



Ruth Williamson, who plays Miss Hannigan in the award-winning production of "Annie," left, and Gary Holcombe, who plays Daddy Warbucks, talk to reporters at a press conference.

## 'Annie' stars discuss opening

by Angel Stokes  
Battalion Staff  
Even after 500 performances, opening-night jitters still plague veteran performers Gary Holcombe and Ruth Williamson, the actors who portray Daddy Warbucks and Miss Hannigan in the Broadway musical "Annie." The musical ends a three-day run at Texas A&M University with a performance at 8 tonight. Opening nights are spent getting accustomed to acoustics and to the audience, Holcombe said in a press conference Monday at the Aggeland Inn. The quality of the stage makes a difference in how well opening night goes, Holcombe said, while Williamson said the performance depends on the audience's response.

"Week-night performances usually have better audience response, because people are more sober," Williamson said. "Annie" has the same effect

on people as a fairy tale, she said, because everyone has dreamed of being adopted by a millionaire.

Holcombe said the play is successful because the audience has a character with which to identify. He added the audience also is able to relate with the economic problems of the Depression.

For example, he said the name Hooverville easily could be replaced with a name appropriate for today's economic climate.

The differences between the stage production and the movie are simplicity and heart, he said. The glitter of the movie covered up the heart of the story, he said.

Williamson said traveling with "Annie" is like being with a circus. Something always is happening because of the children and dogs, she said.

The two dogs used for the part of Sandy are Moose, the regular cast member, and

O'Malley, the understudy.

"O'Malley is like a typical understudy — he always wants to perform," Williamson said. He once sneaked away from his dressing room and stood on the edge of the stage watching rehearsal, she said.

Williamson said she understands how O'Malley feels because she was an understudy for the part of Miss Hannigan for

two years. Williamson also can be seen on television commercials and in magazine ads for Wendy's hamburgers and Hershey's candy.

Holcombe also has been in television commercials and soap operas. Besides performing in musicals and operas, he holds a doctoral degree in musical arts from the University of Maryland.

## AMOCO employees to learn firefighting

by Patrice Koranek  
Battalion Staff

AMOCO employees from all over the world will learn new firefighting techniques and teamwork at Brayton Firemen Training Field beginning today, field coordinator Richard Pierce says.

Pierce is responsible for coordinating company programs at the Texas Engineering Experiment Station field.

Oil company participants will practice in real life situations on the field today and Thursday, he said, and will have classroom

instruction on Friday to learn about what can start refinery fires.

Most of the practice situations will involve fire suppression, said Albert Stirling, training field manager. The firefighters will learn how to contain spill-type fires, refinery fires and interior fires, Stirling said.

Pierce said both water and chemicals will be used to extinguish the fires.

Stirling said instructors for the classes will be AMOCO personnel, but they will be supervised by people from the train-

ing field. After the classes are over, training field personnel will critique AMOCO instructors, he said.

Although most of the firefighters' time will be devoted to learning new techniques, they also will have time to trade ideas, Pierce said.

"The classes bring together a lot of company people that don't have a chance to get together to discuss things that can go wrong within the plant," he said. "They help communication within the company."

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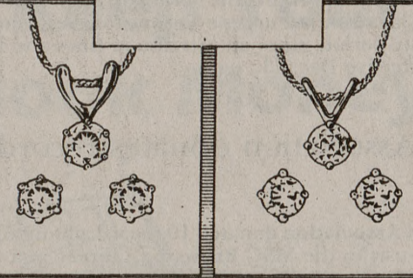
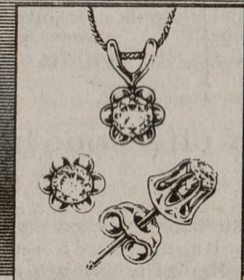
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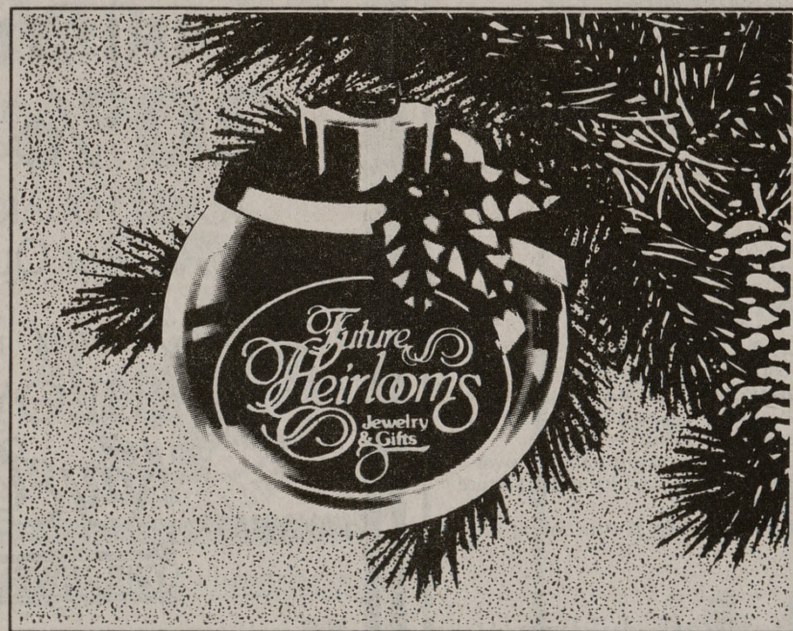
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