

The Battalion



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grab bag

By Glenn Dromgoole

Bilingualism is a rather strange word to most of us. Unfortunately, it is also unknown by too many educators in our public schools.

Texas A&M's first Conference on Bilingualism in Texas, sponsored last month by the Department of Modern Languages, discussed problems of the child who has home experience in a language other than English but is forced to use only English in public schools.

Linguists are concerned that children with basic understanding of other languages are losing command of them because of English-dominated curricula.

They contend these pupils should be encouraged to use native languages in elementary school, at the same time they are learning English, for at least two reasons.

For one thing, youngsters required to pick up an entirely new language for all their early-school work are likely to fall behind children from English-speaking homes. Second, studies have shown that children with sufficient grasp of two or more languages rate higher on intelligence tests and tend to have higher reading skills and a larger vocabulary.

Dr. Jack A. Dabbs, head of language study here, claims a large number of Texans speak Czech, German, Spanish and Swedish. He believes it is not wise to waste this environmental language because of schools with courses only in English.

Dabbs refers to a study of Canadians in French-speaking areas which showed that bilinguals outranked monolinguals by about 10 per cent in comparative I.Q. tests, vocabulary tests, and achievement in both French and English. Another survey of New York City students revealed similar responses.

"The student who has come from a home with experience in another language should be identified, nurtured and encouraged," he says.

Plans to cultivate bilingualism have been initiated on a large scale in Laredo where elementary pupils are given half-day instruction in Spanish and the other half in English. San Antonio and Houston schools are gradually putting the program into practice.

Foreign Languages in Elementary Schools, a federal program designed to teach English-speaking children another language during their formative years, is also a step toward preserving and advancing bilingualism.

Chief concern of the A&M conference, and of many linguists, however, was to nurture the basic language when the child begins the first grade if not before.

Last month's meeting urged school superintendents, teachers, sociologists and linguists to begin work for bilingual programs in all sections of the state, especially those with large sections of Czech, German, Spanish and Swedish speaking populations.

We watch with interest the challenging, progressive and necessary attack.



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

With the coming of spring and holidays, College Station kids pull their kites out of the closet in readiness for another summer. And what is a boy's best friend? His dog, naturally. Faithfully accompanying his master. Or is he just wondering what that little black box is that's pointed at him?

2 Students Awarded Graduate Scholarships

Two major graduate grants — a Fulbright Award and a National Defense Education Fellowship — have been awarded to Texas A&M students.

Senior Craig G. Buck of Tyler has been awarded a Fulbright Award to study in Bolivia next year.

Winston L. Wilson of Quannah has won a \$2,000 National Defense Education Act fellowship for graduate study at A&M.

Announcement of Buck's award was made by Dr. J. M. Nance, Fulbright advisor and head of the Department of History and Government.

Buck, son of Mrs. Jennie G. Buck, of Tyler, will study Latin American government and politics at the Universidad de Mayor de San Simon in Cochabamba, Bolivia. The Fulbright Award provides for travel, maintenance and allowances for 12 months.

The graduate of Carthage High School and recipient of a Woodrow Wilson scholarship at A&M will be studying 2.0 grade point ratio average students at the University of San Simon. Buck is a senior civilian student majoring in government.

He chaired A&M's 11th Student Conference on National Affairs in December. The 21-year-old attended similar conferences at Naval and Air Force Academies and made two trips to Mexico in preparing himself for the task.

Buck worked for Congressman Olin E. Teague in Washington last summer as an intern.

Wilson, a member of Alpha Zeta, honor agricultural fraternity, is called "one of the most outstanding students in agricultural economics" by his professors in the fellowship nomination.

The Quannah High School graduate is a senior and is listed as a "Distinguished Student."

"Mr. Wilson's performance in class and in activities of the Agricultural Economics Club give us confidence he has the ability to do well in graduate work," the letter of recommendation notes.

The 22-year-old economist expresses particular interest in marketing and hopes to complete his Doctor of Philosophy degree here. He plans to enter the field of college-level teaching after completing his studies.

Researchers Install Kiln

Highway researchers at Texas A&M are going into the artificial rock business.

Installation of a \$20,000 kiln to prepare synthetic gravel for study began Monday.

The stone, prepared from clay at high temperatures, weighs only half as much as natural gravel and is being used in industry for building materials and roadway base.

The test instrument, 25 feet long and 3 feet in diameter, is the only one of its size and versatility on a college campus, reports its designer, Dr. W. B. Ledbetter of the Department of Civil Engineering and the Texas Transportation Institute.

The research program by TTI is sponsored by the Texas Highway Department and the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads.

The A&M research oven was built by Standard Tool and Machine Company of Longview. Donations from Featherlite Corporation of Austin and Gifford-Hill and Company of Dallas helped with the cost.

TTI Survey Says Faster Emergency Service Needed

Speeding emergency activities in freeway accidents is a need revealed in a traffic engineering researchers survey for the Texas Transportation Institute.

Questionnaires were recorded from major city police departments to total the time required for various phases of activity at an accident. An average time from the moment of the accident until the freeway is cleared was determined.

"An average time of approximately 35 minutes was required by one of the major cities for all activity," Dr. C. V. Wooten, assistant TTI director, reported.

The survey showed it normally takes five minutes to report the accident. Another five minutes elapses while a police dispatcher notifies an investigating officer. He usually reaches the scene in 5 to 10 minutes.

A wrecker operator is located in about 10 minutes with a similar period required for him to arrive at the scene.

Frank L. Lynch, TTI researcher, offered these suggestions for reducing clearance time:

Have an adequate number of roving police cars especially during peak traffic periods.

Adequate access to communication media for accident reporting should be available.

Investigators should have a thorough knowledge of street access to the freeway in their districts.

Researchers concluded with a recommendation that "studies should be continued to determine appropriate methods of encouraging drivers to move their vehicles to some point off the freeway, thus reducing the effect on the traffic stream."

Anderson Wins Mayor's Race

Election Fills Council Positions

By ROBERT SOLOVEY
Battalion Staff Writer
D. A. Anderson defeated T. R. Holleman by a slim 34 vote margin in the mayor's race during Tuesday's city elections.

H. B. Adams, O. M. Holt and A. P. Boyett were winners in the contest for city council spots. The voting showed 437 ballots for Anderson and 403 votes for T. R. Holleman.

City Manager Ron Boswell described the turnout as average but did not release the exact figures of eligible voters.

Anderson, 56, of 1202 Foster, heads the Texas Forest Service's Information and Education Department. A graduate of Texas A&M, he has lived in the area for the past 27 years.

In Ward 1, H. B. Adams won a council seat by defeating J. E. Kirby, 305-116. Adams, who lives at 205 Timber, was not available for comment.

Except for 38 write-in votes, O. M. Holt ran unopposed and won the election in Ward 2 with 235 votes.

Holt, of 1016 Francis, is pro-

Grads May Spend Summer In Asia

Several graduate students may spend the summer as civilians in Viet Nam or Laos.

Graduate Dean Wayne C. Hall has announced that 40 young American men will have an opportunity to serve in these Southeast Asia countries.

Hall noted the Agency for International Development has authorized a project to assist Viet Nam and Laos in improving capacity and effectiveness of provincial level programs.

These programs, Hall explained, include rural reconstruction, refugee assistance, supply distribution and community development.

The dean said 30 students will be assigned to Viet Nam and 10 to Laos. He indicated the administering Institute of International Development prefers graduate social science students who have strong interest in Southeast Asia.

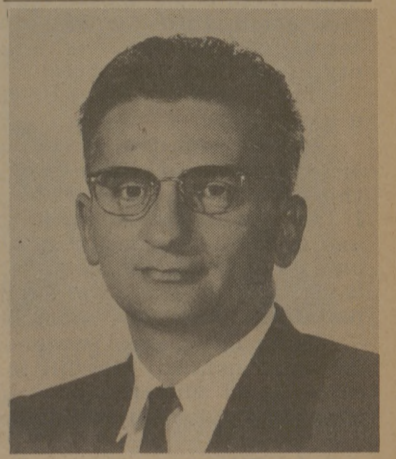
Fuller aims of the program and application forms will be available shortly at Hall's office.

Sociology Professors To Attend Conference

Four staff members of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Sociology will take part in the annual meeting of the Southwestern Sociological Association Thursday through Saturday in New Orleans.

Professor W. K. Upham will chair a session of four papers on Sociology of Health; while Dr. B. H. Nelson and Dr. W. P. Kuvlesky will present papers.

Dr. R. L. Skrabanek will chair business meetings of the organization. Skrabanek is president of the association.



DR. C. G. CHEZEM

Los Alamos Lab Nuclear Scientist Due Next Fall

A noted nuclear scientist, Dr. Curtis Gordon Chezem of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, will be a visiting professor this fall.

Dr. Robert G. Cochran, Department of Nuclear Engineering head, announced Chezem's employment.

"Dr. Chezem will teach advanced courses and seminars in addition to working with graduate students," Cochran explained. "He may initiate research programs in reactor kinetics and reactor hazards evaluation."

Chezem is a senior scientist in critical assemblies group of the Nuclear Propulsion Division at Los Alamos. He is also professor of nuclear engineering and physics at the Los Alamos Graduate Center of the University of New Mexico.

The 42-year-old engineer has a Ph.D. in physics from Oregon State College, an M.A. degree in physics and a B.A. in mathematics from Oregon University. He is married and has four children.

He worked as a radio announcer while attending college, and spent summers as a logger, forest fire fighter, and a U. S. Forest Service lookout. In the Navy, he was a telegrapher, after serving as a radio officer in the Merchant Marine.

Library Crane Mechanical Marvel

By JOHN HOTARD
Battalion Special Writer

What is yellow, weighs 95,000 pounds and stands 120 feet high?

One very large taxicab?

Wrong.

An oversized giraffe?

No.

Would you believe a crane? Not the whooping variety, but the construction variety.

This isn't just any old crane. It's a Liebherr T-110 tower crane, made in Ireland and the only one of its kind in Texas. The crane, which now stands behind Cushing Library, belongs to Temple

First Bank & Trust now pays 4½% per annum on savings certificates. —Adv.

Associates, the construction firm which has the contract for the library project.

This monster can lift a maximum load of 11,000 pounds, and can raise itself to a height of 150 feet freestanding (without guy wire) or 250 feet with guy wires. It is now standing only 75 feet high and will only be raised to a height of 85 feet on this particular job.

The crane can raise or lower itself at the rate of 10 feet per half hour with the aid of a built-in jacking device. Only 36 square feet are needed for the device to stand on. The boom has a reach of 120 feet from center and can rotate 360 degrees in one minute.

"The limited area we're working in and size of this particular job made this crane very practical," said Harvey Thigpen, superintendent of the library project. "This building will be built in an area 220 feet square and this crane can reach everywhere but the corners. One of its big features is the time it saves. It can pick up something in one corner and place it in the opposite corner in a matter of minutes. With an ordinary motor crane it would take a couple of hours to move the crane."

Thigpen added that the control system, also built in Ireland, is the best he has seen. The whole crane is loaded with safety factors, such as a deadman's switch,

a knob which has to be pressed in and held before anything on the crane will operate.

The crane is entirely electrically operated from a 440-volt circuit with a total of 82.6 horsepower. It can also be run by remote control at a distance of 100 feet.

"Being qualified to operate a motor crane does not qualify a person to operate this one," Thigpen remarked. "We have an operator who is being specially trained right now for the job." Only Thigpen and his two foremen are now qualified to run the crane.

The crane can be broken down into 10½-foot sections, with the

boom breaking down into three 40-foot sections. It took approximately 300 man-hours to erect the crane this time, but that time will be decreased as the workmen pick up speed.

In case anyone plans to watch the crane for hours in hope of it toppling over, he can forget it. It has a 14,000 pound concrete counterweight on the counterboom (that part of the boom projecting from the other side of the tower.) The base of the crane is also attached to a 15-foot-6 square concrete base which is six feet thick.

But even with all the crane's safety factors and its stability, you'll still find all the workmen walking around and not under it.



MONSTER AT WORK

... giant crane used on library construction.