

The Battalion

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Early morning lights

Cold and rainy weather doesn't seem to discourage the long lines of traffic Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. on the corner of Jersey Street and Texas Ave. Both Texas A&M University students and employees volley to get a parking place on campus.

Battalion photo by Susan Webb

JFK murder probe plagued by rivalry

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Newly released internal FBI files undermine the public's assumption that the bureau and the Warren Commission worked in close cooperation to establish the whole truth behind the murder of John F. Kennedy.

Instead, the 58,000 pages of files the FBI was forced to make public Wednesday tell of a jealous rivalry between the two over matters big and small. It also discloses that Gerald Ford, the House Republican leader at the time, volunteered his services as the FBI's informant on the Warren Commission's internal operations and disputes.

The FBI refused to store evidence for the commission. Each accused the other of leaking material to the press. The commission suggested the slaying might not have occurred if the FBI had told the Secret Service all it knew about Lee Harvey Oswald.

Like the 40,000 pages released in De-

ember, the flood of new information added a wealth of details about the assassination and its investigation.

But nothing appeared to challenge the central finding of both the FBI and the Warren Commission: That Oswald, taking guidance from no one, killed Kennedy in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

The files expose the personal scorn J. Edgar Hoover felt for Chief Justice Earl Warren and other critics, and his outrage at the commission's criticism of the bureau's operations.

"We are being clobbered by everybody... The bureau will never live this down and will be viewed as a second-rate outfit henceforth," he complained.

As for conspiracy theoreticians like author Mark Lane and comedian Dick Gregory, the bureau maintained a public silence while privately complaining of "monstrous fabrications... absurd... trash... gutter talk."

Many critics were labeled sexual deviants or Communists.

After the Warren Commission (in its report) criticized some aspects of the FBI's work, Hoover reported to associates he had informed President Lyndon Johnson he was "outraged" at the criticism.

Within days of the creation of the

seven-man commission, Ford went to Cartha DeLoach, assistant FBI director, and complained that Warren was trying to run a "one-man commission" by installing his own man as chief counsel.

"Ford indicated he would keep me thoroughly advised as to the activities of the commission," DeLoach said in a memo. "He stated this would have to be on a confidential basis."

In a Dec. 17, 1963, memo on a meeting with Ford, DeLoach complained of news leaks and said, "I told Congressman Ford in strict confidence that apparently Chief Justice Warren was quite close to Drew Pearson and obviously used Pearson from time to time to get thoughts across to the general public."

Ford reported on the commission's meeting the previous day, enabling DeLoach to tell associates, "There was no criticism of the FBI at yesterday's meeting."

In 1964, the bureau appeared preoccupied with charges that Oswald had been in its employ. Thousands of pages of the documents reported on world-wide news accounts linking Oswald to either the bureau or the CIA. These were "wild and ridiculous allegations" planted by "Communists," the bureau said.

College Station, Bryan merged?

A look at Aggieland 1997

By KATY KOWIERSCHKE
Autumn 1997, Aggieland, Texas.

An old man sits outside the New City on Texas Avenue, located just inside the former boundary line of College Station. The building, a massive structure of marble and granite, sits on a turf of granite, (a grass developed at Texas A&M in the '70s when 523 species of grass existed in Brazos County).

The lawns are dotted with oak and elm trees interspersed with flaming red berries upon. Many of the trees are representative of the native varieties and though old enough to be a leafy shade-rower, none can compare with the "Hanging Tree" that still occupies its spot inside the Brazos County Courthouse on 14th Street.

The man has often said how nice it would be if the pecans had been planted too, he and the squirrels might munch on the nut on the bench watching traffic hurry past the new shopping center at the intersection of Texas Avenue and the West Pass—a sprawling five acres of large and all stores under a single mall roof.

He shakes his head and mumbles to himself, "Never thought I'd see the day Bryan and College Station were one."

Surprisingly, a scarce 10 years ago when the two cities merged into a new community, Aggieland, town leaders managed to overcome a lot of opposition by arranging each town to retain a limited identity of its own. Other problems were solved by compromise and a careful timetable for retaining responsibility and direction. In developing a new city charter was drawn up incorporating the best characteristics of both towns.

Bryan, for example, having no zoning ordinances, assumed the existing ones of College Station. Then both cities reviewed and updated their building codes. This act not only yielded safer and better buildings, but allowed a wiser and more efficient use of the land.

Also, planner Al Mayo, College Station, and Hubert Nelson, Bryan, worked with the almost defunct Area Planning Commission (APC). They molded new life into that group's work, the Brazos Area Plan, originally formulated in the fall of 1957. The

suggestions made then were reconsidered and the better ones added to the charter. The resulting outline was then taken to the polls where it found enough support to insure the charter for the new community.

The old APC guidelines suggested area development along the formation of four complementary centers. These were culture, business, education and industry.

By 1977, cultural centers were well under way with the Bryan Civic Center, the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural Science and the Rudder Tower of TAMU.

Also, the industrial park had grown along the county's west loop and Texas A&M was surpassing all educational goals.

The main deficit in the community at that time was the availability of shopping areas.

The original guidelines called for revitalization of downtown Bryan to fulfill the need. This was done by blocking off streets and making the old town much like the plaza areas in European cities.

As years passed, College Station proceeded with plans to create more shopping by placing another mall at Highway 30 and the East Bypass as well as a new one across from the old K-Mart.

Education, however, could not be jointly handled with the success of business. So in this area, each community remained a separate entity with each keeping its own school district.

The old man smiled as he remembered the turmoil the townspeople suffered over whether to merge schools or not. Some said if the cities joined, the schools were automatically one district.

However, Wesley K. Summers, superintendent for the Bryan Independent School District said the Texas Education Code provided the opposite. School districts were not part of city government and the only way school districts could merge was by public election.

As a result, Bryan schools continue to bus students across the city while College Station retains its neighborhood concepts.

The police and fire department presented problems over which police and fire chief would have jurisdiction. The situation was solved by neither assuming the job.

Instead, a third man was hired to work out overall management and the three men from each department formed the city commissions for fire and police protection.



The stations in each town stayed where they were as branch offices of the new facility. The chief at the time of the merger retained his own command.

As a result of this action, maintenance garages have developed into shops with the best repair and upkeep equipment on the market. Operations now run more efficiently and economically. Also, the merger has not necessitated the firing of any personnel from either town.

One problem the old man could recall was the combining of the city political jobs. By spreading the merging process over a number of years, long-time employees or elected officials would be phased out gradually through retirement.

In the meantime the city councils sat together until the conversion of government. Next week, the man remembered, the first combined city officials would be elected.

But politics reached further than just people, it also touched heavily on the services offered city residents.

These services saw the first changes when utilities were turned over to private companies, removing gas and electricity from municipal politics.

On the other hand, water, sewage and garbage remained in Aggieland control since they were developed early in the new city. By fusing the operation of these into a single service (as opposed to the former two) taxes were kept constant and rates were dropped.

All in all the merger appeared successful, thought the old man, conceding only time would tell. Then he chuckled and said, "It's still the only place Aggies come from."

Ice, snow cover Texas highways

United Press International
A major winter storm glazed Texas roads with ice from the Panhandle to the Gulf Coast today and covered the northern part of the state with several inches of snow.

The storm caused at least two deaths.

Travelers advisories were in effect for most of the state and little improvement in road conditions was in sight with highs expected to be in the low to mid-30s across most of Texas today.

The Dallas-Fort Worth area was one of the hardest hit regions, and many schools and businesses in the area were closed.

Jim Hallman of the Dallas Streets and Sanitation Department said residents were advised not to travel today unless it was absolutely necessary.

He said, however, despite the poor street conditions there had not been a surprising amount of traffic accidents.

Hallman said apparently Dallas residents were improving their icy driving habits.

"They are very cautious and get a little better every year," he said.

But there were enough highway mishaps to keep Dallas wrecker services working at full capacity.

"Business is good," said one wrecker driver, who said he had been steadily hauling cars stuck on the frozen roads since Wednesday afternoon.

Dallas motels also did a brisk business

because of drivers who did not want to risk the trip home Wednesday.

"Quite a few are stopping because of the weather. They say they're uneasy about trying to go any further," said Holiday Inn employee Debbie Sandlan. "A number of people holding reservations also have been calling saying they'll either be very late or may not make it at all."

"We're also blocking a number of rooms for our employees so they won't have to go home. They'll stay here instead of trying to make it home."

The storm, which entered the state late Tuesday as a wet and windy cold front, caused at least two deaths when the wooden roof of a Nocoeno, Texas, clothing store collapsed from the weight of heavy snow.

Store employee Jean Crain, 55, the wife of the late University of Texas All-America halfback Jack Crain, and a customer, Clifton Baxter, 40, were killed in the accident.

The snow began in the Panhandle Wednesday, and six inches fell in Dumas by Wednesday afternoon. The storm caused a 50-vehicle traffic snarl south of Dumas.

Most of the snow was confined to the northern half of Texas but sleet and freezing rain hampered driving conditions as far south as San Antonio.

Sleet and freezing rain also iced roads in Houston and Beaumont.

Carter to announce name of FBI director

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Carter was reported ready today to conclude a year of frustrated search for a new FBI director by announcing his choice of William Webster of St. Louis.

Webster is a judge of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

While the White House has said for days the nomination would probably come this week, doubt about the timing was finally removed late Wednesday by Attorney General Griffin Bell. Bell was in Waco, Texas, for a speaking engagement at Baylor University.

He told reporters a tentative decision had been reached and the nomination would be announced today in Washington. He was scheduled to make the nomination at the White House on Carter's behalf.

The fact that Bell judged the decision still "tentative" at that late hour came as a surprise because Bell said more than a week ago the choices had been narrowed to Webster and Frank McCarr of Chicago.

But Bell, who has been searching since he took office a year ago for a successor to retiring Director Clarence Kelley, said further information about the two nominees was still being gathered by the Justice Department.

Authoritative sources later said Webster had gotten the nod. Gerald Ford considered Webster for the Supreme Court in 1975.

Bell last year chose federal Judge Frank Johnson of Alabama after nearly eight months of futile searching, but Johnson then underwent major surgery and asked to be replaced because of a slow recovery.

But with Johnson out of the picture Bell did not, until recently, find prospects with the administrative talent and experience in

law or law enforcement that he was seeking.

Webster, 52, has been hailed as having broad legal knowledge. He is a graduate of Amherst and St. Louis' Washington University law school.

He served as U.S. attorney for eastern Missouri from 1959 to 1961, then practiced law until Richard Nixon appointed him a U.S. District Court judge in 1971 and promoted him to the appeals court two years later.

California county stops rationing residents' water

United Press International
SAN FRANCISCO — After two years of short showers and diplomatic use of toilets, residents of Marin County across the Golden Gate Bridge are free again today to live a little.

Water rationing caused by the great California drought was officially ended Wednesday for 170,000 Marin residents. For a month, heavy rains have drenched the area that gained national attention as a model of water conservation.

The county's six reservoirs are 95 percent full from the torrential rains that doused northern California for 25 of the previous 31 days. The Marin Municipal Water District abolished the rationing at a special meeting.

Marin residents were under the tightest urban water restrictions of any area during California's three-year drought, but they responded with remarkably good citizenship.

'Student leaders should investigate' Who does the grade checks?

BY KIM TYSON
Battalion Campus Editor

Texas A&M student leaders are required to meet minimum scholastic standards. But no one knows who may call down elected officials if they become academically deficient.

The student government constitution requires officers and senate members to maintain a specified grade point ratio during their year in office. The constitution also is unclear about whose job it is to check.

Students running for offices routinely have their grades cleared. Yet routine checks of students' mid-year grades have not been made because of the lack of policy.

Student government's official adviser, Carolyn Adair, said Wednesday she assumes the responsibility belongs to the vice president for rules and regulations, Allison King.

"As chairman of rules and regulations it falls within her responsibility to check credentials," Adair said. She also said she preferred that

students handle their own investigations, but that she would intervene if necessary.

King said she has begun "checking into" last year's grade-check policy, after rumors had circulated that certain student government leaders may not meet the academic requirements.

The constitution states, "All members of the student government executive committee shall have an overall grade point ratio of at least 2.500 at the time of their election or appointment and post at least a 2.000 GPR during their first term of office."

"Members of the student senate must have an overall grade point ratio of at least 2.250 at the time of their election and maintain a 2.000 GPR during their term of office."

King said Wednesday she doesn't know whose job it is. She said she will not check grades until she knows it is her responsibility. She said that she was not a vice presi-

dent in student government last year, that she was never told it was part of her job, and that as far as she knows grades have never been checked.

Susan Rudd, who held the rules and regulations post last year, recalls no formal grade checks.

"We didn't run a formal check on grades at the end of the semester," she said.

Both Rudd and King chaired the rules and regulations committee, a body "responsible for rules revision in the senate and in the University," according to the senate constitution.

Robert Harvey, student body president, said the constitution does not give the specified duties to anyone. He said he is checking into whether he or anyone else in student government is allowed to investigate grades.

"There is no legislation to date on any kind of enforcement mechanism," he said. "In our system, if anyone raised the issue it would be

handled by the judicial board."

Stan Stanfield, judicial board chairman, said, "If it's not provided in the Constitution, the judicial board must decide who's responsible."

"I would say if it's not defined specifically in the constitution, the J-Board would probably have to then go on precedence in its ruling," he said.

"I would think that for every function student government performs, it would be ridiculous to list them all in the constitution," he said. Stanfield said he believes the grade check may be King's implied responsibility.

"We (the board) are bound because we must wait for someone to come to us to get questions answered," he said Wednesday that no student had submitted a formal request for a ruling.

"I guess it's because no one wants to hurt anyone else's feelings," Stanfield said.

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