

Maintenance free

New equestrian center for A&M

By JEANNE GRAHAM
Construction is underway for a new equestrian center for Texas A&M University.

The center, located on a 70-acre tract of land at the intersection of FM 2818 and Turkey Creek Road, is in phase one of its construction. One barn and an outdoor riding arena are now being constructed. Electric power, water and sewer systems for the project have been installed.

Plans for the new center began after A&M received numerous calls from people seeking advice on how to build a modern equestrian center. In 1972, a committee headed by Dr. Gary Potter of the Animal Science Department was formed to plan the center.

"The center is being built with four very important standards in mind," Dr. Potter said. The standards were that the building should be maintenance-free, constructed of materials that neither horses nor people can damage. With automatic water troughs and possibly a stall-flushing system, the center should require a minimum amount of labor and allow safe and efficient management of horses in a confined area. And, important to area residents, the center should be attractive and acceptable to the non-horse-owning public.

"It includes all the modern, up-to-date thinking that could be put into it," Dr. Potter said.

More barns will be added in the future to accommodate the Calvary, Polo Team, Horsemen's Assn. horses and Equestrian and Rodeo Teams.

Construction began earlier this year when the old riding arena was replaced with the new baseball stadium. Completion of phase one is expected at the end of this semester.

State climatologist puts area weather data on handy card

The Office of the Texas State Climatologist, housed at Texas A&M's College of Geosciences, is producing small, billfold-sized cards that provide more climatological data about Bryan-College Station than most people would probably ever want to know.

A card has been completed for Bryan-College Station; one is being done for Houston and a third is being considered for Dallas-Fort Worth. The purpose of the cards is to provide the cities' with information on weather to expect at almost any time of the year.

In Bryan-College Station, there averages 11 hours of sunshine per day in August — decreasing to five hours in December, January and February. The year-around average is eight hours per day.

The card provides more than just

weather information. It tells that the sun reaches its maximum height above the horizon on June 21, at 83 degrees. Its lowest elevation is 37 degrees on December 21.

Wind, on a yearly average, blows at four miles per hour from the south. There are 58 days of precipitation a year, including 50 days of thunderstorms.

That comes to an average of 544 hours of rain per year.

The precipitation mean would show a prospective resident that he can expect 3.1 inches of rain in January (although there has been as much as 10.9 inches) and 2.4 inches in August, even though the August record is 12.6 inches.

The relative humidity averages 71 per cent year-round. Temperatures exceed 90 degrees 102 days per year, and drop below freezing an

average 22 days.

The record low temperature for Bryan-College Station is -3 degrees and the record high was 110. The average daily temperatures range from 59 in January to 96 in August with a year-round average of 68 degrees.

The average annual snowfall which is a mere half-inch, and only an average one-tenth inch falls in December.

But one year the twin cities received eight inches of snow — with five inches falling in December.

The cards are produced by the staff of State Climatologist Dr. John Griffiths and Texas A&M meteorologist Glenn Lubins. Cities providing ample records could have a card with this climatological data available to potential tourists and new citizens.

British Nun arrested for security breach

United Press International
SALISBURY, Rhodesia — An American nun who investigated allegations that Rhodesian soldiers tortured blacks has been jailed on charges of violating security regulations.

Sister Janice McLaughlin, 39, of Pittsburgh, was arrested last week along with three fellow members of the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Rhodesia, a government spokesman said yesterday.

The three others were released on bail but the nun was kept in custody, reportedly at the Chikurubi Jail, because police were investigating "complex" charges filed against her, the spokesman said.

A State Department spokesman in Washington said the U.S. ambassador in South Africa was asked to investigate her arrest. Washington does not have diplomatic relations with Rhodesia's white minority regime.

A spokesman for the U. S. Catholic Conference said Sister Janice was a Maryknoll Sister, but would not comment on her arrest.

The Catholic Institute for International Relations in London said the nun and her three colleagues in the Catholic Commission were jailed because they worked on a report detailing alleged tortures by Rhodesian troops.

The report was to be published this week in Britain. The commission has published two other reports detailing alleged brutality by Rhodesia's army

and its former president, Bishop Donal Lamont, was expelled from Rhodesia in March.

Rhodesian authorities identified the other suspects as John Deary, 50, the group's chairman and a Rhodesian citizen; Brother Arthur Du Pois, 59, a Canadian-born Rhodesian; and the Rev. Dieter Bernd Scholtz, a West German.

Officials said the four appeared in court Thursday, charged with violating the Law and Order Maintenance Act and the Official Secrets Act. They were freed on \$1,700 bail pending trial Sept. 30.

The group's report charged incidents of torture by Rhodesian soldiers "continue to be the rule, rather than the exception."

Defense Minister Hilary Squires labeled the allegations "patently absurd."

The report said black schools are "frequent targets of interrogation campaigns" and detailed one torture method it said was commonly used.

"The students are stripped naked, a towel is put over their faces and running water is sprayed in their mouths and noses through a hose."

It included photographs of two black men allegedly tortured by Rhodesian troops. Their names were withheld to "protect those involved."

One man had "boiling beer" poured on his back and the other's ankles were attached to an electrical device that gave him "terrible pain" while soldiers beat him with a rubber belt, the report said.

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