



## TEXAS TECH IN RETROSPECT

By Jana Bryant

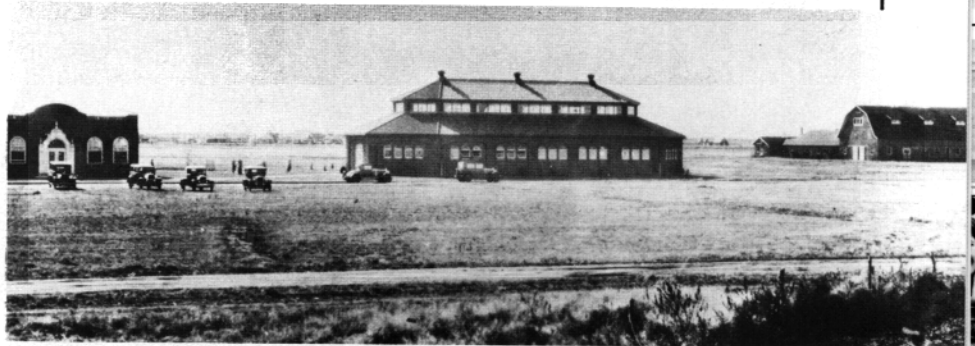
### Texas Tech Basketball . . .

. . . In 55 years it's come a long way from an improvised court in the Livestock Judging Pavilion to the comfort of the Municipal Coliseum. Tech played its first game against the Daniel Baker Hillbillies from Brownwood on Jan. 25, 1926. According to newspaper accounts, about 1,200 people watched as Tech lost 37-25. The high point man for Tech, Gene Alford, scored just eight points, quite a contrast to individual performances today.

The next season, the Matadors moved to more luxurious quarters in the newly constructed Tech gym. This site served the college basketball team for the next 30 years. Then, in 1956, the team moved to its present home in the Lubbock Municipal Coliseum.

In those early years of Tech basketball, the Matadors played such teams as Sul Ross, Hardin-Simmons University, McMurry and West Texas State. Tech and the West Texas Buffaloes met 80 times from 1926 to 1958. After a 20-year lapse, Tech renewed its oldest rivalry with neighboring WTSU in 1979.

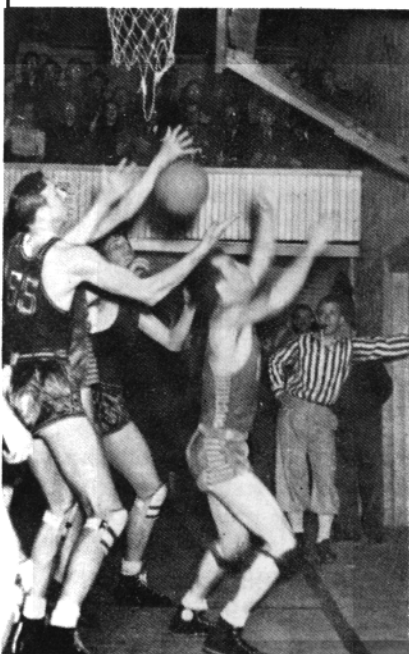
During the long rivalry between Tech and West Texas, one game stands out as being unique. In a



At Tech in 1926 there were no indoor basketball courts. The team played on an improvised court in the Livestock Judging Pavilion (center). At left is the original Agriculture Building and at right is the Dairy Barn.

game played on Jan. 20, 1933, according to newspaper reports, the referees called 41 personal fouls, and before the game was over the opposing players were ripping each other's pants! The

center on the Tech team was Polk Robison who later became the Tech basketball coach; one of the referees was Frank Kimbrough who later became the head football coach at West Texas State.



This barn-like structure served as the basketball gym from about 1927 to 1956. This photo probably was taken in the late 1920s.

Left: In this photo from the 1940 La Ventana, the relaxed official at right watched as Tech played against an unidentified opponent in the Tech Gym.



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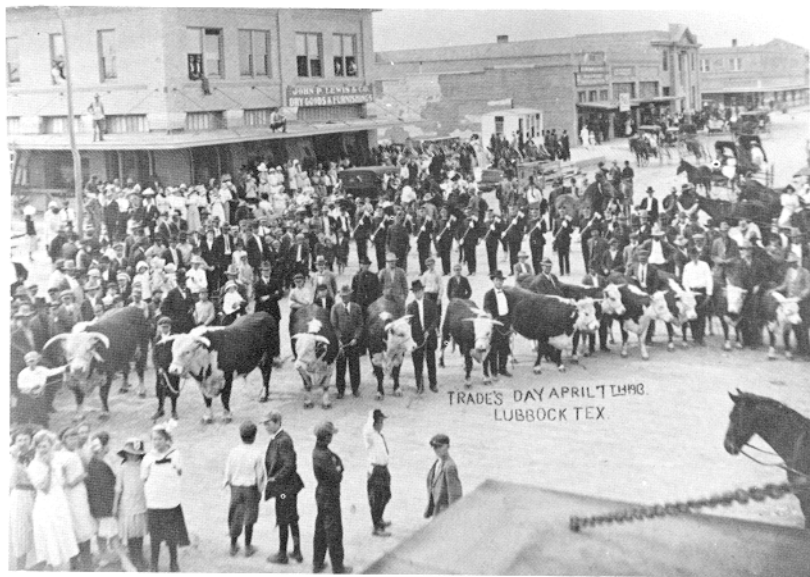
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### *Happiness in Lubbock: A Rear View Look*

Long before songwriter Mac Davis even thought of writing about happiness and Lubbock, Texas, the people of this West Texas community were making sure it was a happy place to live. Although not a large city at the turn of the century, Lubbock offered for its citizens many attractions and amusements.

In the early 1900s, citizens of the community retreated to Buffalo Springs, Yellowhouse Canyon or Silver Falls for picnicking and fishing. In later years, Mackenzie Park became a popular recreational site.

Circuses and tent shows were a big attraction for townspeople. Edward Arlington's 101 Ranch Real Wild West Show and Harley Sadler's Tent Show attracted hundreds of visitors from the area. Another tent show popular in the early 1920s was the Chautauqua, brought to the city by the Chamber



To get visitors to come to Lubbock, local businessmen cooperated to host "Trades Days," such as this one on April 7, 1913. Usually held in the spring or summer, the events attracted people from 75 to 100 miles away.

of Commerce, which provided music, drama, religion and lectures.

Movies made an appearance in Lubbock about 1907. Two theaters were opened in 1909, and in 1916 the Lindsey Theater was built on Main Street.

Trade days, July Fourth celebrations and county fairs were still other attractions. For trade days, local businessmen declared special sales and advertised for people to come to Lubbock. These days usually coincided with cattle sales days. July Fourth celebrations included parades, barbeques and square dances. Annual county fairs provided several kinds of sporting events such as baseball games and foot races.

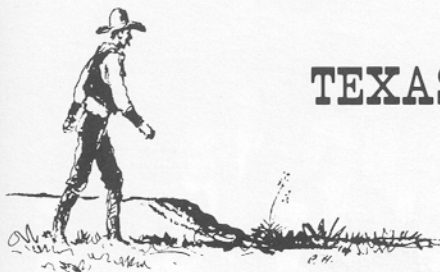
For many years baseball was also popular in early Lubbock. Golf provided recreation in the early 1920s. Rodeos, hunting, horse racing and even polo occupied much of people's leisure time.



Another attraction was the Tumble "N" Pool in Mackenzie Park. When it opened in 1921, about 1,500 people were there to watch the swimming and diving exhibitions.

(Right) Entries in the Fourth of July parade, c.1906. The first Lubbock County Courthouse is shown in the background.





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### *Here's To The Class of 1931*

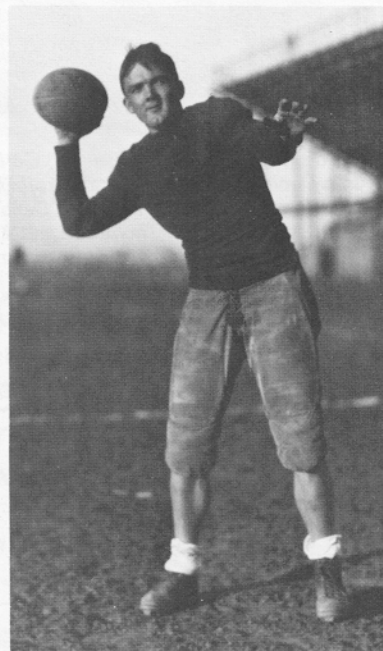
Even though the country was in the midst of the Depression in 1931, a small Texas Technological College flourished. A college bulletin reported that the school had 16 buildings, 130 faculty members, 250 courses and 2,319 students.

Many more students and faculty members have come to and gone from Texas Tech since that time. In May, members of the Class of 1931 returned to celebrate their golden anniversary as graduates of Texas Tech.

With the help of a few photographs, we'd like to take you back to 1931 . . .



. . . when these beauties were the Queen's court in the 1931 Pageant.



. . . when Floyd Wooldridge was chosen Man of the Year.



. . . when freshmen got the worst end of the deal.



. . . when the campus looked like this.



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### Ag Program Breeds Success

In September 1925, 914 students enrolled at Texas Technological College. Sixty students enrolled in one of the colleges which would later gain national recognition for its quality, the College of Agriculture.

Only two agriculture buildings were completed in 1925, the Livestock Judging Pavilion and the Dairy Barn. There was no classroom building; therefore, classes and offices were located in the Home Economics Building.

That year the college had only three faculty members, Arthur H. Leidigh, dean; Charles H. Mahoney; and W. L. Stangel. Six courses were offered, including three in animal husbandry, two in horticulture and one two-semester course in agronomy.

Animal husbandry courses were popular among students. An incentive for the program was the opportunity for judging teams to travel to the livestock shows in Fort Worth and Kansas City.

The first livestock judging team from Tech competed in 1927 at the



Tech's first Senior Livestock Judging Team, 1927, (from left) President Paul W. Horn, O. N. Burroughs, Jack Sides, L. M. Starr, Coach Ray Mowery, L. C. Jennings, F. G. Blackmon, Sam Chatham, W. L. Stangel and Dean Arthur H. Leidigh.

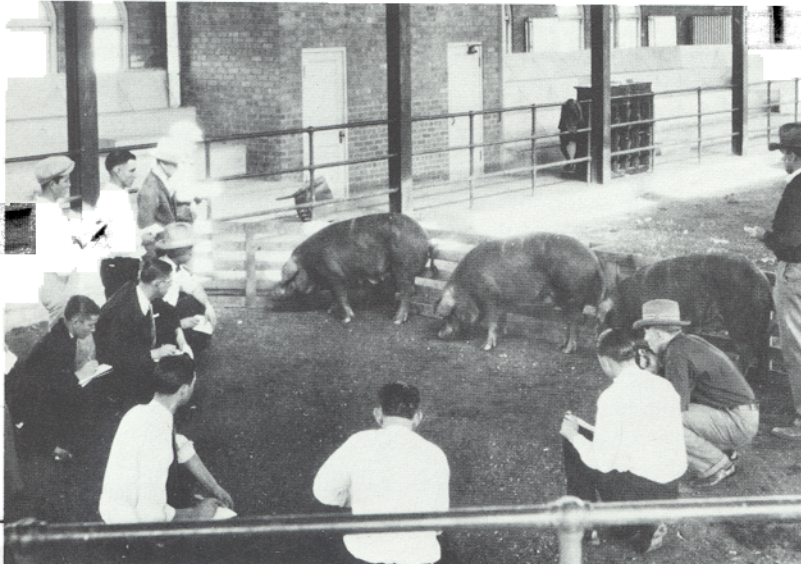
Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show at Fort Worth and placed second. In 1928 a team entered the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago and placed eighth out of 23 teams. At the American Royal Livestock Show in Kansas City, Tech teams won second and first prizes in 1934 and 1937, respectively. Under the direc-

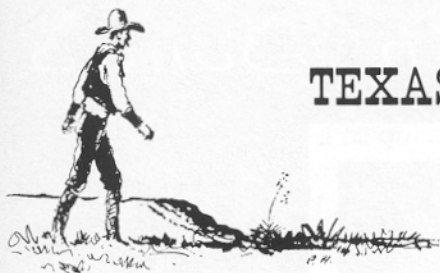
tion of W. L. Stangel and Ray Mowery, the judging teams were winners in national competition and consistently placed in the top 20 percent.

The early teams were not provided with funds for traveling expenses to the shows, so the students raised the necessary money through such events as the Pig Roast, the agricultural fair and the Tech rodeo.

Much of the history of agriculture at Tech is documented in materials in the Southwest Collection. Its extensive Tech holdings provided researcher Donald E. Green with valuable resources for his book *Fifty Years of Service to West Texas Agriculture: A History of Texas Tech University's College of Agricultural Sciences, 1925-1975*. Related materials in the Southwest Collection include the College of Agriculture Records, the W. L. Stangel and Arthur H. Leidigh Papers and numerous taped interviews with past and present agriculture personnel.

The Tech Pavilion was the site of this livestock judging by the Tech team in 1927.





## TEXAS TECH IN RETROSPECT

By Jana Bryant '80

### Life & Times of Tech . . . the Early Freshman

College life for today's freshman student is exciting but it may not be as adventurous as it was a generation ago. During Tech's early years, hazing was considered by upperclassmen as being important to properly indoctrinating the new student into college life.

Now only a practice of the past, hazing involved several traditions. The wearing of the freshman cap or "beanie," made the frosh quite conspicuous on campus. His cap bill was turned up and painted with the word "Fish," his class year and perhaps his hometown. An article from a 1935 *Toreador* summarized this practice:

"A first year student who wears his green cap shows that he has the proper attitude towards college. He admits that he is as 'green' as the color indicates . . . The 'wearing of the green' is a tradition at Tech. Why not continue this practice? Less than one fourth of the freshman boys are now wearing them. Put your caps on, freshmen, and we'll think that you came to college to learn, not to visit."

Another custom of the late 1920s was the practice of upperclassmen carrying "boards of education," or a big wooden paddle. When meeting a freshman, the upperclassman would ask, "Freshman, do you know me?" If the answer was no, the freshman was to grab his ankles so the upperclassman could spell out his name on his posterior. If he could not repeat the name, the whole process was repeated.

An activity for freshmen associated with the homecoming football game was the shoe rush. All male freshmen removed their shoes and placed them on the 50 yard line. When divided into equal teams at each end of the playing field, the boys would run to recover their shoes.

The freshman also was asked to do such tasks as run errands, arrange dates, perform domestic services or just silly stunts.

Yesterday's freshman had to undergo quite an ordeal to become a member of the college scene. Even a Tech bulletin, the "Freshman Handbook and Student Guide, 1931-1932," gave students helpful hints, including these suggestions:

1. "Learn all of the songs and yells of Tech—especially the Matorador Fight Song.
2. Write home at least once a week.
3. Pull for Tech or pull out.
4. Freshmen wear your green cap. It is a distinction and a privilege.
5. The Double T bench south of the administration building was not built for freshmen. Never sit on it, for that is the upperclassmen's privilege.
6. Keep this book in your pocket. It should save you from asking many foolish questions."



Above: This photo of Hurley Carpenter as a freshman probably was taken about 1925. The Administration and Home Economics buildings are pictured in the background.

Below: The freshman shoe rush during the halftime of a home football game, 1930.





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### Tech's Pioneer Women

From the early days on the high plains of Texas, women played significant roles in the development of the region. Women were a part of that breed labeled as pioneers. As a part of the development of West Texas, Texas Tech provided an opportunity for women to be pioneers of education during the schools' initial years. Four women—Mary Howard Doak, Elizabeth Howard West, Margaret W. Weeks and Florence A. Drane, true pioneers in every sense of the words, were deeply involved with Texas Tech from the early days of its existence and left their marks upon the school.

Mary Doak



Elizabeth West

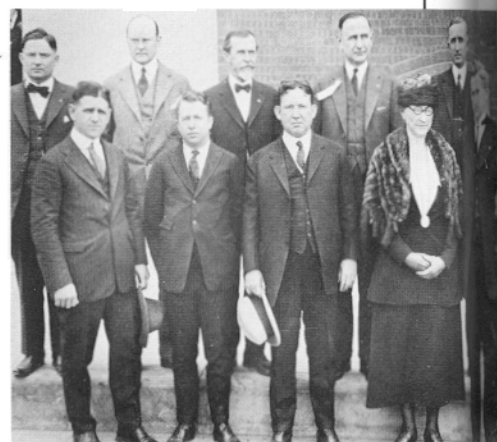


Mary Doak was Tech's first and only dean of women for 20 years, from 1925 to 1945. After relinquishing the deanship, she taught English for five years until 1950 when she retired. She was instrumental in establishing an honorary service organization for senior women called Forum. Today, the Forum chapter of Mortar Board is a national organization whose membership is open to senior men and women.

Elizabeth Howard West, Tech's first librarian from 1925 to 1942, was instrumental in organizing two campus groups for women faculty members. In 1926, she formed the Tech chapter of the American Association for University Women. She then later named the Quarterly Club, a professional association for faculty members. After money was appropriated for construction of a new library in 1937, West personally helped ring Tech's victory bells. She became Librarian Emeritus in 1942 and was a research assistant in the history department until she retired in 1946.

Margaret W. Weeks was Tech's first dean of Home Economics and served in that capacity from 1925 to 1953. Known as an "organizer, administrator and a tireless worker in the struggle for recognition of home economics," Weeks saw the school grow from 58 in the first classes to more than 1,200 by 1953. She helped establish the Double Key Honor Society in 1930 which later became the first Texas chapter of Phi Upsilon Omicron in 1938. The Margaret Weeks Loan Fund and Weeks Scholarship were created in her honor.

Mrs. F. N. (Florence) Drane, a Corsicana native, was one of the first women appointed to Tech's board of directors. Appointed in



Florence Drane, in the first meeting of the Tech board of directors.

1923 by Gov. Pat Neff, she served on the board continuously for nine years and in 1932, following the death of Paul Horn, was named as acting president. In that capacity she signed diplomas for the 1932 graduates. Her interest in the development of Texas Tech was best expressed in a letter written to President Horn in 1924 before the school opened:

"It is impossible for me to tell you how very deeply interested I am in this College. . . I am giving the best I have to it, and will until it stands a living monument to the greatness of Texas."

Mrs. Drane's statement perhaps reflected the attitude of the many pioneer women of Tech who did give their very best to this institution.

Margaret Weeks

