

Local

Corps outfits request guidons yearly

Woman has stitched flags since '30s

By LISA SURMAN
Battalion Reporter
Any time the Corps of Cadets

marches, Mrs. T.G. Gorbet can be assured her satin guidons will be seen glimmering in the sun-

light. Gorbet, 81, has been making guidons — the flags carried by each outfit and staff in the Corps — for more than 40 years.

"I enjoy making them because I feel like I'm helping," she said while rocking in a chair.

Gorbet, born in Madison County, said she does most of the sewing by machine. "Of course, the tassels (which trim the border of each flag) all have to be sewn on by hand, which is quite a lot," she said.

The seamstress said her first one was handmade with the help of her employer, Tilley Hollis, some time in the 1930s. Hollis was the owner of an alteration shop at Northgate.

"Some cadets came into the shop one day and asked if we

would make a guidon for their company," Gorbet said. With the help of Hollis, that first flag took a week to make, she said.

"The boys were real thrilled with it when we finished," Gorbet said. "They gave us \$5 for it."

Throughout the years, the price for one of her flags has risen to \$48.50. Some of the more detailed guidons, which are mainly for the Navy and Company E-1, are more expensive, Gorbet said.

"Thread that I used to pay 10 cents a spool for is now \$1.08," she said.

Although the price for these flags has increased from years ago, the time it takes for Gorbet to make the guidons has decreased because she has more experience and uses a sewing machine. She can now make one in about 3-5 days, she said, but she usually requests a week to complete a guidon.

"It takes one day to draw the letters and design for a flag, one day to cut everything out and pin on the material and one day to sew it all on," Gorbet said.

"I always tell the boys, if there's anything wrong with the flag to bring it back and I'll fix it," she said. "I don't ever want them to walk across campus or be in a parade and have everyone say, 'Look at that flag. That's one Mrs. Gorbet made; look at how crooked it is,'" she said.

Gorbet said the most guidons she has made in one year is 38. She said she made 10 flags last year.

"Every other year I make more because some units don't order new flags every year," she said. "Of course the Navy, which is so time-consuming, orders every year," she said.

"If I was smart, I'd just make theirs in the summer," Gorbet

said. "But I wait until they call me before I make it because I'd just die if they wouldn't want it."

Gorbet doesn't make all of the guidons for the 57 outfits and staffs. "Some of the units order them ready-made from Houston and occasionally one of the boys' mothers makes one," she said.

In spite of this, Gorbet said she remains busy. "Every once in a while, I have to have a friend come help me if I have too many orders," Gorbet said. "But that isn't very often."

Several years ago Gorbet said she made the red sashes that the officers of the Ross Volunteers wear on their uniforms. "That got to be too hard for me to keep up with because of my arthritis," she said. The seamstress said each unit always wants their guidon finished by Parent's Day, which is held the end of April. She said she remembers when the flags used to get stolen by members of the Corps in different outfits for pranks.

After an instance like that, she said, "They'd call me up and say, 'Mrs. Gorbet, can you make us another one?'" Gorbet said she can remember sitting up many nights trying to finish a second flag for an outfit.

Although making guidons keeps her busy, Gorbet said she is in the process of trying to make quilts for each of her six great-grandchildren. She has already made quilts for her three grandsons, who are all Aggies.

Gorbet said her family is very happy about her making flags, but she said her one daughter used to tell her, "Now mother, you're doing too much; I wish you'd quit it." She said she knew her daughter was never serious about her quitting.

What's Up

MONDAY

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY: Meets at 7:30 p.m. in 321 Physics.
Fermier.
CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Night Prayer will be held at 10 p.m. in St. Mary's Church.
SCUBA CLUB: Meets at 7:30 p.m. in 407 Rudder.
TEXAS STUDENT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION: Meets at 7:30 p.m. in 140 MSC.

TUESDAY

PRE-MED/DENT SOCIETY: Dr. Joseph Richardson, Associate Dean for Student Affairs at U.T. Dental School in San Antonio, will speak beginning at 7:30 p.m. in 103 Harrington.
MICROBIOLOGY SOCIETY: Meets at 7:30 p.m. in 102 Agony.
"TEXAS ENERGY OUTLOOK 1981-2000": Dr. Milton Holloway, Director of Texas Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Council, will give this presentation from 11 a.m. to noon in Rudder.
TAMU STUDENT DIETETICS ASSOCIATION: Will have a Sandwich Supper and election of officers beginning at 6:30 p.m. in 126 Kleberg. Bring a sandwich ingredient.
"HOUSTON SYMPHONY WITH LUCIA POPP": This MSC Opera presentation will begin at 8 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium. Tickets are available at the MSC Box Office.
"ROSIE THE RIVETER": This highly acclaimed film about women during World War II will be shown at 8 p.m. in 105 Heldenfels, sponsored by the Department of History.
MEDINA COUNTY HOMETOWN CLUB: Meets at 7:30 p.m. in 321 Physics.

SOCIETY OF AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERS: Mike McCandless will speak about evaluation of reformed methanol as an automotive fuel beginning at 7:30 p.m. in 127-B Zachry. Officers will be elected also.

ASSOCIATION OF BAPTIST STUDENTS: "Let Their Eyes Be Opened," a film documentary on humanism in today's culture, will be shown at 7 p.m. at 304 Highland, College Station.

WEDNESDAY

MSC HOSPITALITY FASHION BOARD: A Spring Fashion Show will be held at 7 p.m. in Rudder Forum. Tickets may be purchased in the MSC Box Office.
SOCIETY OF PLASTICS ENGINEERS: Meets at 7 p.m. in 341 Zachry.

Miss TAMU readies for Fort Worth show

By JENNIFER CARR
Battalion Reporter

The McFadden Hall room looks just like any other women's dormitory room with two small exceptions — a glittery rhinestone crown on the shelf by the bed and a maroon and white banner on the bulletin board that reads "Miss Texas A&M University."

Sheri Lynn Ryman, who won the crown and banner on Feb. 21, said that becoming Miss Texas A&M has not changed her lifestyle at all. She said she doesn't feel the need to dress up and impress people all the time.

One morning during a week when she had a lot of tests, Ryman said she was in Shiba Dining Hall wearing "this cruddy old warmup and my hair was pulled back in a ponytail. I heard this guy behind me say, 'That's Miss Texas A&M?' I looked horrible," she said.

Ryman said she's busy now that she represents the University at the KAMU-TV auction and helping Kappa Sigma fraternity with its Easter Seals drive.

"I got a letter yesterday from the civil engineering department. They want me to go down to Galveston April 25 and christen one of their new research vessels," she said.

The industrial distribution department has also asked Ryman to do some promotional work. The sophomore industrial distribution major said she thinks the pageant could be advantageous to her in her career.

Ryman said she would like to use her degree to go into outside sales.

"Right now, I think I'd like to work for Honeywell, TI or IBM and sell computer hardware," she said.

And if she still has the same interest in two years, Ryman said she thinks it would help if she

were Miss America or even Miss Texas.

Ryman said she is now preparing for the Miss Texas pageant to be held this summer in Fort Worth.

"The talent I have, gymnastics, is something where you can't get out of shape because it takes a while to get back into shape. You've just got to keep it up," Ryman said.

"They pamper you up there at the Miss Texas Pageant. It's great. You feel like a queen."

Ryman described the competition in the pageants as healthy rather than "cutthroat."

"It takes a lot of nerve... a lot of sacrifice and... a lot of determination," she said. "You really, really do get a lot out of it, and so it's worth all that hard work."

The girls who enter the Texas A&M Scholarship Pageant are not "just dumb blondes," she said.

"It's not a beauty contest. It's a scholarship pageant — the Miss Texas Scholarship Pageant. That's the main purpose — to give scholarships."

"They're not looking so much for a beautiful girl as they are for a talented and intelligent girl," she said.

When getting ready for the Texas A&M pageant, she said, she was working out everyday with gymnastics and weights.

"I was dieting. I was reading (US News and World Report) to keep up with current events and stuff," she said. "It was pretty much an everyday thing."

Also keeping Ryman busy are several University organizations, which include the Engineering Technology Society, the Gymnastics Club, and the MSC Hospitality Committee. Ryman is also secretary of her residence hall.

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