

Weather

Partly cloudy and mild Tuesday and Wednesday. No precipitation. North-northeasterly winds 6-10 mph. High today 72°; low tonight 45°; high Wednesday 77°.

The Battalion

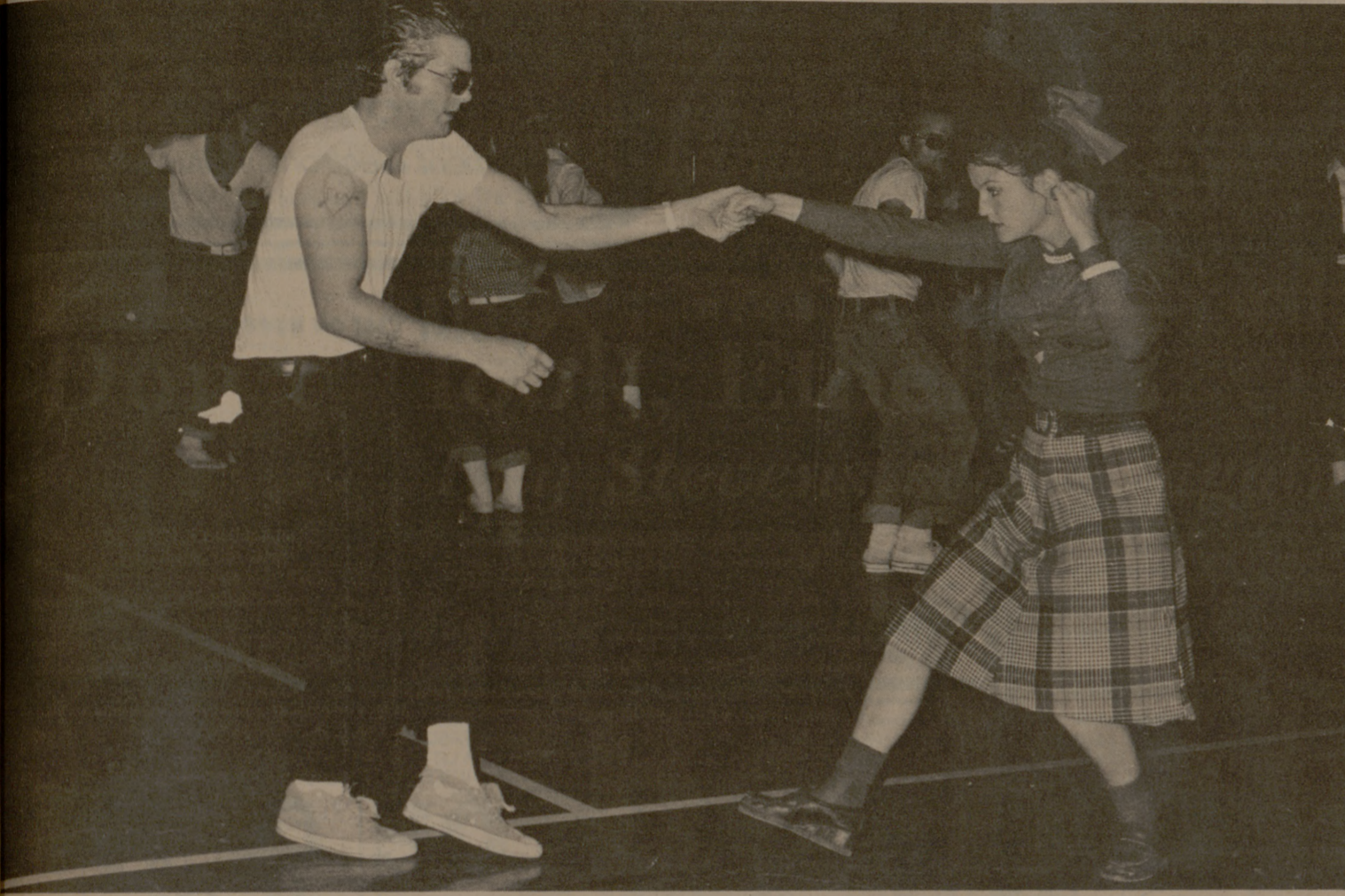
Vol. 68 No. 37

College Station, Texas

Tuesday, November 5, 1974

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Rolled-up blue jeans and bobby socks

The "nifty fifties" returned briefly Saturday night when Aggies dressed as their mothers and fathers probably did during their teenage years. The

dance was sponsored by the sophomore class. Dan Stagoodell and Patty Todd tried out some of the dances of the era. (Photo by Glen Johnson)

Raise bids flood budget hearings

By STEVE GRAY
Staff Writer

After hearing a deluge of requests from various county officials for salary raises and part-time help, Commissioners Court voted Monday to postpone approval of the proposed 1975 county budget.

The court, at its annual budget hearing, said it will consider approval of the \$3,396,809 budget next Monday at its regular monthly meeting. The proposed budget reflects a \$148,161 increase over this year's budget.

Raymond Buchanan, county tax assessor-collector, told the court he questioned the differences in salary increase percentages for some county officials.

"I THINK if one elected official gets a certain per cent increase in salary then all should," he said. Under the proposed budget County Attorney Roland Searcy will receive a 50 per cent salary increase from \$12,000 to \$18,000 a year. County Judge William R. Vance will receive a \$4,500 increase to \$18,000, up 33 per cent.

Eight other county officials will get a \$3,000 boost from their present \$12,000 salaries, a 25 per cent

increase. They are the county tax assessor-collector, county clerk, the four county commissioners, the sheriff and the county auditor.

The county treasurer will get \$12,000 a year, up nearly 18 per cent from his present \$10,200 salary.

VANCE SAID if the budget is approved he will draw the full \$18,000 a year. He told the court he no longer considers the county judgeship a part-time job as his present salary indicates.

"I'm spending almost all of my time with the county now and less with my private practice. I hope to wind up my law practice by the middle of next year and devote full-time to my job as county judge," Vance said.

Vance also pointed out that his salary should be commensurate with his duties.

"I will probably ask for another increase of \$6,000 to \$8,000 in my pay at next year's budget hearing," he said.

SEARCY SAID he will also begin winding up his private practice to become a full-time county attorney.

"I expect there will probably be about 1,000 cases filed in county court this year," Searcy said. "That's a 30 per cent increase from last year."

Searcy said nearly 900 cases have already been filed this year.

"My office is also handling most of the worthless check cases," he said, "and we had to call in extra help a couple of times last year to help reduce the backlog. It's gotten to the point where my secretary is taking files on these cases to work on at home at night."

HE SAID his office is handling about 200 bad check cases a month. About 100 such cases were filed in a two-week period between late September and early October, he said.

"We're going to have to have some help to alleviate the situation," Searcy said before asking the court to consider hiring two part-time assistants to work on nothing but bad check cases.

He said he would let the court

propose salaries for the part-time help.

Searcy also requested a \$100 a month car allowance and a salary increase for his secretary from \$5,996 to \$6,500. The proposed budget specifies a \$6,440 salary.

JOHN GODFREY, chief county probation officer, asked the court to allocate funds to hire a fee clerk for the probation department.

"We are handling about 1,400 persons (on probation) a year among myself and two deputy probation officers. We are also the only ones handling the payment of fees and restitution. It'd be a great help if we could get someone whose job would be to just record these payments," Godfrey said.

He requested that \$5,400 be allocated for the position.

Godfrey also requested an increase in the probation department's car allowance. It is presently set at about \$1,200 a year.

"WE HAVE had about the same allowance for the past 14 years," Godfrey said, "and costs are just doubling all the time."

County Auditor Mary Nichols requested an increase in the salary of an assistant county auditor from the proposed \$6,400.

"There's just no way to hire someone at that salary to that much work in the auditor's office," Nichols said.

She asked the court to consider a \$7,200 salary for the position.

DISTRICT CLERK W. D. Burley requested money to hire an additional deputy clerk.

"I feel that this would eliminate some of the trips that the deputies have to make in and out of the district courtroom while it is in session," he said.

Burley said he would plan to promote one of his three present deputies to the position of chief deputy. They are presently paid a combined salary of \$17,418 a year. The proposed budget has allocated \$19,320 in salaries for next year.

Memo thought lost

Hunt evidence enters trial

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prosecution lawyers jolted the Watergate cover-up trial Monday with the disclosure that they had obtained a copy of an E. Howard Hunt Jr. memorandum they thought had been destroyed.

Prosecutor James F. Neal said a copy of the two and a half-page memorandum was obtained over the weekend from William O. Bittman, Hunt's former lawyer. Neal said that for a year and one-half Bittman had denied that he ever received the memo.

The memo introduced into evidence by Neal was headed "Review and Statement of Problem." It

speaks of the administration keeping its commitments in behalf of the seven defendants in the June 17, 1972, Watergate break-in.

The surprise disclosure prompted lawyers for two of the five defendants in the cover-up trial to move for a mistrial.

"I am faced with a cover-up within a cover-up," said Jacob Stein, lawyer for Kenneth W. Parkinson, the man Hunt said he intended to receive the memo.

U. S. District Judge John J. Sirica made no immediate response to Stein's request for a mistrial. He denied a similar request from John J. Wilson, lawyer for H. R. Halde-

man, former White House staff chief and one of the five men charged with conspiring to block the investigation of the Watergate break-in.

The judge told prosecution and defense attorneys to submit legal arguments by the end of the week on whether he should summon Bittman to court to testify about what happened.

Bittman was named an unindicted co-conspirator in the case and the prosecutors had indicated they wanted him to testify.

But after disclosing how he had obtained the memo, Neal said he had dropped all plans to call the attorneys as a witness.

Roof goof slows tower progress

A mistake in installation of roofing plates will cause a two-week delay in completion of the new water tower, said Charles E. Brunt, construction manager for Facilities Planning and Construction.

The plates are color-coded at the factory, Brunt said. They are painted a bright orange on the outside and a duller shade on the inside. The plates for the water tower roof arrived with the colors reversed. When put in place they did not lay correctly and the mistake was discovered.

The plates were removed and are now being reassembled correctly.

One panel was bent slightly when a bolt broke and the panel dropped. It was straightened and will not need to be replaced. However, three support girders had to be re-fabricated as a result of the accident.

Projected completion date for the tower is now sometime in mid-January 1975. There may be a further delay if the weather continues to be wet and windy, Brunt said.

The cost of the delay will be absorbed by the contractor, Brunt said. He said he did not anticipate any serious problems because of the delay.

'Don't look, Ethel!' Ray Stevens scores again

By KEN STROEBEL
Special to the Batt

Ray Stevens jokes about the Arabs without getting the star from Cadillac owners, plays the piano, organ, vibes, drums, bass, trumpet, face and leg and wears a Caterpillar Tractor Company cap as he yells, "Don't look, Ethel!"

And who, as Jonathan Winters repeatedly and rhetorically asked on the 1970 Andy Williams Show summer replacement, is Ray Stevens?

Stevens is one of those rare entertainers to befall Aggeland that becomes an occasion. Town Hall hostess Beth Boyd was with Stevens when he arrived Friday afternoon for his first concert at TAMU. She remembers his horseplay—pulling the arm and hair of the band member sitting in the front seat and joking about rolling up the sidewalks. Which leaves some doubt about this being his first trip to TAMU.

ONCE HERE, HE SPIED the dark green "midnight" uniform shirt hanging in cadet Larry Marble's car and declared, "Hey, I really like those shirts. Can you get me one?"

Before a C. Rollie White audience, he jokes about a three-legged dog named Tripod which falls over every time he walked up to a bush and the advantage to dating Southern girls because "by the time she gets through telling you she's not that kind of girl, she is."

He describes electric guitarist Stuart Keathley's baked bean birthday cake: "It didn't taste so good but it blew out its own candles."

He introduces the band but adds, "You notice I got the prettiest suit. Let's hear it for my suit."

He also does impersonations, such as Jimmy Stewart: "I-I-I-I-I gotta go potty," in addition to John Wayne, Boris Karloff and Walter Brennan. But his favorite is George Montgomery, when he reaches up and rubs his piano.

his dressing room to reflect on his art and his manipulation of it—a curious manipulation of contrasting hits.

One is "Mr. Businessman." It became number one on the charts only seven weeks after its release in 1970 and hit many Establishmentites squarely between the eyes with lyrics like:

I despise the things you covet
As you squander through your life,
Bigger cars, bigger houses,
Term insurance for your wife,
Tuesday evening with your harlot
And on Wednesdays with your charlatan
Analyst, he's high upon your list.
You've got air conditioned sinuses
And dark, disturbing doubts about religion
And you keep those cards and letters going out
While your secretary's tempting you
Your morals are exempting you
From guilt and shame,
Heaven knows you're not to blame.

The same man sits down at the same piano and writes songs like "Harry, the Hairy Ape," "Along Came Jones," "Freddie Feelgood and his Funky Little Five-Piece Band" and "Gitarzan."

"IT'S NEVER EASY," he concedes, thinking back to the number of demonstration records he made. "I thought I was gonna get the Golden Record for a million releases. But when you work at it, it becomes easier."

Friday night he sings hits by Kris Kristofferson and Charlie Rich plus his own kind of music that teeters on the chasm between pop and country-western.

He has written songs like "America, Communicate With Me," and expresses concern for the environment.

"I don't know, it's really frustrating," he

shrugs. "There are solutions to most of our problems. But it's hard to get people together to correct some of the things we've done wrong."

HOW, THEN, DID HE COME to write "Everything is Beautiful?"

"I used to be an optimist. I'm not as much as I used to be but I'm not a pessimist either. I'm a musician."

His words aren't empty. Since 1962, Stevens has a train of hits including "Ahab the Arab," "Along Came Jones," "Everything Is Beautiful," "Turn Your Radio On" and the current, "The Streak."

"They're all satisfying," he says, leaning back in his folding chair in his dressing room. "I don't have any favorites."

HE IS NOT SATISFIED with the show he is to perform for 3,500 Aggies. "This isn't the show that I would like to do for a college audience," he confides. "We've been on the road since Hitler was a Pfc. I mean, we haven't had time to brush our teeth."

He turns to electric guitarist Stuart Keathley stooping to comb his hair in the mirror. "Especially Stu over there—he's got enough green on his teeth to play 18 holes."

Stevens says he'd like to get off the road for a while, to write and record some new songs in addition to taping a pilot television series. If aired, "Travellin' On" would show current recording artists entertaining on college campuses around the nation, Stevens said.

Stevens' first reaction to the Aggie crowd was to whoop back at them. Stevens paused during the concert, asking to hear that "horse laugh" he'd heard about. Yell leader Chuck Hinton appeared at the foot of the stage, made the appropriate signal, and the audience humped it, doing the horse laugh.

"I hope you won't think we're partisan 'cause we're in among you people but I hope you beat 'em tomorrow," said Stevens.



Ray Stevens at Town Hall Friday

Remember to vote—polls close at 7 p.m.