

Life in 'Project House'

Ex-Student Recalls Depression

Tight budgets and skimpy meals were not a laughing matter to more than 4,000 Texas A&M students who lived in "project houses" during the depression.

Nearly 40 years later, however, Aggie project house graduates are planning a statewide meeting to renew old acquaintances, reminisce a bit and pay tribute to two professors who helped ramrod the program.

Reagan Brown, extension sociologist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and one of the organizers for the state meeting, recalled the project house days as "a magnificent era marked by hardships, but an era that built character and respect for hard work."

"They (students) came from all over," Brown noted, "with empty pockets but a heart full of desire for an education."

Brown said the students quickly learned they could reduce expenses by banding together, with the help of the college.

"They rented and lived in every kind of house . . . sometimes five, sometimes 10 or 20," the Texas A&M official remarked. He said 90 students slept and 125 ate in an old army barracks near the campus.

Project houses, Brown added, sprang up on and around the campus, in Bryan and even Navasota 20 miles away.

Many of the project houses, he explained, were sponsored by county groups and some by individuals such as county agents. The American Legion built one, while others were supported by various groups.

"Room and board ran about \$12 per month," Brown added, "and was supplemented in every conceivable way . . . by peas from

Aggie dads in East Texas, and syrup, meat and other supplies from other areas."

Dr. Dan Russell and Dan Davis, sociology professors, were in charge of the program and insured that the line was held on the budget with large-order buying of such items as beans, day-old bread, milk and peanut butter. Most of the houses had a

"house mother" to do the cooking.

Brown said many of the students worked at three or four different jobs in an attempt to stay in school.

"Some washed dishes, some cut wood and all did their part to make the houses a success," the extension sociologist said.

He pointed out that hundreds

of the project house Aggies are top businessmen today.

"They are products of an era, when a great school opened its doors to the boy that wanted an education but whose monetary funds were low," Brown explained. "They were boys without much money but who would have fought if you had called them poor."



DISARMING THE ENEMY

A South Vietnamese paratrooper disarms a North Vietnamese soldier who emerged from bunker underneath smoldering ruins of a farmhouse on Thai Dong rubber plantation. (AP Wirephoto via radio from Saigon)

Aggie Army ROTC Student Receives Award At Camp

Raymond W. Jordan of New Boston received special recognition during graduation ceremonies at the U.S. Army Training Center, Infantry, ROTC Summer Camp at Fort Benning, Ga.

Jordan received a trophy for being selected the Outstanding Cadet of Company B, 9th Battalion, 2nd Brigade. To earn the award Jordan displayed high standards of leadership, marksmanship, map reading, land navigation, physical proficiency, and proficiency in other military subjects.

Completion of the six-week camp has qualified Jordan to enter the advance Army ROTC program at Texas A&M.

Unique in its concept of providing active-duty training in lieu of two years on-campus study, the basic ROTC camp differs in

many aspects from the normal basic training cycle.

Each cadet attending the camp is a volunteer, under no obligation to continue the entire six weeks; therefore, those completing the program are highly motivated young men. Covering basically the same course of instruction in two weeks less time, the cadets receive greater emphasis on tactics and leadership. Each cadet

at some time serves in a leadership position, be it squad leader or platoon leader. The graduation ceremonies are conducted entirely by the cadets.

Jordan is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond V. Jordan, 212 Wherry St., New Boston. He was graduated from New Boston High School in 1966 and was elected to Phi Eta Sigma freshman honorary society at Texas A&M.

D. T. Witt Named Phone Instructor

Darrell T. Witt of Bryan has been named an instructor in Texas A&M's telephone training program, Ed Kerlick, chief, electrical and telephone training section, Texas Engineering Extension Service, announces.

Witt, 32, assumed his new position last week in an area developed to keep telephone workers abreast of technological chan-

ges within the industry and to increase the technical competence of telephone technicians.

A veteran telephone technician, Witt served 14 years as a telephone and radio technician with the General Telephone Company in Bryan.

Witt lives with his wife, Martha, and their son, David, on Route 4, Bryan.

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A&M Receives \$24,895 Contract To Research 'Shells Revolution'

A \$24,895 Sandia Corporation contract to Texas A&M will continue support of work on non-linear dynamic and thermal analysis of shells revolution.

The awarding of the contract by the Albuquerque, N. M., firm was announced recently by Dr. James A. Strickland, professor of aerospace engineering.

The structural analysis program is directed by Dr. J. Edward Martinez, assistant professor of civil engineering, and Dr. Strickland.

Such analysis projects as the A&M program are used in the NASA space probe. Martinez

pointed out that he and Dr. Strickland are concerned with what happens when the Apollo space craft comes down (splash down).

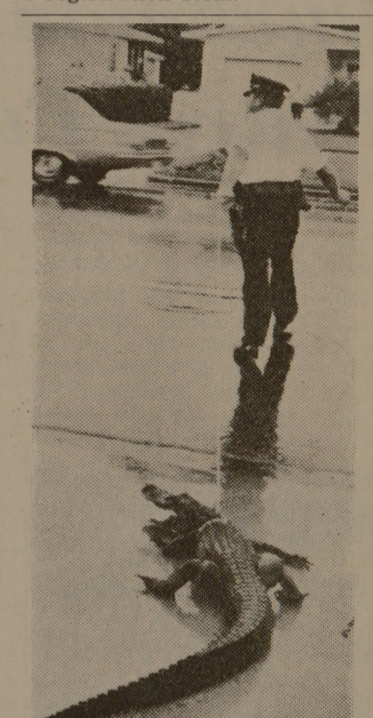
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SCIENTIFIC STUDY

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Scientists have begun a study of selected ethnic groups in South Africa as part of the five-year International Biological Program in which 40 countries are taking part. They will examine the various stages of the groups in transition from peasant rural life to urban industrial existence.



COP CAPTURES GATOR

St. Petersburg, Fla., police officer W. E. Trappman leads a five-foot alligator across the street by a leash after capturing the reptile by lassoing it on the porch of a resident near Lake Maggiore. The officer led the gator back to the lake and turned him loose. (AP Wirephoto)

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