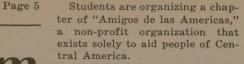
THE BATTALION

from

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New Amigos Program Organized Here to Aid Latin American People



"Amigos' major purpose is giving people of Central American countries inoculations, teach them hygiene and, now, civic development," explained Bob Pettit, senior political science major of Arlington.

The organization grew out of 1965 collaboration by the River Oaks Baptist Church of Houston and the American Medical Association. "Amigos" (males) and "Amigas" (females) have gone into Honduras and Guatemala during summers since then. The non - government organization

Colombia and Nicaragua. Work is supported primarily by

the AMA and private donations. who was in Guatemala the last The organization has national oftwo summers, noted the 1965 effices in Houston. fort was responsible for stopping

The local chapter for interested students and area citizens is being organized through the Memorial Studnt Center Travel Committee in cooperation with Pan American students, explained graduate student Frank Berngen of Chillicothe, an "Amigo" in Honduras. It has the backing of several faculty-staff members and is similar to "Operation Crossroads Africa" and "Experiment in International Living," he added. "'Amigos' is similar but requires less experience, time (a

plans to work next summer in three-week tour) and gets to the grass roots," Berngen said. Tris Roper, Houston freshman

a polio epidemic and in 1969

arrested other disease outbreaks.

very receptive to 'Amigos'," added

Tom Autrey, also a freshman

from Houston. "Honduras was

the only country accepting us the

first year. The word spread and

now more countries are opening

necessary but desirable.

Knowledge of Spanish is not

Applicants should contact Col.

G. E. Mayeaux in the Modern

up.'

"People of the countries are

Languages Department for further information. A three-part training program covering language, medicine and culture will start soon.

Backing the group are MSC Director Wayne Stark, Dr. and Mrs. Giselle Mahoney in the Chemistry Department; Claude Davis, Urban Planning Department; and Drs. Fred Maurer and Edgar McMurry, College of Veterinary Medicine.

"There's no tourism to the program," Berngen warned. "Participants will probably learn to ride mules. It will mature an individual, teach him patience and tolerance anr how to handle difficult situations."

