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Wednesday, July 30, 1969

THE BATTALION

# **Flies His Way Through School**

Jimmie Savage is flying his search of "discreet gusts." way through graduate school at Texas A&M.

College Station, Texas

BATTALION CLA

The 24-year-old candidate for a master's degree in aerospace engineering is a pilot for a research project in which the unigrant from the Department of Defense.

About three times each week, ing machine at the Texas A&M Research Annex (formerly Bryan trainer and a C-45. Savage and Air Force Base) and takes off in associates are still "de-mothball-

Discreet gusts, explains the Sudan, Texas, native, provide

sharp encounters but nothing bordering on clear-air turbulence. Texas A&M officials hope, however, the research will lead to versity is studying subsonic flight a better understanding of the dynamics under a Project Themis clear-air turbulence phenomenon. None of the airplanes which Savage tools around will ever be mistaken for a corporate jet. The Savage climbs into a vintage fly- fleet includes a modified Grumman Ag-Cat, a Piper PA-18, T-34

through government surplus two months ago.

The planes have an average age of 16 years, but the 1968 Texas A&M graduate emphasizes they get the job done. Officially designated experimental aircraft, they are equipped with various sensing devices for a variety of air-borne tests. While he spends much time up

in the air, Savage has a down-toearth outlook about his work and future. Whereas most young men feel hypersonic aerodynamics is

ing" the C-45 after obtaining it "where the action is," Savage is content to devote his energies to subsonic problems.

"People tend to forget that planes have to go subsonic before they can go hypersonic-and they must again go subsonic to land,' he observes.

Savage's assistantship does not require that he fly. "It's just something I like to do," he points out. "and it's a means of contributing to the program."

He hopes to make aviation research a career, beginning with a two-year tour as an Army lieutenant after receiving his master's next spring.

Savage is not what you would call a seasoned pilot. In fact, he has only been flying slightly more than a year.

get in trouble if you didn't know what you were doing," he admits.



## CHARTING TEXAS A&M COURSE

"There's a few times you could Jimmie Savage (right), Texas A&M graduate student who serves as a pilot for the university's flight dynamic research program, makes final pre-flight check with John Kay, A&M's chief aircraft mechanic.

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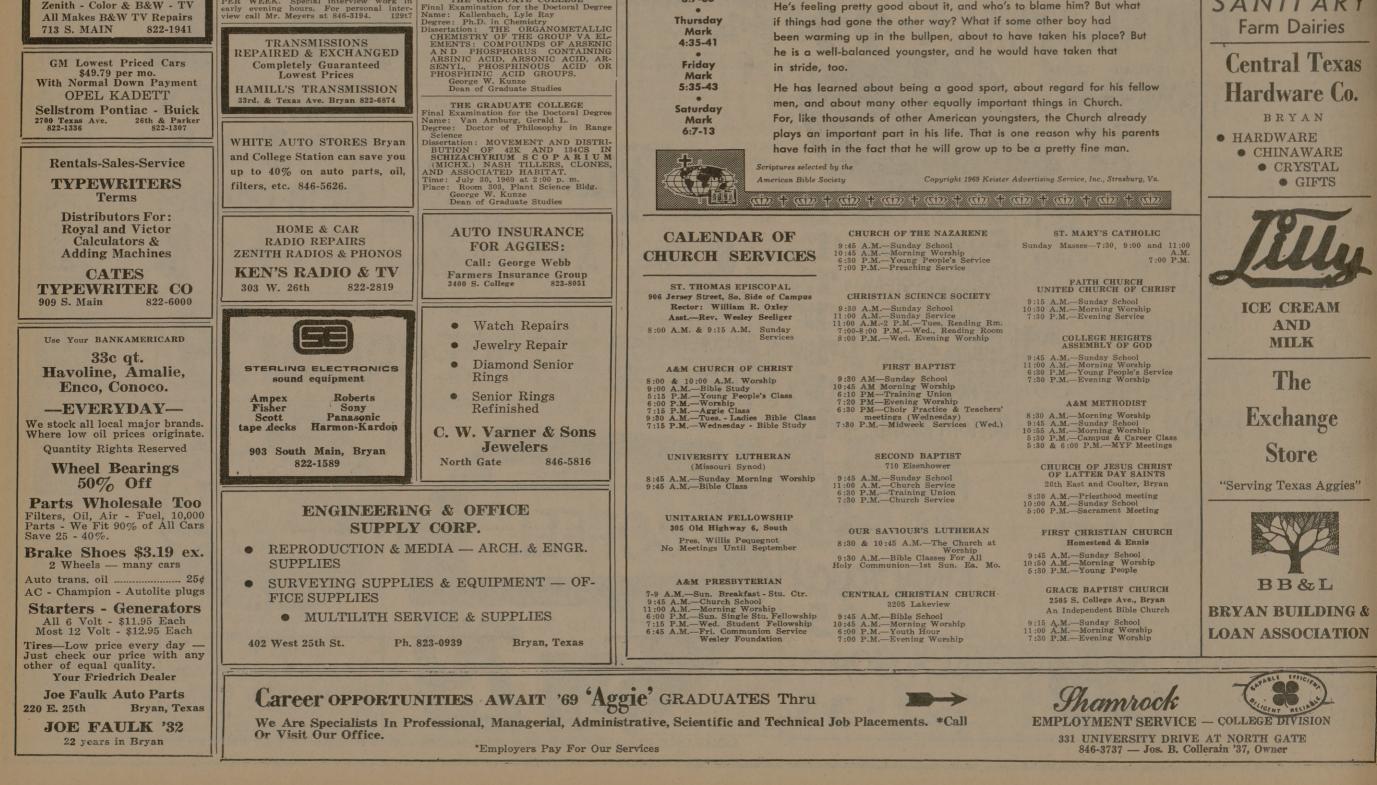
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