

Nostalgic Movie On Wartime A&M Tops At Grove

A reminder of the days when a trip from A&M to Bryan was a trip exists at the University.

It happens every evening when Rich McHenry unlocks the gates at the Grove.

As the stars come out, movies flash onto the Grove screen like they formerly did at Guion Hall.

McHenry, a 23-year-old accounting major, has managed the Grove four years. Except for weather variations, he says, the "movies under the stars" are as popular as they ever were.

The movies are free to ID-carrying students. Others are admitted at very moderate cost for the second-run films.

Quite a few people missed them the first time around, according to Grove attendance.

"For the last three years we averaged 230 a night," commented McHenry. "This year it's about 180, mainly because of the weather. About 75 per cent are from on-campus."

The Grove movie was rained out only once this summer. The threat of rain held crowds down other nights. McHenry still expects 16,000, for 78,000 in four years.

What brings them out? Pictures like "Bonnie and Clyde," "Green Berets," "Kelly's Heroes"

and "Fail Safe," according to Rich, a senior from Vienna, Va.

"The best attendance is for 'tiger flicks,' you know, war movies," the student manager said. "Where Eagles Dare," "Guns of Navarone" and "Kelly's Heroes" were cited as examples.

The record of 1,500 was for "We've Never Been Licked" in a summer showing three years ago. A movie made at A&M about

A&M, it regularly draws better than average crowds.

"We've Never Been Licked" shows again Aug. 1, in a double feature with "The Wolfman."

McHenry believes the day will come when "We've Never Been Licked" will no longer show.

"We're super careful with the two copies Mr. (Hal) Gaines keeps in the vault, but they can't last forever," he explained. The

two prints were made 10 years ago from a negative held by a Houston firm. Shortly afterward a fire in their vaults destroyed the negative.

"There may be other negatives," McHenry said, "but we don't know where."

Projector gates scratch the film, preventing making good copies from those now owned by the Association of Former Stu-

dents.

McHenry runs the Grove with the help of a five-person crew. There are three projectionists, including Rich, to look after the vintage 16mm projectors. They are war surplus and kept running by careful attentions of Al Thielman, MSC maintenance specialist in electronics, and McHenry.

Grove concessions are the responsibility of the other three

crewmen.

Rich also works lights on the Town Hall crew, in the Rotary Series stage crew and is a member of the Travel Committee. It shows "We've Never Been Licked" during the regular school year to assist its Overseas Travel Loan Fund.

This summer, McHenry has also helped with MSC dances and made advance arrangements for

a charter bus trip to the Rouge and New Orleans for Sept. 22 A&M-LSU football game.

McHenry has a barometer at the Grove.

"A nuclear engineering named Bill is our most content customer," he described. "When he's not, we wonder what's wrong with the movie."

OPAS Ticket Deadline Nears

Wednesday, Aug. 1, is the deadline for buying option season tickets to the Opera and Performing Arts Society's debut season.

OPAS will present Opera Star Norman Treigle in "The Marriage of Figaro," Pianist Van Cliburn, The National Ballet of Washington and Violinist Itzhak Perlman, among other nationally prominent artists.

"Option tickets are selling exceptionally well," noted OPAS executive director Wayne Stark.

Option season tickets are available to OPAS members at the Student Program Office in the Memorial Student Center. For information, call 845-4671.

OPAS membership can still be obtained before the option-ticket deadline, which assures choice seats in the new 2,500-seat auditorium in A&M's University Center.

Memberships will still be available after Aug. 1, but season tickets go on sale to the general public the next day.

OPAS opens Dec. 5 with the Perlman concert.

Dollar Named Committee Head

Fred Dollar, food services director at A&M, has been elected to the Texas Restaurant Association's executive committee.

Dollar also was named chairman of the legislative committee at the July meeting of TRA's Officers and Advisory Council at Austin.

He currently chairs the legal and legislative committee of the National Association of College and University Food Service.

A&M's Food Services Department encompasses the three main campus dining halls and snack bars at the golf shop, in the Memorial Student Center addition and Krueger-Dunn Hall. The University Tower restaurant, cafeteria at the Research Annex and other facilities are under Food Services Department supervision.

Bulletin Board

WEDNESDAY

Young Republicans will meet at 7 p.m. in Room 104-C of the Zachry Engineering Center to discuss plans to go to Austin to participate in Maurice Angly's State Senate campaign. Members are reminded that a letter to the President will be drafted, voter registration for the fall will be discussed and the Nixon stickers are in.

THURSDAY

Radio Committee will meet at 7:30 in Room 202 of the Physics Building.

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