

# Mobile Unit Makes ETV Colorful

Texas A&M has become one of the nation's leaders in educational television production with the purchase of a 33½-foot mobile unit.

Aggies can expect colorful use of the new truck—it has been converted for full-color telecast.

Mel Chastain, ETV director, said there are only four or five university-owned color mobile units in the United States.

"A&M is at or near the top of the list," Chastain reported.

The mobile unit was purchased from KTRK-TV in Houston. It was used as a black-and-white unit by Channel 13, but has been converted to color by A&M engineers headed by chief engineer

George Shearer. Chastain said the university has three color cameras and two black-and-white cameras. There was not enough space in the old 22-foot production van for all the color equipment, he explained.

The new unit has 29 by 8 feet of workable space, the ETV director noted.

The mobile unit will serve as the production center for both studio and remote tapings and broadcasts. All three color cameras can be used for live closed-circuit telecast or programs can be taped and broadcast at later dates.

"Our philosophy has been to purchase good quality control

equipment," Chastain said.

He explained that by using the van there is no need to duplicate the expensive control equipment for studio use.

A&M has over \$100,000 in production equipment in the mobile unit.

The unit will give A&M the capability of recording any type of activity on campus or in the community in full-color, Chastain pointed out.

A platform for one or more cameras is located on top of the van and there is motorized cable rewind in the unit, plus an eight-ton air conditioning system.

At the present time all telecasts are closed-circuit to six campus buildings. A&M has an

application with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare for federal funds to construct a transmitter tower and has an application on file with the Federal Communications Commission for broadcast on UHF Channel 15.

The FCC permit depends on the HEW grant, Chastain noted.

One important use of color for the university is in science courses, where visual aids are usually in the form of color slides or drawings.

Chastain, who has been at A&M since 1965, said they will have about 10 full-time employees and six student assistants by the fall semester—an increase of three full-time employees.



A&M'S COLOR IS MOBILE

Texas A&M's educational television staff and the 33½-foot mobile color unit are pictured in front of the A&M System Administration Building. The staff includes, left to right, Bill Freiberger of Bryan, engineer; Harvie Nachlinger of Cameron, student assistant; George S. Shearer Jr. of Bryan, chief engineer; Jack McCarty of Bryan, technician; Mel Chastain of Bryan, ETV director; George Sling of College Station, technician; and Norman Godwin of College Station, program director. A&M has an application for broadcast on UHF Channel 15 pending before the Federal Communications Commission.

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