

A&M Architecture

Symbolism found in building, wall

There it sits at the end of a grand esplanade, crowning a sloping terrain. Along the The Wall, it is the symbol of the Texas A&M Administration.

Built in 1932 at a cost of \$362,775, the Systems Administration Building was the first to face Texas Avenue. The building is done in a grand classical style and was designed by longtime campus architect S.C.P. Vosper.

Ionic columns are strung along the front of the building and classical touches can be found all around it. But the exterior decoration is minimal when compared with the flourishes within.

Faces of cadets resembling Grecian soldiers are carved into the elephantine capitals of the various columns. A woman's face can be seen on one of the capitals, that of the daughter of A&M's superintendent of construction during the 1930's.

A huge map of Texas adorns the floor of the central foyer. It is expertly crafted of terrazzo and brass, and depicts the history of Texas, from the time of the Republic to the 30s. The Lone Star symbol can be found on walls and columns.

There are stained glass windows throughout and the fine wrought ironwork expresses the formal air of a building which houses the offices of President Jack K. Williams and the numerous Vice-Presidents of the far-flung A&M System.

The front plaza is the site of the annual Aggie Muster on April 21, and the central flagpole is (ahem) the tallest in Texas. Sculpted on its base are portraits of military functionaries.

Its impressive architectural scale has been dwarfed, but not surpassed, by the monolithic structure of the Oceanography and Meteorology Building, and now, the rising concrete mass of the new Langford Architecture Building.

In fact, it was the grandson of Mr. Vosper who had a hand in designing the awkward-looking O&M high-rise. He attempted to match it by encasing its exterior with a white stone said to be taken from the same quarry as that used on the Administration Building.



WEST FACE OF THE SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
Photos by Jim Hendrickson



IONIC COLONNADE ON THE EAST FACE

CS bond issue up

(Continued from page 1)

The committee also reviewed a proposed \$400,000 expansion of the administrative offices. School board members rejected it, saying the best facilities should come first. New multi-purpose classroom facilities at College Hills and South Knoll Elementary Schools are also part of the bond issue.

One new building at South Knoll (house two classrooms, a physical education facility and Spanish and music classes.

Five other classrooms will be built at South Knoll, while seven will be available after the 5th grade classes to its new building. Six other classrooms will be used for kindergarten classes. One will be for future growth. The cost of this construction will be \$10,000.

College Hills will have six classrooms built, with six others being vacated by the 5th grade's relocation. Six of these classrooms will be used by the kindergarten, while four will help reduce the pupil-teacher ratio. The other two will provide for future growth. The cost of this construction will be \$74,900.

Classroom space is needed for the kindergarten because the Texas Education Agency has said that next year students will have to attend class full day. The students are currently attending half-day sessions.

One major reason for classroom

expansion is so the school district's pupil-teacher ratio goal can be obtained. They are: kindergarten, one teacher for every 18 students; grades one through four, 1:22; middle school and high school, 1:24-25.

Not all the candidates for the school board are in favor of the bond issue. George Boyett, school board candidate for Place 2 said overcrowded classrooms are an example of improper utilization of space.

"A professional engineer made projections and long-range plans for the school system in 1969. The systems' projected enrollment was in excess of 3,898 for 1975-76. The present enrollment is less than 3085," he said. "And they're complaining about overcrowding?"

Dr. H. R. Burnett, assistant superintendent in charge of curriculum said, "It is unfair to count special education teachers in calculating a pupil-teacher ratio, because a speech therapist, for example, must work on a very personal basis with each child."

"The state says that six students per contact hour with a special education teacher is fine."

The proposal will increase taxes 11 per cent. The current tax rate is \$1.77 per \$100 of property valuation. If the proposed issue passes, the two-year increase will be approximately 20 cents, or \$1.97 per \$100 of property valuation.

Trucking strike may be closing

Associated Press

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, Ill. — Teamsters union's coast-to-coast strike rolled into its second day with bargainers reported "very close" to agreement on a total economic package.

But sources close to both sides said agreement on how the money package should be distributed among wages, cost-of-living benefits and other contract items remained unsettled when negotiations resumed today.

The work stoppage already has begun slowing the movement of goods, produced some scattered violence and has both government and business leaders deeply worried about the possible impact on the nation's commercial well-being.

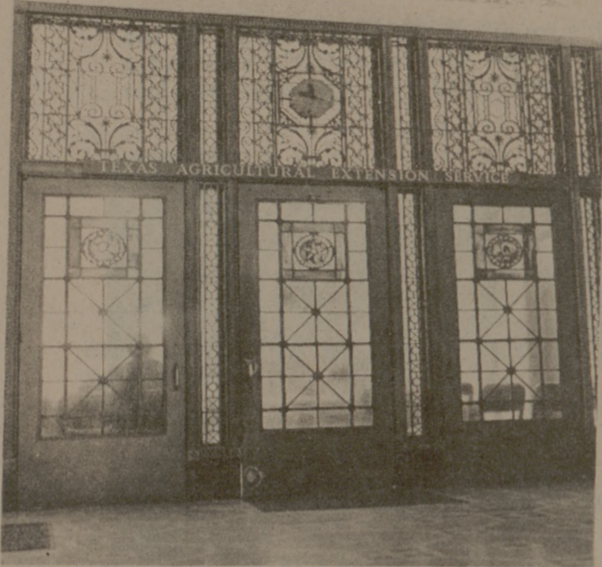
All four U.S. auto makers said they would have to start shutting down production plants next week if the best walkout ever by truckers is not on.

Labor Secretary W. J. Usery, Jr., a key federal official involved in the dispute between 400,000 Teamsters and the trucking industry remained at the bargaining site in this Chicago suburb trying to resolve the lingering money disputes.

Ford administration sources said it appeared that the government would refrain, at least temporarily, from taking action to invoke the Hartley Act while bargaining continued and there were indications of progress. The act provides a 90-day cooling-off period, but it would take the pressure off

negotiators.

Usery's continued presence at the talks was taken as one hopeful sign. He cancelled tentative plans to return Thursday to Washington and remained until negotiations recessed at 1:20 a.m. this morning. An aide said he would stay in the negotiations again today. Usery said five or six money issues were all that kept the two sides apart.



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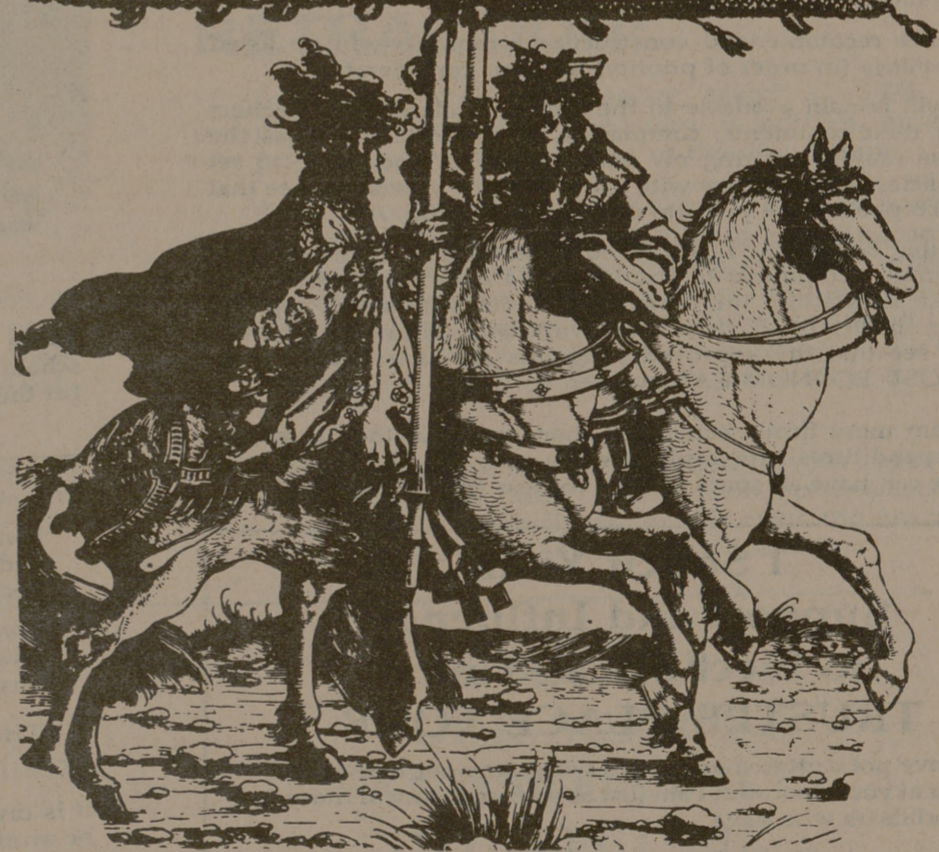
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