



TEXAS TECH IN RETROSPECT

By David Murrah, University Archivist

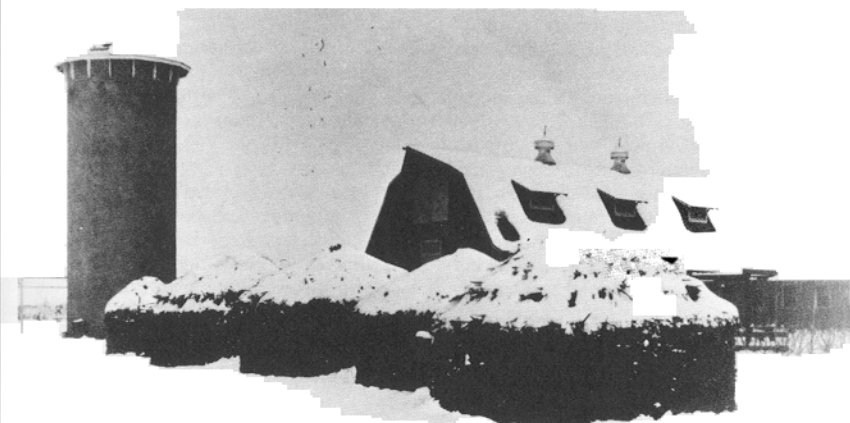
Memorable Snowfalls

As depicted elsewhere in this issue, the beauty of a heavy snowfall at Texas Tech in December captivated photographers. Because such snows are relatively infrequent on the South Plains, each storm generally has been well-documented by campus photographers during Tech's 55-year history. These scenes, a portion of nearly 50,000 Texas Tech pictures housed in the Southwest Collection, recall previous winters on campus, including what may have been the first major snowfall for Texas Tech (1927).



Right: *Science Quadrangle, January 1960.*

Bottom Right: *Administration Building, December 21, 1927*



Tech's Dairy Barn, 1927.





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“Glory to Alma Mater” and Other Tech Songs

*Let us all raise aloud the chorus
Voices blending, tones ascending
Hearts in tune, joining with elation
In the spirit of the throng.*

*Let the strains in a grand crescendo,
High and mounting to the heaven
And with pulse beating strong and steady
Mark the rhythm of the song.*

These words are excerpted from Texas Tech's first school song “Glory to Alma Mater.” Written by Tech Music professor W. R. Waghorne in 1926, the song was printed in a folder used for student convocations. Less sophisticated were the words from two spirit songs also included in the folder:

*Fight, Tech, Fight!
And do your level best,
Fight, Tech, Fight!
And leave to us the rest!
And when we hit that line
There'll be no line at all:
There'll be a bull fight in the
old town to-night!*

*Tech Matador Ho! (shout) Tech
Matador
Hold to your line! Toss, stamp
and gore
But be the sportsman always in
the game
Whether win, lose or draw.
Remember Texas Tech
Ho! Matador, Always a Matador.*

Early in 1929, after editorials in the school paper, the *Toreador*, called for a new Tech song, the Texas Tech Chamber of Commerce offered \$25 to anyone who submitted the best new song for Tech.

In 1930, R. C. Marshall's composition, the “Matador Song,” was adopted. Marshall was editor of the *La Ventana* for the 1930-1931 school year. Since the music used to accompany Marshall's words was so similar to Notre Dame's fight song, the “Matador Song” was not published until the music was revised. In 1931 Tech's band director Harry LeMaire wrote new music to what is now Tech's school song:

1930-31 Tech Matador Band and director Harry LeMaire (standing left).



*Fight! Matadors for Tech.
Songs of love we'll sing to thee,
Bear our banners far and wide,
Ever to be our pride.
Fearless champions ever be,
Stand on heights of victory,
Strive for honor evermore,
Long live the Matadors.*

In the next issue: more Tech songs



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TECH SONGS...

In the April issue of the *Texas Techsan*, we featured the words of several Tech songs that were used during the early years of the school's history. One of those was the *Matador Song*, written by Harry LeMaire. Although probably intended to serve the school as a fight song, it soon became Tech's alma mater

About 1937, a Tech band student, Carroll McMath, wrote a new fight song and set it to the music taken from *Three Days Fantasia-Overture* by Adolph Lotter. McMath's production became Tech's popular *Fight, Raiders, Fight* and is still used today as the school's fight song. Other attempts to produce

spirit songs were less successful. Printed below are the words to one titled *Texas Tech*, taken from an unsigned manuscript housed in the Southwest Collection. It was probably written in the late 1920s by Tech music professor W. R. Waghorne:

*Texas Tech, the finest school I know,
To Texas Tech the best of youth must go,
So raise your voices strong,
With cheer and yell so long,
That Matadors will go through with a bang, T.T.C.!*

*Texas Tech, the finest school on earth,
Texas Tech, the school of sterling worth,
So boys in scarlet and black,
You have the school at your back,
For everyone is part of the gang!*

... THAT DIDN'T MAKE THE HIT PARADE

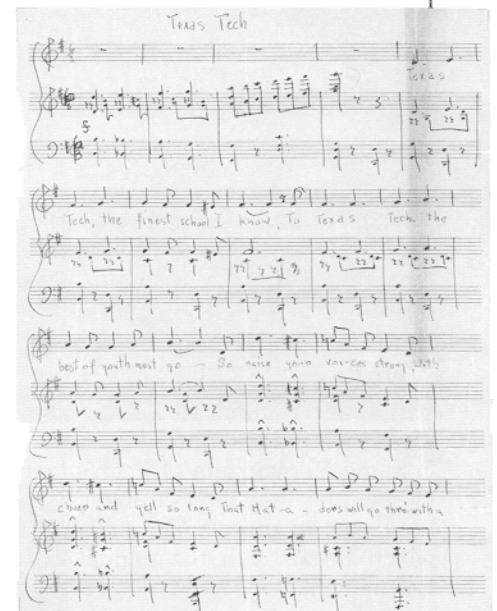
In the 1940s, a New York publishing company attempted to popularize two new fight songs, *Texas Tech Has Got to Win*, and *Fight On For Texas Tech!*, both written

by publisher Thornton W. Allen. The words to *Fight On For Texas Tech!* demonstrate why neither became popular:

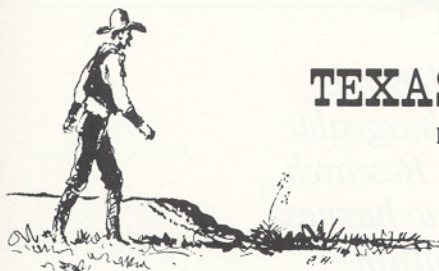
*Down in western Texas there's a college of renown,
Texas Tech, they call it just for short;
Though they teach us all technology,
There's no need for apology,
We're also quite adept at any sport.
Now math and science are essential if you want to win,
And any sort of problem we can prove,
We're not only systematic,
But we're also mathematic,
And we figure out each play before we move.*

In 1942, band and choral leader Fred Waring introduced a new fight song, *Red Raiders*, on his nationally-broadcast radio show. More popular than Thornton's attempt, the Waring song was recorded by the Texas Tech band and chorus in 1950. The following words are excerpted from *Red Raiders*:

*Let's go Red Raiders, Let every man get into the fray,
Let's go Red Raiders, Let's fight until we win the fray.
The bells of victory will ring out,
And every heart in Texas Tech is gonna sing out.
We'll show the foe a Matador is master,
Oh we'll show the foe the meaning of disaster*



From Texas Tech: President's Office Records (Paul Horn), undated.



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Archives Marks 25th Anniversary With Historical Symposium

We'll be singing "Happy Anniversary" come September.

The Southwest Collection will formally celebrate its 25th anniversary on Sept. 18 with a symposium featuring seven prominent Texas historians who, over the last six decades, have produced 40 major books and more than 1,000 historical articles and pamphlets.

The symposium will be co-sponsored by the department of history and the International Center for Arid and Semi-Arid Land Studies and will coincide with activities at the Ranching Heritage Center Sept. 18-20.

Historians participating in the symposium, titled "The American Southwest: Seven Historical Viewpoints," include rancher-historian J. Evetts Haley; Rupert N. Richardson of Abilene, the "dean of Texas historians;" former Texas Tech professors Dr. William Curry Holden, Dr. William M. Pearce and Dr. Ernest Wallace.

Also participating is Dr. Billy M. Jones, immediate past president of Memphis State University, and former Southwest Collection director Roy Sylvan Dunn.

THEN . . . Southwest Collection storage and service area, 1959.



The Southwest Collection and West Texas historiography are concurrent in many ways. While the archive did not officially open its doors until Sept. 1, 1955, its origins stretch back to 1930.

Texas Technological College was only in its fifth year of existence when it acquired records from the prominent Spur and Matador ranches.

Those materials, the nucleus for the Southwest Collection, were first housed in the college library. In 1949, college officials conceived a plan for establishing an archives dedicated to preserving the heritage of West Texas and the American Southwest.

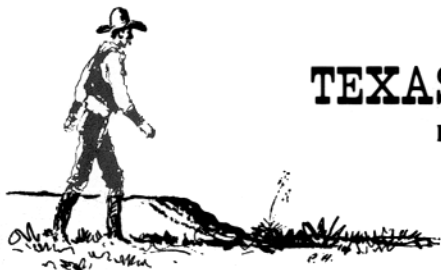
That idea was formally recognized by the Texas Tech Board of Directors in 1955 when the Southwest Collection was established as a separate department of the college.

Texas Tech employed Dr. Seymour V. Connor as first archivist, and the materials were moved from the library to the West Texas Museum. By 1963, the Southwest Collection had grown large enough to be relocated in the old library building.

Today, the Southwest Collection, a quarter-century in formation and a quarter-century in operation, has become one of the largest regional repositories in the United States. Included in its holdings are 15 million pages of manuscript material, 250,000 photographs, 400,000 feet of microfilm and 25,000 books, all dealing with the American Southwest.

NOW . . . Public service area today. Pictured (from left) are Associate Archivist Michael Hooks and Assistant Archivists Janet Neugebauer and Helen Clements.





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TECH'S FIRST RED RAIDER

On January 1, 1954, Tech student Joe Kirk Fulton, wearing levis, red shirt, red and black cape and black hat, mounted a black horse and led the Texas Tech football team onto the field at the New Year's Day Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla. Fulton's ride marked the beginning of one of Tech's most colorful traditions—the mounted, masked Red Raider.

The *Atlanta Constitution* described Fulton as a "cowboy in a red cape on a charger" and noted that the event was "typically Texas." The dramatic entry of the team electrified the crowd as well as the football team. The Red Raiders rolled to an impressive 35-13 victory over Auburn. The decisive win bolstered Tech's hope for admittance into the Southwest Conference, a dream realized in 1956.

Fulton, now chairman of the board of Lubbock's Plains National Bank, credits Tech football coach DeWitt Weaver with the idea of the mounted mascot.

"He wanted a masked rider," Fulton said. "He called me, visited with me about the idea, and asked me if I thought it would work."



Tech's Masked Rider, Fulton, in 1955.

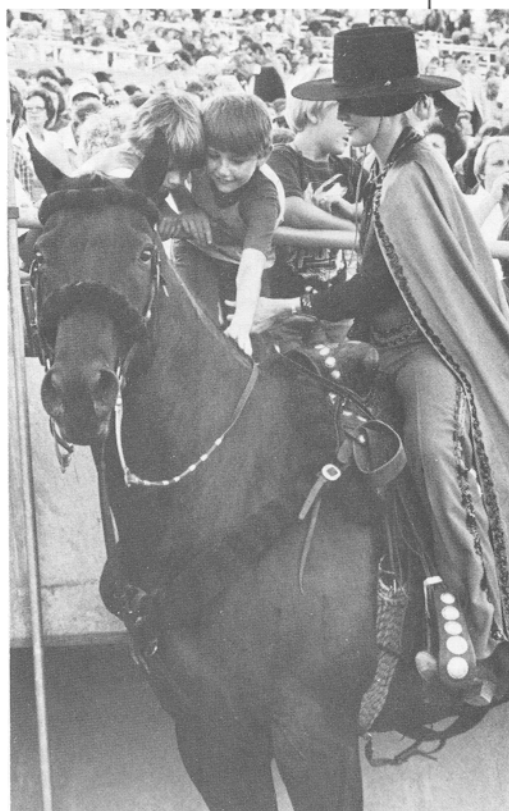
An expert horseman, Fulton readily agreed to the plan and, following the Gator Bowl game, served two years as the Tech mascot.

Although fan reaction to the rider was favorable, Fulton said there were some negative comments.

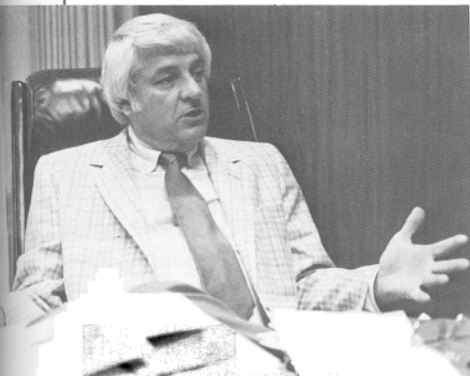
"A few coaches, back when I was riding, said they really didn't like the horse on their football field."

During its 25-year history, the mascot has gradually changed from Weaver's initial concept of a masked cowboy to that of a mounted matador. Ironically, Tech athletic teams were called the Matadors until the 1930's when a sports writer popularized the name Red Raiders.

Since Fulton's initial ride, 17 Tech students, including two women, have served as the Red Raider.



Kathleen Campbell of Portland, Texas, the 1980-81 Red Raider.



Joe Kirk Fulton, 1980.



TEXAS TECH IN RETROSPECT

By Jana Bryant

Tech's First Christmas

At Christmas time in 1925, Calvin Coolidge was President, "Ma" Ferguson was governor of Texas, a 10-pound bag of sugar was 59¢ and Christmas trees sold for \$1 to \$3. And in Lubbock, Texas Technological College celebrated its first holiday season.

Presidents and prices have changed since 1925 but one thing has not—Christmas festivities at Texas Tech.

In December 1925, even though finals were drawing near, Techsians took time out to celebrate Christmas with campus parties and get-togethers. One event, however, highlighted the holiday season—the Christmas pageant.

Two hundred students under the direction of music professor W. R. Waghorne participated in the choral production. Aided by Ruth Pirtle, professor of public speaking, and Johnnye Gilkerson, instructor in physical education for women, Waghorne assembled the glee club, orchestra and other students in presenting a pageant depicting the first Christmas.

The event, staged south of the Administration Building, featured singing of Christmas carols by par-



The Carol of Lights in the early 1960s as seen from the west side of the Science Quad.

ticipants and visitors from Lubbock and surrounding towns.

Dr. Paul Horn, first president of Texas Tech, expressed hope that it would become an annual event. He also stated that he wanted the affair to be "one of the memorable occasions in the history of Texas Tech."

Although the pageant did not become a tradition, another one did. Begun in 1959, the annual Carol of Lights, featuring the singing of Christmas carols and the lighting of thousands of colored

lights, represents how Texas Techsians celebrate Christmas on campus today.

Even though the event has changed since 1925, the Carol of Lights embodies the dream of Dr. Horn and has become a memorable occasion in Tech's history.

The Southwest Collection is seeking early Tech photos, both Christmas and general. Please contact the Southwest Collection if you have any of these.

