

STATE AND LOCAL

Calling it quits after 37 years

Manager set to retire

By **BELINDA HOOD**
Reporter

Not many people can boast of over half a century of employment with the same company at the time they retire. But Pete L. Rodriguez can.

Rodriguez, operations manager of the chemistry department, has been employed at Texas A&M since 1933 and is retiring after 52 years of service.

Rodriguez said he began his association with A&M as an attendant at the old Aggeland Inn in 1933. At the time the Aggeland Inn was part of Texas A&M and was located on campus near Sbis Dining Hall.

"I was lucky to land a job," Rodriguez said. "I was right out of high school and earning \$30 a month plus meals, and glad to get that."

Rodriguez said he went on to become desk clerk and finally bookkeeper at the Aggeland Inn, before Dr. C.C. Hedges, then head of the chemistry department, offered him a job as a lab assistant in 1940.

Except for two years of military service, Rodriguez has been with the chemistry department ever since.

Rodriguez's office is filled with activity — phone calls coming in every few minutes and secretaries constantly adding to the stack of papers already piled high on his desk — but Rodriguez still has time for a warm

smile and a friendly word for anyone who ventures in.

As operations manager, Rodriguez said he is responsible for inventory, purchasing and upkeep of supplies, planning and budgeting.

Rodriguez also said he has learned many things about chemistry by auditing several classes through the years.

"I wanted to do my job better and I felt I had to learn the terms that are used around here everyday," he said.

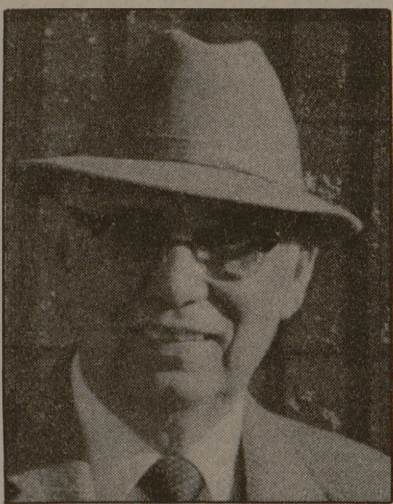
Rodriguez said one of his first responsibilities was the running of the storerooms and stockrooms. He said he learned to make up all the chemicals for distribution to students and research personnel.

Rodriguez said he has seen many interesting things over the years at A&M, but he said one of his most exciting memories is President Franklin D. Roosevelt's visit to the University.

"A lot of people don't know it, but Roosevelt's son Elliott was on the Board of Regents," Rodriguez said. "People think I'm crazy when I tell them that, but it's true."

Rodriguez has an old A&M yearbook, which was once called The Longhorn, with Elliott Roosevelt's picture in it to prove his point.

In 1980 Rodriguez received the Association of Former Students Dis-



Pete Rodriguez

tinguished Achievement staff award. He also has received many awards for his work in the community.

Rodriguez said once he retires he plans to help out some in the chemistry department.

He said he is also on the building committee of the new Chemistry Building, and will be interested in the progress on the building.

A dinner will be given in his honor on Feb. 7 at the Brazos Center.

Construction to begin soon on new sports events center

By **KIRSTEN DIETZ**
Staff Writer

Texas A&M's new track and field events center will be one of the best in the United States, say Ted Nelson and Bill Nix, men's and women's track coaches respectively.

Construction on the center will begin in mid-February and phase one will be completed in about nine months.

The center will be west of Olsen Field at Jersey and Beef Cattle roads.

Physical education and intramural fields also are being built west of the new center.

Permanent stands will be built in phase two. Meanwhile, temporary bleachers will seat 4,000.

While the center has not been officially named by the Texas A&M Board of Regents, Wally Groff, assistant athletic director for finance, said he is almost positive it will be

named for Frank G. Anderson. Anderson is a former track coach who came to Texas A&M in 1920. He also was an assistant Olympic track coach.

Nix and Nelson said the center has been needed for a long time.

"We feel we need to promote track and field at Texas A&M, and it's hard to do that with bad facilities," Nix said.

Because Kyle Field has artificial turf, the field events must be held behind the scoreboard south of Kyle Field. Field events can be held inside the new stadium.

Kyle Field's track also is in bad need of repair.

The new polyurethane track will have longer wearability and a faster surface.

"It will really give a big boost to both the men's and the women's programs," Nix said.

Nelson said the College Station

Relays and the Texas A&M Relays used to be held in Kyle Field until the track deteriorated.

Last year it was Texas A&M's turn to host the Southwest Conference Championship, but, because of the track conditions, the University had to decline its turn.

Because the meet rotates between the conference schools, Texas A&M will not be eligible to host it again until 1990.

Nix said the last major women's meet held at Texas A&M was the 1982 women's national championship.

C.E. "Pat" Olsen, Class of '23, donated \$95,000 toward the center's construction. He said he greatly respects Anderson and wanted the former coach to see the center completed.

Construction costs for both the track and field events center are more than \$2.8 million.

Governor questions Texans' role in exercise

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Before 450 members of the Texas Army National Guard are sent to Central America for a training exercise this spring, defense officials should provide assurances about their safety, Gov. Mark White said Thursday.

The troops are scheduled to go to Honduras, which is located in a much-troubled region of Central America, to play the role of opposition forces in exercises involving regular troops from the Honduran and U.S. armies.

Honduras borders Nicaragua, where the Sandinista government has been battling anti-communist insurgents, and El Salvador, where the American-backed government is at war with communist guerillas.

White said he would be "trying to get absolute assurance to the extent possible that those troops will be safe in their training mission, that there will be no opportunity for hostile action and also that they'll be valuable to the national security and defense."

According to David Cottom, public affairs officer for the Texas Guard, the exercises are part of an annual training exercise called Big Pine 3.

The soldiers involved are members of battalion headquarters of the 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry from McAllen; Company C, 3rd Battalion, 141st Infantry from Edinburg, and Company B, 6th Battalion, 112th Armor from Edna, Cottom said.

In addition, support personnel from Austin and throughout Texas, all from the 49th Armored Division, will go to Honduras. He said that for security reasons, the number and identity of individuals cannot be publicized.

The Texas units will begin field exercises April 8, Cottom said.

Man hired for Capitol restoration

Associated Press

AUSTIN — An architect who has worked for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Virginia was named Thursday to draw up a master plan for restoration of the century-old Texas Capitol.

"I can't say it's desperate but it's in bad shape," architect Roy Graham said of the building that was finished in 1888.

"It is a building everybody in Texas should be very proud of because it is a textbook example of the Renaissance revival of the 1880s. It is probably second to none certainly in the state, in the South — and probably very close to the top example of its type in the United States."

Graham was named to the \$58,000 job by the Capitol Preservation Board, which includes Gov. Mark White.

In announcing the appointment, White said all Texans should help preserve the building that once housed all of Texas government and today is home to the Legislature, the governor's office and some other offices.

White and Graham, who said it will take some 2 1/2 years to assess the building and develop the master plan, encouraged citizens to contribute old photographs of the Capitol, old furnishings, personal recollections and other information that will help with restoration.

The governor said he expected restoration costs to be paid by private contributions.

"Obviously, we don't have any money for this project in the state budget," White said. "I do think there is a feeling among the people of our state that they want this Capitol maintained and restored, and I think we'll find private resources that will be adequate to meet the task."

For the past four years, Graham has served as director of the historic preservation program at the University of Virginia. He spent nine years as resident architect of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and was a consultant for the Historic Annapolis, Md., project.

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What's up

Friday

- CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 108 Harrington. Call 822-6158 for more information.
- INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 607 Rudder. John Watson will talk on discipleship.
- PUERTO RICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 504 Rudder.
- TAMU BADMINTON CLUB:** will practice 7 p.m.-10 p.m. in 351 G. Rollie White. Please bring dues.
- TEXAS A&M ASSOCIATION OF MARTIAL ARTS:** will meet from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. in 267 Kyle. Everyone is welcome to come by and watch.
- UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY:** will meet for Bible study at 6:15 p.m. in the A&M Presbyterian Church.
- VOICE OF PROPHECY CLUB:** will meet from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. in 302 Rudder for Bible study.

Sunday

- LUTHERAN COLLEGIANS:** will meet at Paddington's Pizza at 6 p.m. for food and fellowship. Call 693-3602 for more information.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.