



"Next week it's one cartoon a day, so today we're doing nothing!"

## Library employe retires after 30 years of service

The A&M Library's senior faculty-staff member, Mrs. Ethyl Cowan, retires this summer after 30 years of service.

Mrs. Cowan was honored by librarian personnel Thursday. The junior librarian received a silver serving tray and dish, inscribed to recognize her service from 1942 to 1972.

"When I first started working in the library as a student in 1956, Mrs. Cowan was a respected member of the library faculty," observed TAMU Libraries Director John B. Smith. "And she still is."

### Bulletin Board

**Tonight**  
Sports Car Club meets at 7:30 in the old College Station City Hall to discuss the Sept. 9-10 sports car weekend and the Memorial Student Center orientation booth.

**Saturday**  
MSC Open House will be held 6:15-10:15. Booths on clubs and major student activities will be set up and tours of the building will be given.

**Tuesday**  
A&M Wheelmen will form committees for the fall at 7:30 in the Art Room on the third floor of the MSC.

Mrs. Cowan's daughter, Mrs. Doris Ramsey of Wheelock, also works at the TAMU library in the serials department.

"She has been here almost 20 years," Mrs. Cowan proudly stated.

The retiring librarian has supervised sending library materials for binding during her entire career. "All of the bound magazines, periodicals and newspapers in our collection and most of the rebound books have gone through her hands," Smith remarked. Mrs. Cowan prepares materials for shipment to the Universal Bindery in San Antonio, keeps records and processes in bound volumes for shelving upon their return.

"It requires about two months," she said. When Mrs. Cowan began working at the library, she was one of 15 to 20 library staff members and holdings totalled less than 100,000. The staff today exceeds 150 and holdings number almost 700,000.

A member of the Trinity Baptist Church, Mrs. Cowan said her retirement will be devoted initially to her flowers and home at 209 N. McCulloch, followed by travel.

Oceanographers at A&M have pinpointed a major source of natural hydrocarbon pollution in the Gulf of Mexico.

The find indicates natural gas seepage from more than a dozen areas, some up to 100 miles apart, may contribute to pollution of Gulf Coast beaches, reported Dr. William E. Sweet Jr., TAMU research oceanographer.

Dr. Sweet said he found and photographed the natural seeps last week in approximately 120 feet of water on the continental shelf south of Cameron, La.

He reported finding at least 12 different gas seeps, and speculated there are two to three times that number. He also expects to find natural seepage of oil tars.

"The rate of bubbling is high and continuous," Dr. Sweet disclosed, indicating "significant" subsurface accumulations and a major hydrocarbon source in the gulf.

He has video tape recordings of the bubbles and photographs of bubbles coming to the surface.

The project coordinator said the seepage "apparently doesn't harm fish, as we have pictures of them swimming through bubbles."

Research into the gulf natural hydrocarbons is sponsored by TAMU's Sea Grant Program and 11 oil companies.

Dr. Sweet pointed out offshore oil rigs have been blamed for much of the gulf water and beach pollution. His findings show the

natural seepage is a major pollution source.

Dr. Sweet has insisted for years that most lumps of tar found floating in the northwest portion of the gulf are not refined products, but naturally occurring hydrocarbons seeping from faults.

Faults, he explained, are cracks in the bottom sediment caused by rising salt. The cracks allow the lighter-than-water hydrocarbons to migrate to the surface from natural pools below floor sediments.

Lumps of tar have been found

in sediments at many gulf sites.

Dr. Sweet said the research effort is to locate the source of the seeps, determine the nature and amount of seepage and the chemical composition of the escaping material.

Dr. Richard A. Geyer, Oceanography Department head and project director, said the 11 oil companies supporting the second-year operations are Atlantic Richfield, Chevron, Cities Service, Conoco, Gulf, Humble, Marathon, Mobil, Phillips, Sun and Tenneco.

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## Parsons to speak at PMS meeting

Col. Thomas R. Parsons, A&M commandant of cadets, will make presentations this month at a Department of the Army conference for new professors of military science.

He will be at the Washington, D. C. conference Aug. 28-31 on Continental Army Command (CONARC) invitation. Col. Parsons' talks will be on recruiting and professional development of officers for ROTC instruction.

Professor of military science at TAMU, he heads the Army ROTC detachment here and is the ranking Army officer on the campus.

FOR BEST RESULTS TRY BATTALION CLASSIFIED

# The Battalion

Opinions expressed in *The Battalion* are those of the student writers only. *The Battalion* is a non-tax-supported, non-profit, self-supporting educational enterprise edited and operated by students at a university and community newspaper.

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Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, *The Battalion*, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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