

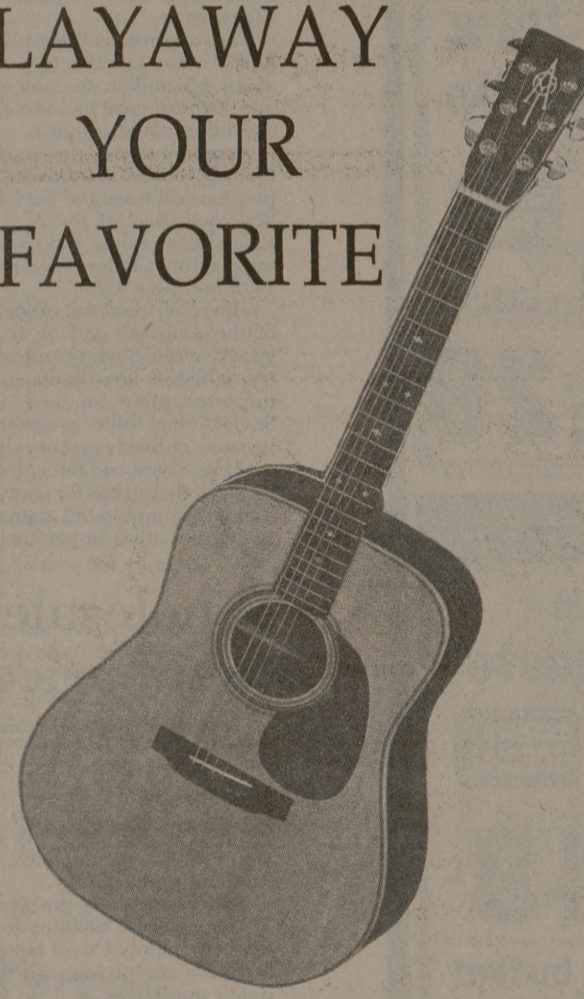
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# Ag looks back

## Woman reflects on early female roles at A&M

By CINDY GEE  
 Battalion Reporter

Lyndal Higgs is an old Ag — not the kind who marched down Military Walk in a Corps uniform, but an Aggie who rode the Toonerville Trolley from Bryan to College Station in a crinkly, pink dress.

"The little stopover was right in front of the YMCA building," she said, smiling at the memory.

"Down in the YMCA in the summer time they had the swimming pool and that was the main place everybody went. Then they had

Casey's Confectionary and that's where we did our laughing, talking and courting."

Higgs, 74, went to summer school at Texas A&M University in 1924 and 1925 to get her teaching certificate.

In an interview at her home, the small, neatly dressed woman recalled the first 37 years of her life as well as the last 37.

She said just a few girls from Bryan and the professors' daughters went to Texas A&M in the summer.

"Automobiles and girls were taboo on campus during the winter," she said. "The boys would bring their cars here and then they'd be real nice to the girls in Bryan so they could hide their cars in the girls' garages."

Those days were fun, she said. "The football games were just as wonderful to us then as they are now," she said, her eyes twinkling with excitement.

"We sang Hullabaloo, Caneck!

Canek! and of course, the Aggie War Hymn. It'll always be beautiful to me."

"On Sunday afternoons the girls would go out and park their cars on each side of Military Walk and watch the boys march in to Sbis Hall. That was quite a thrill, you know. You'd stand there and look for this one and that one and they couldn't dare wave. They walked with their eyes straight ahead like the girls weren't even there."

She said they also did plenty of hell-raising.

"There was a boy from Houston," she said, "who could study up more mischief in 30 minutes. They called him 'Fire Chief' because he'd go to the window and wave his handkerchief and then they'd blow the fire whistle. Then they'd let them all out to go to the fire."

Higgs was born in Roan's Prairie in 1905. She said her family is proud of its Texas heritage.

"My great-grandfather had a league of land in Texas and he was a slave owner," she said, "but he never divided the families."

She continued, pulling at her short, gray hair: "Just like it makes me so infuriated my hair stands up everytime I hear somebody doom and down the young people. I could just tear 'em to pieces. All of 'em are not bad. They're as good as they were when I came along."

"There's just more of them and more opportunities. It's an entirely different world."

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## The Bard wins over TV debate

The televised public debate between Republican presidential contenders Ronald Reagan and George Bush has been off prime time on most Public Broadcasting System stations in Texas.

Houston viewers can watch the debate between GOP front-runner Reagan and hometown candidate Bush on the local PBS affiliate, KLRU.

But in some other major cities, the debate telecast is being delayed. In Dallas and El Paso, the program offered nationwide by the League of Women Voters will begin at 7:30 p.m. and last 45 minutes.

Barbara Schwartz of the League of Women Voters office in Houston said the program is being offered to all PBS stations.

"We're carrying them delayed from 11 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.," said Barbara Ritter, program manager at KLRU in Austin. "In most of the PBS stations are going to air the Shakespeare play 'Henry VIII' because it is one of the biggest PBS. They had the schedule of February, maybe even earlier."

KERA-TV in Dallas will not cast the debates at all.

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