

Sousaphones Add Solidness to Band

Music by the Texas Aggie Band at the Saturday Texas A&M-SMU football game will sound more solid.

The band has added 16 new Sousaphones to its instrumentation the largest ever, announced Lt. Col. E. V. Adams. The dean of Southwest Conference band directors indicated the \$9,000 investment in new King instruments will definitely improve the 276-instrument Aggie Band's sound. Its appearance during the halftime performance also will be altered.

In regular formation, the band previously marched its basses on the last two ranks. With the section's size increase, a double wing of the big silver-belled horns will extend from the 23rd rank to the 15th, Adams said. "We previously had some good bass players who weren't being heard well," the colonel commented. "Valves on some of the old basses were so worn that air was blowing by them, cutting down on the sound produced by about a third."

He said 10 of the band's former Sousaphones have been retired. The best eight were retained for use with the 16 new silver-finished instruments, which

include two E-flat and 14 double-B-flat horns.

The old instruments have been in use since 1948, only three years less than Adams has directed the famed marching musical organization.

Precision of the band's half-time drills is accentuated by snappy movements of the basses on turns and flanking maneuvers. Members of the 1969-70 Aggie Band's bass section are Joe D. Anderson, Houston; Adrian A. Arrigo, Mission; Arthur E. Blackburn, Eagle Pass; Paul E. Bond, Garland; Billy E. Bourlon Jr., Farwell; Robert J. Boyd, La-Porte; John A. Brieden III, Corpus Christi; William W. Christopher, Marfa; Fred R. Close and Ronald C. Jetton, Abilene; Thomas A. Cox, San Antonio; Bruce W. Crooker, Freeport.

Also, Dale R. Dunlap, Waco; Francis S. Glick, Brazoria; Alan H. Gurevick, Valley Stream, N.Y.; Michael R. Hardin, Fort Stockton; George W. House, New Braunfels; John D. Lash Jr., Woodville; Henry J. Murray, Junction; Randy M. Saxton, Schertz; Michael R. Shannon, Vidor; George C. Siller Jr., Lamarque; Richard A. Smith, Odessa, and John B. Roach, Shamrock.

Players' 'Tobacco Road' Tells About Southern Sharecroppers

By Bob Robinson
Battalion Staff Writer
"Tobacco Road," the Aggie Players' second major production this year, is the story of a southern sharecropper family living in the back country of Georgia.

Jeeter Lester, his wife Ada, his mother, and his two children, the last of a brood of 17, live in a squalid shack just off the Tobacco Road, about 30 miles from Augusta. The land has long ago been exhausted by intensive and stupidly cultivated cotton planting to the point where it is no longer even able to supply food. The sole remaining asset of Jeeter's is an automobile that won't run.

Sister Bessie is a preacher woman who visits the Lesters occasionally to pray for Jeeter after he has stolen something, or sinned in some other way. She takes an interest in Dude, Jeeter's youngest son, and decides to marry him. She entices him by buying an automobile that will run.

Love married one of the Lester children, Pearl, but even though he's in love with her, she won't respond to him in any way. She not only won't cook for him or talk to him, but won't share his bed. He goes to Jeeter for help,

but before anything can be done, she runs away.

Ellie May is the one daughter who is still at home. She is infatuated with Lov and feels that she can satisfy him, but, partly because he's in love with Pearl, and partly because Ellie May has a split lip and is almost ugly, he won't have anything to do with her.

The running theme of the play is Jeeter's hopes that someone will give him credit so he can plant a crop on the worn-out land. When he hears that Captain Tim, the owner of the land, is in the area, his hopes run high that the captain will do what his father before him had done, and start giving him credit again.

His hopes crash when Captain Tim tells him that a banker named Payne now owns the land and plans to evict him.

The play is an adaptation by Jack Kirkland of Erskin Caldwell's famous book. It was a success on Broadway for an eight-year run in the 1930's. It is in the same Caldwell tradition of earthy depiction of life in the deep South.

"Tobacco Road" will be performed at 8 p.m. in Guion Hall December 9-13. Admission will be \$1.

Former Students to Convene

(Continued from page 1)
Fall meeting includes election of officers and the budget for 1970. Spring council meetings are held in conjunction with the club officer workshop and class agents' conference.

A&M President Earl Rudder will make his annual status of the university report to the council.


Jeff Montgomery of Houston, chairman of the association nominating committee, will report on

the 1970 nominations to the board and council. The council will vote on the nominations, with officers to take their positions on Jan. 1.

On KBTX Tonight

6:30 Glenn Campbell
7:30 Beverly Hillsbillies
8:00 ABC Wednesday Night
Movie "A Man & A Woman"
10:00 TX Final News
10:30 It Takes A Thief
11:30 Alfred Hitchcock

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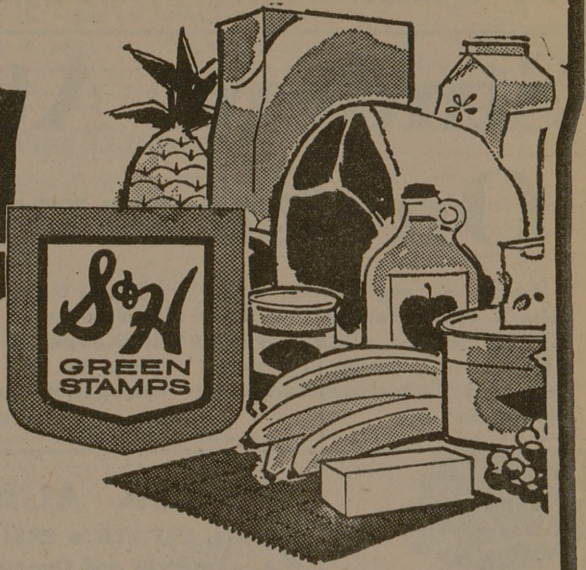


Admission

A&M Students Presentation of ID & Activity Card
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