

Tillis makes waiting worth it Thursday

by Johna Jo Maurer
Battalion Staff



Mel Tillis at Graham Central Station
staff photo by Jorge Casari

Graham Central Station is a place to go to dance and drink, but it's not the greatest place to enjoy a live concert — especially a concert by Mel Tillis and his Statesiders Band, who played there to a not-quite-full house Thursday.

The audience would probably have responded much better to the whole show if they hadn't had to wait so long for Mel to appear. His nine-member Statesiders Band, however, did a fine job of filling the long wait for Mel.

Among some outstanding talent in the band was the tenor saxophone player, who captivated listeners during a short solo. The fiddle player displayed his expertise on several songs, and the drummer kept up a quality performance throughout the show.

Mel's opening song, "Stay All Night, Stay a Little Longer," settled down the impatient audience.

Tillis' performance of his well-known "Whataburger Jingle" gave an even better flavor to his show, making the audience hungry for more.

Mel appealed them with some of his oldies such as "Send Me Down to Tucson," "Burning Memories" and "Coca Cola Cowboy."

Mel introduced "Ghost Riders in the Sky" as his tribute to the American cowboy. The drum rhythm and piano accompaniment throughout this instrumental piece allowed little room for any wandering minds among listeners.

The newest member of the band, a sheep herder from Wyoming, lulled the audience with a melodic harmonica solo, accompanied by the rest of the Statesiders, who provided a smooth background for this attention-getting piece. This part of the show also drew an enthusiastic response from the audience.

Throughout the show, Tillis was deluged by requests from fans, all of which he did his best to honor, until time began to run out.

Some fast fiddling on "Orange Blossom Special" had the couples dancing in whirling circles on Graham's dance floor, which seemed to be filled through most of Mel's show.

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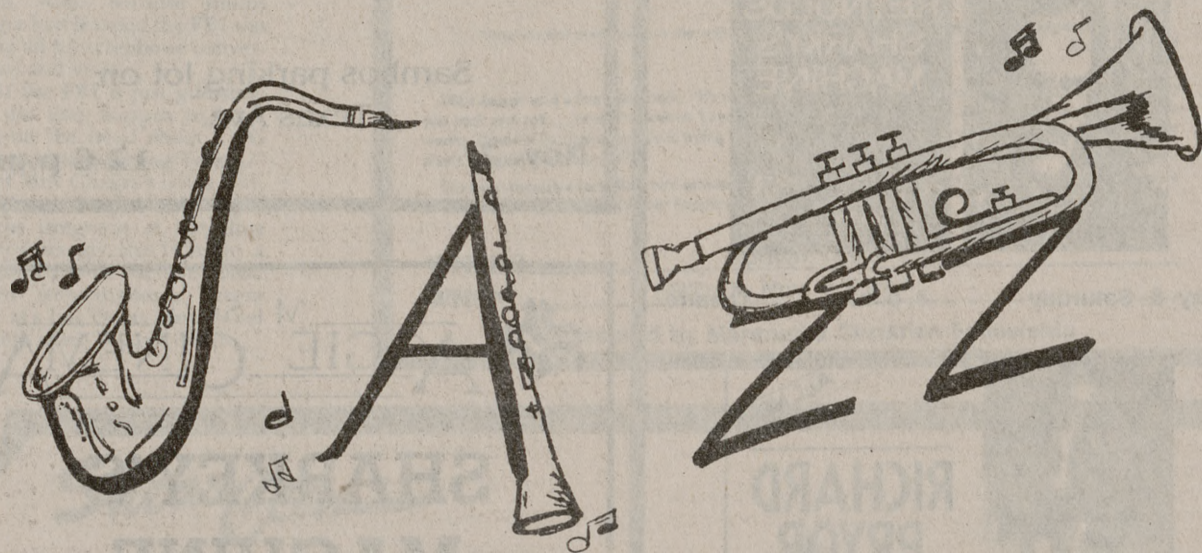
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Rezoning 5.3-acre lot near VW dealer urged

by David Marchand
Battalion Reporter

Bud Ward Volkswagen's showroom and service facilities may be relocated if a request for rezoning adjacent property is approved.

J.W. Wood, representing the Anderson Ridge Corp., requested Thursday night that the College Station Planning and Zoning Commission recommend rezoning the 5.3-acre lot directly west of Bud Ward Volkswagen from R-1, single-family residential, to C-3, planned commercial district.

Anderson Ridge owns the lot. Wood encountered several problems in justifying the change, which would allow for expansion of Bud Ward's facility.

A College Station city ordinance limits C-3 lots to three acres and local residents voiced disapproval of the proposed zoning change.

The Rev. L. B. Groce, who lives across the street from the lot, said commercializing the lot might create greater traffic problems on Park Place, which bounds the lot on the north.

City Planner Al Mayo pointed out that dwellings on the lot could strain sewer service, but said approval of the action would not necessarily include access from Park Place. However, he recommended denial in light of the residential nature of the immediate area.

Wood tried to circumvent the three-acre limit on C-3 lots by suggesting the property be divided, but no solution was reached.



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