



## Stephenville landmark undergoing restoration

A Tarleton State University professor, Dr. O. A. Grant, is preserving a precious piece of Texanna by restoring the oldest home in Stephenville.

When the last owner of the house died, Grant took the opportunity to buy the old home and went to work to restore it to its 1857 specifications. Problems became legion for Grant since the original ownership records went up with the courthouse in an early fire, leaving him to scour the nation for the legal heirs.

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As he, his wife and his sister began to lift the veneer of more than a hundred years of occupancy, a primitively beautiful structure of native stone began to appear. A pair of keystone flat arch fireplaces was discovered and sandblasting of the stone yielded memorabilia such as an unfired government .44 caliber cartridge, an 1865 penny, and a Mexican quarter — all apparently stuck in crevices and preserved for Grant's exploration when the walls were plastered over.

The chairman of Tarleton's Social Science Department is rebuilding

the home by what he can tell from the original foundations and the memories of some aged residents of Stephenville. He is putting in a ladder and loft in the living room on the basis of an interview with a local octogenarian who recalled that the children of the family slept in the loft and even she had bunked there on occasion as a child.

Grant is also planning on business giving history a helping hand. The restored home will be the front for a wholesale business where he can give vent to a lifetime hobby of growing and propagating decorative plants. The first greenhouse, already in place, drips with fusia, wandering jew, and exotic varieties of begonias, while the front of the house is erupting into a herb garden. Another large area of the lot has been set aside for perennials.

The house is scheduled for completion in time for the bicentennial.

Grant has had varied careers. Before and after World War II he was a "special employee" of the FBI and during the war he was a pilot with the famed "Black Cats" who harassed the Japanese fleet from their slow, lumbering patrol planes in the South Pacific.

Accused of being a Renaissance man, he brushed the compliment aside, saying he's just avoiding ever becoming bored.

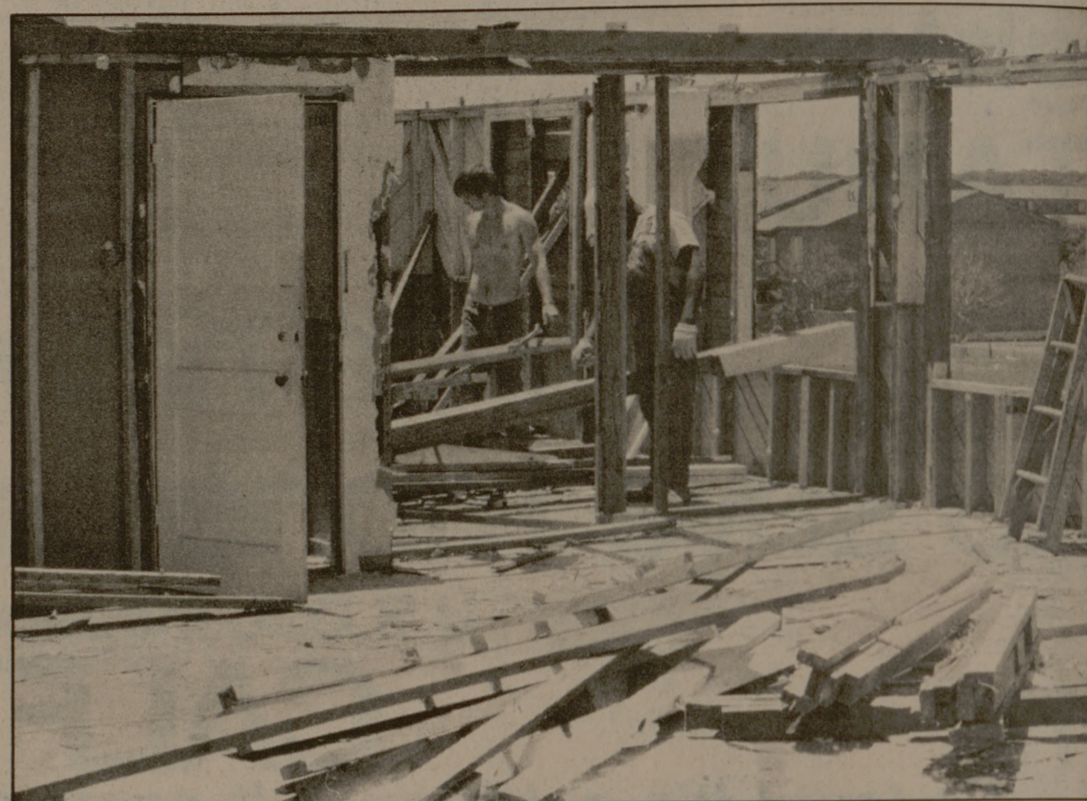
Dr. Grant is a winner of the prestigious Piper Award for outstanding teaching in Texas colleges and universities.

As a teacher in Texas he is carrying on a family tradition initiated when his father walked here from Georgia.

## Old army housing destroyed

With all of the construction going on on campus an empty shell of a building isn't an unfamiliar sight. The building pictured at left however is not located on the TAMU main campus, but across University Dr. in the married student housing area. The older barracks type buildings are gradually being replaced by more modern apartment type housing.

Photo by Tom Kayser



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