

A&M Runs Deep In Alsmeyer Family

Henry L. Alsmeyer Sr. started something in 1923 when his degree in agricultural engineering was awarded at A&M.

His son and grandson are following in his footsteps.

David Alsmeyer completed work for his B.S. in mathematics in July. He was among the first summer commencement graduates Friday night. He is now a graduate student and teaches algebra as a graduate assistant in the Math Department.

His father has worked at A&M nine years. But Henry Jr.'s first degree from A&M, and his fourth, won't come until December.

The University Library's as-

stant director for technical services is a Ph.D. candidate in English.

So the university's next two commencements will be of special interest to Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Alsmeyer Sr., 600 Woodson Dr. "It will feel mighty good," commented Bryan and College Station's Outstanding Senior Citizen of 1972. "It'll be wonderful . . . the best feeling I know of." He had another son, Ray, graduate here in 1952.

He agreed that his namesake's delay is "better late than never."

Henry Jr. earned his bachelor degree in journalism at Texas in 1948. The master's in English at

Texas A&I in 1958 was followed by an M.S. in library science at LSU in 1966, the year he joined the library faculty.

The library official worked earlier at A&M in the University Information Office.

David also beat his father starting studies for his first A&M degree, four years ago. It included a year of study and credit from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Though a friend, Jan Wight, of that visit is presently a guest here, he's anxious to return to Scotland. He figures he has about a year of work remaining to complete his master's in math.

"Since we lived here, A&M was the logical place for me to study," the lanky—like his grandfather and father—student stated matter-of-factly. "I never really considered any place else."

David admitted he might have been slightly indoctrinated.

"As a youngster, I had a 'T' short with 'I'm A Little Texas Aggie' across the front given to me by Grandfather," he smiled.

"It's all due to the elder Alsmeyer's perseverance and accepting a timely challenge, qualities that endear him to local organizations. He's a key worker in the Brazos County Civil Defense, among others.

Henry Sr. came to Texas from Wisconsin in 1912. He joined the Army before finishing high school at Mission. After the war

including an overseas stint with the American Expeditionary Forces, he followed a younger brother, Louis, Class of '21, to A&M by enrolling in an automotive institute, for lack of the high school diploma.

Alsmeyer's abilities led his instructors to suggest he become a regular student. He did it in "Distinguished Student" fashion. He taught vocational agriculture in the Rio Grande Valley and became Cameron County agent in 1925 succeeding his brother.

Alsmeyer retired in 1952 and went overseas as agricultural advisor in the Point Four Program. Then he "retired" again to move back to Bryan.

A&M runs deep in the Alsmeyer family.

Batt Record Review

LP's From Old Friends

By TED BORISKIE

In a flood of late summer releases, we find entries by three old standbys who have long since established themselves a leader in popular music. Being so established, these albums are released not to prove anything but rather to offer the listener a view of the extension of the artists' work.

America's favorite bad boy, Sly, is back with his Family Stone in an album that is his most realized to date. Sly's previous albums had been inconsistent at best and his most stable entry was the collection of greatest hits that mercifully could avoid the low points that had plagued his standard releases.

"Fresh," the name of his latest effort, is just that; fresh and alive as nothing he has done before.

In '70 and '71 we had to rely on the greatest hits album and a few reissues of early material for any taste of Mr. Stone as he went into a creative depression that almost signalled the end for his highly energized brand of music. He became notorious for not showing up at concerts which strained the loyalty of his fans.

After the two-year layoff, he slipped back into the scene with the mildly disappointing "There's A Riot Goin' On." On "Riot" we got a more personal glimpse of Sly on a work that was incredibly laid back for him.

On "Fresh" Sly is giving us his personal visions with all the funk, drive and rock and soul spirit that made the early works such a joy. He is not just inviting us to "Dance to the Music" or "Sing a Simple Song" as he did years ago but is now defending the "Skin I'm In" and looking at "Babies Makin' Babies."

The album flows along so well

that no cut really stands out, but "In Time" and "If You Want Me To Stay" features some dynamic bass lines and horns which are out of this world. On "Que Sera Sera" Sly succeeds where numerous others, particularly a certain Mr. Cocker, have failed and gives an old standard (a Doris Day song, no less) a fantastically new approach.

Sly's music comes from a myriad of influences, rock, soul, rhythm and blues, jazz, voodoo, and countless others. However, Sly can't be pinned down in any of these categories but instead carries a bit of them all into his songs. Out of this comes a style that is strictly his own and so unique to be immediately recognizable.

"Fresh" is Sly and the Family Stone at their very best which leaves little else to say.

All Van Morrison fans should have guessed that an album like "Hard Nose the Highway" was coming. This is an almost pure jazz LP which is not a major departure for the Belfast Cowboy with his lightly jazzy "Astral Weeks" and "Moondance" already behind him but it is a departure nonetheless.

All in all, he handles himself quite nicely; in fact, this could be one of the top jazz albums of the year.

Just recently he said he was not a rock 'n' roll singer and this album proves it. There is not a hint of rock on either side.

Van Morrison has always been one of the top singers around but his albums have required intensive listening to realize the full beauty of his voice and his totally unique phrasings. "Hard Nose" will probably require even more intense study to comprehend.

This is one of Morrison's more beautiful albums, one which finds him relaxed and untroubled, sur-

prising in that it was recorded in the midst of a divorce from his wife, Janet Planet, whose influence was extremely evident on his last four releases.

No one really knows if the Irishman plans to continue in this vein as he claimed this album was "all in the past" even before its release. Judging from his history of numerous changes in style, one can only suppose that he is telling the truth and this, like all the others, is only a temporary phase.

Van Morrison has never made a bad album and this is no exception. The several listenings required to grasp the total effect of this album will be time well spent.

The Grateful Dead have released yet another live album, "The History of the Grateful Dead (Bear's Choice)". This should undoubtedly make them the "livest" of all groups.

This one is something special, however. It is designed as a tribute to one of the finest drunks around, Ron "Pig Pen" McKernan.

Massive cirrosis finally killed Pig Pen earlier this year, eliminating one of the stronger forces of the early Grateful Dead. Pig Pen's role had been played down in recent years, partially due to continued illness, but he had more influence over the rest of the group than did anyone else.

"Bear's Choice" is a typically good live set from the Dead recorded in 1970. Pig Pen sings "Katie Mae," "Smokestack Lightning" and "Hard To Handle" which painfully show us how much he will be missed.

This is one of the best tribute albums ever released, mainly because it doesn't sound like a tribute album. It sounds like a Grateful Dead concert with Pig Pen as just one of the boys, which is fine because that's all he ever was.

July's Rainfall Back To Normal

July rainfall resumed a more normal rate in Bryan and College Station, falling almost six inches below the 7.83-inch average for June.

Thirty-one weather observers in an A&M meteorology research network averaged 1.90 inches for the month, making it the driest of 1973.

Both July precipitation and temperatures were below normal, noted Dr. Dennis Driscoll of A&M's Meteorology Department. Average for July is 2.6 inches and 83.6 degrees. Easterwood Airport recorded an 83.0 degree mean for the month.

A similar weather pattern is expected for the next 30 days. The National Weather Service outlook for mid-August to mid-September includes below normal temperatures of 81.2 degrees and near normal rainfall of 2.6 inches.

July precipitation distribution favored the area bounded by State Hwy. 6, Villa Maria Road and East 29th Street. Observers in the tract recorded from 2.29 to 2.58 inches, about a half inch more than the rest of the Carters Creek catchment area.

Steep Hollow came up with the low total for July, with 1.18 inches. A few isolated two-inch readings were taken at Kurten,

south of Texas Hwy. 30 and near Old College Road.

Most of the month's rainfall was recorded on July 5, 7 and 26. Most stations recorded rain on four to six days. The Flight Service Station at Easterwood had 12 rain days; the Meteorology Department weather station, 13, for 2.29 inches.

Rainfall tabulations for the twin cities this year have gone over the monthly norm four times, with February, April and July falling short.

'El Chico' Restaurant To Open Here

John Culpepper announced plans for construction of an El Chico Restaurant in the Manor East Shopping Center.

Construction date will be announced later.

The El Chico Corporation has surpassed \$24 million in total sales and encompasses 70 restaurants, a commissary, a trucking fleet and a warehouse chain.

This will be the first El Chico restaurant to open in the Bryan-College Station area.

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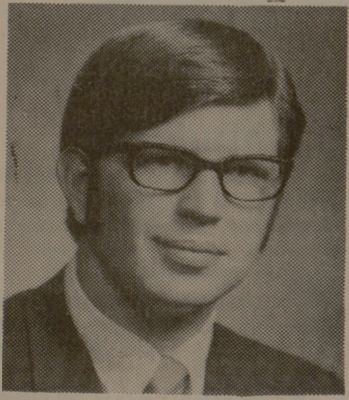
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