



Special holiday celebrates grandparents' experiences

By FRANK SMITH
Reporter

Lillian Schiller relaxed in her room at the Crestview Retirement Community in Bryan and matter-of-factly recounted the story of her grandparents' arrival in the Lone Star State.

"My grandparents came from Germany on a sailboat and landed at Galveston," she said. "Before they got to Galveston, yellow fever broke out, so they were quarantined and had to stay on the boat until the fever cleared up."

"And then they settled in Washington County and they lived in a log cabin. The Indians were still around . . ."

At 74, Schiller herself is the grandmother of two teenagers. She is one of many who will be recognized Sunday on a date that frequently escapes mention on the common pocket calendar: Grandparent's Day.

It is a day celebrating the vast experiences and diverse lives of people such as 95-year-old Walter R. Henry.

Henry, also a Crestview resident, spent 49 years working as a schoolteacher and school administrator. He explained how he got his start:

"I kind of liked school," he said. "It was a job that I just easily fell into. I graduated from high school in 1909. That fall, this rural school was without a teacher and the county superintendent

"My life story would make a book. It's been so varied." — Lee Marie Perry, 92, a great-great grandmother who resides at Crestview Retirement Community in Bryan.

recommended me. And I got into teaching and I stayed with it until I retired some years ago."

After retiring from administrative duties, Henry, a native of Missouri, served two terms in that state's general assembly in the early 1960s.

He is the father of one, grandfather of three and great-grandfather of two.

Another Crestview resident, Lee Marie Perry, 92, spoke of her days as an army nurse during World War I. She spent a year working at a base hospital in France during the war.

She has one son, two grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

"My life story would make a book," Perry said with a laugh. "It's been so varied."

JoAnn Millerschon, Crestview activities director, said that some kind of Grandparents Day celebration for Crestview residents will be conducted today.

But Grandparent's Day is only one day out of the year.

Millerschon said that a separate, more long-term project exists in which each participant meets regularly with and gets to know a designated retired person. Called the Adopt-A-Grandparent Program, it has operated for several years with the participation of community members, church and service organizations and Texas A&M students, Millerschon said.

She said that those wishing to adopt a grandparent must be dedicated enough to make a regular commitment of time to the program.

"I really talk to people and say 'Look, if you adopt a grandparent, that's great — but you've got to have the time to really take that one-on-one with somebody because our residents, once you start, depend on you,'" Millerschon said. "And if you leave all of the sudden, if you're too busy — they don't understand that."

She said that church groups and fraternities and sororities, because of their service-oriented natures, have been especially good sources from which to draw program participants.

Millerschon also said she thinks that a participant who makes the necessary commitment gains as much from the experience as the adopted grandparent.

"Older people have been through life and they've been through so much and have seen so much," she said. "So they end up getting — both of them — a good fulfillment out of it."

MSC Open House this Sunday

By MEG CÄDIGAN
Staff Writer

The Memorial Student Center is inviting everyone to the largest Open House ever held at Texas A&M.

From 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, 175 campus organizations will be recruiting new members in the MSC.

The organizations are MSC Committees, religious groups, academic departments, international student groups, service/honor groups, dance/music groups, sports/recreation groups and University departments, said Open House Chairman Chris Bowers.

The 36th Annual Open House has two goals, Bowers said.

The first is to give freshmen and new students the opportunity to see what kind of student life exists at A&M, he said.

"All students are invited to Open House, but it mainly benefits new students," Bowers said.

He said he does encourage "veteran" students to attend Open House because the types of organizations change from year to year.

The second goal of Open House is to give student organizations an opportunity to recruit new members, he said.

In addition to giving new students the "scoop" on campus organization, Open House will have a full schedule of entertainment:

- 4:00 Introductions
- 4:15 Aggie Allemanders
- 4:40 Society of Creative Anachronism — bard performance
- 5:00 Miss Texas A&M, Teresa Fritz

• 5:10 Cliff Brown, poetry reading

- 5:20 David Ellis, piano
- 6:00 Fish Drill Team
- 6:20 Corrie Bergeron, comedian

- 6:45 The Midnight Floor Shakers, break dancers
- 7:00 Miss Texas A&M, Teresa Fritz

- 7:10 Indian Vocalist
- 7:40 Yell Leaders
- 7:50 Booth Contest winners

The entertainment schedule is tentative, said Heather McBreen, entertainment sub-chairman for the event.

A new twist to Open House this year will be a booth contest.

Joe Arredondo, coordinator of University Art Exhibits, Dr. Mike Buchholz, a journalism professor, and Joe Buser Jr. of Joe Buser and Associates, a local advertising agency, will judge the booths on form, content and style, Bowers said. "This should give organizations an extra incentive to spruce up their booths," Bowers said.

Tours of the MSC complex will be given by MSC Hospitality every 30 minutes beginning at 4:30 p.m.

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