## Skelton still the same

Battalion Staff
He hasn't changed a bit.
Gertrude and Heathcliffe,

the sage seagulls, still ponder the mysteries of life. Clem still is a country bumpkin. The television announcer still tries to sell Guzzler's Gin. Red Skelton still is

Red Skelton. Skelton, who entertained television viewers from 1951 to 1971, did the same Friday night for an audience primarily made up of people who were still in grade school when his show was

cancelled. 'You didn't watch me," Skelton told the audience. "You used me (as an excuse) to stay up."
But the crowd proved him wrong as G. Rollie White Col-

iseum echoed with shouted requests for favorite characters and pantomimes.

After each skit, he asked, "Are you tired?" When the audience assured him that it was not, he said: "Good. We'll stay here all night."

And he nearly did. After a two-hour series of jokes, pantomime and stories, he autographed programs for a crowd

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He especially was impressed

But after touring the campus the glass.

Skelton's energy and enthusiasm belied his 69 years. But he not too far.

exercise as a way to stay healthy: "The only exercise I get is acting as pallbearer for my friends who exercised a lot."

Every day, he said, he checks to see if he's still alive. "When I open my eyes, if I don't see candles and flowers, I

get up," Skelton said.

After the performance,
Texas A&M President Frank E.
Vandiver "Aggie-ized" Skelton by giving him a maroon cowboy

"Can you think of anyone we'd be prouder to have wear this than Red?" Vandiver asked.
Athletic Director and Head

Lunch:

11-2

Skelton spent a week here "studying the area and the audience." He passed the test with flying colors as he described Bryan-College Station as a "beautiful community — if you want get it finished." ever get it finished.

with the cities' road system.
"I don't know who laid them
out," he said, "but they must be
very proud of him at the
asylum."

and the cities, he said he wasn't able to get the sleep he needed. His hotel room was so cold that his teeth chattered and he couldn't sleep. So he said he finally got up and took them out of

made frequent references to his age, telling the audience not to worry if he stopped in the mid-dle of a sentence because his mind sometimes wanders — but

He also said he has ruled out

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Red Skelton displays the Aggie jersey Coach Jackies rill presented to him.

Coach Jackie Sherrill tried to recruit Skelton for the game against Texas Tech University by giving him a personalized Aggie jersey.

'Kickoff's at 2:45," Sherrill said. "We expect you to report and we'll play you.

In addition, Skelton was named an honorary member of the 12th Man and an associate member of the Association of

Dinner:

5-10

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Before leaving the Skelton said: "I hope the have had as much fun ale hope that regardless of your heartache might been, while laughing for seconds, you forgot about so, my purpose as your will have been fulfilled.

Judging by the audience sponse, it was.

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