

Local

Musical Halloween treat for Ags



Staff photo by Rose Delano

Charley Pride performs old and new hits Friday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

By MARY JO RUMMEL

Battalion Staff
On a night of tricks and treats Friday, country music fans were treated when Charley Pride performed a selection of old and new favorites in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Pride and his six-member band, the Pridemen, concentrated on providing a lot of good music—artfully manipulating the mood of the crowd without using elaborate light shows or other gimmicks.

Review

The audience mellowed out on the romantic love songs such as "Kiss an Angel Good Morning" and "Crystal Chandelier." But Pride managed to keep everyone on their toes by changing the pace and livening up the performance with "Kaw Liga" and "Honky-tonk Blues."

He even added a touch of gospel music to the show from his latest gospel album.

Pride also presented some new music along with the old favorites. He sang his new hit single "I've Never Been so Loved in All My Life," which has been No. 1 on the Billboard Country Charts for two weeks.

After several songs, Pride pulled up a chair and told jokes about his recent visit to the White House and his hometown of Sledge, Miss.

The Pridemen were talented and knew their music. They played a special rendition of "The Orange Blossom Special" that had

the audience clapping and just about dancing in their seats.

Earl Thomas Conley, Nashville song writer, sang a collection of his songs such as "Fire and Smoke." Conley and the Pride back-up singers, Bittersweet, set the mood for an enjoyable night of country. Bittersweet, a one-man and two-woman trio, added their own harmonized touch to popular songs such as "Two Doors Down."

Out of 38 albums released by Pride, 14 have become gold records by selling over 500,000 copies.

He has received two Grammy awards and 18 Country Music Association awards in his career.

Known as "Country's Pride," he is popular in several other countries. Though never released in the United States as a single, "Crystal Chandelier" was recently voted the most popular song in England.

Pride is popular especially in Canada, Australia and New Zealand, Preston Buchanan, Pridemen bass guitarist, said. Buchanan has been playing in the band since 1969.

The Dallas group came back to Texas Tuesday after giving a concert in Madison Square Garden in New York and recently ending a tour in Canada.

"We spend about 130 days out on the road — mainly in the United States and Canada," Buchanan said in an interview during intermission. "We get off all of June and December."

Sometimes the traveling makes it hard on family lives. The wives get to go along on some of the trips. The families of the members of the groups accompanied the band to College Station, he said.

Off-Campus Aggies plan to dance the night away

The Off-Campus Aggies will meet at 6:30 tonight in Rudder Tower to finalize plans for their upcoming street dance.

The Nov. 14 street dance will be held at 8 p.m. at Culpepper Plaza following the Texas A&M-University of Arkansas game, Paul Bettencourt, OCA president, said.

"We've never had a street dance like this in our area, and we're expecting about 1,000 or more people to attend," he said.

Two local radio stations, KTAM and KORA will have on-the-spot music and will interview OCA officers and members, as well as students attending the street dance.

Area merchants will provide concessions for students and will exhibit individual booths promoting their business.

Bettencourt said OCA, which will also discuss Aggie Bonfire tonight, hopes to double its cutting crew since this weekend is the final cutting weekend.

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Firefighters' skills glow after class

Fires in nuclear power plants can range from simple trashbasket blazes to electrical infernos that threaten vital radiation safety systems, so fire brigades at such facilities need special training.

The concern about such a major fire is underscored by two of the most extreme cases — a 1975 blaze at the Brown's Ferry, Ala., reactor that destroyed seven of the 22 safety systems and led to new fire prevention standards for the industry, and the 1957 Windscale reactor fire in England that forced nearby dairies to dump milk into the sea after radiation was released in the smoke.

The Texas Engineering Extension Service offers the kind of classroom and hands-on experience needed in one of the few programs nationwide, says the instruction coordinator.

Firefighters from nuclear power plants are taught the same basic control and prevention skills as their counterparts who attend the annual industrial fire school, David Cox of the TEEEX Fire Protection Training Division, said.

In addition, nuclear plant emergency teams receive special emphasis on radiation detection, fire-fighting in the presence of radioactive contamination and setting up control areas for firemen leaving the scene, Cox said.

He said the special training is possible because personnel from Texas A&M's one-megawatt research reactor are available to help trainees draw up simulated contingency plans in the classroom.

As a highlight of the school, the students are asked to battle a blaze knowing that low-level radioactive material is present, Cox said.

"Of course, we don't use anything that could hurt them, even if they happen to get it on them," he explained. "But it is enough to set off their geiger counters so they receive the kind of experience they could expect in a nuclear power plant fire involving radioactive material and radiation."

Classes are held at Brayton Firemen Training Field, a 60-acre facility valued at \$7 million, southwest of the University campus. The field annually hosts the world's largest fire school and is kept busy much of the rest of the time conducting special courses.

The fire training division of TEEEX, in conjunction with Texas A&M's Nuclear Science Center, offers the nuclear fire course twice a year, with the next one scheduled for March.

In addition, Cox said, the training division will arrange special courses for individual firms that ask for them.

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