

FOCUS

Entertainment supplement
to The Battalion

Thursday, August 6, 1981

Dinner theater starts tonight

By Kathy O'Connell

Battalion Staff

Students and community members looking for an inexpensive way to see a play and enjoy dinner at the same time are in luck.

The MSC Summer Dinner Theater Committee is again presenting three evenings of entertainment. The play is Neil Simon's "The Prisoner of Second Avenue."

The play centers around an upper middle-class male who loses his job and starts to go through the woes of the unemployed. His wife begins to bear the burden of supporting her husband while he struggles with the frustration of unemployment, failure and depression.

Even though the subject of the matter seems grim, the play is actually a comedy. Nothing seems to go right for the couple, appliances break down, etc. etc.

The theme of "The Prisoner of Second Avenue" is not uncharacteristic of Simon's comedy, which is usually set in a high rise apartment in New York city.

Committee Adviser Suzanne

Becker said the June productions featuring "Impolite Comedy" were sold out almost every evening and she expects this month's program to be as successful as the last ones.

Becker said the production is presented in conjunction with the theater arts department.

The plays will be held in the MSC Ballroom (Room 201) on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Show time for all three nights is 7:45 p.m. with food line starting at 6:30 and ending at 7:30 p.m..

The menu for Thursday and Friday evening is BBQ beef and sausage with potato salad, beans, bread and dessert. Price is \$5.75 for Texas A&M students and senior citizens and \$6.75 for non-students.

Saturday's menu is a buffet with seafood creole, beef stroganoff, assorted salads and vegetables and dessert. Ticket prices for this evening are \$8.75 for Texas A&M students and senior citizens and \$9.75 for non-students.

Becker said tickets must be purchased at the Rudder Box Office at least 24 hours before the shows.

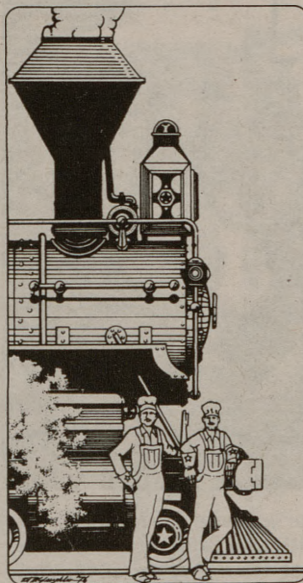


An old-timer and his horse seem to be inviting everyone to come to the tenth annual

Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio.

Photo by Cathy Saathoff

Texas train runs through history



"All aboard!"

Only in old movies have most people heard the boarding cry for the "iron horse." Not many know that Texas has its own railroad with four antique steam locomotives running on the rails.

The Texas State Railroad runs through the East Texas countryside between Palestine and Rusk, with depots at each end. The stations feature a gift shop, snack bar and railroad exhibits.

The restored antique coaches take visitors back to America's railroading past. Four steam locomotives, one each dating from 1896 and 1901 and two from 1917, take passengers through forests and across streams and rivers on wooden trestles.

Along the way, riders get glimpses of wildlife hidden in the foliage.

The Texas State Railroad is 25.5 miles long. At the Rusk end

Continued on page 3

SA Folklife Festival a learning experience

Spectators at the tenth annual Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio can take home a lot more than a souvenir — they can take home a skill.

The Festival, which starts today and runs through Sunday, is a celebration of the many ethnic groups that came to Texas as pioneers. The 15-acre grounds of the University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures are covered once a year by the Festival, which includes people from across the state. The area becomes an open-air schoolhouse as craftsmen become teachers and visitors become students. Each "class" teaches different how-to's of pioneer living, from soap making to building adobe and log homes.

Arts and crafts displays feature lessons as well as goods for sale. Quilting, ceramics, calligraphy and whittling are among the crafts visitors can participate in.

The arts and crafts displays are interesting, but the food is the highlight of the Festival. Gourmets can enjoy everything from turkey legs to Chinese food to sausage on a stick. And anything else you might want, with plenty of beer, tea and cokes to wash it down.

And you might want to learn how to save money on food by preparing staples at home. The San Antonio-Houston Loafers will show how to bake "Depression" bread in a coffee can. And spread that bread with homemade peanut butter and jelly.

One thing you might not want to try, though, is the boiled opossum offered by the people of Gilmer.

In addition to crafts, the Folklife Festival showcases entertainment, music and games from 32 ethnic groups who helped settle the state. Nine festival stages feature

belly dancers, Cajun music, bluegrass and other music and dancing.

Games include Italian bocci, which is similar to lawn bowling, and horseshoes, and of course the ever-popular berm sliding.

For the uninitiated, berms are the large, steep hills which surround the Institute. And the easiest way to get down a berm is to slide on cardboard. So watch for sliding children.

If the summer sun gets to be too much, the museum inside is open all day, showing movies and exhibits of early pioneer life.

Tickets to the Folklife Festival are \$4, \$3.50 in advance for adults. Admission for children under 13 is \$1, and children under 6 are admitted free. Park and ride shuttle buses are available from major shopping malls in San Antonio.