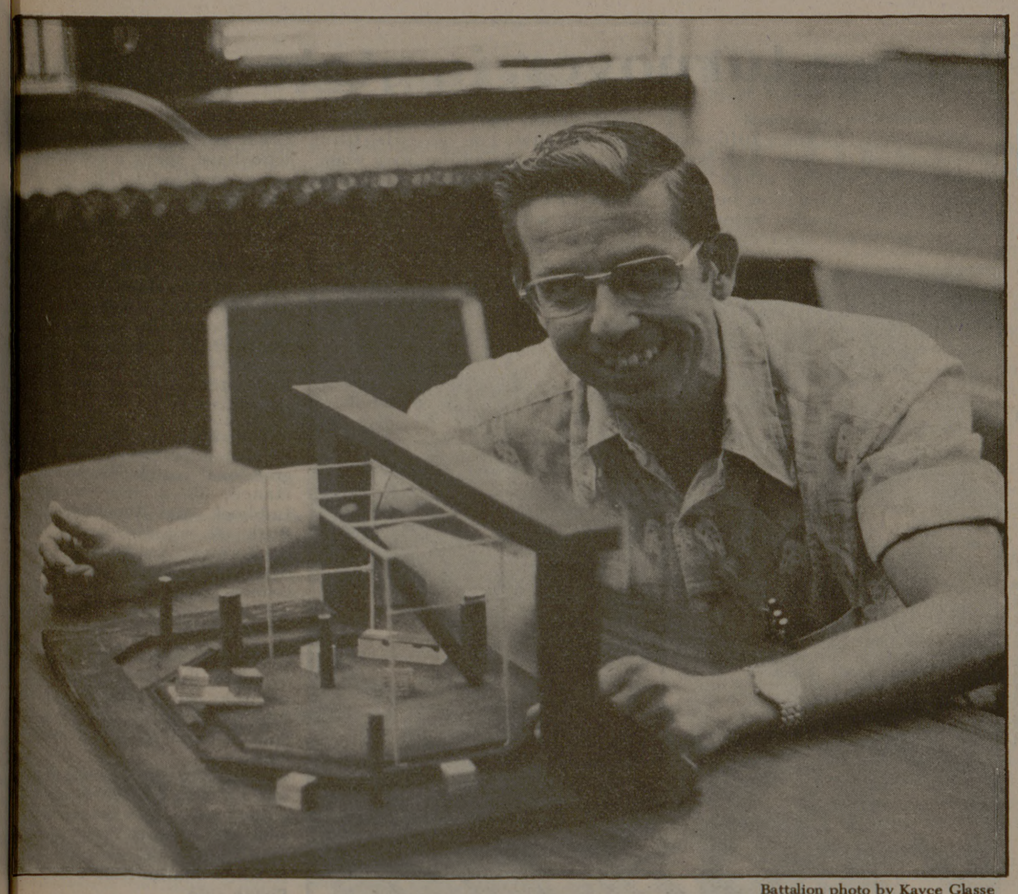

Battalion photo by Kayce Glasse

Look what I did!

Robert Wenck looks over the set he has designed for the Theatre Arts-Aggie Players production, "JB." Dr. Lawrence Leach, the director of "JB," built the set from Wenck's design. The production is scheduled for Nov. 13-18 in Rudder Forum.

Hill still leads Texas race for governor

United Press International

Here are up-to-date thumbnail sketches of the political situation in three key states — Texas, Illinois and New York — with election next Tuesday:

TEXAS

Sen. John Tower, the state's only Republican statewide office holder who was first elected in a 1961 special election to succeed Lyndon B. Johnson, appears in jeopardy in his re-election campaign against Rep. Bob Krueger, a freshman congressman making his first bid for statewide office.

Democrat John Hill, state attorney general who upset Gov. Dolph Briscoe in the Democratic primary, remains the favorite in the Texas governor's race despite the GOP's strongest challenge ever for that office.

Bill Clements, former deputy secretary of defense in the Ford administration, is spending more than $5 million in his campaign to become Texas' first Republican governor in more than a century.

ILLINOIS

In the governor's race, incumbent Republican James R. Thompson has what appears to be a comfortable lead over his Democratic opponent, state Comptroller Michael Bakalis.

NEW YORK

First-term Gov. Hugh Carey D-L appears to have overtaken and passed Assembly Minority Leader Perry B. Duryea, R-C in the race for governor. Carey has campaigned heavily on lowering taxes and saving New York City.

Chancellor on antebellum honor

Dueling was deadly, but polite

By KEITH TAYLOR
Battalion Reporter

Faculty and students have many shoot-outs with the administration, but they would be hard-pressed to beat Texas A&M University System Chancellor Jack K. Williams to the draw.

Williams spoke Tuesday night as a part of the Faculty Lecture Series about the code of honor and dueling in the Old South.

The chancellor explained the origins and the code of honor that bound duelists in the early part of the 19th century.

He said duels could be fought for many reasons: the honor of a lady, political arguments and family honor. The most common reason, however, was an insult. One duel was fought because one man called the other an "ugly, gawking, yankee-looking fellow," Williams said.

One duel was fought because one man called the other an 'ugly, gawking, yankee-looking fellow.'

According to the code of honor, if a man felt insulted he would send a short, polite note to the man who insulted him, explaining the offense, and demanding an apology. The challenged man would then send a short, polite note back, stating that the allegations were true, he said. After these formalities, the duel was set.

All of the details of the duel were handled by a "second," usually a good friend of the duelist, although there were professional seconds, Williams said.

Chancellor Jack Williams

The second would deliver the challenge notes, make arrangements for the site of the duel, and choose the type of weapon to be used. Williams said it was a myth that the challenged man could choose the weapon.

The second was also armed. If one of the duelists shot before the command to fire, the second was allowed to shoot him, the chancellor said.

He said few duels resulted in the death of one of the men because the pistols were smooth-bore flint guns, inaccurate weapons.

The chancellor said dueling was confined to the upper class of the South, and although most of the states had laws against dueling, these laws were largely ignored before the Civil War.

The chancellor said dueling was confined to the upper class of the South, and although most of the states had laws against dueling, these laws were largely ignored before the Civil War.

Dueling was called "an honorable altercation," but there were opponents to the practice.

Newspaper editors and ministers were against dueling.

Editors were in the position of being challenged to duels because of items printed in their papers that could be interpreted as insults, Williams said. At least six editors dueled before the Civil War; two were killed and another was seriously wounded, he said.

"There was considerable truth in the southern cartoon that showed the southern editor with his pen in one hand and his gun in the other," Williams said.

Ministers opposed dueling as a sin and disavowed duelists.

Williams said public opinion turned against dueling after the Civil War. People felt that anyone who fought in the war could not be considered a coward for refusing a duel, he said.

But during its heyday, Williams said, it was considered a refined form of trial by ordeal, and the general sentiment was that the innocent man would win.

'There was considerable truth in the southern cartoon that showed the southern editor with his pen in one hand and his gun in the other,' the former history professor said.

He said the custom was brought from England and popularized by Frenchmen in the South in the early 19th century.