

The Battalion

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College Station, Texas

Wednesday, July 8, 1970

Warm,
cloudy,
humid
Thursday through Saturday —
Cloudy, widely scattered after-
noon thundershowers. High 98
degrees, low 76 degrees.

Telephone 845-2226

A&M's early history detailed by publication

The university's earliest history is detailed by University Archivist Ernest Langford in "Getting the College Under Way," a 65-page treatise issued recently as the University Library's second miscellaneous publication.

"It is hoped this informal but informative document will lead to a fuller understanding and appreciation of the early history of Texas A&M," Library Director John B. Smith said.

Appointment of commissioners, acquisition of lands and construction of buildings are covered in the report, which brings together findings of several years of Langford's research. The university's actual beginning date is corrected to June 21, 1871, through data furnished in the report.

The 1871 date is a year earlier than is commonly cited in references to the university's founding. Langford lists state and county records supporting the 1871 date.

"Getting the College Under Way" outlines events between April 17, 1871, the date when the Texas Legislature approved an act to provide for the establishment of Texas A&M, and Oct. 4, 1876, when the College was formally opened for the reception of students," Langford said.

Old Main Building, which burned in 1912, is shown in the new library bulletin as being the first structure on the campus, an honor sometimes ascribed to Gathright Hall.

'Texas Clipper' draws visitors during cruise

The "Texas Clipper," Texas Maritime Academy training ship carrying 180 students on a European cruise, attracted so many visitors at its first port of call that police had to assist in directing traffic. More than 5,000 persons in Cork, Ireland, toured the ship during a single day, Capt. Alfred Philbrick, TMA executive officer and skipper of the "Clipper," reported to Adm. James D. Craik, TMA superintendent.

Captain Philbrick said the annual training cruise was "going well" in all regards.

In LaHavre, France, 50 TMA cadets exchanged places for a day with 50 cadets at the French Maritime Academy. The two academies played rugby, with the Texans winning, 28-4.

Graduate students dive for treasure

Oceanography graduate students will dive for sunken Spanish treasure in the Gulf of Mexico during the next month.

Involved in the SCUBA diving work are William W. Schroeder of San Diego, Calif.; G. S. Edwards of Houston and Schroeder's wife Phyllis. Schroeder and Edwards are working on doctorates in oceanography. All three are veteran divers.

The project involving scientists of Southern Methodist University, A&M and Texas Tech is conducted through the Institute for Underwater Research Inc., a newly-formed agency licensed by the Texas Antiquities Committee for geophysical and SCUBA surveys of the suspected location where a Spanish treasure fleet sank more than 400 years ago.

Recovered artifacts will be turned over to the committee, but the project's primary purpose will be to mark located wreckage to prevent plundering and illegal recovery.

Schroeder, who instructs SCUBA diving, recently returned from a research project with Dr. Thomas J. Bright in the Virgin Islands. They remained under-



Shrimp nets in the sunset—A shrimp fisherman is silhouetted in the Gulf sun after hanging his nets up to dry on his boat at Grand Isle, La. The annual shrimp season is underway in Louisiana. (AP Wirephoto)

Ph. D. candidates gain language alternative

Doctoral candidates gained a fourth alternative this summer in the foreign language requirement for the Ph.D.

Czech was added to the Modern Language Department's offerings in scientific French, German and Russian.

The first course, Introduction to Scientific Czech, enrolled 11 Ph.D. candidates for the current summer session, according to Dr. Jack A. Dabbs, department head. Reading in Scientific Czech will

follow during the second summer session. Dabbs and Dr. John M. Skrivanek believe the intensive Czech courses are the first such offered in a U. S. university. They occurred that enrollment was higher than expected.

"We feel these courses are quite a step forward," commented Skrivanek, specialist in Czech and Russian languages who teaches the course. "Because of the nation's centralized location and literacy, it is in the mainstream of European thought. Czech scientists have produced large quantities of publications. For these reasons, we believe that a doctoral student should not be restricted only to French, German or Russian, though they are extremely important scientifically."

He noted that exceptional research materials in biology, astronomy, optics and education, among others, are available in Czech literature. Most of the 11 currently enrolled students are in education. Skrivanek pointed out that John A. Ckromensky of Czechoslovakia is known as the prophet of modern education and father of modern educational methods. He suggested educational visual aids 300 years ago.

Structured along lines of French, German and Russian courses, the intensive Czech program introduces the student in the first course to reading scientific material. Emphasis is placed on the language's characteristics, acquiring a technical vocabulary and translation.

Students read and translate selected texts relating to various sciences in the second three-hour course, a continuation of the first.

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Scientist says nature fixable

A&M is no newcomer in ecology.

"Ecology and other environmental problems have been matters of concern at Texas A&M long before they became fashionable," observes Dr. Jimmie D. Dodd. "We're delighted the public is becoming more aware."

Dodd, a range science professor, is one of the university's more active and optimistic ecologists. He scoffs at the idea it's too late to do anything about saving the environment—a theory being preached in some circles around the nation.

"If you can wreck it, you can fix it back up," Dr. Dodd reasons.

He also is concerned, however, about the long-term effects of man's manipulations of the natural ecological system.

Of necessity, he points out, agriculture, industry and commerce upset the balance of nature.

"With knowledge, natural laws can be utilized to the benefit of man on a long-term basis," Dr. Dodd explains. "However, complete disregard for natural laws can result in major undesirable short and long-term changes—and waste of great proportions."

"If we want to maintain or increase our present standard of living," he continues, we must have the maximum amount of production with the minimum amount of damage to the environment.

Herbicides represent one area in which Dodd thinks more thought should be given to long-range effects. But he's not one who thinks herbicides, or other scientific and technological advances, should be thrown out.

"If you throw out herbicides, you go back to 1940 agriculture—and we can't afford that," Dr. Dodd contends, noting such aspects as the cost of labor.

"If we throw out 30 years of technology, will society accept the standard of living of 30 years ago?" the scientist asks. He doesn't think so.

One of Dodd's research projects could provide a breakthrough in the key problem with herbicides: mineral recycling.

For the past five years, he has been studying the effects of nuclear fallout-type radioactive materials in soil and plants. He is attempting to find a way to keep the radioactive material in the soil and not recycle into the plant.

So far, he has discovered the material doesn't recycle in fertile clay soil but does in sandy loam.

Knowledge gained in the study of radioactive materials could have application to recycling problems in herbicides.

Another of Dodd's projects explores the pros and cons of burning off some of the woody plant growth to allow grass and other plants to grow more readily.

The burning creates an air-pollution problem, but it has been ascertained that under certain climatic conditions such fires cause little damaging atmospheric

pollution. Dodd hopes the guidelines will be adopted statewide.

Texas A&M, Dr. Dodd notes, is one of the nation's leading institutions for ecological studies.

In addition to having the people with the interest and ability to do the work, he points out the institution has a unique situation in that within its own state it can study everything from the ocean to the desert.

Dr. Dodd points out A&M has research programs dealing with both air and water pollution, as well as studies which could help solve the problem of solid wastes.

The university also has well established programs to develop and protect marine resources and possibly perfect techniques for economical desalting of sea water for agricultural and related purposes.

Employees due to finish forms

University employees are urged to complete forms for the revised group insurance enrollment by Friday, July 17.

Insurance and Safety Director John W. Hill stressed that although the effective date of the new insurance is Sept. 1, the large volume of applications cannot be processed unless all are received "no later than July 17."

Hill said final information and enrollment meetings are scheduled in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom at 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 14, and 9 a.m. Wednesday, July 15.

"All persons who are regular employees of the Texas A&M University System and budgeted by name on a full-time basis are eligible for this coverage," Hill pointed out.

Each eligible employee is required to either enroll or sign a waiver for each of the five types of insurance, he said.

The insurance coverage includes

a required life insurance policy, an optional life insurance policy, hospitalization, accidental death and dismemberment and a long-term disability policy.

"All employees are required by state law, and supplemented by Board of Directors action, to carry the required life insurance," Hill reports. "The required life insurance is up to \$5,000, based on the individual employee's salary. All employees are required to complete enrollment forms on the required life insurance," Hill declared.

The individual employee has the option of accepting or rejecting the other insurance, either all or part, but must indicate the desire on the application form.

Each department or comparable administrative unit within the system has a representative appointed to assist personnel who have not yet enrolled or signed a waiver for each type of insurance, Hill added.

Departmental study seeks buoy benefits

The Oceanography and Meteorology Departments will conduct the technical aspects for a Gulf of Mexico pilot study which could lead to a worldwide network of data buoys.

The research will be performed under a \$20,000 grant from Gulf Universities Research Corp. through a contract awarded by the Coast Guard for its National Data Buoy Development Project.

GURC is a non-profit organization which includes 17 universities in the five Gulf states. A&M is a charter member.

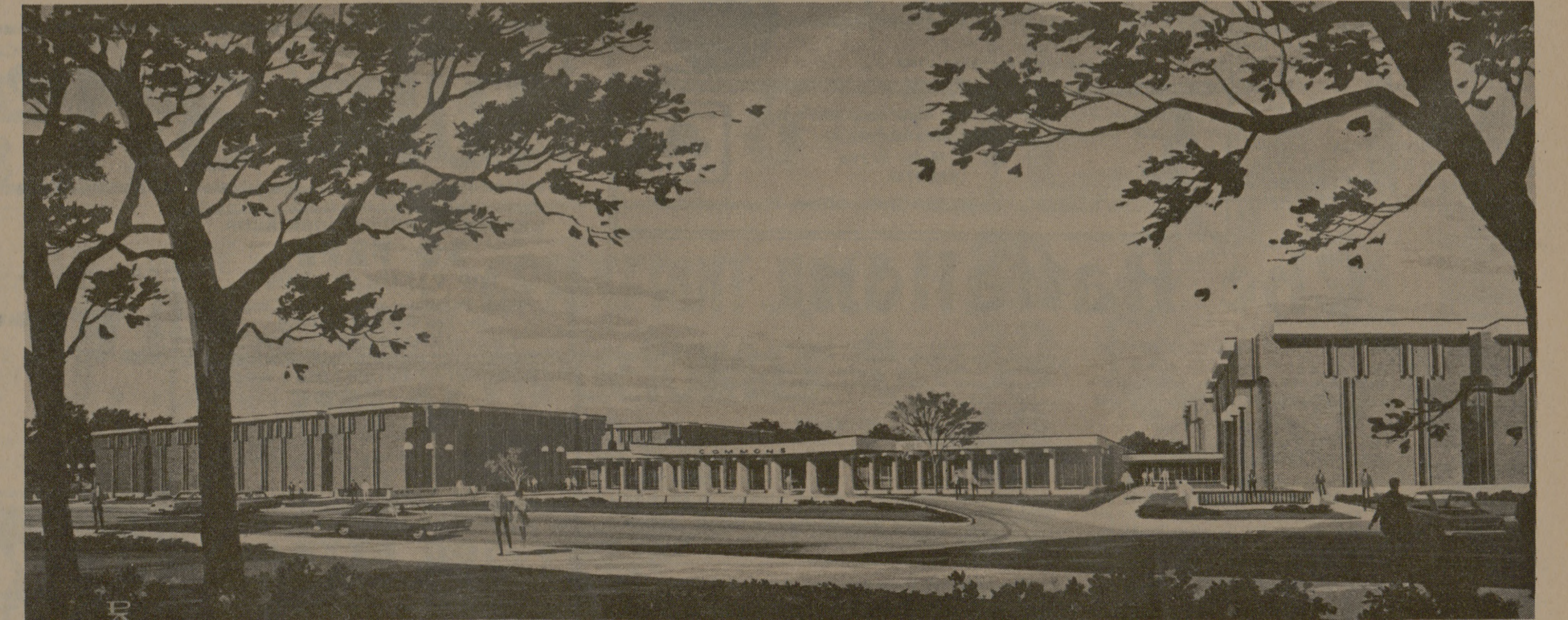
Dr. Vance Moyer, head of the Meteorology Department, explained the overall Gulf pilot study will seek to determine the economic benefits from a comprehensive grid of buoys equipped with various types of oceanographic and meteorological instruments, as well as navigational devices.

The meteorologist estimated the economic benefits derived from improved weather forecasting for the eastern two-thirds of the United States could have a \$1 billion impact annually.

Dr. Moyer and Dr. Richard A. Geyer, head of the university's Oceanography Department, will be assistant project managers for the study's technical team. Technical manager will be Thomas E. Hawkins of San Antonio-based Southwest Research Institute, an associate GURC member.

In addition to the technical aspects, the Gulf of Mexico study will include economic and managerial consideration. The economic study will be headed by a Tulane University professor, while GURC staff members will handle the managerial function.

University National Bank
"On the side of Texas A&M."
—Adv.



New dormitory—Approximately 1,000 students will be housed initially in the new low-density dormitory complex, shown here in artist's conception. A \$7,197,000 contract for the project has been awarded to Houston-based

Manhattan Construction Company of Texas. The center commons area is designed to accommodate an additional two wings, allowing future expansion to double capacity.

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