Opera comes to Granbury

night draws celebrities

ty-studded packed house, including Gene Autrey and Texas Att. Gen. John Hill, hailed the opening (actually the second grand opening) of the 90-year-old Granbury Opera House Thursday night. The production company, made up of Tarleton State University students and some area personalities, provided what Paul Theater Center, called ". . . an

The Hollywood-style opening that had a good time; I think. was complete with limousines First-night crowds are usually and searchlights and included an very quiet, but this group (over authentic judge to present the 300 strong) was in the aisle booprologue. Judge Jack M. Lang- ing and hissing the villian and don, also chairman of the board cheering the hero." of the Granbury Opera Associa-

The melodrama was the first tion, appeared wearing white- production in the Opera House tails and a beat-up Western straw since it closed in 1911. A comhat so that ". . . you all will know munity effort produced a recon-Baker, director of the Dallas what a real Texan looks like." structed showplace for the com-Director Mary Jane Mingus munity with a full-time summer said the opening went "as smooth stock schedule. The students are

for their summer's work. The first production is "Gold

in the Hills" to be followed by: "Charlie's Aunt," a farce comedy with music, July 10-27; "Pursuit of Happiness," a 1776 comedy, July 31-August 17, and "Once Upon a Mattress," a hit musical comedy, August 21-September 7.

The student group is learning the theater from front to back. They wired lights, made costumes, painted seats and even sold advertising to culminate a community effort that resurrected the old opera house from a roofless

Local businessmen and artisans it. Irreplacable window frames were done by hand in a local time and equipment came from every sector. One supporter of in the play's saloon scene.

stress enough how this was the result of everyone's work. I've never seen people unite and pull together like this."

The townspeople got the opera house built but they still needed actors. This is where Mrs. Mingus, the Granbury Opera Company, and Tarleton State University joined to offer a program of acting experience and college credit while acting in a professional summer stock company.

JoAnn Miller, a regular in the Dallas dinner theater circuit and a native of Arp, is directing the restoration of the opera house and producing the shows. She is gutted the building and rebuilt a night club entertainer who began her career as a singer with Tommy Dorsey's band. Theatercabinet shop and donations of goers will be able to hear her talents in the two numbers she does

New road paving better, cheaper

Two new types of roads will be laid and tested in a joint venture by TAMU, a French petroleum company, and Shell-Canada Ltd. One type is to be tested in South Texas near Corpus Christi and the other at

Prof. Bob Gallaway of TAMU's Texas Transportation Institute, said

Shell-Canada will conduct the first field-equipment trials of a sand-asphalt-sulfur road-surfacing material the week of July 17. Representatives of the Texas and Louisiana highway departments and selected contractors will be present for the second phase of the demonst

ration. The public will be restricted from the initial phases of these trials. "The uniqueness of the mix stems from the fact that it is six per cent asphalt cement, 13 per cent sulfur and 81 per cent locally available sand," Gallaway said. "This produces a superior road paving material that is estimated to be about 15 per cent cheaper than conventional

Sand is substituted for the more expensive rock or graded aggregate while the sulfur acts as a structuring agent for the sand. Rock is expensive to transport and sometimes hard to obtain. Also the price of asphalt

is accelerating upward due to the petroleum shortage," he said.

Another field test will be held in Lufkin in August where a test section

of road will be installed on Highway 69. This portion will involve a sulfur-asphalt emulsion as the binder, a process developed by a French petroleum company. It will be sponsored by the Sulfur Institute.

The binder is 30 per cent sulfur and 70 per cent asphalt. The aggregates in this demonstration will be those normally used in pavemen building. A savings of about 15 per cent in total costs is estimated.

TAMU wind tunnel tests complete on space shuttle

testing of a mock-up scale model of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's space shuttle.

The space administration provided the group, headed by Dr. David Norton and Dr. Allan Parker, an additional \$15,000 this month. They have been working with the shuttle for the last five years and have explored several problem areas during their research. Their current efforts are to calculate the phenomenon of base drag.

Base drag comes from the large blunt area at the rear of the aircraft where the rocket nozzles are located. The task is to see just how much the drag affects the flight characteristics of the shuttle.

They have found that up to 50 per cent of the total drag is from the base when the shuttle is flying at a low angle of attack (almost straight).

'No one else has done this sort of testing, so we are the first line of research in trying to define this drag," Parker said. "The idea is to measure the forces and moments on the base and compare them with the forces on the complete vehicle.

Testing included measuring 32 points of pressure on the base of the aircraft simultaneously at various speeds in the wind tunnel.

Norton said that the particular drag problem has been obscure previously because most windtunnel tests have been run with a tail-mounting system that affects the base drag. "We've eliminated this, and now our tests will be used to determine if previous informa-tion is accurate," he said.

Other tests are being run on the shuttle in 24 wind tunnels across the country as scientists struggle with problems from flap systems to skin drag. Total testing will total about 30,000 wind-tunnel hours.

"Our data is necessary so other scientists can begin designing flight paths and payloads to fit the aeronautical capabilities of the aircraft as it is now," Parker said.

The U.S.-manned space program for the next decade centers around the space-shuttle system. The con-

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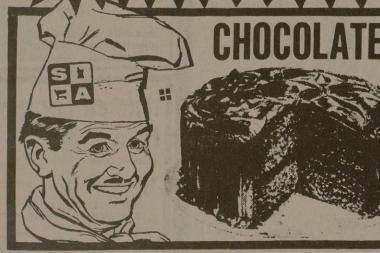


cept of a reusable orbiter can mean—shuttle orbiter is about the size of a significant savings for a large Boeing 707 and is to be reusable number of missions. The space- after a short turn-around period.









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