

tooth and enclosed porch at the back of the house, complete with autographed footballs, two dozen Aggie lands, a fireplace, and books and pictures that all have a story behind them — stories that Mrs. Vandiver is happy to share with anyone who is interested.

The formal living and dining rooms at the front of the house contain several pieces of furniture used by the Rudder family before the house caught fire many years ago.

The kitchen is large and open, perfect for those times when Mrs. Vandiver cooks for 12 or more people.

"Our house was always packed," she said. "I always cooked for twelve because I didn't know how many of them (the children) would be eating with us."

It's no wonder she had a second dishwasher installed in the kitchen.

When the cleaning and cooking are done, Mrs. Vandiver finds time to do the grocery shopping. Her daughters used to help her, but now Dr. Vandiver goes along. And when he goes shopping, Mrs. Vandiver said, they buy "all kinds of things."

Being the wife of the president requires a great deal of Mrs. Vandiver's time. She said that this role puts her mostly in the background and that her main job here is backing up Dr. Vandiver, listening to what he has to say and trying to keep up with what is going on.

Mrs. Vandiver said that her day includes lots of paperwork and planning.

The family members awaken early and share tea and coffee while they coordinate their schedules, she said, adding that there are a lot of phone calls and things to plan.

"We try to see some of everything," she said. "There's at least five things each night going on here (at A&M). We never get to all of them."

Mrs. Vandiver is also a member of a women's social club at A&M, is honorary president of the Aggie Moms

retained from mentioning because of her position. Despite their busy schedules, Dr. and Mrs. Vandiver do manage to spend some time with their children. She said they go to late movies together, or they rent movies and watch them on the VCR at home.

"We know how to squeeze in the time," she said.

When Mrs. Vandiver is not playing the roles of wife and mother, she keeps busy with her own interests and hobbies.

As a fine arts major, she has begun putting together a book containing her own artwork. She is currently working on pen and ink line drawings and charcoal drawings that depict the Louisiana setting she grew up in.

Mrs. Vandiver also enjoys all kinds of music including progressive rock, jazz, opera and even hard rock.

"I like all of them," she said. "I don't like it as loud as some people like it, but I enjoy music with a good beat."

Mrs. Vandiver also likes the old black and white movies and the late late shows that come on around 3 o'clock in the morning — the ones with Frankenstein and the plants that eat people.

She does most of her own work in black and white and thinks the new colorizing technique (converting old black-and-white movies to color) takes away the drama and glamour found in black-and-white films.

"It takes away from an art that was superb," Mrs. Vandiver said. "Black and white is really an art. It's very dramatic, and you can get a lot of suspense and movement out of black and white."

Mrs. Vandiver likes movies so much that sometimes she and Dr. Vandiver forego a meal at home and instead feast on a large tub of popcorn and soda at the movies.

In addition to art, music and movies, Mrs. Vandiver likes working with flowers. Various flowers and plants occupy nearly every room in

the her own personal best garden. Twenty-eight flower beds, each about 12 feet long, contain numerous rose bushes, two kinds of mint plants and several other plants.

Mrs. Vandiver said she used to be in a Flower of the Month club but that her family begged her to quit because there were too many plants in the house.

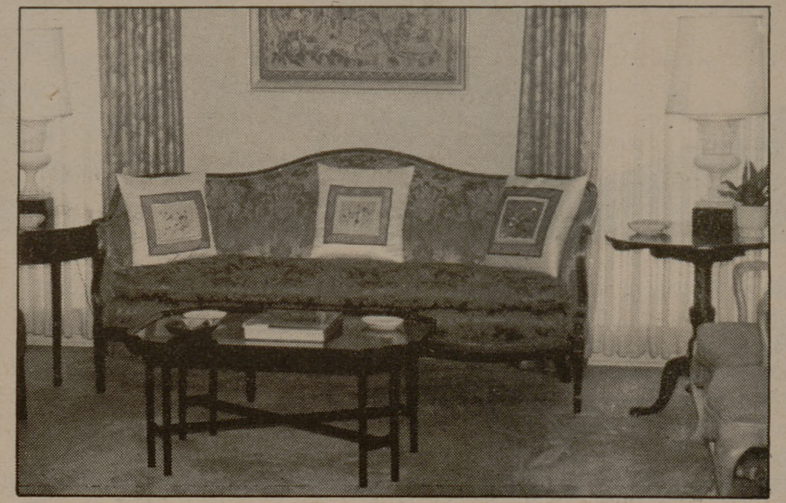
Mrs. Vandiver stresses to her kids the importance of contributing what they can to the world. She urges them

Being the wife of A&M's president has provided Mrs. Vandiver with the opportunity to meet many people.

"The nicest thing about this job is the interesting people you get to meet that you wouldn't have the chance to meet otherwise," she said.

Mrs. Vandiver said that when things get hectic, a vacation isn't really necessary.

"I would accept just flopping on the sofa," she said.



Top: The spacious comfort and relaxed atmosphere of the Vandiver's sun room at the back of the house (a converted breezeway from the kitchen to the garage) is a sharp contrast to the formal living room at the front of the house (above).

Above: The formal living and dining rooms contain furniture from the original Rudder home.

At Left: Three French doors separate the original president's home from the porch that the Vandivers have enclosed.