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Save Energy a very bright idea

Texas A&M Singing Cadets celebrate 40th anniversary

By MICHELLE MORREY
Campus Reporter

From Romania to Washington, D.C., Hawaii, Chicago, New York and small Texas towns, the Singing Cadets have represented Texas A&M University. Friday marked their 40th anniversary and celebrated it on the road in Corsicana.

In 1938, the student body drafted a faculty member in the English department to form and direct a glee club. The member chosen, Dr. Joe Woolket, dreamed of making the entire Corps of Cadets a glee club, said Robert L. Boone, the current director. Woolket's dream never materialized: the first club had 250 members.

After a year, Woolket persuaded the president of the University to hire a full-time director.

The 1940, The Battalion sponsored a contest to name the club. The prize was \$5. At the time, Texas A&M was all-military so the name Singing Cadets seemed appropriate. The name has stayed the same, although only 14 of the 66 present members are in the Corps.

There are two prerequisites to be a Singing Cadet: a candidate must be a male enrolled in the University.

"The Cadets are unique in that they are not the traditional kind of glee club," Boone said. "The material we do is more entertainment. Most male choral groups work with the traditional male choral repertoire."

Boone and the Cadets consider

themselves as a public relations arm of the University. Their concerts, which are more like shows, Boone said, are 90 percent entertainment and 10 percent inspirational music.

They always end their two-hour performance with "Spirit," "Nothing Like a Dame," "Aggie War Hymn," "I'd Rather Be a Texas Aggie," and "Benediction."

After singing for President Nixon in 1971, the Cadets stood on the steps of the White House and sang the "Aggie War Hymn" and "The Spirit of Aggieland." Nixon came out and shook each cadet's hand and spoke to each one.

The cadets have performed on the Ed Sullivan Show and the Mike Douglas Show. They average 50 performances each year. Each year they travel to San Antonio, Austin and Dallas, Boone said.

The longest member to stay in the group was for 20 semesters. He joined his freshmen year and continued singing through graduate school.

The Cadets celebrate their Feb. 29 anniversary once every four years because of leap year.

Boone, who has two music degrees, has been directing the Cadets for 20 years. Ironically, he started college on a football scholarship. He studied medicine for three years and decided he didn't want to wait eight years to have a family. He works a ten-to-12 hour day and enjoys it.

"I love what I do," Boone said. "It's the people that make the difference."

Farmer uses white lightning to run ranch equipment

United Press International
ALFALFA, Ore. — A visitor to Ron Miller's spread probably would think he runs a bootleg liquor operation.

Tubs of potato mash smell and ferment in rooms throughout Miller's home. A copper still in Miller's laundry room heats the mash into a batch of very strong "white lightning."

But says he doesn't even taste his brew.

He's trying to turn his cars and farm equipment into alcoholics, running them entirely on alcohol.

"Come on. I'll prove it to you," he said.

He dropped a gauge into a reeking jar of clear alcohol. It registered 165 proof. Then he walked through a maze of old cars until he came to his tractor. He disconnected the tractor's gas line and hooked up a syphon tube from his jar of homemade alcohol.

The tractor coughed to life. He proudly adjusted its carburetor and the engine roared. It seemed to enjoy the stuff.

"I'm not interested in gasohol," he said. "Cars can run just as well on 100 percent alcohol. The mileage is nearly as good as gasoline. You just have to adjust the carburetor. With the rising cost of gas this is the only way I'm going to be able to farm."

Miller has big dreams. He wants to say goodbye to his \$3,500-and-growing annual gas bill. He wants to trade in his small still for a 300-gallon, or maybe even a 1,000-gallon version. He wants to turn enough

potatoes into fuel to supply a co-op of five ranchers.

Miller, 44, applied for a \$10,000 federal grant. His wife "has worn out a typewriter" filling out license forms.

After posting a \$2,500 bond, he legally can make alcohol. Now, he says, government agencies have eased up on the forms and charges to encourage producing alcohol for fuel.

Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission have visited Miller to make sure the brew is going into gas tanks. Miller can't drive his car on the street until he gets a special sticker that exempts him from state gas taxes.

For the past year, Miller has experimented with batches of potatoes. Last summer, he grew about four tons worth.

"I've talked to a lot of old bootleggers, but none of them had recipes for potatoes," he said. "They were making stuff good to drink. But potatoes grow well in this area. So I started experimenting on my own

Average farm prices rise

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Higher prices for cattle, calves, hogs, rice, oranges and cotton pushed up average farm prices in February by 0.8 percent. Despite the slight increase, prices were 1.2 percent below a year ago.

Prices of eggs, corn, soybeans and chickens fell during February, the Agriculture Department reported Friday.

Farmers' expenses rose 0.7 percent in February as a result of higher prices for energy, feeder livestock and building supplies. Feed costs fell.

Expenses of farmers — who are facing stark inflation in the cost of fuel, interest and fertilizer — are 13 percent above a year ago.

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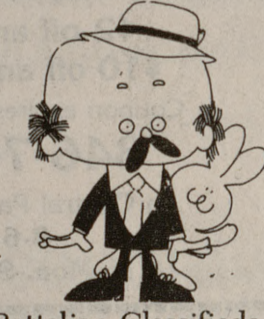
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