

Reunion

Singing Cadets reminisce, have a sing-along

by **Christie Johnson**
Battalion Reporter

About 100 former members of the Texas A&M Singing Cadets had a chance to reminisce about good times, good friends, and life at Texas A&M at the 8th Annual Association of Former Singing Cadets Reunion last weekend.

The three-day event began Friday with an informal open house. The gathering took place at the home of June Biering, piano accompanist for the Singing Cadets from 1960-77.

Members and their families attended a banquet in the Memorial Student Center where the Singing Cadets performed familiar songs.

Association members smiled

and mouthed the lyrics to many of the songs. They were encouraged to sing along.

The association was founded in 1976. Reunion Committee Chairman T.C. Cone, a Singing Cadet from 1970-73, said the group was created for the purpose of supporting the Singing Cadets in every way possible. Directors are elected by popular vote every two years.

Alvin Meyer, president of the association, reminded guests who attended the banquet that giving financial support to the Singing Cadets is not the sole reason of the association.

"As you listen to these guys sing the songs that you sang when you were in, and think of all the places that you were when you sang those songs...that's what it's all about...preserving memories," Meyer said.

The reunion ended with a "sing-along" for former Singing Cadets.

Members of the association pay a \$10 yearly fee. Meyer said fees were used this year to buy new uniforms for the Singing Cadets. Fees also have gone toward production of an album

and the cadets plan to record this spring. Meyer said the album will be the first produced by the association.

C.B. Cone, T.C.'s father and a Singing Cadet from 1946-50, was recognized for representing the oldest class present at the reunion. He has two sons who were also in Singing Cadets.

Members of the Singing Cadets either stay in hotels when traveling or in homes in the communities where they perform. Organizations that book the cadets sometimes make such

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arrangements. By staying in different homes throughout Texas, the cadets are able to experience a wide range of geographical, ethnic, and cultural differences among people.

Steve Rottler, who was a Singing Cadet from 1976-81, said that staying in 17 to 18 different homes a year taught him to have self-confidence. He also said it gave him a chance to meet many people and taught him to carry on conversation with almost anyone.

Jeffrey Johnson, who was a Singing Cadet from 1978-80, said being in the group was personally rewarding to him. "Our performances made people happy—I liked that," he said. Johnson said the spirit of the organization stands out in his memory more than anything else. Johnson has missed only one reunion in the last eight years.

Several Association of Former Singing Cadet members said although Texas A&M has grown since they were in Singing Cadets, students are still personable and have a "small-town friendliness" about them.

Meyer said that tradition at Texas A&M is as strong as it was when he was a student from 1960-65. Meyer is a civil engineering professor at the University of Texas.

The group began as the Texas A&M Mandolin and Glee Club in 1906, and became known as the Singing Cadets in 1938. It is the oldest known singing organization on campus.

Unique greenhouse boasted by center

by **Bob Caster**
Battalion Reporter

Sunset Gardens, Bryan-College Station's newest lawn and garden center, boasts an all-glass greenhouse that is the "only one of its kind in Texas."

The 25-foot by 71-foot structure is totally automatic and is believed to be the only curved glass greenhouse used by a garden center in the state, manager John Fossati said. An automatic control system keeps the temperature inside the greenhouse constant.

The main building, a 3,000 foot structure designed by G. Phillip Morley, uses a construction that prevents cracked foundations caused by high water and shifting soil.

The entire center is completely landscaped to show how the plants would be used for different purposes.

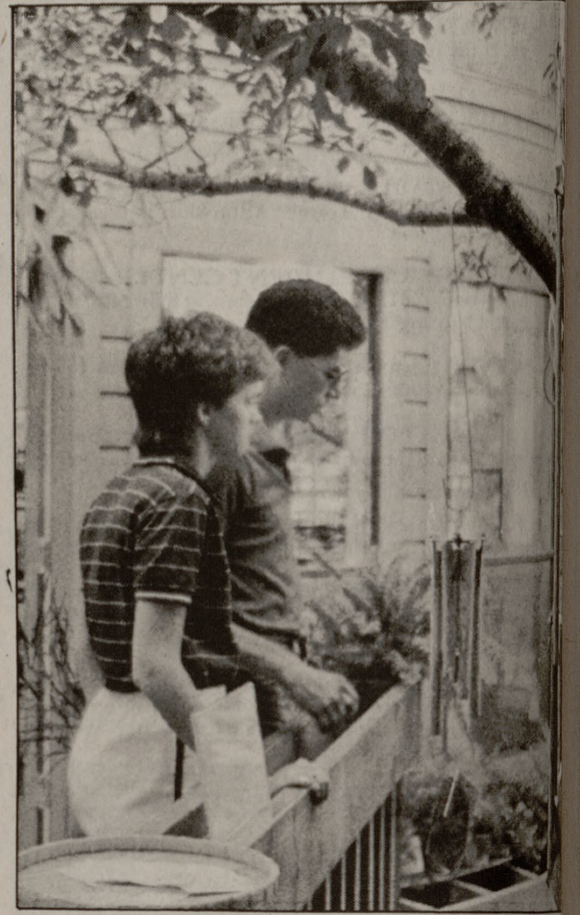
The center, touted by owner Bill Oglevee as a new look in garden centers, is on Texas Avenue between FM 2818 and the Highway 6 bypass exit.

Oglevee has put several years of planning into the project and says it contains ideas from other garden centers in several states as well as input from his customers.

Oglevee said he wanted to "build a garden center from the ground up—with the best grounds, facilities and buildings designed with the customer in mind."

Fossati said they knew they wanted something different.

What they ended up with was an impressive display of plants, gardening tools and



staff photo by Eric En...

Sam and Deena Wenske, of LaGrange, enjoy the view inside Sunset Gardens.

accessories as well as a unique environment to house it all.

"We tried to stock the store with a little bit of everything,"

Fossati said. The garden center had grand opening Saturday and Sunday.

Six new subdivisions may house students

by **Christine Mallon**
Battalion Staff

The College Station Independent School Board held a workshop Monday night to discuss long-range plans for the 2,300 to 3,300 new students who are

The subdivisions include Family Tree, Wood Creek, Courtland, Shanandoah, Nantucket and an addition to Foxfire.

These neighborhoods will include approximately 2,907 single family homes, 265 townhomes, 694 patio homes and 1,411 apartments, Ney said. There also will be a new country club, hotels, industry and recreational facilities.

Superintendent H.R. Burnett said there are about 350 new students in the district this year, about a 6 percent increase over last year. The majority of the growth is in lower level grades with many of the new students moving into the district from Bryan, Burnett said.

"If the student growth occurs as we've estimated, we will have to raise industrial taxes," Ney said.

The board did not decide when or how an industrial tax raise would be put into effect.

Other long-range plans include the acquisition of land to build at least four, possibly five new schools in the district. Tentative plans are for the construction of three elementary schools, one junior high or middle school and one high school.

Monday's meeting was

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second in a series of workshops that the district is holding to view and discuss its one-, five- and 10-year goals. They will be presented to the Education Agency.

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New neighborhoods will include approximately 2,907 single family homes, 265 townhomes, 694 patio homes and 1,411 apartments.

estimated to join the district within the next decade.

Assistant Superintendent Donald P. Ney presented a study to the board concerning the development of at least six new subdivisions and how they will affect the student growth in the district.

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