

focus

A weekend for the folks back home

A little motherly love goes a long way . . .



Battalion photo courtesy of the University Archives

The Dallas Mothers' Club of 1926 sent cookies and other "goodies" to their boys at A&M College. Mrs. H.L. Peoples, fourth from the left, front row, founded the first club in 1922. She also pressured the president of the college for a Mom's

and Dad's Day in 1925. The first one was "dedicated to the interests of the mothers and fathers of the students at A&M," reported articles in the May 6 and 8, 1925 issues of The Battalion.

By PAIGE BEASLEY Battalion Staff

The President of Texas A&M College denied a mother's wish. But she was not to be denied. She returned to Dallas and with help from other Aggie mothers, she packed fried chicken in her Model-T Ford and headed back to Texas A&M College to feed all the Dallas boys.

With this act of charity, Mrs. H.L. Peoples set the A&M Mothers' Club in motion, and this time, President William Bizzell could not say no.

Peoples was concerned with student welfare. In February 1922 a meeting was held "for the purpose of forming a club looking to the welfare of the Dallas County boys at A&M College." The first official meeting of the Dallas University Mothers' club was held March 3, 1922. Peoples was unanimously elected the first president.

The first projects of the Dallas Mothers' Club were to send "goodies" to their sons at A&M. Mothers would notify their sons, then send the "goodies" by train. Later, mothers began to drive the 200 miles themselves, and spend the night at the hotel in Bryan or the old Aggeland Inn.

Six years and eight clubs later, mothers decided to coordinate their ideas of serving and contributing to student life. The result was the Federation of Texas A&M Univer-

sity Mothers' Clubs, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Contributions and projects are increasing with the continual growth to the federation.

In the 1940s, Mothers' Clubs provided an "Aggie Bench" on Hemphill Street for hitch-hiking Aggies. It later became a Shelter House.

An "Aggie Stop" was also available. The stop, which was located on the Houston-Dallas highway, designated a pick-up spot for Aggies needing rides to College Station. The stop was used until 1963.

An organ, the only source of music, was donated in the 1930s to Guion Hall. Guion Hall was an auditorium on campus where plays, concerts and assemblies were held. The 53-year-old building was torn down in 1970 and replaced by Rudder Tower.

The Fort Worth Mothers' Club (1922) sent photographs, reading materials and subscriptions to the hometown newspaper to their boys. Accommodations were also made for Aggie Corps trips to Fort Worth during football season. Mothers furnished beds, transportation, entertainment . . . and "dates" for hundreds of Aggies.

The money-making projects of mothers are endless. Quilting bees were held in Bell County during the 1930s. In the 40s, the San Angelo Mothers' Club auctioned a sheep for \$200.

In 1976, the Fort Worth Mothers' Club made a quilt with each square

depicting a scene from past present A&M activities. The was raffled for \$1,107. During 1977 Sun Bowl, the El Paso Mothers' Club fed 900 Aggies, including the Fightin' Texas Band, the football team, and administration. (This was done in cooperation with the Association of Football Students).

The Federation of Texas Mothers' Clubs today consists of individual clubs with more than 4,000 members. During 1976 the federation made contributions more than \$53,000 to Texas student organizations.

The federation provides scholarships and separate contributions are made by the individual A&M funds, activities or groups their choice.

On April 14-15, the federation will hold its annual spring meeting at the Texas A&M campus. Activities will include an open house, a luncheon and a business meeting.

One highlight of the two-day period is the boutique. The MSC which the federation sponsors. More than 22 clubs participating in the boutique, anything that can be made at home and decorated in some way with Texas A&M symbols. Items include pillows, dolls, aprons, plaques, keychains, much more.

Hard work, support, love, anything she can give or do — a mother. And even more, another mother.

Parents' Weekend

FRIDAY — APRIL 14

- All Weekend — Arts Committee presents Texas Fine Arts Association Exhibit in the MSC Gallery.
11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. — Federation of A&M Mothers' Clubs Boutique, 203-203A, MSC. Handmade items for sale.
Noon — Century Singers, Open Rehearsal, 003 MSC.
1-4 p.m. — Tours of the MSC given by Political Forum and Student "Y" members, 216 MSC.
1:30 p.m. — Federation of A&M Mothers' Clubs meeting, 206 MSC.
2-4 p.m. — Basement Coffeehouse Entertainment and Crafts and Arts Committee demonstrations, Rudder Fountain.
5 p.m. — Singing Cadets, open rehearsal, 003 MSC.
7 p.m. — Federation of A&M Mothers' Clubs open house, 145 MSC.
7:30-11:30 p.m. — RHA "Casino," 2nd floor, MSC. Tickets \$2 in advance, \$2.25 at the door. Available at the MSC Box Office and RHA office.
8 p.m. — Travel Committee presents "We've Never Been Licked," Rudder Auditorium. Tickets at the door.
8 p.m. — Aggie Players present "Rip Van Winkle," Rudder Forum. Tickets (\$1.75 for students, \$2.75 for others) are available at the MSC Box Office and at the door.
Midnight — Aggie Cinema presents "Enter the Dragon," Rudder Theater. Tickets (\$1) are available at the MSC Box Office.

Saturday — APRIL 15

- 8:30 a.m. — Federation of A&M Mothers' Clubs coffee, 205-206, MSC.
8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. — Federation of A&M Mothers' Clubs boutique, 203-203A, MSC.
9:30 a.m. — Federation of A&M Mothers' Clubs meeting, 226 MSC.
11:30 a.m. — Federation of A&M Mothers' Clubs lunch with the Singing Cadets, 201 MSC.
Noon-2 p.m. — Basement Coffeehouse Entertainment and Crafts and Arts Committee demonstrations, Rudder Fountain.
1 p.m. — Davis Gary Hall Softball Tournament, Travis Park.
2-4 p.m. — Tours of the MSC given by Political Forum and Student "Y" members, 216 MSC.
8 p.m. — Aggie Players present "Rip Van Winkle," Rudder Forum.
8 p.m. — Aggie Cinema presents "The Enforcer," Rudder Auditorium. Tickets (\$1) are available at the MSC Box Office.
8 p.m. — Town Hall presents a series attraction concert, "The Ohio Players," G. Rollie White. Tickets at the MSC Box Office, 845-2916.
9 p.m. — Davis Gary Hall party, Elks Lodge.

Sunday — APRIL 16

- 7:30 a.m. — Flower pinning ceremony, Corps dorm area.
9 a.m. — Parents' Day program. Student Government/Corps of the Cadets Awards, Rudder Auditorium.
12:45 p.m. — Ross Volunteers performance, Kyle Field.
1 p.m. — Women's Drill Team, Kyle Field.
1 p.m. — Keathley Parents' Day barbecue, Keathley Beach.
2:15 p.m. — Corps Review and Fish Drill Team exhibition, Kyle Field.
3:45 p.m. — Parson's Mounted Cavalry and Fancy Drill exhibition and Change of Command, Duncan Intramural Field.
4:15 p.m. — Aggie Concert Band performance, Rudder Auditorium.
4:30 p.m. — Ross Volunteer Company Awards ceremony, Rudder Theater.

Entertainment, awards highlight the weekend

By LIZ NEULIN Battalion Staff

Making Mom and Dad proud was the original reason Parents' Weekend was developed in 1925, but since, then, it's expanded from just awards and flower-pinning.

Plays, movies, concerts and a gambling hall are scheduled for this weekend.

Academic and Corps of Cadet awards also will be given at the Parents' Day Program at 9 a.m. Sunday in Rudder Auditorium.

Thomas S. Gathright Awards will be presented to the top sophomore, junior and senior in each college. Deans of the colleges selected the winners on the basis of the highest grade point ratios and involvement in the University. President Jarvis Miller will give the awards.

The outstanding company or squadron size unit in the Corps will receive the Gen. George F. Moore Award, the highest recognition the Corps gives.

Two other major awards for companies for squadron size units are the Gen. Bruno Hochmuth Flag for military achievement and the George P.J. Jouine Flag for scholastic excellence.

Awards are given out each year from societies like the American Legion and Sons of the American Revolution. The Corps also recognizes the outstanding sophomore and freshman.

All three ROTC departments and the Corps as a whole also give awards. About 90 cadets will be recognized.

Aggie Parents of the Year will also be announced during the ceremony.

Organizers for Parents' Weekend are trying to expand the event to include more than the Corps, and this

year Keathley and Davis Gary halls have scheduled activities.

Corps dominance of the weekend seems to date from 1969, when the annual event was changed from Mother's Day in May to Parents' Weekend in April because finals were scheduled earlier in May.

For decades before that, the Memorial Student Center Council and Directorate made the weekend a "big blow-out," said J. Wayne Stark, director of the MSC.

"Just a lot of special things people could cook up for their parents" were planned, he said. For instance, one year the Camera Committee took free pictures of students with their parents at a reception hosted by the MSC. For students whose parents could not attend, the Radio Committee sent greetings home.

Stark said there was not as much to do around A&M, and people depended on the MSC for entertainment. Also, he said, not as many students lived in apartments. So parents had to crowd into the MSC and a few motels. Some professors hosted favorite students' parents in their homes or even rented their bedrooms for the weekend, Stark added.

One traditional highlight of the weekend is the flower-pinning ceremony. Each one of the 1,880 cadets will receive a small flower for his or her commanding officer's mother. Two colors of flowers are used — one denotes a living mother and one a deceased mother.

Another fond tradition will be "We've Never Been Licked," a movie filmed during World War II on the Texas A&M campus. It is scheduled for 8 p.m. Friday in Rudder Auditorium.

All-round A&M supporters

An award for the Mom and Dad

By DANA GARDINA

On Sunday, April 16, two Texas A&M parents will be surprised as they are honored and proclaimed Aggie Parents of the Year.

The event is part of a Texas A&M tradition that dates back to 1925. The Federation of Mothers Clubs started the award as part of the first Parents' Weekend — a weekend to familiarize Texas A&M students' parents with the school.

However, the award wasn't for both parents until 1974.

"It used to be mother of the year, but in 1974 it was changed to parents of the year," said Wayne Morrison, chairman of the Parents' Day committee.

"The main emphasis for selecting Aggie parents is on their parental attributes and not how much they have done for the school," Morrison said.

"Ten people from the student government are in charge of selecting parents of the year," he said.

At the beginning of the spring semester the committee accepts recommendations from full-time students enrolled at A&M. This year the committee reviewed 70 applications.

After this, the parents of the year are chosen and notified ten days before Parents' Day.

"The recommendations can be for the students own parents or someone they consider as their parents," Morrison said.

The Aggie father of the year receives a ten-carat gold tie clasp. The Aggie mother of the year receives a pendant. The parents also receive a plaque.

For the first time, the Aggie parents of the year will be invited to come watch a home football game from the A&M president's box.

"We tried to increase the prestige of being the Aggie parents of the year," Morrison said.

This year, as in the past five years, the parents of the year will

ren't notified early because the who submitted the parent's name wished to keep it a secret from the until the award ceremony Sunday.

Ruth Hewitt, the MSC secretary, was mother of the year in 1971.

"My son and husband kept surprising until I heard them call me," Hewitt said. "It was quite an honor."

"After that my son's company kind of adopted me," Hewitt said. "Recognizing the parents of the year is really the mainstream of corps activity," Morrison said.

However, this year other student groups are planning events. Keathley dorm plans a barbecue and a talent show in the Keathley quad 1 p.m. Sunday.

"We're going to make this an annual thing," said Theresa Schaefer, coordinator of Keathley parents' activities. "We want to get people A&M to have fun and to see it's all about."

Casino this weekend

'Aggies place your bets'

By LAURA HENDERSON

You walk through the door and your ears are immediately filled with the sounds of the roulette wheel spinning, the cards shuffling, and the dice rolling.

The scene is not at Monte Carlo or Las Vegas, but the Resident Hall Association (RHA) casino in the second floor Memorial Student Center ballroom.

RHA will kick off Parents' Weekend at Texas A&M by presenting their annual casino Friday night at 7:30.

Brian Eck, RHA casino chairman, said the casino will offer many different types of entertainment. There will be gambling, Las Vegas-type entertainment, girls dressed as saloon girls and an auction, he said.

Tickets cost \$2.25 in advance and \$2.50 at the door, Eck said. At the door the ticket is exchanged for \$2,000 in play money. From there everyone is on their own to try their luck at whatever type of gambling game they wish he said.

"It will be like a regular casino," Eck said. There will be tables set up for blackjack, chuck-a-luck, roulette, craps and several other games. There will also be horse race films shown

and a wheel of fortune will be set up, he said.

Eck said most of the equipment for the games was built by RHA members about three years ago. "We are ordering some equipment, like the roulette wheel and the chuck-a-luck game from San Antonio," he said.

The entertainment will consist of various acts instead of just one band unlike previous years, Eck said.

There will be such acts as can-can girls, a ventriloquist act with Tim Wessel and Andy (his sidekick), a Steve Martin-like act with Kent Crank, and many other attractions.

"From 8 o'clock on there will be a different act every 10 to 15 minutes," Eck said.

At 10 p.m. the auction will begin with smaller items for the people who were not so lucky at the tables, Eck said.

At 11 p.m. all gambling will stop and auctioning for the larger prizes will begin Eck said.

Ann Tessem, in charge of getting prizes for the casino, said the two largest prizes this year are a black and white portable television set and a ten-speed bicycle.

Tessem said all prizes for the casino were donated by area merchants.

Eck said to alleviate some crowds and confusion the gambling will be on the second floor and the auction will be on the first floor of the MSC lounge.

Candy and soft drinks will be available at the casino. University regulations forbid liquor on campus.

Eck said no one really remembers who first initiated the idea of the casino about four years ago.

Eck estimated the cost for this year's casino will be around \$2,500, which is about \$300 lower than the cost last year. The money for the casino is taken out of RHA funds, he said.

Profits from the casino are used to pay for dorm improvements, the new dorm parents' retreat, the RHA banquet, and the RHA awards program, Eck said.

Julie Roin, RHA treasurer said this year's officers are trying to get \$1,000 set aside from casino proceeds to help dorm start programs against drug abuse, alcoholism, and other problems. "We aren't sure if we are going to be able to do that," she said.

Eck said the special attraction for this year will be a casino that is "an evening of fun and bigger than last year."

