



Saying it with flowers

staff photo by John Ryan

D.D. Adams, left, of Austin listens as Jim Johnson critiques a project during a session at the Benz School of Floral Design. Johnson, a professor in the floriculture department at Texas A&M University, is the director of the Benz school and an instructor there.

Floral design course based on former student's theories

by Colette Hutchings

Battalion Staff
Twenty people with a knack for flowers are currently enrolled in a professional floral design course at Texas A&M that was created by a former student. M. "Buddy" Benz, Class of '32 and a master in floral design whose work took him traveling around the world, held a unique place in the floral field. He was the only man who had developed three distinct theories in floral art — each presented in its own book.

He founded The Benz School of Floral Design in 1945 as a short course school to serve the needs of the public. The school is located in Houston, and Texas A&M has an extension school in Brenner, Texas.

Shortly after his death in 1980, the Texas A&M school on the main campus opened. Now in its second year on campus this year's class has students from Arkansas, Virginia, Mexico and Haiti.

Under the direction of Jim Johnson, a lecturer in floral design, the students are learning to make funeral sprays, wedding bouquets and other major types of floral designs.

In addition to the design aspect of the course, which Johnson said will comprise about 75 percent of the course, students will also learn how to start their own floral business.

Instruction in promoting floral products, advertising, and management, will be given, Johnson said.

"About a third of the students have had some experience with a flower shop or own one," Johnson said.

One "traditional" event which is held at the end of the course, Johnson said, is for the class to design a wedding reception, complete with cake, which they all attend.

Johnson said he too, gains from teaching the class: "It's a dynamic class — always an exchange of ideas."

"The interaction between students in this class is an education in itself."

The 70-hour course has a tuition fee of \$400 which covers all equipment and supply costs.

Johnson said there are waiting lists for course on the Dallas and Texas A&M campuses which may be due to the limited enrollment of 20 students per class.

Johnson said the Texas A&M Benz school is one of the leading floral design schools in the United States and is well-known in-

ternationally.

The next class will be in November on the Dallas campus. The course is open to all,

but it's designed for those who want to work professionally in the floral business, Johnson said.

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Today's almanac

Today is Wednesday, Aug. 4, the 216th day of 1982 with 149 to follow.

The moon is full. The morning star is Venus. The evening stars are Mercury, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. Those born on this date are under the sign of Leo.

Scottish comedian Sir Harry Lauder was born Aug. 4, 1870. On this date in history:

In 1735, John Peter Zenger, publisher of a New York City newspaper, was acquitted of charges in a landmark freedom of the press case.

In 1949, more than 6,000

people were killed when an earthquake leveled 50 towns in Ecuador.

In 1972, Arthur Bremer was found guilty of shooting and wounding Alabama Gov. George Wallace and sentenced to 63 years in prison for the crime.

In 1974, two convicts and two of their hostages were killed in an escape attempt at the state prison in Huntsville.

A thought for the day: Scottish comic Sir Harry Lauder said, "Oh, it's nice to get up in the morning, but it's nicer to stay in bed."

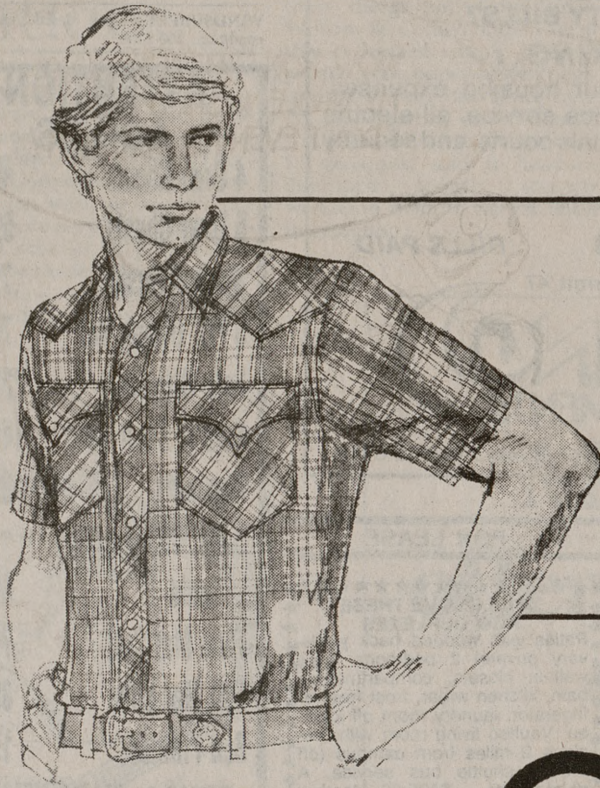
Quirks in the News

United Press International
NEW YORK — Today's teenage runaways are escaping from their parents' homes, not from their flower children counterparts did in the 1960s.

A survey article in the August issue of Ladies' Home Journal notes experts as saying the runaways now are trying to get away from disintegrating families instead of seeking alternative lifestyles.

"The child who's running is one who simply can't stand it at home any longer," Dr. Douglas Huenergardt, of the Runaway Youth Crisis Shelter in St. Petersburg, Fla., told the magazine.

An estimated 2 million run away each year, the article says, and experts think the numbers are growing because of the current, pressure-filled economic climate.



Mens Short Sleeve Western Shirts

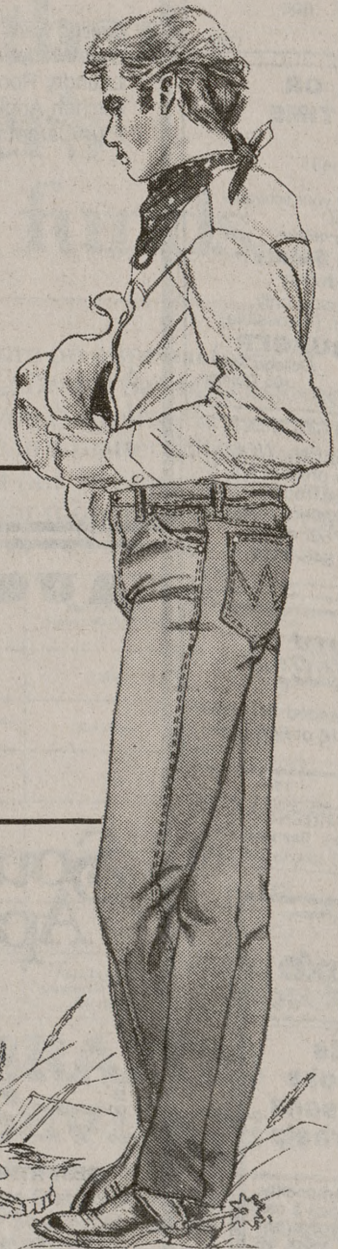
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