

On the road: Willie's here

by Susan Dittman

Battalion Staff
Willie Nelson, one of America's most admired country pop balladeers, will be on the minds of many Aggies during his concert in G. Rollie White Coliseum tonight at 8.

Nelson, who wears his long, graying hair in braids, is known for his dry, reedy songs about faded loves, rejection in love and men who are drawn to the open road.

His musical recordings are a distinct mixture of musical styles, including country music, rock, folk and middle-of-the-road pop.

Although Nelson is now a widely-acclaimed performer who has won many country music awards, he had to work hard for his fame.

Until the mid-1970s when he became a full-fledged country star, Nelson rambled across Texas, singing in honky-tonks and peddling his music in Nashville.

But record producers in Nashville didn't think he

could sing and virtually outlawed him from their country music establishment.

Now, even with several platinum albums and singles — as well as four film roles to his credit — Nelson still projects the outlaw image.

His Grammy award winning single, "On the Road Again," reflects the way Nelson feels about performing — he makes 200 to 250 personal appearances a year.

Nelson estimates that he has written more than 800 songs during his career. His tunes have been recorded by such stars as Elvis Presley, Linda Ronstadt, Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles, Doris Day and many others.

Nelson's latest album, *Always on My Mind*, is the No. 1 album on the country music charts.

General admission tickets for the concert, which is sponsored by MSC Town Hall, still are available for \$10 at the MSC Box Office. For more information call 845-1234.

Women's past discussed

by Myra Retta

Battalion Reporter
Historians have slighted work relief activities for women under the New Deal, Dr. Martha Swain, associate professor of history at Texas Women's University, said Thursday.

The programs were administered by Harry L. Hopkins and Ellen S. Woodward, the woman who devised and supervised projects that provided jobs for at least 500,000 women, she said.

Swain, sponsored by the his-

tory honor society and the Department of History, elaborated on Woodward's work before a group of about 50 students and professors.

Woodward's five-year tenure with Hopkins in the Public Works Administration merits close attention, Swain said.

She said Woodward pledged to put 300,000 to 400,000 women to work. And by 1935, 53 percent of the men and women around the country who were certified for work relief

projects were assigned to pro-

After President Franklin Roosevelt created the Works Progress Administration by executive order, Woodward de-

cidied to place 500,000 women between 18 and 65 years old at work under the new organiza-

tion.

"Although (Woodward) be-

came the administrator of pro-

jects employing 700,000 men and women, she pledged to continue steadfast in her purpose safeguarding the rights of women workers under the PWA," she said.

Water resource talks conclude

by Robert McGlohon

Battalion Staff
"Water Issues for Today, for Tomorrow" was the theme of the Water for Texas Conference, which ended at noon today. The conference, which began here Thursday, addressed four water issues: financing, planning, managing and understanding water resources in Texas.

More than 250 people from around the state participated in the discussions. Participants included state legislators, city and state government officials, officials from Texas A&M and other state universities and members of the press.

Governor-elect Mark White was scheduled to speak at a luncheon for delegates Thursday

but was kept in Austin by foul weather. State Sen. Kent Caperton and Texas A&M System Chancellor Arthur G. Hansen spoke in White's place.

Hansen said: "I have become thoroughly convinced this (the water problem) is one of prime importance to Texas."

The central concept of any land-grant university such as Texas A&M is service to the state and its citizens — which is why Texas A&M is involved with and hosted the conference, Hansen said.

Texas A&M participation in the conference was a form of "enlightened self-interest," Hansen said, because "the welfare of the state of Texas is the welfare of the Texas A&M System."

Charley's Aunt comes off well

by Elaine Engstrom

Battalion Staff
Question: Who is from Brazil, who attends Oxford University in England? Who is incredibly wealthy, but is deep in debt? And who likes to smoke and drink, but never does?

Answer: Charley's aunt.

The Texas A&M Theater Arts Program's second play of the 1982-83 season, "Charley's Aunt," opened Wednesday and will continue through Saturday at Rudder Theater at 8 p.m.

The play, a comedy/farce, was written in 1892 by Brandon Thomas. It spins a tangled web of romance and deception entrapping 10 members of the British upper class. The play runs two and a half hours after being cut from Thomas' original four-hour script.

Two young Oxford lads, Charley and Jack, set out to woo their respective lady loves. They scheme to get the ladies alone by inviting them to lunch — ostensibly to meet Charley's aunt arriving from Brazil.

Desperate after auntie becomes a no-show, they convince school chum Babs, who has theatrical aspirations, to act the part and that's when the fun begins.

It's a case of a deliberate mistaken identity as Babs plays a convincing enough to merit marriage proposals. In fact, marriage proposals seem to be the order of the day. But, all's well that ends well and this play

ends well, although the ending is rather contrived.

Like most farces, the play lacks any significant character development and entertains through plot manipulation. There's even a chase scene with the two lads chasing their chum who also is being ardently pursued by suitors.

The three women's roles in the play were so insignificant that they were almost non-existent. Considering the time period in which the play was written, that should come as no surprise. However, considering the role's deficiencies, Donna Rusch, a sophomore theater arts major from Houston, does an admirable job as Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez.

Lucien Stavenhagen plays Lord Fancourt Babberly and carries the play with his fine performance. Stavenhagen's facial expressions, like his voices, are many and varied. He elicits laughter from the audience with a mere glance.

Gary Kunkle, a freshman political science major, and Richard Strayer, a sophomore theatre arts major from San Antonio, also perform well as the two Oxford school buddies.

The play, while somewhat restricted by its time period, comes off well and, judging by the continuous laughter from the audience, is well worth the \$3 admission. If you're looking for different entertainment, it's definitely worth your time.

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