

# THE BATTALION

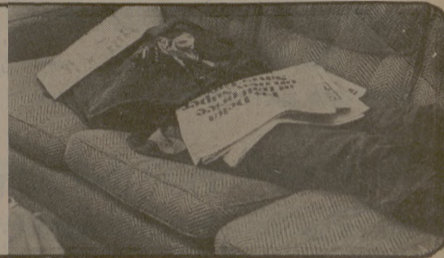
Vol. 71 No. 178  
8 Pages

Tuesday, July 25, 1978  
College Station, Texas

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

## Inside Tuesday

- Weekend rains scattered over state - p. 3.
- Corps teaches leadership - p. 4.
- Martin resigns - p. 7.



## Regents may approve plan for growth

By DOUG GRAHAM  
Battalion Staff

Texas A&M University's future seems mapped out for at least the next five years. The University system board of regents is expected to approve today a master plan for university development over the next five years. The board's building committee approved the plan Monday.

The master plan is a flexible outline for future development, said Dr. Charles McCandless, University director of planning and services. He said the plan, managed by the Coordinating Board of Texas Colleges and Universities, will guide Texas A&M's expansion in "an organized and thoughtful manner."

All state-supported universities and colleges must submit master plans for building and improvements to the Coordinating Board.

Texas A&M's master plan covers projected student growth, construction, operating budgets for both the main campus at College Station and other campuses of the university system, such as Texas Agricultural Extension Service, which are headquartered on the College Station campus.

The plan includes a projection that student population will level off at about 140,000 by 1983. That is an increase of 14.1 percent over 1977.

Faculty would increase by 15.4 percent, McCandless said that was due to the fact that a greater portion of the student population will be at the graduate level; graduate courses have lower student-teacher ratios than undergraduate courses.

The construction program will be enormous, McCandless said that next year construction will be proceeding on over \$53 million in projects that are now in progress. These projects include a new women's dorm, the expansion of Kyle Field, a biological science building and the renovation of Legett Hall.

Another \$17.8 million is planned for these projects in 1981.

Planned transportation improvements include elevating Wellborn Road located between Kyle Field. That is part of a continuing effort to make the Texas A&M campus pedestrian-oriented rather than vehicle-oriented. Also planned are a series of speed bumps near Sbase and in front of the Zachry Engineering Center. That will slow down traffic, McCandless said. He said that the bumps are an inexpensive alternative to completely closing roads during construction.

Construction of new buildings and facilities, while the mainstay of the plan, were not all included in it.

Scheduled for destruction by 1983, are the old creamery, Goodwin Hall, The Old English Annex, the oilseed, wool and animal, and animal reproduction laboratories.

The temporary buildings that border Land Street will also be removed.

The South Texas system produces property values significantly lower than those assessed by tax officials in most urban areas of the state. The varied assessment approaches has led the Legislature to con-

sider tax reform as well as tax limitation during its current special session.

UVALDE — Gov. Dolph Briscoe's South Texas ranchland is worth an estimated \$362.50 per acre, but according to county records, the property is assessed at an average of \$28.20 per acre.

Despite a constitutional mandate that all Texas land be taxed according to its fair market value — or what a buyer would pay for it if it were for sale — most agricultural land in South Texas is taxed according to what it can produce for the farmer or rancher who owns it, according to a story in the Sunday edition of the Dallas Times Herald.

But Briscoe's land is assessed at an average of \$28.20 an acre. E.F. Williams, who owns 9,009 acres in Uvalde County, much of it adjacent to Briscoe's land, is assessed at \$15.47 an acre. The Horton brothers, who own 7,815 acres east of Uvalde, are assessed an average \$24.78 an acre.

Briscoe's 1977 tax bill totaled \$92,130 — \$663,340 less than what he would have owed had his land been assessed at what

the Research Center claimed is its true market value.

The governor and his fellow ranchers were not cheating the taxman but only paying what the local government said was owed.

Local officials maintain agricultural land cannot be taxed as the law requires. "You couldn't tax them at what it's (the land) worth," said McMullen County Judge Claude Franklin Jr. "It would bust them."

"It takes 20 acres of land in this part of the country to run a cow. Now when that rancher goes to sell the calf at the end of the year, he's going to get a few hundred dollars, probably less this year than last. So how is he going to pay \$30, \$40 taxes on each of those acres it took to raise that calf?"

Briscoe's land is assessed at an average of \$28.20 an acre. E.F. Williams, who owns 9,009 acres in Uvalde County, much of it adjacent to Briscoe's land, is assessed at \$15.47 an acre. The Horton brothers, who own 7,815 acres east of Uvalde, are assessed an average \$24.78 an acre.

Briscoe's 1977 tax bill totaled \$92,130 — \$663,340 less than what he would have owed had his land been assessed at what

the Research Center claimed is its true market value.

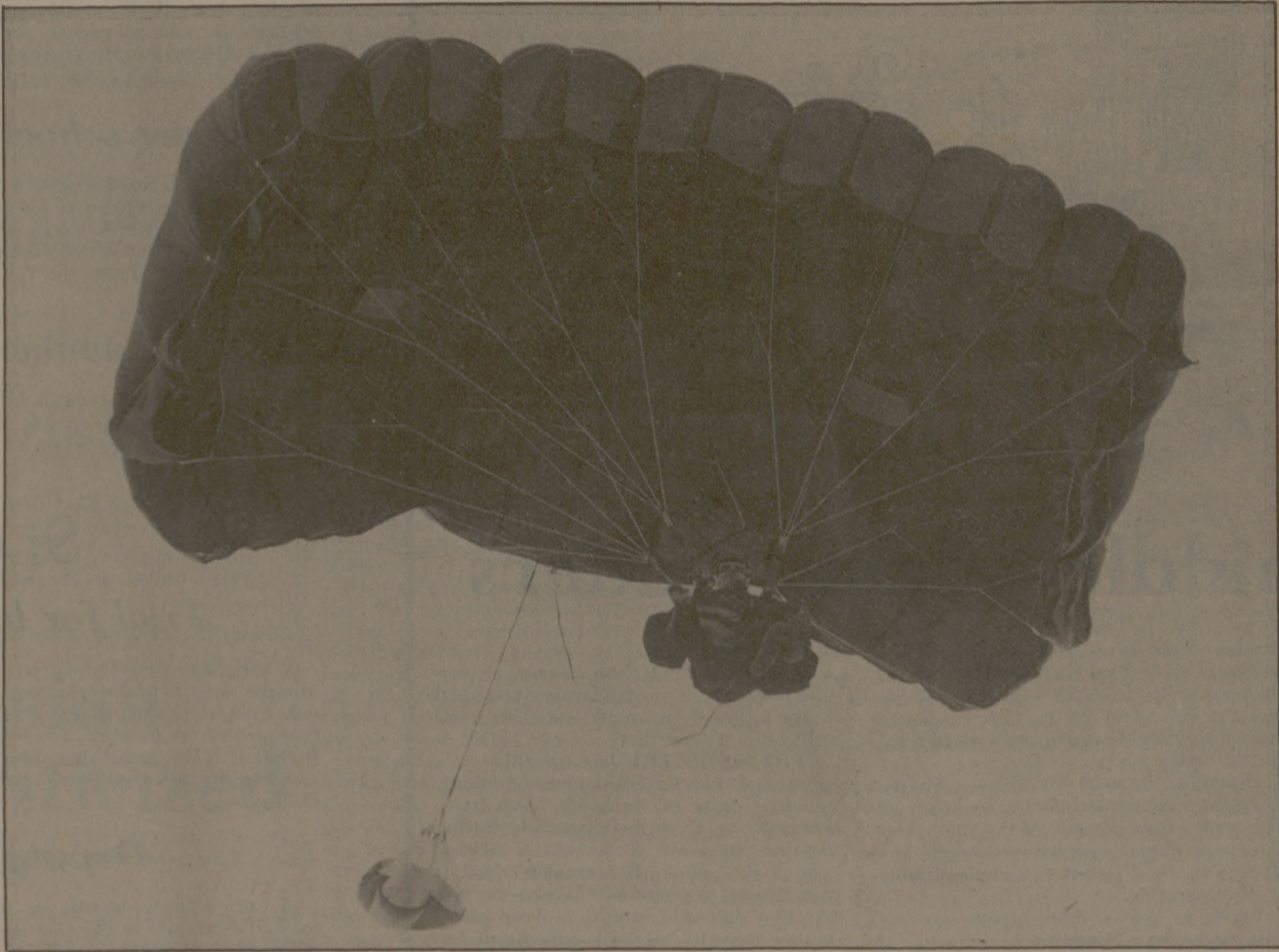
The governor and his fellow ranchers were not cheating the taxman but only paying what the local government said was owed.

Local officials maintain agricultural land cannot be taxed as the law requires. "You couldn't tax them at what it's (the land) worth," said McMullen County Judge Claude Franklin Jr. "It would bust them."

"It takes 20 acres of land in this part of the country to run a cow. Now when that rancher goes to sell the calf at the end of the year, he's going to get a few hundred dollars, probably less this year than last. So how is he going to pay \$30, \$40 taxes on each of those acres it took to raise that calf?"

Briscoe's land is assessed at an average of \$28.20 an acre. E.F. Williams, who owns 9,009 acres in Uvalde County, much of it adjacent to Briscoe's land, is assessed at \$15.47 an acre. The Horton brothers, who own 7,815 acres east of Uvalde, are assessed an average \$24.78 an acre.

Briscoe's 1977 tax bill totaled \$92,130 — \$663,340 less than what he would have owed had his land been assessed at what



## Floating free

Kirk Francis, a member of the Texas A&M Sport Parachute Club on campus, was one of several members who participated in the club's jump demonstration Monday afternoon on the main drill

field. The parachute club staged these jumps to help recruit any people interested in joining the club.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

## Briscoe's ranchland assessed below market property value

UVALDE — Gov. Dolph Briscoe's South Texas ranchland is worth an estimated \$362.50 per acre, but according to county records, the property is assessed at an average of \$28.20 per acre.

Despite a constitutional mandate that all Texas land be taxed according to its fair market value — or what a buyer would pay for it if it were for sale — most agricultural land in South Texas is taxed according to what it can produce for the farmer or rancher who owns it, according to a story in the Sunday edition of the Dallas Times Herald.

But Briscoe's land is assessed at an average of \$28.20 an acre. E.F. Williams, who owns 9,009 acres in Uvalde County, much of it adjacent to Briscoe's land, is assessed at \$15.47 an acre. The Horton brothers, who own 7,815 acres east of Uvalde, are assessed an average \$24.78 an acre.

Briscoe's 1977 tax bill totaled \$92,130 — \$663,340 less than what he would have owed had his land been assessed at what

the Research Center claimed is its true market value.

The governor and his fellow ranchers were not cheating the taxman but only paying what the local government said was owed.

Local officials maintain agricultural land cannot be taxed as the law requires. "You couldn't tax them at what it's (the land) worth," said McMullen County Judge Claude Franklin Jr. "It would bust them."

"It takes 20 acres of land in this part of the country to run a cow. Now when that rancher goes to sell the calf at the end of the year, he's going to get a few hundred dollars, probably less this year than last. So how is he going to pay \$30, \$40 taxes on each of those acres it took to raise that calf?"

Briscoe's land is assessed at an average of \$28.20 an acre. E.F. Williams, who owns 9,009 acres in Uvalde County, much of it adjacent to Briscoe's land, is assessed at \$15.47 an acre. The Horton brothers, who own 7,815 acres east of Uvalde, are assessed an average \$24.78 an acre.

Briscoe's 1977 tax bill totaled \$92,130 — \$663,340 less than what he would have owed had his land been assessed at what

the Research Center claimed is its true market value.

The governor and his fellow ranchers were not cheating the taxman but only paying what the local government said was owed.

Local officials maintain agricultural land cannot be taxed as the law requires. "You couldn't tax them at what it's (the land) worth," said McMullen County Judge Claude Franklin Jr. "It would bust them."

"It takes 20 acres of land in this part of the country to run a cow. Now when that rancher goes to sell the calf at the end of the year, he's going to get a few hundred dollars, probably less this year than last. So how is he going to pay \$30, \$40 taxes on each of those acres it took to raise that calf?"

Briscoe's land is assessed at an average of \$28.20 an acre. E.F. Williams, who owns 9,009 acres in Uvalde County, much of it adjacent to Briscoe's land, is assessed at \$15.47 an acre. The Horton brothers, who own 7,815 acres east of Uvalde, are assessed an average \$24.78 an acre.

Briscoe's 1977 tax bill totaled \$92,130 — \$663,340 less than what he would have owed had his land been assessed at what

the Research Center claimed is its true market value.

The governor and his fellow ranchers were not cheating the taxman but only paying what the local government said was owed.

## Ad valorem tax amendment OK

AUSTIN — The House Constitutional Amendments Committee late Monday voted overwhelmingly to submit for floor consideration a constitutional amendment providing changes in ad valorem property taxation, limiting increases in property tax revenues and granting a homestead exemption.

Rep. Tim Von Dohlen, D-Goliad, the committee's chairman, said he felt the proposed constitutional amendment, which passed 8-1, reflected the common sense of the committee.

Under the proposal all real property would be taxed equally and uniformly across the state, and agricultural land would be taxed on the basis of its productive value rather than on market value.

The committee also voted to provide a

homestead exemption to homeowners, but did not specify the amount of exemption.

Rep. Bob Henricks, D-McKinney, suggested a provision that left the amount of the exemption open-ended.

Von Dohlen said he expects that provision to be substituted when the House considers the amendment, which could be as early as Wednesday.

The proposal also prohibits local governments from raising property taxes without giving proper notice to citizens and conducting a public hearing.

The proposal does not include three provisions that Gov. Dolph Briscoe wanted the Legislature to enact: a two-thirds vote by the Legislature to impose new or additional taxes; a tax limitation provision, and an initiative referendum clause enabling voters to approve all new or additional taxes.

## Small town in U.S. sights UFOs often

DENVER — University of Wyoming professor Leo Sprinkle says there is a small town somewhere in the nation which has had more than its share of UFO sightings in recent months.

Sprinkle, 49, a psychology professor who devotes much of his time to interviewing people who have sighted UFOs or who say they have talked with aliens from other worlds, says he will not identify the community. The townfolk don't want the publicity.

"There is a town we call Clearview, because its residents don't want the identification of the community known, where all sorts of sightings have taken place recently," Sprinkle said. "There have been cattle mutilations, humanoids encountering people and all sorts of inexplicable things going on."

Sprinkle made the comment while in Denver Saturday to address the International Speakers Congress. Sprinkle said he personally has interviewed hundreds of persons who claim to have seen or spoken with aliens from other worlds.

"These people are 'normal,' average people who genuinely believe they have had communications with aliens from outer space," Sprinkle said. "I think we are being shown that there is a life out there. The question is who is showing us."

Sprinkle said he also has observed the spaceships. He said he sighted his first UFO when he was a college student in Boulder 27 years ago.

"At first I scoffed at it," he said. "I figured it was a balloon or a helicopter, some

kind of government deal, so I dismissed it. But six years later, my wife and I saw another one near the Flatirons in Boulder, and I was puzzled because there was something going on that I couldn't figure out."

Sprinkle said he now hypnotizes people who spot UFOs and studies their psychological reaction. He said people who make such sightings could be dreaming or fantasizing, but through hypnosis and polygraph tests, he has determined that most of the people he investigates are telling the truth.

"That is what's exciting for me," he said.

"Many people I have spoken to have said that once aboard the ship, the creatures ask all kinds of questions about nuclear energy. They seem to say that man is polluting the world with nuclear power and better get his act straight or else."

One Wyoming hunter told Sprinkle he had zeroed in on a bull elk and watched with amazement as the bullet stopped in mid-air and floated gently to the ground. The hunter, Sprinkle said, told him a spaceship then appeared and he was invited inside the ship.

Once inside the craft, the man saw a cage filled with elk, Sprinkle said. The man said the aliens placed an X-ray-like machine in front of his chest and then told him: "You're not what we're looking for. You can go home."

Sprinkle said the man was extremely nervous after the experience, but "calmed down considerably through hypnosis. He now jokes that he is a UFO reject."

## Firemen's training school opens

### Dark, oily clouds hang over practice area

By SCOTT PENDLETON  
Battalion Staff

The cloud cascaded upward, drenching the sky with its oily blackness. As I drove towards Easterwood Airport, orange flames surfaced intermittently in the smoke, above and behind the control tower.

I knew, however, that an airport disaster wasn't the cause of the smoke. Instead, it originated on the grounds where the 49th annual Texas Firemen's Training School is in progress.

I turned onto the road leading up to the training school. The shoulders of the road had become a parking lot for every kind of rescue or emergency vehicle imaginable, each sporting a town insignia.

On the school grounds, men and women sat in open air classrooms and listened carefully while fire-fighting techniques were explained. Instructors and students alike wore thigh-high rubber boots and heavy coats. After parking my motorcycle next to the communications tower, I walked over to a class in progress.

"Now I want to emphasize this idea of a lower cone," the instructor was saying. "Keep your spray at a 30 to 60 degree angle. If it's wider than that, you're on defense."

"And another thing is teamwork. Just one man will give directions. No one had any questions, so the class walked over to a steel platform on stilts with stairs on either end. This had been the source of the fire I had seen on the way to the training center."

I picked boots, a helmet, and a coat out of a pile of extra equipment and slipped them on.

"Remember," an instructor said to me, "if you go into this thing, you go at your own risk."

I took my place with one of the fire hose crews, as third man on the hose. Other firefighters were putting on gloves or hoses each other down for extra protection.

The head instructor walked back and forth between the crew chiefs, repeating the instructions. Then, an assistant instructor opened a valve to a pipe supplying

quipped petroleum gas to the platform

structure. Another man ignited the structure with a long torch.

Instantly the metal structure disappeared, engulfed in flame and smoke. The prevailing wind picked up the inferno and dangled it over our heads. Nevertheless, the protective clothing cut the heat to a tolerable level. The plexiglass visor did this particularly well.

The firehose, taut with water pressure,

## Firemen school treats women, boys like men

Women are found among the ranks of firemen in increasing numbers.

"There are more here than I've ever seen before," said Mason Lankford, communications supervisor for the 49th annual Texas Firemen's Training School. Lankford has been involved with the school for 27 years.

"It's impossible to know exactly how many (women) there are," Lankford said. "They don't have to write down anywhere whether they are man or woman."

Women were anything but a rare sight at the Brayton Firemen Training Field on Monday, the opening day of the school.

They rushed into burning buildings with the same enthusiasm that the other trainees displayed. Between classes they joked and talked to the men, who accept their presence as a natural occurrence.

Two of the women denied being firemen.

"We're firefighters," they said. "Why did they join the fire department?" "We live in a small community," one said. "The men are away all day, which leaves us without fire protection."

The women don't deny that they are not as strong as men, but they do not see this as a disadvantage.

"We may not do the job just the way the men would do it, but we'll get it done one way or another," the firefighter said.

jerked as the lead man opened the nozzle. Crews to the right and left of us worked their way down either side of the structure, worrying the lower flames along before them. These they cornered and extinguished, while our crew and another sprayed the source of the gas to keep it from reigniting.

The other two crews then returned, taking over the spraying of the lower fuel source. Our crew sprayed the metal stairway to cool it off. When the instructor judged it to be safe, we advanced up the stairway to attack the flames at the top of the structure.

Two of the ground crews continued to spray the lower fuel source, to keep it from exploding beneath us. The third crew directed its water jets along with ours to the upper flames.

Visibility was especially bad here. The cooling effect of the water caused the oil fumes to condense. It rained tar, not only next to the fire but hundreds of yards away.

My visor rapidly became opaque under an oily film, leaving me sightless. I looked under the edge of my visor where I could just see my arms holding the hose, and adjusted my grip. Everything else was white. Then I realized that the roaring I heard all around us was no longer flames but jets of water.

The fire was out. The job was not over though, because a careful, slow withdrawal was necessary to cool the metal structure and to be ready in case the flames erupted a second time.

After the exercise, I discovered that the two men behind me on the hose were 13 and 11 years old. Scotty Seeton, from Mansfield, and Scott Howard, from Dallas, had come to the school with their fathers. Though too young to be certified as firemen by the state, they are being allowed to participate in the program.

"I like it," Howard said. He's participating just for the experience, and hasn't made up his mind to be a fireman yet.

How do people react to an 11-year-old at the school?

"I get treated the same as everyone else," Howard said. "Everyone is having a good time."

In fact, it looked like everyone was having a great time. In a world growing ever more impersonal, the firemen seem to have retained their traditional good nature and *esprit de corps*. Classes had broken up for lunch, and people were talking and laughing on their way to their cars. An occasional water fight cooled off those who had been closest to the scorching flames.

Despite this occasional play, the Firemen's Training School is serious business, a business that each participant knows extremely well.

"Second to none," said Mason Lankford, communications supervisor of the school. "Firemen come here from all over the world to be trained."

The training school, which began Monday, takes place at Brayton Firemen Training Field, about one mile from Easterwood Airport. The 60-acre facility is divided into dozens of sites containing simulated aircraft, ships, trucks, and refinery situations as well as houses, apartments, and other municipal-type buildings.

This week 1,820 men and women are participating in the annual Texas Firemen's Training School.

"This is the largest attendance you'll have during the year," Lankford said. The school is conducted by the Fire Protection Training Division of the Texas Engineering Extension Service.

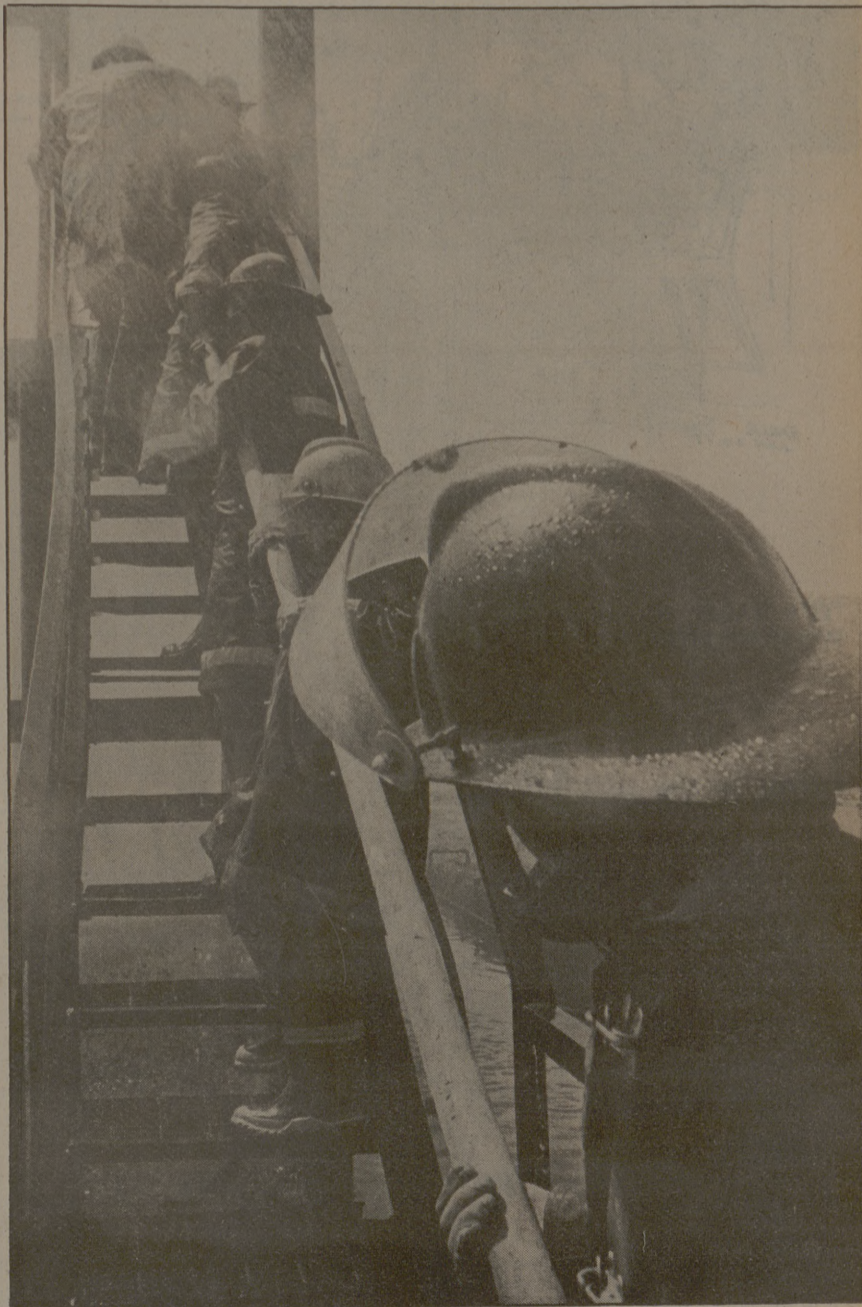
Various kinds of fire training go on 50 weeks a year at the school.

"You look over here year 'round and you'll see black smoke going up," Lankford said.

This week firemen are being taught municipal and industrial fire-fighting techniques.

"Why teach municipal firemen industrial techniques?" Lankford asked. "Anywhere you go in Texas, especially along the gulf coast, 99 percent of the industries rely on municipal firemen. They have to know what they're doing when they get there."

Realizing this, over one hundred corporations and organizations have donated to the school thousands of dollars worth of instruction equipment and materials, including the fuels burned as part of the training.



The drenching rain that hit College Station Monday afternoon did not deter fire fighting exercises at the Firemen's Training School. Municipal firemen from all over the state are here for their annual weeklong training session.

Battalion photo by Scott Pendleton