



photo by Dena Brown

And a one, and a two ...

Nancy Theeman directs the Century Singers during a practice session. Theeman also plays piano for the Singing Cadets. She plans to leave Texas A&M University at the end of the year to finish her doctoral degree in music history.

Procedures to be simplified

Travelers need passports

United Press International
Some three million Americans applied for passports in 1981 and more are expected to be heading abroad this year.

First on their list of priorities should be obtaining a valid passport.

Next to money, a passport is considered the most valuable possession of the American traveler in foreign lands. As an official document, it is accepted as proof of identity and nationality in earthquakes, floods, accidents, wars and other natural and man-made disasters.

A valid passport helps when converting currency, checking into hotels, making major purchases with credit cards, getting into gambling casinos barred to the natives or seeking help or protection from U.S. embassies and consulates in emergencies.

Americans are forbidden in most instances, by federal law to leave or enter the United States without a valid passport. Exceptions include Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, Bahamas and the Caribbean islands, where passports are not required. Visits to U.S. island possessions, such as Puerto Rico, Guam, Samoa and the Virgin Islands also do not require passports.

Passports cost \$15, including a \$5 execution fee.

All that is usually needed is a completed application and two recent photographs. The application forms are available free of charge at U.S. Passport Agency offices, authorized county, state and federal district courts and

designated post offices.

First-time applicants must appear in person and are required to establish proof of identity through documentary evidence or the sworn testimony of a U.S. citizen who has known the applicant for at least two years.

Completed applications must be accompanied by two duplicate full-face 2 x 2 inch (black-and-white or color) photographs taken within the preceding six months and a certified copy of the applicant's birth certificate. Naturalization papers may be substituted if the applicant is foreign born.

Joint husband-and-wife and family passports are no longer issued. Now each member of the family, regardless of age, must obtain an individual passport.

Passports are valid for 5 years and are not renewable. Expired documents, if issued within the preceding 8 years, will usually be accepted as proof of identity when submitted with a completed application and two recent photographs. Previous passport holders may apply by mail, including a money order or personal check for \$10 — there is no execution fee.

Apply early — processing an application can take from 10 days to two weeks, longer during the busy summer months. Make a record of the number, date and place of issuance as a precaution against theft or loss.

Several passport offices, including Washington, D.C., and Chicago, have begun issuing a

new type of machine-readable passport which should make it easier for the traveler to come and go.

Customs-immigration officials will still have to check the photographs but computers will do the rest. The key element is a two-line code restating the holder's name and date of birth at the bottom of the information page which can be read by an electronic scanner. Thus, information about the traveler can be

recorded and checked against data stored in the scanner's computerized memory.

The 10 European Common Market countries have agreed to issue similar passports by 1985. It is hoped all countries will switch to the machine-readable passports eventually.

Regardless of which type you have, keep it handy — do not pack it in your luggage or leave it in an empty hotel room or unguarded car. About the size of a

bank deposit book, the passport fits easily in a shirt pocket or purse and should be carried on the person whenever possible.

Report loss or theft — U.S. passports are hot items for drug smugglers, swindlers and other criminals — promptly to local police and the nearest U.S. consulates. American consulates now are authorized to issue full five-year replacements rather than the former temporary three-month document.

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Communications expert links computers, mail order catalogs

United Press International
NEW YORK — A few years ago, Hazard Reeves, the communications and computer expert, was asked to find a timing device for the bell chimes of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Tuxedo Park, N.Y., where he lives.

He tried a dozen or so hardware and equipment stores and couldn't find it. He knew he once had seen such a device in a mail order catalog — but whose catalog?

This gave Reeves the idea of creating a chain of stores containing the catalogs of hundreds of mail order houses with a computerized index that people could use to find practically anything and order it by mail.

Since Reeves owns and directs half a dozen companies, the idea lay neglected in his mind for awhile. Then a fellow resident of Tuxedo Park, O.L. (Pete) Bibeau, who owned a construction company, got interested in the idea and offered to come in with Reeves and help launch and manage the venture.

They named it Catalogia. The first store opened in November in an upstairs location in Tuxedo Park, the second opened Feb. 1 at Montvale, N.J., and a third will be launched soon. Thereafter Reeves and Bibeau intend to franchise Catalogia.

The two men said they are confident they can have 100 stores within a year and they think the idea will go so well they ultimately will have several thousand franchised stores.

Although the stores are computerized, the Catalogia customer does not use the computer terminal. A professional operator, by means of keyboard and

cathode display screen, will dig out of the computer listings a minimum of nine versions of the requested item from various catalogs. The customer then takes the right catalogs to a table, looks up the items, and, if one is suitable, files an order.

Reeves said the more he thought about his original idea and gathered information about the mail order business, the bigger its potential appeared to be.

"I discovered there has been an enormous growth in mail order sales for many reasons," he said. "With both husband and wife usually holding full time jobs, there's just less time to go

shopping in stores and the high price of driving is a further incentive to shop by mail."

But Bibeau said Catalogia has an even bigger incentive for much of America. "I was raised on a farm in Vermont," he said. "Shopping facilities in rural Vermont were awfully limited and still are, and even the fastest single mail order catalog gives only a small sample of what's really available."

Not too many years ago it was said that nearly 75 percent of retail sales resulted from impulse buying and point-of-purchase advertising signs and displays exploited this fact. To-

day a somewhat larger proportion of retail sales are planned in advance and Bibeau said that fact should help Catalogia.

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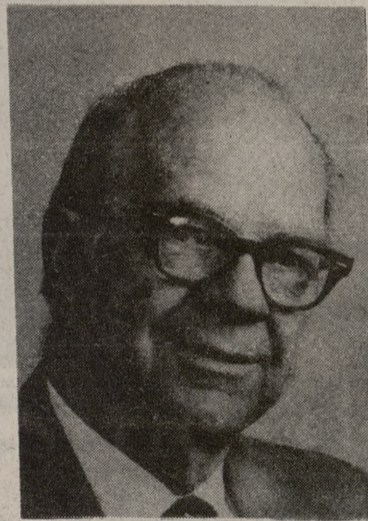
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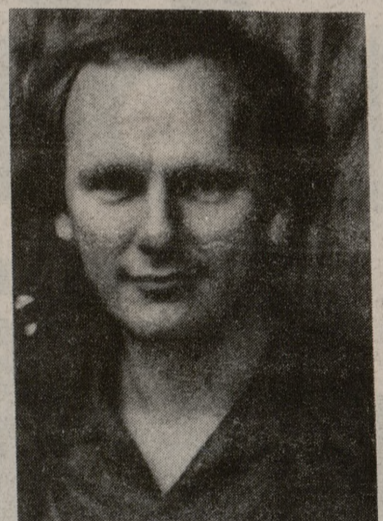
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