

'Laid back' Williams excellent

by Shelley T. Hoekstra

Battalion Staff
Fully aware that finals are just around the corner, country music singer Don Williams told Texas A&M students during his concert last night in Rudder Auditorium that he was "tickled to death" that so many people were in attendance.

Williams opened last night's performance with "The Shelter of Your Eyes," an older song (released in 1972) that Williams himself wrote.

After singing two songs Williams moved the microphone closer to his lips, cleared his throat as if to speak, and exactly at the precise moment you thought he was going to speak he instead broke into a lazy smile, sat a few moments longer ... and silently surveyed the audience.

Williams did that over and over again during the night — prepare to speak (the audience was hanging onto the edge of their seats waiting, waiting for that magic moment when one of the most laid-back of country performers would say something, anything ...) and instead break into a grin and let everybody down. Despite the disappointment, the audience loved the anticipation.

Williams sang singles from the past and present. "Atta Way To Go," released in 1973, was followed by "Stay Young," a relatively new song released in April of 1983 in his album "Yellow Moon." "Stay Young," was followed by a string of hits — "Love Is On A Roll," "Nobody But You" and "Say It Again," that have brought Williams world-wide fame and recognition.

Williams was well into his show, he had sung eight songs, before he introduced his band, and yes, the audience finally got to hear him say more than three words at one time.

Williams' band, "The Scratch Band" featuring singer, songwriter and guitarist Danny Flowers, recently has released a new album, the title of which is the same as the band's name. Williams promoted the album, much to the delight of the band, saying, "It's a fine album ... every home should own one."

Williams left the stage for a brief intermission while "The Scratch Band" played three songs off their album. One of the songs, "Riding Sideways,"

was strictly instrumental with an almost-but-not-quite rock and roll sound. All of the songs that the band sang were of the type that one would find himself listening attentively to so as not to miss a single word. I think everyone that heard "The Scratch Band" play and sing would agree, the members have the stuff it takes to ensure a very promising future.

After Williams' band had finished their songs, Williams again took the stage. His slow, rolling voice ambled through "Tulsa Time," "Till The Rivers All Run Dry" and "Some Broken Hearts Never Mend," while his foot tapped out the rhythm of the music. That same foot never stopped tapping during the entire performance, and as I looked around Rudder theater I noticed that many feet in the audience were doing the same.

During "Amanda" and "You're My Best Friend," Williams invited the audience to sing along. They did, and heartily too. Williams stopped singing and closed his eyes long enough to listen to the audience serenading him with the chorus of his own song. Williams loved it, and so did the audience. After

the songs were over the crowd rose and gave Williams a standing display of their approval.

After singing "Turn Out The Lights," "Good Ole Boys Like Me" and "Lord, I Hope This Day Is Good," Williams told the audience, "I don't know what's taken us so long to get here to start with, but I think we'll come back."

Little did Williams know, but he WOULD be back again ... for two encores. Saying he was "caught off guard" with the enthusiastic attentiveness of the audience, Williams ended an excellent performance with "I'm Just A Country Boy," and "Lay Down Beside Me."

Williams proved to be a simple, yet top-notch performer. The lyrics of his songs seemed natural and true-to-life, and seemed to be a personal expression of his life. I daresay that he will be back visiting A&M in the future.

The "New Grass Revival" band opened Williams' show. This progressive, bluegrass band features Bela Fleck (banjo), Pat Flynn (acoustic guitar), Sam Bush (mandolin and fiddle) and John Cowan (bass).

The band's musical style is a mix of bluegrass, yet strains of country, rock and classical could be heard in the songs. The group performed some songs from the New Grass repertoire — such as the song "Don't Knock, Just On In."

Flynn's original, "In The Middle Of The Night," has shifting rhythms, progressing and an almost and roll tempo. Flynn's playing was original and impressive, his chords take unexpected, yet true, and twists.

Fleck is a very accomplished banjo player, he plays a part in Ricky Skaggs' "40 Blues." Fleck also is a fine artist with several jazz and bluegrass credits. Fleck's company, "County Flair," was a instrumental piece that had a Irish feel to it. To listen also get goose-bumps on spine.

The New Grass Revival gave a thoroughly excellent performance. With the songs and the right people, this band could easily find in the limelight.

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Presents for needy families

by Ray Walker

Battalion Reporter
The College Station Department of Parks and Recreation will distribute free cheese to needy families today at the Lincoln Center.

This is the first year that the parks and recreation department has participated in the program, which is sponsored by the Texas Department of Human Resources.

Previously the program was supported by private organiza-

tions such as civic, religious and community groups.

Susan Dasher, program supervisor of the Parks and Recreation Department, said that the state government has reorganized the program this year.

"This year anyone who wants the cheese must fill out a form," she said. "The forms will be audited so you don't want to put down false information. Anyone can apply for the cheese, including Texas A&M students, but

you must meet the qualifications."

If the applicant is receiving food stamps, Medicaid, Social Security or falls within a certain income bracket, they will be given a five-pound block of cheese.

"We are hoping for a good turn out," Dasher said. "We have 2,880 blocks of cheese to give out."

If any cheese is left over, the department will call other cities

to see if they can use the cheese will be stored.

There will be 16 weeks of the center to help distribute cheese, Dasher said. The department needs volunteers to help with similar programs in the future. It will be rice, butter, honey and types of food each month in 1984.

The center is located on Eleanor Street in College Station. The program will be a.m. and will end at 6 p.m.

Council approves bond election

by Jamie Hataway

Battalion Reporter
The College Station City

Council approved a bond election to be held January 24, 1984 at its regular meeting Thursday.

The election has been scheduled to raise money for funding the following areas, shown with the amounts needed in each area:

- City participation in major water and sewer lines, \$1.8 million.
- Emergency services, \$2.2 million.
- Central Fire Station, \$555,000.
- Fire sub-station, \$700,000.
- Maintenance and storage facilities for street and sanitation, \$1.4 million.
- Parks, \$1.2 million.
- Street improvements, \$6.3 million.

The total amount of the bond issue will be \$14,145,000.

In anticipation of increasing taxes due to the bond election,

the council also approved a resolution to be prepared to increase exemptions for people over 65. If the resolution is passed, people over 65, who make \$30,000 or less, will be exempt from paying taxes. Presently, people over 65 are exempt if earnings are \$18,750 or less.

Councilman Pat Boughton said the resolution, if passed, would help gain more public support during bond elections. She said many people over 65 are scared to vote in favor of bond issues because they're afraid their taxes will be raised.

Other action by the council included approving the re-zoning of 257 acres which were listed in nine separate ordinances.

The council also approved the rate for the sale of water and sewer services outside the city limits.

Linda Piwonka, utility manager, said there are several types of customers outside city limits.

Retail customers outside the city limits pay water either through more meters. The meter or may not maintain its distinct service lines and their rates will be set at that of customers in city limits.

Wholesale customers outside the city limits that are authorized Public Utilities Commission acquire water for resale rate will be the same as within the city limits.

Sewer service charges for customers outside the city limits will be set at 1.5 times that of within the city limits.

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