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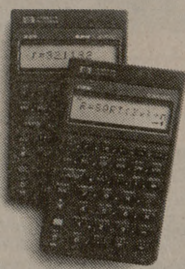
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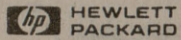
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## Toler

(Continued from page 1)

"He didn't like all the hoopla that went along with (the presidency)," Toler explained of Carter. "He normally didn't request military honors, but there was one situation when I was lucky enough to be able to count as one of the few who played for him."

Toler is a graduate of Squadron Officers School, Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, the Vietnam Service Medal and the American Spirit Honor Medal. In 1975, Toler was selected as one of the Outstanding Young Men in America.

Despite his worldly experiences, Toler says it is not a transition at all to come to College Station.

"Our family has lived all over the world, and we've always made the most of any situation that we went into, as far as our family is concerned," Toler said. "But we're back home now, where our roots are."

Toler has been married to his wife, Catherine, for 25 years. They have three sons — Ray Jr., who is a senior at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia; Eric, who is a senior at A&M Consolidated High School in College Station; and Bryan, who is a junior at Consolidated.

The Aggie Band is the largest that Toler has directed. He was recruited by Haney, who retired last spring after 17 years as director of the Aggie Band. Haney handpicked Toler to take charge of the approximately 300-member organization.

Toler grew up with Haney in Marlin. Haney was band director in Mexia while Toler was in the Marlin High School band. The towns are 30 miles apart, and in the summers, Haney taught Toler trombone lessons.

"We've just had a marvelous relationship all these years," Toler said of he and Haney.

"I kept in touch with him over the years throughout my Air Force career."

"It's a unique honor to have been sought and chosen for this position," Toler said. "Col. Haney called me about three years ago and told me that he was going to retire in the next few years. He was interested in my coming down and looking at the place. I was in the middle of a very successful career in the Air Force, but I came down to look. When I saw everything, I couldn't help it. I fell in love with the place."

"I couldn't believe the spirit and the drive the band had and just the general atmosphere (of A&M). I was awed, quite frankly, from the very first moment."

"I had seen the Aggie Band when I was an undergraduate at TCU, but you can't really appreciate it until you are here and in the middle of it."

Toler said he has been in colleges and universities all over the United States, as well as overseas, and he believes there is no place like Texas A&M.

"There's nothing that matches the student body here," Toler said of A&M. "We're large, but we're not a bunch of numbers here. The students are individuals and treat one another that way."

Toler said he accepts the responsibility as Aggie Band director with confidence, but also with respect and awe for those men who preceded him.

"It's a great honor, but beyond that, it's very large shoes to fill," Toler said. "I step into this position with a great amount of respect for the three men that precede me — Col. Dunn, Col. Adams and Col. Haney."

As Aggie Band director, Toler pledges to maintain the band's distinctive precision marching style.

"We do the thing that we do best better than anyone else in the world," he said of the band's marching style. "A man would be a fool to change that." Toler said it will be easy to maintain that style with his military background.

Some minor changes have been implemented by Toler. To help improve the band's public appearance image, there is a new haircut policy enabling cadets in the band to grow their hair longer than in the past.

To improve retention, especially among the freshman class, Toler has worked to see that all band members are treated with dignity and humanity. To accomplish this, there is less punitive discipline for the band as a unit.

One of the most significant changes that has been made is that the whole band rehearses every afternoon Monday through Thursday in the Adams Band Hall. Previously, the band only practiced its music once or twice during the week. The new emphasis on precision musical quality is to add spirit to the music the band plays.

"The Aggie Band has been the pre-eminent military marching band in the country," Toler said of his organization. "We want to continue to work on our musicianship and improve our playing. We want our playing to match our marchmanship."

Toler's long-term goal for the band is to see its size continue to gradually increase.

"I am very hopeful that in the next three years we can be at 300 (band members) consistently," Toler said.

Toler commented on the experience of working with the student leaders of the Aggie Band, which is a major unit of the A&M Corps of Cadets.

"I was a commander for 18 of my 23 years in the Air Force. As a commander you depend on your non-commissioned officers and your subordinate officers to help you run the organization," said Toler, who plans to use the student leaders in the same manner.

"We have the greatest leadership laboratory in the world working every day with the Aggie Band out on the drill field. It's a phenomenal experience for the men and women who come through the Corps of Cadets to gain leadership traits that will stand them well, whether they're captains of industry or captains of the military."

Toler said the band belongs to all Aggies.

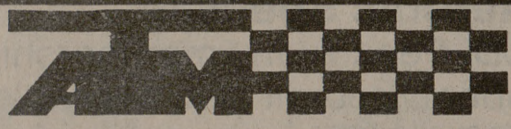
"We're all playing in the same band. We want people to come over here and feel welcome," he said. "We want the people from around the campus to know where we are and that they're welcome over here and to come look around. We really encourage people to come out to drill rehearsal."

Cadet Col. Alan Blackmon, combined band commander of the Aggie Band, spoke highly of the new director.

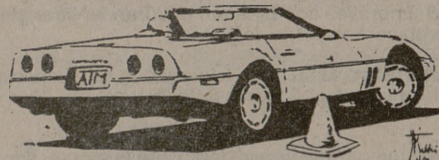
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**MEETING!**

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## Workshop

(Continued from page 3)

Placement Center.

In an effort to prepare graduating seniors for the all-important job interview, Vicki Brown, Class of '76, and Paul Bettencourt, Class of '80, organized the day-long program with the assistance of other Houston-area former students.

Included in the three-part workshop will be a 10 a.m. session in the Clayton Williams Alumni Center to provide examples of good and bad interviews followed by a panel and audience discussion.

Lake Real Estate Investments Inc. broker Kim Moore Lake, '79, and Barry Smitherman, '80, of the asso-

ciate/public finance division of First Boston Corp. in Houston will be keynote speakers at the MSC noon luncheon.

Afternoon sessions in Rudder Tower will give participants the opportunity to meet in small groups with experts in their major study areas for personalized advice on job-search strategies.

The workshop itself is offered free of charge to the first 250 who register. There will, however, be a \$5 charge for lunch.

Registration will continue through Wednesday or until the roster fills up. Interested seniors may sign up from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in either the MSC flag room or the Alumni Center lobby.

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