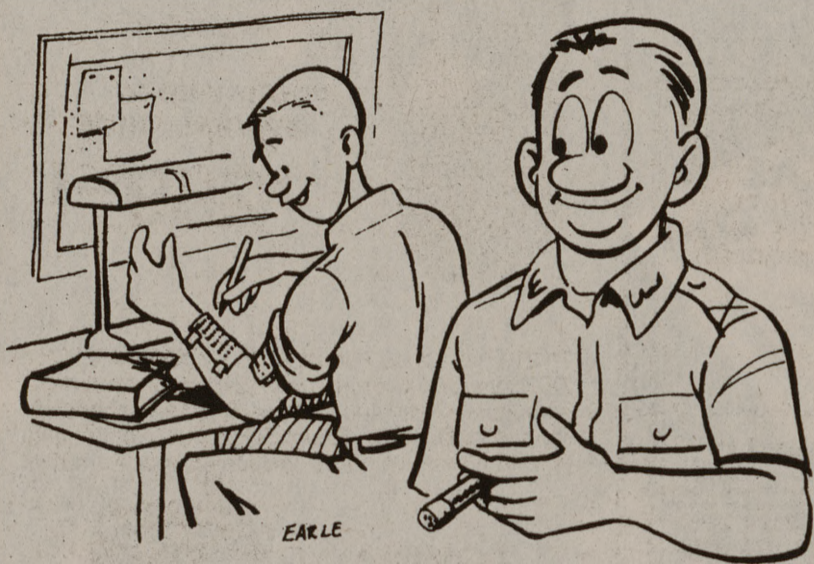


# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY  
DECEMBER 15, 1980

## Slouch By Jim Earle



"The strangest thing just happened to me! By the time I finished writing up my cheat notes, I realized that I had learned what I was supposed to know."

## Culture in Carter White House

By WESLEY G. PIPPERT  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — President and Mrs. Carter were recognized the other night for having attended the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts 28 times, a record for a chief executive.

The previous record wasn't even close. Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford attended the Kennedy Center a grand total of three times.

The Carters have felt hurt that some people have said the election of Ronald Reagan would mean the return of class and style to Washington.

Carter betrayed his feelings when he told a tribute dinner for Robert Strauss this week that his mischievous campaign chairman had sent him a note telling him that in getting ready for the evening preparation, "Just wash your face and put on a clean shirt."

"This new crowd will be a little more classy," Carter said as the predominantly Democratic crowd joined in ironic laughter.

The irony was that Vice President-elect George Bush also spoke to the same audience and told a joke he admitted he "cleaned up" for the Carters.

Carter may be remembered in the minds of some people for merely having invited country

rock singer Willie Nelson to the White House. Actually, few presidents sponsored as many cultural events in the executive mansion as he did.

The Carters also invited opera singer Leontyne Price, Russian ballet dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov and others to the White House for Sunday afternoon performances. They held concerts on the White House South Lawn for jazz, gospel, country and a spectrum of other kinds of music.

The jazz festival, with Lionel Hampton, Dizzy Gillespie, Stan Getz, George Benson and others, rivalled the Newport Festival in talent. Andrae Crouch stole the show at a gospel singing.

"I think of all the performances I've heard in the White House the greatest thrill of mine was when Leontyne Price came here to perform," Carter said in praising her as one of the five 1980 Kennedy Center honorees.

"The only single exception I can think of was the first time that Amy got her violin and played 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,'" he said.

His joking reference to Amy was typical. Carter often appeared unable to suppress the urge to remind people that even rural Georgians enjoyed the finer things of life.

"It's a very fine thing to have people out our country, in New York and ... — and also in Plains and other places — who can observe and appreciate and participate in the finer things of life," Carter said.

Early in his administration, Sen. Ted Kennedy, his mother Rose, and hundreds of others from the nation gathered in the White House Rose Garden for a reception for the Kennedy Center's corporate fund.

He told the story of the New Orleans Symphony Orchestra coming to nearby Louisiana, while he was in business back in Plains. The orchestra played at a college — no auditorium, no air conditioning — "There were 3,000 people stacked on a warm day," Carter said. "For me, around the circle of symbolic pot-bellies of Carter's warehouse, the topic of conversation among those farmers who had never heard any sort of classical music was an experience that was one of the most interesting of their lives."

Carter's message that high-brow culture was clear: You don't need to live in New York to enjoy culture. There is a place for it in the heart of the South. It never got through.

## Just who (or what) is a Texas constable?

There are some things that are just not thought about readily until events jog them to the consciousness. Things like Crazy Water Crystals, or Harold Stassen, or rhubarb. Or the town constable.

My last memory of the constable of my hometown, or of any town, was of a wizened little man who drove a decrepit vintage-1930's pickup truck. The constable wasn't a part of my life then, nor has he been since. But when one Brazos County constable race drew five candidates for the Democratic primary, required a runoff, and was contested in the general election by a Republican, it got my attention. And when a Republican won the constable race in another local precinct against a Democratic incumbent, I got downright curious.

Just exactly what was the constable and what did he do?

The name comes from the Latin words "comes stabuli," which means, literally, "officer of the stable."

In the British pecking order of law enforcement the constable is a policeman ranking below sergeant.

In 16th-century Europe he was a royal personage who was the principal military assistant to the monarch.

But in Texas and Brazos County, the constable serves a regular and contemporary function.

"He is considered to be the law enforcement arm of the J.P. (justice of the peace) courts," said Brazos County Judge Dick Holmgreen.

The Handbook of Texas Government describes the constable as process server for the courts of the county, having the authority of a general peace officer and empowered to make arrests.

"He does not work for the sheriff," Holmgreen added. Under certain conditions he said, the constable "could even arrest the sheriff."

"It is a part-time job," Holmgreen continued. "No one is paid on fees. All are paid out of the general fund, just like everybody else."

Holmgreen explained that, in Brazos County, the constables do not all receive the same pay. The two officers whose jurisdictions include Bryan and College Station are paid more than the constables in the rural areas.

The constables of the two municipal jurisdictions are paid an annual salary of \$6,290. In Precinct 4 (Bryan), the constable receives a monthly car expense allowance of \$100. Pct. 7 (College Station) is allocated \$200 per month for car expense.

The constables of the rural precincts are paid \$1,244 per year.

So why, with the job not paying a particularly handsome salary, would anyone seek the job? And why would one candidate, Richard Fronterhouse, spend over \$4,000 to get a job that pays only half again as much.

Holmgreen ventured one reason: "There are

## Notepad

By Wiley Gilmore

certain people who have a true, honest interest in law enforcement," he said.

Law enforcement for the constable entails, in great part, the serving of legal papers on individuals. Legal actions involving debts, such as hot checks, form a bulk of this activity.

Both of the winners of the municipal constable races in Brazos County emphasized the importance of this phase of their new jobs.

Richard Fronterhouse, 47, will take office in January as the new constable of Bryan's Pct. 4. Fronterhouse, a grocer, was quick to mention the processing of unpaid debts as one of his motivations for entering the race.

"Because of me being in business," he said, "I knew I could do a better job."

Confirming Judge Holmgreen's opinion, Fronterhouse also mentioned his 16 years of law enforcement experience in Conroe and Brazos County as reasons for his candidacy.

Dick Munday, the man Fronterhouse defeated in the runoff election, was philosophical about leaving the office he had held for 12 years.

Munday, 46, is an insurance agent in Bryan. He said he would welcome the free time he would have when he was no longer constable.

Munday said he once had to go to Houston to return a prisoner to Brazos County. It turned out to be a former football player that Munday had once coached in high school.

"It's pretty tough to take a kid you had on your team and take him to jail," Munday said. But he didn't say constable work was all unpleasant.

"My best part was in helping people who need help, who were ignorant of the law," he concluded.

Winfred Pittman is 42 years old. He is a financial technician with the U.S. Army Reserve.

Republican Pittman defeated the Democratic incumbent E.W. Sayers in the constable race in College Station's Pct. 7.

Pittman, too, emphasized that he intended to make a "daily effort on serving of warrants."

The foregoing is not absolutely all one might need to know about the office of constable. The Texas civil statutes contain detailed job descriptions, limitations, authorities, and constable-related court decisions in such quantity as to frustrate the layperson completely. So this could not be called The Compleat Constable.

But it's a start.

## INTRODUCING The LATEST from Reagan Motors:



It's your turn

## A&M computers bring Christmas

'Twas the week before finals  
And caught in a bind  
The students were scared  
'Cause their programs were dyin'.

The students all hung  
'Round the terminals with care  
In hopes that a seat  
Soon would be bare.

WYLBUR, in guise  
of a friend to us all,  
Sent all of us lies  
And said "Try 'gin next Fall!"

The printers all clattered  
And sputtered along  
They ripped all the paper  
And typed "Wrong! Wrong! Wrong!"

The card reader and punches,  
All strewn in a row,  
With signs on their faces  
Telling us where to go.

The AHMDAHL was decked  
With a large blinking light  
That started flashing  
"This just ain't right!"

It followed a sequence  
Encoded with glee:

Set the fire alarms off,  
And some students did flee.

The next step on its program  
Was du'fully done  
All hard disks were wiped  
No programs were run.

And woe to all those  
Who were caught in the system,  
We haven't seen them since  
And can't say we've missed 'em.

Students stomped on the floor  
And yelled for their moms,  
Others followed their programs  
(They simply got bombed!)

The cards were all over  
The ground and the floor  
As the students got stewed  
And stormed out the door.

And all of a sudden,  
With a very bright flash,

The terminals printed  
"It's permanent crash!"

The last of the students  
Crawled out of the door  
And just like the Raven  
Cried "C.S. Nevermore!"

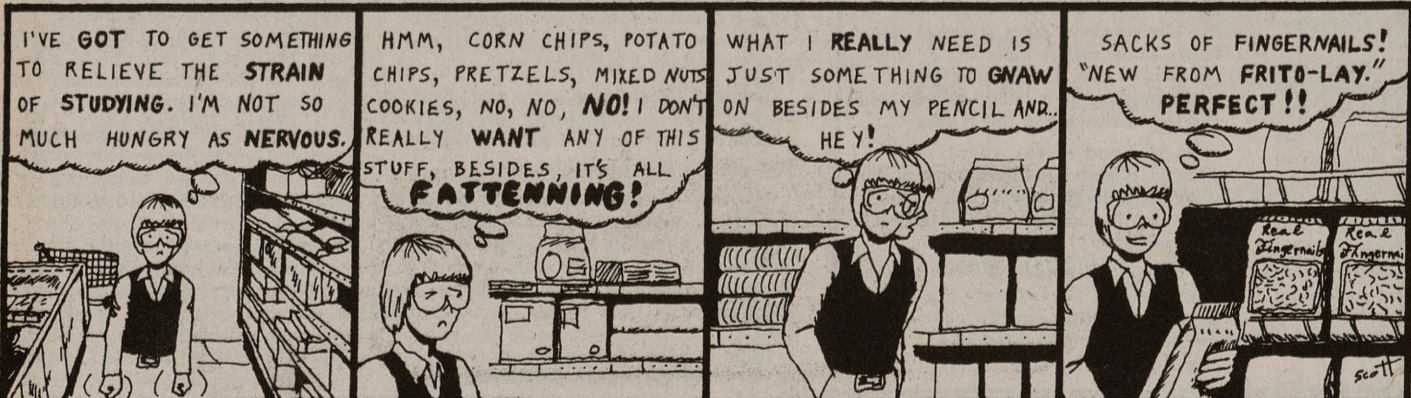
Then started the AHMDAHL,  
Which cackled like mad,  
And said to itself  
"Well ain't that so sad!"

The system then hummed  
And roared off in the night  
While deviously planning  
The next evening's fright.

On Regents please listen  
To our plaintive sigh  
"Please, PLEASE fix the system,  
Before our grades die!"

Andy Stone  
John Kerber

## Warped



By Scott McCullar

## THE BATTALION

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