

# The Battalion

Vol. 71 No. 50  
16 Pages

Wednesday, November 9, 1977  
College Station, Texas

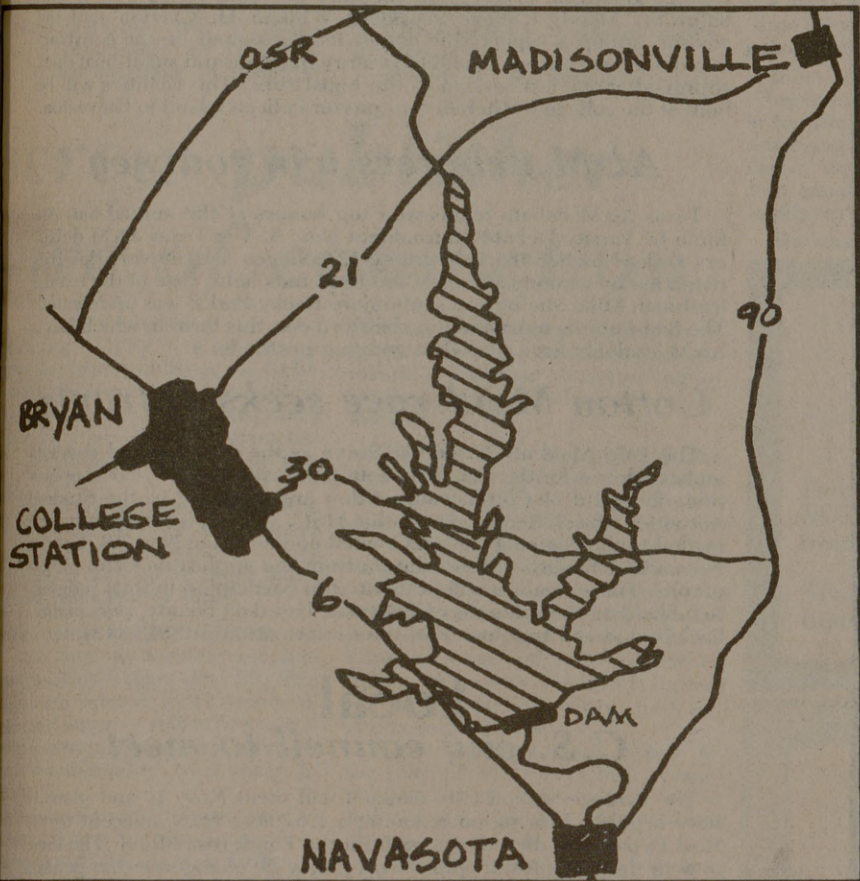
News Dept. 845-2611  
Business Dept. 845-2611

## Inside Today:

Pretender or not, you're a cowboy,  
pgs. 12-13.

Predicting the size of the Wursthfest  
crowd, pgs. 8-9.

Preparation is the key to the Arkan-  
sas game, p. 14.



This map shows the proposed Millican Dam and reservoir. The shaded area shows the extent of the proposed reservoir when completely filled.

## Dam site planned as far back as 1954

By GARY WELCH

Editor's note: This is the first of three stories re-examining the Millican Dam controversy. Parts two and three will appear in the Battalion Thursday and Friday. This section deals with the history of the Millican project to date.

For 17 years plans have existed for a reservoir to be located five miles east of College Station. Millican Dam, would provide a lake extending 30 river miles, 12 miles south of College Station on the Navasota River to the intersection of the river and Highway 21.

The dam was designed primarily for flood control and water conservation, and extensive recreational opportunities would be available on the lake.

But, Congressional action as well as economic and environmental issues have denied any significant progress on the dam since it was first proposed.

As far back as 1954, the Brazos River Authority (BRA) proposed a system of 13 dams on the Navasota River. A severe statewide drought in the early 1950's and a 1957 flood helped spark a Texas Water Commission recommendation that action be taken on the river flood control projects. But in 1958 the U.S. Congress decided that since no detailed plans existed for the project, no direct grant could be made to any specific flood control project.

(See Millican, page 7)

## Board plan cost to increase

By ROBIN LINN

An increase in the minimum wage will cause an increase in the price of the board plan, but how much it will be or how soon it will come are questions that are still unanswered.

Lloyd Smith, Texas A&M's assistant director for board dining, termed the increase in minimum wage as "inflationary" in a recent interview.

The law calls for an increase in the minimum wage from \$2.30 to \$2.65 effective January 1978. Continuing increases will like the minimum wage to \$3.10 by 1981.

Students' board fees pay for food, wages, maintenance, and upkeep of the buildings, which include Sbis, Com-

mons, and Duncan dining halls. Food Services does not receive government funds, said Smith. "We have to act in a business-like manner, and we can only spend what we receive," he said.

Smith said that increased cost of commodities makes "breaking even" difficult for Food Services. Most of the board plan money paid by students goes toward food and labor expenses.

There are 219 students working for Food Services. Their salaries vary from minimum wage to \$2.70. Smith agreed they had problems hiring enough workers but did not believe the increase in minimum wage would solve the shortage of help.

To determine how much the board plan

## Texas voters approve tough anti-crime policies

By ROLAND LINDSEY  
United Press International

Voters overwhelmingly have endorsed the 1977 Legislature's policy of getting tough on crime, approving constitutional amendments permitting judges to deny bail to felons in some instances and expanding the Court of Criminal Appeals to speed consideration of criminal cases.

Bad weather pushed across the state by the worst cold front of the fall combined with voter apathy to limit turnout in the special election to only about 10 percent of the state's 5.8 million eligible voters.

Despite the light turnout, amendments authorizing an additional \$200 million in bonds for the Veterans Land Program, expanding authority of the Judicial Qualifications Commission and permitting local tax breaks to encourage preservation of historical and cultural resources also were approved.

Voters rejected, however, two proposed constitutional amendments which could have affected their finances.

A proposal authorizing Texas banks to utilize electronic fund transfer systems received only 45.5 percent of the vote, and an amendment authorizing agricultural commodity organizations to collect mandatory assessments from producers received only 47 percent.

"Naturally the Texas Bankers Association and a majority of Texas bankers are disappointed that the voters rejected the electronic banking amendment," said Charles Childers of Tyler, TBA president. Gov. Dolph Briscoe expressed disap-

pointment at the small turnout, but was pleased by adoption of the bail proposal and Criminal Appeals Court expansion, both of which had been part of his anti-crime program.

The proposal to allow judges to deny bail to a person accused of committing a

second felony while free on bail from another felony charge received the strongest endorsement of voters, piling up 83.4 percent approval. The court expansion was approved with 72.9 percent of the vote.

The five amendments approved Tues-

day bring to 226 the number of changes voters have approved in the constitution since it was adopted in 1876.

Eight other proposed constitutional amendments passed by the 1977 Legislature will be submitted to voters in the 1978 general election.

## County citizens ratify all but one amendment

Electronic banking was the only proposed amendment not ratified by Brazos County voters in a light turnout Tuesday.

Some 2,329 voters showed up at the polls, a meager 6.5 percent of the registered voters in the county. Texas A&M University has 3,617 registered voters, but only 79 cast ballots.

The banking amendment, which also failed statewide, would have authorized state and national banks to exercise banking privileges by use of electronic devices at points of trade. Such a terminal at a retail store would allow a customer to pay for merchandise by transferring money from a personal account directly to the store's account without the use of check or credit card.

Amendment number one was accepted in the county by a margin of 1,802 to 452.

The amendment increases the size of the Court of Criminal Appeals from five judges to nine. It will also allow the court to sit in panels of three judges.

Amendment two, if passed, will allow the Veteran's Land Board to issue and sell an additional \$200 million in bonds and to deposit the proceeds in the Veterans' Land Fund. Surviving widows of veterans will be allowed to purchase tracts in certain circumstances.

Amendment three will allow a district court to deny bail to a person accused of a felony if he or she was on bail for a prior felony indictment. Bail will also be denied if they have been convicted of a felony and are accused of using a deadly weapon in the commission of the felony.

Amendment four provides for tax relief

to preserve certain cultural, historical, and natural history resources.

Amendment five passed in a close race in Brazos County, with 1,222 for and 1,007 against. The amendment would have delegated formation of association to collect refundable assessments from producers of raw agricultural or marine products.

Amendment seven changes the State Judicial Qualifications Commission of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct. The membership will be increased to include four citizens instead of three and to add one justice of the peace. The commission will be granted the power to suspend a judge from office with or without pending final disposition of the charges against a judge.

(See related editorial, p. 2)

## Oz, Dracula, King Kong, Frankenstein: they're all part of 'Star Wars' symbolism

By PHYLIS WEST

The Cowardly Lion, King Kong, Frankenstein's monster, Dracula, and the Knights of the Round Table are just some of the characters symbolized in "Star Wars," said Dr. Sylvia Grider, Texas A&M University's only professor with a doctorate in folklore.

Grider, an English professor, spoke to 50 students and faculty in a speech

entitled "Folktales, Fantasy and Star Wars" last night in the Harrington building.

"Here is a movie that has changed our vocabulary in only a few months, and added richly to the national popular culture," said Grider. She said she became interested in analyzing the movie because she wanted to understand why it was causing such an incredible response.

"Star Wars uses the same techniques that were used in another George Lucas film, American Graffiti, only on a much more elaborate scale.

"The key images in American Graffiti which represented adolescence in the 1950's were woven together so that everybody who lived then could recognize and identify with some part of it."

"Star Wars" also has something for everybody. Grider said she has found about 75 images or scenes that can be easily recognized as being taken from media, myths and folktales.

Some of the "Star Wars" scenes seem to relate directly to parts of the "Wizard of Oz," "King Kong," "Star Trek," "Casablanca," cheap westerns and horror movies.

The "walking carpet character," Chewbacca, (chewy) appears almost as the Cowardly Lion from the "Wizard of Oz."

"But on another level, he's also a dog, a faithful companion, or a friendly Bigfoot," Grider said.

In a chess game between androids See Threepio and Artoo Deeto and Chewy parallels a scene between Kong and the dinosaur in the movie "King Kong"

The space vehicle technology, such as Warp three and the reference to the enemy as Kyrillians (as opposed to the Klingons) show the similarity of parts of "Star Wars" to "Star Trek."

"The whole bar scene is in response to "Casablanca. The sleazy bars of "Casablanca" and the "Star Wars" bar were the meeting place of "all the desert rats," or social outcasts.

The good guys could be easily distinguished from the bad guys by the color of their clothing: the good guys wear the white, while the bad wear the black.

"This idea is based on the grade B westerns," she said. But "Star Wars" brought this theme to near perfection.

Darth Vader is a combination of many things including a kind of Frankenstein and Dracula, she said.

"The big clunky way in which Darth Vader walks is typical of Frankenstein," Grider said. His cape could be a take-off of Dracula.

"Star Wars" scenes are also based on myths "that branch of oral literature which deals with religion and possibly historical personages," she said.

Luke, the hero, is like a young Arthur waiting to take his place among the knights



Dr. Sylvia Grider

of the Round Table, she said.

"Star Wars" follows along the lines of a typical folktale with an "always happy ending," Grider said. Luke is a universal hero because he is a child.

The movie, she said, clues the audience in on the fact that the "Star Wars" is a folktale from the beginning, by saying, "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away..."

## 20-year brick collector finds personality, interest in each

By SARAH E. WHITE

Storing little pieces of historical landmarks like Ford's Theater, the Roman Coliseum and The Elms in your garage may sound illegal or improbable. A local souvenir brick collector, however, is doing just that.

Dr. Haskell Monroe, dean of faculties and professor of history at Texas A&M University, started collecting bricks about 20 years ago and now has a 220-brick lead on potential brick collectors.

"I began to stumble on to the ruins of old buildings in the woods," he said. "I became intrigued by what these represented. Why is this fine plantation home now deserted which was once the home of a wealthy person? I became intrigued by them because all the bricks were hand-made and each of them has its own personality."

Monroe has a brick from Ford's Theater in his collection. He said that the theater was being remodeled for the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's assassination and workers were carting loads of brick to the dump. Monroe obtained a brick from the load, labelled it, and stored it.

He said his interest in these bricks is tied to his interest in history.

Recently a student brought him a

brick from Jesse Chisholm's home in San Antonio. Chisholm was famous for the cattle trail he blazed to Kansas, Monroe said.

The oldest brick in Monroe's collection is one from the Roman Coliseum. The coliseum was made of very small bricks, much smaller than those used today. Monroe said that he satisfied his conscience by taking only those pieces which were lying on the ground.

While touring the South, Monroe picked up many bricks from abandoned plantation houses.

One of his favorites came from a structure which was once a showplace near Charleston, S.C., called The Elms. It belonged to a prominent family and was badly damaged in an 1858 earthquake and later in a fire. One column and the corner of a wall are the only portions left standing. Monroe found blocks of hard pine wood shaped like bricks, built into the wall about four feet up. These blocks, he said, had been exposed to the elements 50 to 60 years with no signs of decay.

Monroe said his favorite brick came from a house located just south of Shreveport, La., which is one of the oldest structures in the Louisiana Purchase territory.

This brick rates as his favorite because it contains the imprint of a left hand. Monroe assumed that the

brick was picked up by a left-handed person because of the thumb and forefinger arrangement of the imprint. He said the person could have been a slave because slaves often made the bricks. The personal touch makes it special, Monroe said.

"As buildings are built here at Texas A&M or have been torn down I've tried to remember to get one brick or a piece of brick from every one," Monroe said.

He has bricks from the Old Main building which stood on the Texas A&M campus until it burned down several years ago. He said these bricks were made from clay dug from the large trench in front of the president's home.

Monroe also has a brick from the lab and classroom building which was recently completed. This brick has no distinguishing marks or sentimental value, he added.

Monroe said that he cannot place a price tag on his collection. Although he has never bought a brick for his collection, he has seen them priced up to five dollars in antique shows.

"My plan always was to put them in a fireplace and identify each one," he said.

So far he has not built his fireplace display, so he stores his treasures in sacks with identifying labels tucked inside.



Dr. Haskell Monroe shows off some members of his brick collection. He is holding a handmade brick from the building where Thomas Jefferson lived in Philadelphia while he wrote the Declara-

tion of Independence. A sentimental addition to his collection is the brick labeled First Presbyterian Church. Monroe was married in that church in Mebane, N.C.

Battalion photo Sarah E. White