

'Grave Rubbing' Project Teaches Students History

Third year design students in the School of Architecture learn some South Central Texas history in a class project termed "grave rubbing."

Fifty students made afternoon field trips recently to Calvert and Anderson for "grave rubbing" sessions. They also paid a visit to the Booneville Cemetery just east of Bryan.

Assistant Professors Wesley

Harper and Chartier Newton said some of the oldest gravestones and the largest cemeteries in the area are located in Calvert and Anderson.

They agreed that rubbing of gravestones is nothing new, although the activity is more popular in New England and Europe. The process is simple. Rice or brown paper is taped to gravestones. Carpenter's crayons of

varying colors are then rubbed against the paper, with the end product being unusual graphics.

Dale Bolyard of La Marque was intrigued with man's efforts to be remembered and the things that are of special importance to families of the dead.

Bolyard pointed to an inscription on a rubbing, "He was a native of South Carolina and for 21 years a consistent Baptist."

The varied reactions between the thoughts of people who erected gravestones and those who made rubbings 100 years later impressed Roger Killingsworth of Jonesville, La.

"Their feelings about death were perhaps a great deal different," he noted. "Some of the stones had serious inscriptions, yet the rubbings were in bright, gay colors."

At Calvert, the future architects learned that a yellow fever outbreak in the 1870s almost wiped out the city. Gravestones at Booneville date back to the 1850s. The cemetery is all that remains of the original settlement, said to have died when the railroad was built through Bryan.

Largest rubbing was of a tombstone at Anderson. It reflects both local and state history. The stone was erected in memory of Kenneth Lewis Anderson, district judge, Speaker of the House of the 6th Congress, and last vice president of the Republic of Texas. It was noted that Anderson died July 3, 1845, and the name of the town later was changed from Fanthrop to Anderson in his honor.

Tom Phillips of Galveston carried his interest in gravestone rubbing home for the weekend. He returned with a unique rubbing with lettering in Hebrew for a two-year old boy who died in 1870.

"Wandering around old cemeteries sets you to thinking," commented Steve McGregor of Amarillo. "You see an inscription and you wonder if the man was a good or bad guy."

McGregor showed a rubbing which illustrated his point. The gravestone related the man's name, that he died in 1879, and followed with this inscription: "This body pierced with bullets rests calmly in the tomb, But his spirit who can doubt it, Has gone to its heavenly home."

The rubbings are on public exhibit in the main lobby of the School of Architecture.



GRAVE RUBBING GRAPHICS

Dale Bolyard (left) of La Marque and Jim Patton of Commerce survey a display of "grave rubbings" produced by a third year design class of the School of Architecture.

Unique shapes and inscriptions from gravestones in South Central Texas are preserved on rubbings.

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Animal Science Major Wins \$500 From Ralston Purina Company

Gerald Max Smith, senior animal science major, has received a \$500 award from the Ralston Purina Company.

The award, which is made each year to a senior in the A&M College of Agriculture, recognizes Smith's outstanding academic achievement, leadership and student activities.

Presentation was made by Dr. R. E. Patterson, dean of the College of Agriculture. The Ralston Purina Company was represented at the ceremony by its district sales manager, Bob Wurzbach of 407 Walton Drive in College Station.

Gerald is the son of Mr. and

Mrs. J. T. Smith of Pineville, Mo. Patterson said Smith has won many awards while at A&M. He was designated a "Distinguished Student" for the spring and fall semesters of 1964, and the fall and spring semesters of 1965 and 1966.

Other previous awards won by the student include the Moorman Manufacturing Company Scholarship, the Houston Association of Hotel and Restaurant Meat Purveyors Scholarship, and a Welch Foundation Undergraduate Assistantship.

Smith also is a member of Gamma Sigma Delta, a national honor fraternity for agriculture.



GERALD SMITH, LEFT, DR. R. E. PATTERSON

Paper To Present TTI Weed Control

A paper on controlling weeds in pavement will be presented by a Texas A&M researcher at the Southern Week Conference in New Orleans this week.

William J. Bowmer, Texas Transportation Institute research associate in vegetation management, will present the paper, "Control of Broadleaf Weeds in Asphalt Pavements." The treatise was co-authored by Wayne G. McCully, head of TTI's Vegetation Management Department and Allen F. Wiese, U. S. Department of Agriculture official with the Southwestern Great Plains Research Center in Bushland.

The paper was drawn from results of cooperative research conducted by TTI, the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas Highway Department and U. S. Bureau of Public Roads.

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