trouble. His story of failure and finally success is encouragement to others.

Transport Institute Department Head To Lecture Friday

A Texas Transportation Institute staff member, Charles Pinnell, will lecture at 2 p.m. Friday on "Computer Applications to Urban Transportation Problems."

Interested persons are invited to attend this lecture in Room 229 of the Chemistry Building.

Pinnell heads the Design and Traffic Engineering Department of the Texas Transportation Institute which has its headquarters on the A&M campus.

The lecture is another in the National Science Foundation Seminar series on applications of digital computers to problems in research, engineering and industry.

A film showing the visual simulation of freeway traffic by a combination of computer and cathode ray techniques is planned as part of the lecture.

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