

Ranch residents monkey around

United Press International
DILLEY — The Macaques monkey, a primate native to snowy regions, has been transplanted successfully from the mountains of Japan to the hot, arid climate of the southwest Texas town of Dilley.

The 150 monkeys were moved to Texas in 1980 as a gift to zoology Professor John Emlen of the University of Wisconsin, who successfully transferred them with the help of anthropologist Claud Bramblett of the University of Texas at Austin.

Their first months on the ranch were treacherous. Fifty Macaques died, some from such human-transmitted diseases as measles. Others fell to predators not known in Japan such as dogs, bobcats and snakes.

But the colony adapted to its new environment and has more than doubled with 307 members.

Part of the reason is tender

cactus and other Texas weeds that proved more nourishing than what the Macaques ate in Japan. Along with the cactus, the monkeys discovered a delicacy not native to Japan — grasshoppers.

The monkeys were moved out of the Arashiyama region in northern Japan because their natural habitat was being threatened by human encroachment.

The scientists were not sure the monkeys could survive in Texas and the drastic change in environment, but they have proved a hardy breed.

"They have not only adjusted, but their birthrate has increased," said caretaker Lou Griffin. "In Japan the mothers were having one baby every two years. Here they have been having two babies every three years."

The ranch was set up with grants from the National Science Foundation and private donations.

Vietnam vet looks for challenges to help him through the future

by Donn Friedman
Battalion Reporter

The tall, well-dressed student's eyes gleamed as he listened to a former general say: "Leadership in the battlefield is different than leadership in civilian life."

Richard R. Putnam interrupted the seminar and said, in the tone of someone who had been there: "A leader in the battlefield will also be a leader when he returns to civilian life."

Putnam should know. He has fought — and led — in both worlds.

From Putnam's three-piece suit to his well-groomed hair and big smile, you'd figure that he is either a politician or an administrator, but there isn't a clue that he spent two years of his life as a soldier in Vietnam.

Putnam is the president of the Graduate Student Council. He's also pursuing a doctorate in

educational psychology, but his road to Texas A&M was long and winding.

When he graduated from high school in Northern California in the spring of 1963, he began looking for a college where he could play football, but the coaches told him only to come back and try out in the fall.

But he wanted a positive commitment that he could make the team.

"I wanted something to do in the fall," he said.

So in August 1963 Putnam enlisted in the Army.

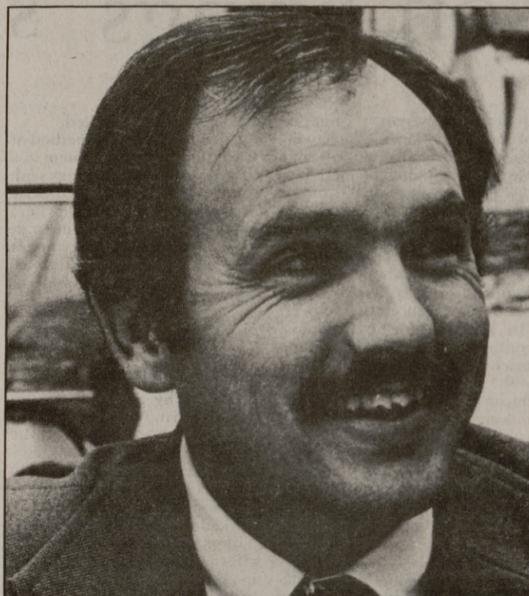
"I grew up with an emphasis on God and country and those type of traditional patriotic values," Putnam said. "I grew up knowing what I wanted to be. I wanted to be a soldier."

He went to basic paratrooper training before being assigned to active duty in Okinawa. In June 1965, his outfit was sent on a tour of duty in Vietnam.

He learned about war in Vietnam: In war there are no human values.

Killing becomes a matter of survival: "You are out to kill. That is what you are there for and that is what you are going to do."

"It is a different world." In October 1965, Putnam was



Richard R. Putnam

wounded. He described the events:

"We were on an operation to clear an area."

"We had heard the 101st North Vietnamese Army Regiment was operating in that area."

"I was pointman — the one guy at the front who clears the way."

"We received some fire. It turned out to be a mine. I have to chuckle about it now, it must have been a kid from Vietnam just about as green as any of us were — we thought we were really seasoned troopers by then — he popped his mine too soon,

otherwise he would have killed me."

"A piece of shrapnel flew over me, and hit the guy behind me."

"I sent word back to the squad leader ... he crawled back and talked it over with the second lieutenant who radioed the company commander who radioed the battalion commander and all that, so we decided to assault."

A self-exploding rifle-shot hit Putnam in the arm.

"In World War II it would have been a fatal injury," he said. "In Korea it would have meant loss of the arm. In Vietnam it meant loss of use of it to

a large degree."

He said he did not give up the army life. "I stamped all over my medals. I wanted to stay in."

The army doctors gave him a 50 percent disability thus retiring him from Army.

Like many Vietnam vets it took Putnam several years to re-adjust.

The 13 years after he came home from Vietnam, he said, he spent sorting out his experiences and trying to put his life back in order. He was Cooke County Junior College and then graduated from Texas State University.

In the fall of 1979, he graduated from Texas A&M. Here, he graduated school and played rugby.

Putnam said his biggest challenge was to drive to the rug store in his car with his disability license plate and get out of the store.

He no longer plays rugby because the 13 years that he did not compete in athletics made him lose the speed and agility needed to be a first-team player.

Putnam is teaching psychology and psychology at Blinn College. He said he has a blend of students in these classes because he teaches out of a shopping center and then in a prison.

But, he said, "I work to develop a good working relationship with my students whoever or wherever they are. Putnam is a man with a plan for his life."

He is an intern at the State Programs Office, and finishing up his doctoral dissertation.

Someday he hopes to be dean of students at some university, he said.

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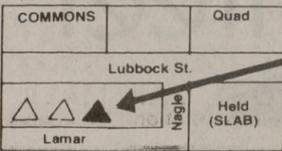
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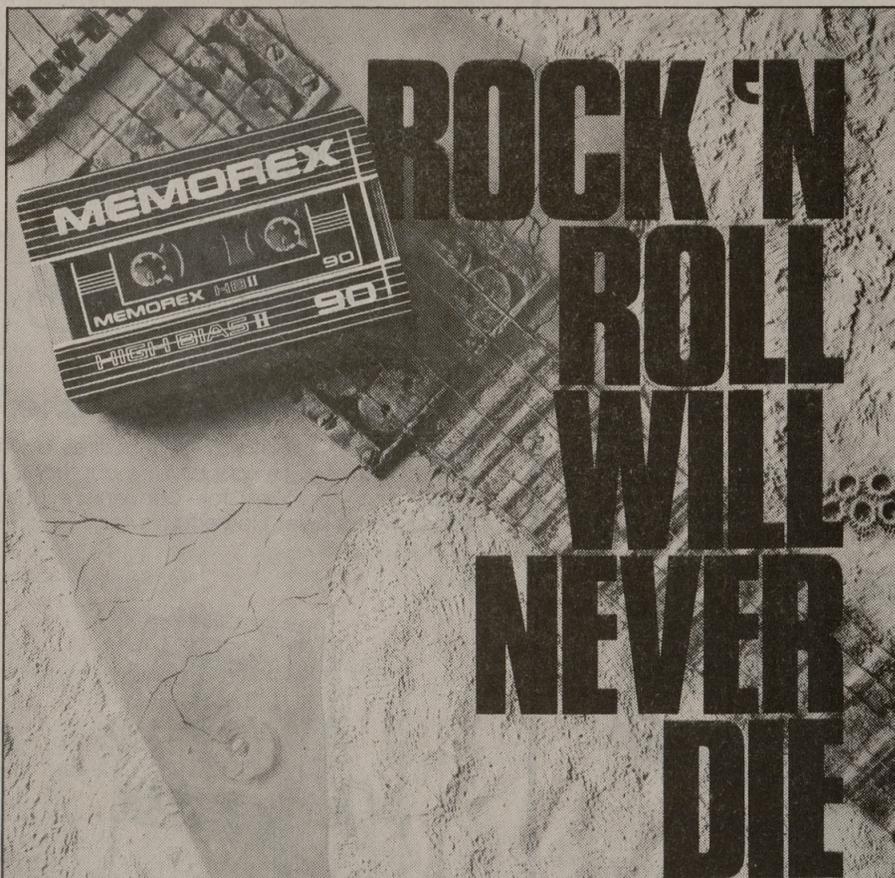
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