

'The voice of Aggieland'

Aggie announcer retires

By SALLYANNE CORNELIUS
Battalion Reporter

Something is different about Kyle Field this year. It has a new voice.

C.K. Esten has retired after 24 years as the public address announcer at Texas A&M University football games and 30 years teaching here.

Esten was born in 1908. He attended Brown University and graduated from Baylor University with a master's degree in English and theater.

"I was working at a detective agency while going to Brown, and I met a fellow who was from Baylor doing graduate work at Brown," Esten said.

"He asked me to come to Texas with him, and I finally did. In enrolled at Baylor.

"He got me a dorm room and a

job with the athletic department."

Esten said he ran track at Brown University, and he hoped to run at Baylor, but "at that time transfer students couldn't run, even if they had been there a year or more."

Esten managed the track team

Esten said he was asked to be the public address announcer because "I knew some football. I had played it, coached it, refereed it, and watched it."

and helped the coaches and trainers while at Baylor.

Esten said Brown University was "a tougher school than Baylor. After Brown, Baylor was a breeze."

After graduation, Esten became principal and coach at a high school outside Waco.

Later he taught at Gorman High School.

"That's where I met my wife. She was teaching elementary school in Gorman," Esten said.

Esten and his wife moved to New England, where he spent 11 years as a summer stock actor.

The couple visited relatives each year in Texas, until "One year I asked my wife if she wanted to move back to Texas, and she said 'Yeah'."

Esten was offered two teaching jobs in West Texas, but decided to check with a friend at Baylor first.

The friend sent a recommendation to Texas A&M, and Esten came to College Station for an interview.

"Within five minutes, Dr. Tommy Mayo said I had the job. I never signed a thing. I always had an oral contract at A&M," Esten said.

Esten said he was offered a job a few days later for a better salary, but, "I stuck with A&M."

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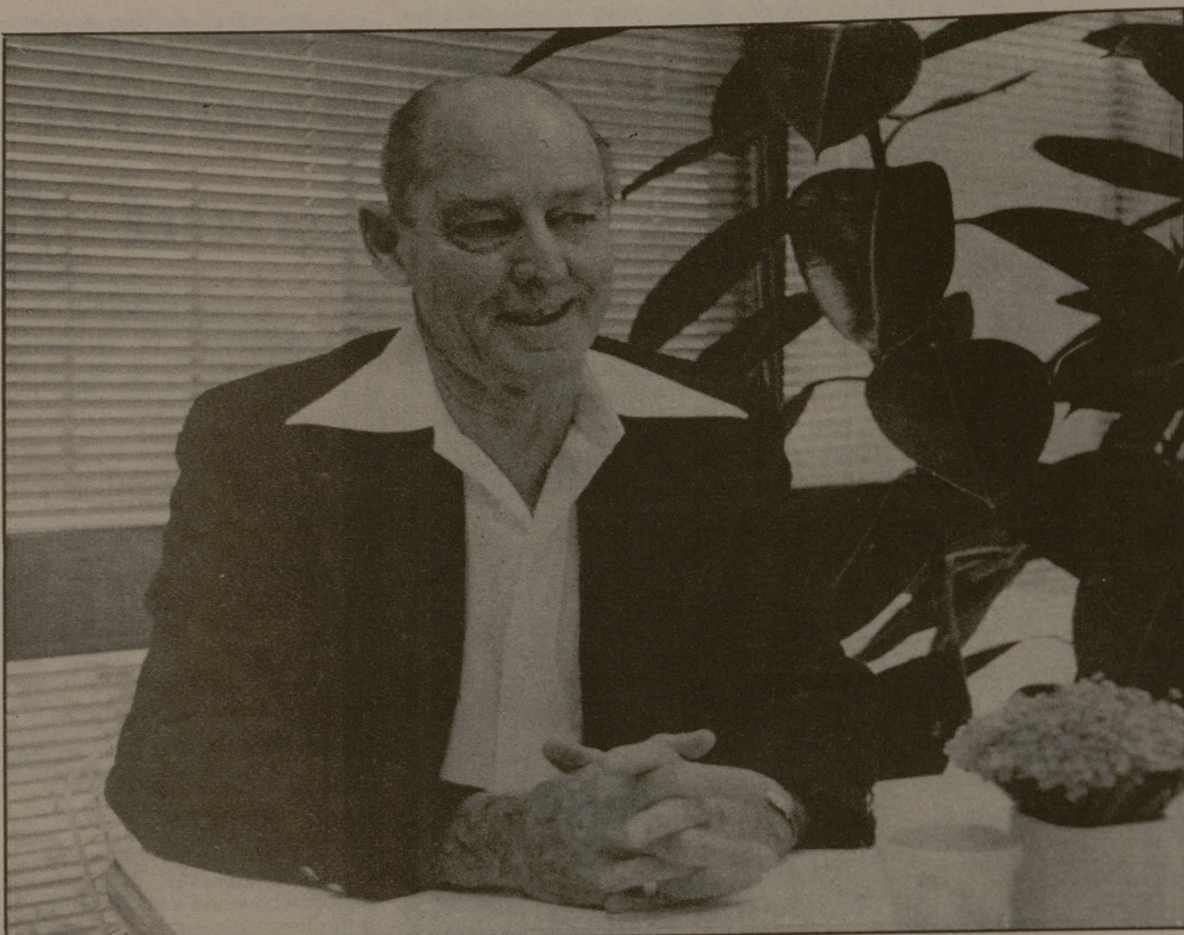
"I knew the different formations, and I spoke clearly," Esten said.

Esten announced for Texas A&M through nine different coaches, beginning with Homer Norton, he said.

Esten said one of the games he remembers was the "Hurricane Game" against TCU in 1956.

"I've never seen anything like it ever, either before or after.

"It was so stormy you couldn't see. TCU had the ball about a foot from the goal line. The officials called it a no-gain. I couldn't tell, but I'm sure the officials were right.



Battalion photo by Paige Beasley

After 24 years, C. K. Esten will no longer announce Texas A&M football games.

Those guys were right on it," Esten said.

The Aggies won the game 7-6. Esten remembered the Texas A&M-Texas game of 1963 because, he said, of an official's mistake.

A Texas A&M receiver caught a pass near the back of the end zone and the officials ruled he was out of bounds.

"The problem was the wrong official called the play, and the referee

took the wrong official's word.

"Each official has a certain area he calls, and this guy was out of his area.

"I've refereed a lot of ball games and I know whose area is whose," Esten said.

Texas A&M lost that game 15-13, and Texas became the Southwest Conference champions.

Hank Foldberg, Texas A&M coach at that time, said of the call

"This is the greatest injustice to a group of young fellows I've ever seen."

The Texas A&M-Memphis State game this year was "the first time in 40 years I've gotten to sit with my wife," Esten said.

Since he retired, Esten has taken two European trips. Presently he is considering a trip to the Holy Land.

Esten spends considerable time gardening at home on his two lots.

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A&M investigator studies severe weather conditions

A Texas A&M University meteorologist wants to look at weather information from the last 80 years in the United States and Canada to determine if it can warn us of the severe winters suffered in late 1976 and January 1977.

James McGuirk says there is a relationship between certain kinds of colder-than-usual winter weather and a phenomenon known as stratospheric sudden warming that occurs miles above the earth's surface.

Very cold winter weather is not always tied to conditions in the

stratosphere; further, stratospheric behavior is not completely understood.

Huge distortions in the jet stream develop, explains McGuirk, and at any time may warm up Alaska, causing trees to bud, while snow falls in Florida.

By examining pressure and temperature data compiled since 1900, McGuirk hopes to determine the re-

lationship of stratospheric warmings to what happens on the ground.

If patterns emerge, they may serve to warn scientists of the stratospheric sudden warming which would top their probable results on the surface.

In plotting weather summaries, McGuirk has already demonstrated that the 1977 winter was all had similar counterparts in January of 1958, 1963 and 1971.

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