

More offered than 3 R's

By MARIANITA PADDOCK
A large yellow "K" marks the entrance to the school cafeteria. Inside, chairs, boxes and tables have been pushed aside to make room for the adult tap dancing class. The instructor starts the music and one by one, the students come into class.

Some students are wearing shorts or long pants and others are wearing tights. Tap exercises are first. Then, from the basic shuffle step to more difficult steps, the class proceeds with a tap routine.
Adults learning the Cotton Eyed Joe or earning their high school di-

plomas are all part of the Community Education Program.

THE PROGRAM offers recreational, vocational and adult basic education courses to residents of College Station and surrounding communities.

Community Education is part of the A&M Consolidated Independent School District. It uses the school district's facilities, including two elementary schools (A&M Consolidated and South Knoll), A&M Consolidated High School and Middle School and the Special Services Building.

The facilities include two cafeterias and three gymnasiums. In addition, churches, civic organizations, agencies and local businesses participate.

The program offers over 100 classes, including cake decoration, lip reading, genealogy, slimnastics, yoga, typing, sewing, Spanish, welding, belly dancing, sign language and tap dancing.

Besides these classes, there are special classes offered: beginning judo, piano for children, a motorcycle rider course, ballroom dancing, public speaking, parents of pre-schoolers survival course, fundamentals of real estate for the layman, parent effectiveness training and stained glass making.

Most classes run for eight weeks, with some running for as long as 12 weeks or a year.

The students attend one or two classes a week depending on the type of class.

Tuition is 50 cents per class hour, which doesn't include materials needed for the course.

A GOLDEN PASS allows citizens aged 65 years and older to participate in the Community Education programs free of charge excluding the special programs. The Texas Education Agency and tuition provide funds for salaries of Community Education instructors and personnel.

There are around 60 to 75 instructors ranging from Texas A&M University professors to housewives and teachers from the A&M Consolidated Independent School District.

Charles Greenawalt, director of Community Education, said anyone skilled in a particular field may apply as an instructor.

Those attending Community Education courses receive a certificate of achievement, and a participating business or organization receives a certificate of appreciation.

GREENAWALT said the program has been extremely successful and grown rapidly in the past two years. Three thousand people were enrolled this fall.

Community Education is not new to College Station - it's five years old. However, the curriculum was small the first two years.

"They had a half-time director that couldn't devote full time to it," Greenawalt explained. "There were some people who wanted more classes, more buildings opened and it was impossible for him to do it because he was half-time Community Education and half-time director of transportation."

So when Greenawalt became Community Education director in 1975, he added 100 classes per session to the curriculum.



Stepping out in style — members of the Community Education ballroom dancing class learn to shuffle with style as they dance Cotton-Eyed Joe.

Battalion photo by Michael...

The program receives input from the Neighborhood Advisory Council which suggests types of activities Community Education should offer. In addition, the council assists in communication between the school and the community by providing a block plan for the community.

This plan provides a block leader for each city block in College Station. The leader relates school news to the community and in return the community gives feedback to the school board.

But Community Education has its problems. Greenawalt said there are not enough facilities and sometimes there are conflicts in scheduling. He added that next September there will be two new multi-purpose buildings at the elementary schools. These buildings will provide classrooms as well as recreational facilities. And in another two years, a new fifth and sixth grade building will be available.

Greenawalt said the students take Community Education courses be-

cause they are enjoyable. They like to collect the certificates.

ONE WOMAN wants the certificate because her husband, bachelor's, master's and Ph.D. degrees and a few other things are in his office, so she decided to take as many Community Education classes as she can and get those certificates so she'll have certificates on the walls in her home with her on them," he said.

Community Education also has holiday classes, including Texas stock making, Christmas stocking making, U.S. stamps, as well as Christmas cards. The fall and holiday classes were successful as the fall classes courses, out of 11, will be held. The fall and holiday classes were separate, so people had to register for the holiday classes, Greenawalt said.

Next year, he added, the registration for fall and holiday classes be at the same time.

TOM GLENN, assistant director of Community Education, said 95 percent of the current courses are offered again in the spring. A Needs Assessment Survey was conducted, he said, additional courses will be included.

The survey's objective is to cover community needs and develop classes to meet the needs. Glenn plans to have between 150 and 155 courses in the spring. Registration is January.

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