

Street Crossing— A Challenge?

Why did the Aggies cross the road?
To get to North Gate, of course.
However, after dark this can become more of a challenge than a routine procedure.

There is no street lighting on University Drive which divides the A&M campus from the North Gate area, with the exception of the lone guard light on the corner at the post office. After dark, Aggies crossing the street to the east end of North Gate must have the speed and agility of Mel Renfro in order to dodge the traffic that can't see them.

These Aggies are breaking the law by crossing where there is no marked crosswalk, but they do not have much of a choice.

Those living on the northwest corner of the campus may have to walk as far as two long city blocks to the east and cross at the post office crosswalk, just to make the 75-foot crossing legally.

The nearest crosswalk to the west is probably in Caldwell.

But Aggies will be Aggies, continuing to cross this street illegally until one is finally swept off his feet by some motorist's shiney bumper.

A check with a city engineer revealed that there are no immediate plans for adding a lighting system to this dangerous situation. Perhaps this should be considered in the proposed five-year city improvement program.

If the city continues to expand westward, sooner or later it will become necessary to add a second crosswalk to this area, but students will not be able to see it at night unless it is given some type of illumination.

Until this much-needed improvement becomes a reality, The Battalion urges all Aggies to retain one clean white shirt and pair of white socks to wear while crossing University Drive to North Gate after sundown (approximately 9 p.m., central daylight time).

If you must continue crossing the street illegally, at least you may prevent an accident and help keep our city streets clear of your debris.

—W.G.



"Havin' trouble with your shaving lather?"

Highway Tax Due August 31

Highway vehicle owners or operators must pay by August 31, 1967, the Federal Use Tax on motor vehicles used on the public highways, says the Internal Revenue Service.

This tax applies to most trucks and buses in operation in July of this year and covers the tax year beginning July 1.

IRS Form 2290, used to file the truck and/or bus return, gives a handy tax computation schedule. Taxable vehicles range all the way from two-axled trucks to three or four-axled truck-tractor combinations. The Government advises all truck and bus owners to closely read Form 2290 and see if they must pay this tax.

Besides the August 31 filing date, truck and bus owners should also remember that any additional vehicles acquired after they have filed their 1967 return are subject to the highway use tax this year. In these cases, a tax return must be filed by the last day of the month following

the month the vehicle was put into operation.

Forms 2290, and a helpful booklet, Publication No. 349, are available free of charge at IRS offices.

Drive In Single; Drive Out Married

DENISON, Tex. (AP)—The Vietnam war, daylight saving time, and new streamlined "drive-in marriages" are boosting the business of matrimony just across the Red River in Oklahoma.

Between 2,500 and 3,000 marriages are performed annually in the Oklahoma area just north of Denison and most of them are for Texans.

Unlike Texas, Oklahoma does not require a waiting period before tying the matrimonial knot. It is the ease with which out-of-state couples can obtain their blood tests and licenses after normal office hours that makes the area from the Red River north to Durant so popular. Couples from the Dallas and Fort Worth metropolitan areas can drive to Oklahoma, get married and return home the same evening.

The newest gimmick—the drive-in marriage—is helping business boom.

"When the new highway opened we had to do something," said Rev. J. T. Harmon, who has a huge sign reading "Drive-In Marriages" stretching across the entrance road to his home south of Calera. "All of the old information places signs were all out of line with the traffic, so we've started offering complete drive-in-service."

Justice of the Peace Ross Beal Nix once performed 25 ceremonies in 24 hours, and he and his colleagues have performed some pretty big weddings down through the years.

Jose Ferrer and Rosemary Clooney slipped off from Dallas to be married in Bryan County, and Nix was set to perform the ceremonies for Marina Oswald and Kenneth Porter before they turned back to avoid newsmen.

Nix and his colleagues offer a complete service.

When a couple stops at one of the countless marriage mills they are taken to a nearby clinic for

a blood test, then to the home of Court Clerk Clark Grimes for a license. The ceremony then will be up to the minister or a justice of the peace.

Witnesses also are supplied if the couple does not have its own.

The most publicized wedding in recent times involving Texans going to Oklahoma for the ceremony involved the late A. Otis Birch, California-Texas Millionaire, and his nurse, Pearl Choate.

Birch, recently widowed, was 95. Mrs. Choate, 59, slipped the aged millionaire from their residence at Breckenridge, Tex., and at Altus, Okla., Oct. 26 a year ago. They made their move shortly before Texas Rangers were to surround the house to keep them from leaving.

Mrs. Choate, a 205-pound ex-convict, ran into a snag when she sought a marriage license. Despite their obvious adulthood plus, they had no documents to prove their age.

But the enterprising Mrs. Choate was equal to the occasion. They drove a few blocks, purchased fishing licenses on which they declared their ages, and that was sufficient to obtain the license.

They were married and returned to Breckenridge, where at least two charges against the new Mrs. Birch had been filed. These were either dropped or forgotten and they lived, apparently happy, until Birch's death March 15 this year.

Their marriage, too, was a drive-in affair, both remaining in their automobile while the ceremony was performed.

Nix says there has been a marked increase in business during the past year.

"I think two things are responsible," he said. "The escalation of the war in Vietnam is the major reason, but daylight savings time has helped."

The speedy Oklahoma service has helped, too.

THE BATTALION

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the student writers only. The Battalion is a non tax-supported non-profit, self-supporting educational enterprise edited and operated by students at a university and community newspaper.

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The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M is published in College Station, Texas daily except Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

MEMBER

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Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.

News contributions may be made by telephoning 846-6618 or 846-4910 or at the editorial office, Room 4, YMCA Building. For advertising or delivery call 846-6415.

Mail subscriptions are \$8.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$6.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 2% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 4, YMCA Building, College Station, Texas 77845.

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Aggie Has Part-time Job As Bryan Phone Operator

Aggie Don Kilfoyle of Longview is a prime candidate for "What's My Line?"

Kilfoyle's line is telephone lines. He's a part-time telephone operator for Southwestern States Telephone Company in Bryan.

The 20-year old junior electrical engineering major recently became the company's first male operator in history, but company officials say he won't be the last. Traffic manager Warren Brown said more Aggies are likely to be put on the payroll as operators during key evening hours.

Kilfoyle's opportunity came about somewhat by accident. He was seeking part time work in electrical engineering when the interviewer suggested he become an operator. A battery of tests followed and Kilfoyle signed on for a training stint.

Practice makes perfect, the saying goes. Operator supervisor Hazel Harris said Kilfoyle sometimes skips his break to continue practicing and working.

"I enjoy the work very much," Kilfoyle grinned. "By the end of my 7 to 11 p.m. shift, I don't want to quit. The work becomes more interesting every day."

Brown said the switch to male part-time operators was brought about in part by the heavy loads on campus pay phones by Aggies, especially toward the end

of the week as they line up dates for weekends.

"We are not after career male operators," Brown said. "We want to help Aggies through school and to support improvement in telephone service during key evening hours."

Brown said the company would like to have Aggie operators stay after graduation, using their operator experience in other areas. He said the background is unbeatable because operators have the most frequent and trying contact with the public.

Kilfoyle sometimes has problems convincing callers that he is truly a bonafide operator.

"It startles people at first to hear a man's voice," he confided. "You ought to hear some of the comments from operators in other parts of the country. One

operator even called another operator in Bryan to confirm I was an operator."

Patrons gain confidence as Kilfoyle makes connections in time.

Operators on Kilfoyle's shift have taken his invasion of the traditionally sanctuary in stride. His supervisor said the company is hoping to add more operators of Kilfoyle's caliber this fall.

By coincidence, Kilfoyle's fiancée is a telephone operator Longview.

Should Kilfoyle and his fiancée marry before he graduates, the company has agreed to consider a transfer so both can work operators in the same office.

Kilfoyle beams when friends suggest a husband-wife team in the company may lead "His" and "Hers" switchboard.

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