

Connally, Barnes tried to cut Smith out of politics, PR man says

AUSTIN (AP)—Ben Barnes and close friends of John Connally tried for months to cut Preston Smith out of politics completely, says a former paid campaigner for Smith.

Jerry Conn, an Austin public relations man, wrote in an academic paper recently that Smith, as lieutenant governor, "simply was not on the Connally team. He did not want to be on the team and they did not want him."

During the latter part of Connally's final term as governor, "his young protege, Ben Barnes, who had become speaker of the House, combined with Connally forces to try completely to cut Preston Smith out of politics," Conn said.

Conn said Harold Dudley, a former aide to Smith, "recalls that in the latter Connally years it was quite lonely around the Capitol for Preston Smith and his supporters and staff. Few of them were around the Capitol and there were so many Connally and Barnes people.

"Dudley was paid by Smith out of his own pocket. Smith's official lieutenant governor's staff included only four full-time secretaries and one student who came in to clip newspapers. There were no official paid staff members in the lieutenant governor's office when Smith went out in January 1969."

Conn was director of public relations for Smith during his successful 1968 race for governor and was in charge of advertising when Smith was re-elected in 1970.

He recently completed a thesis on Smith's 1968 race for a master's degree from the University

of Texas. Conn, 33, said for those helping Smith to escape Connally's shadow, "It never ceased to be amazing at how the shadow seemed to grow longer and longer.

"This was especially manifested through the press. It seemed that Lt. Gov. Smith could only get moderate press coverage out of a full statewide tour, and yet Gov. Connally seemed to be able to generate enthusiastic response

throughout the press corps by anything he did."

Conn quoted another Smith aide, Otice Green, as saying this was because Smith's "dull and colorless image" was contrasted to Connally.

"How did Connally obtain that colorful reputation?" Green asked. "Was it by the way he spoke, the way he looked? The reason he's colorful is because of what happened to him in Dallas in his

career."

Connally was seriously wounded Nov. 22, 1963, as he rode in a Dallas motorcade with President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated.

"It didn't seem that he (Connally) ran away with his elections anytime before that," Green said.

Conn said Smith "went along but he seemed generally to expect the worst." Conn said his reporter friends asked him, "What are

you doing working for that old fuddy-duddy? He's not going anywhere."

Conn said Smith's "difficulties with the press seem to come from a maverick or obstinate streak in him, plus being put on the spot by reporters who, he felt, were not as knowledgeable and responsible as he."

Conn said it "particularly bothered Smith" in 1967 that after Smith had been in state govern-

ment for 18 years a Houston poll showed Barnes was known by more people than Smith.

Dudley even thought Smith might hire a New York or California firm to try to change Smith's image "from an old bald-headed politician to something with more color and glamour."

But, Dudley said, "I had been studying him for an extended period of time and felt that it couldn't have been done and that

it would have been extremely expensive to try. In the final analysis, and in the long run, I had the best image there was under the circumstances because I felt the people wanted a steady hand on the wheel, a conservative . . ."

Basically, Conn said "he should hold his opponents to a standard in the largest counties and pile up a victory lead in the medium and smaller counties

Schultz to be first full-time A&M archivist

A&M's first full-time archivist, Dr. Charles R. Schultz, assumes duties in the university library Oct. 1.

Archives has been handled in the past on a part-time basis by retired faculty members. Ernest Langford, professor emeritus of architecture and College Station's first mayor, has been archivist since 1957.

He will continue through October to assist Dr. Schultz.

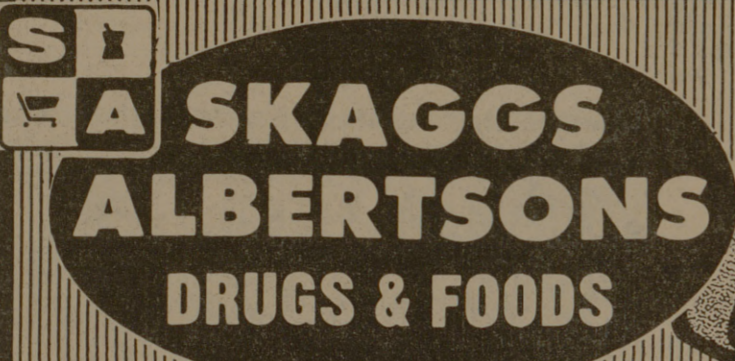
A&M archives are part of the library program and housed on the third floor of the university library.

Schultz' appointment with faculty rank as assistant professor was announced by Libraries Director John B. Smith. The new archivist has eight years with the Marine Historical Association program at Mystic, Conn.

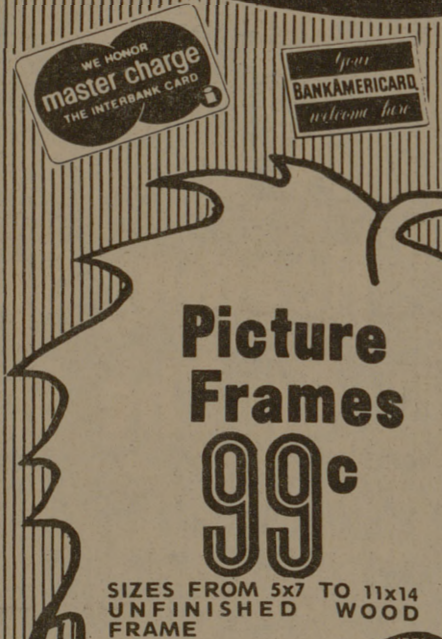
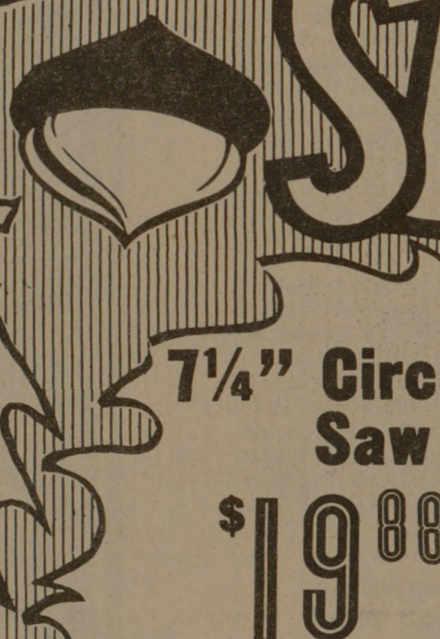





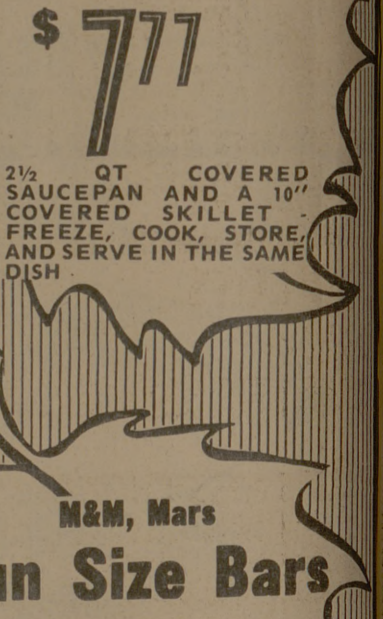
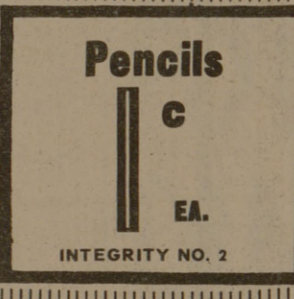


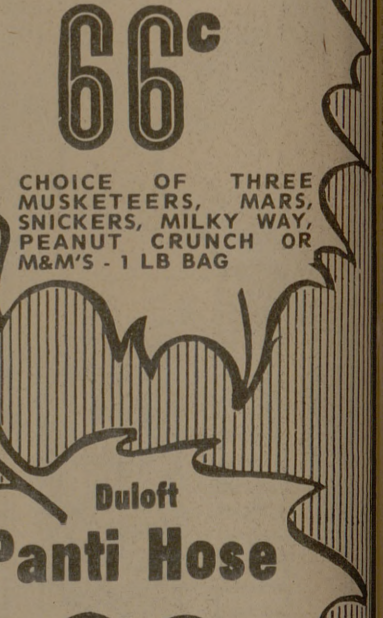
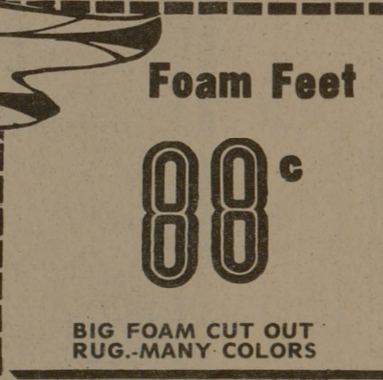






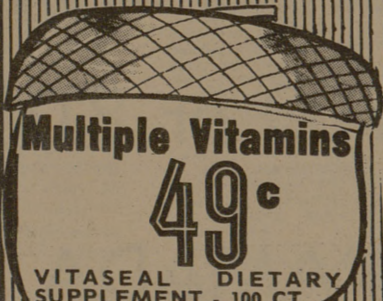



Appointment of an experienced, full-time archivist to the position will allow the start of a comprehensive program of archival development," Smith said.

He noted much has been done through dedicated service of retired faculty such as Langford, but the university requires a more comprehensive archival program.

Smith said archives now incorporates various materials on A&M. Personal papers, manuscripts and oral (tape-recorded) history will be actively solicited through the expanded program.



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