



TEXAS TECH IN RETROSPECT

By Michael Q. Hooks

Livestock Pavilion Awarded Historical Marker

On Sept. 30, 1983, the Livestock Pavilion, located between the Agricultural Sciences buildings and the Library, received an Official Texas Historical Marker. Dr. David Murrah, director of Texas Tech's Southwest Collection, gave the following dedicatory address during the ceremony to unveil the marker, which was awarded by the Texas Historical Commission:

Today there are two livestock pavilions standing on this campus—let me rephrase that—there were two pavilions, and today we commemorate the older of the two. Indeed it is appropriate to do so on Sept. 30, because 58 years ago on Sept. 30, 1925, Texas Tech formally opened its doors with a special convocation.

At that time, Tech had seven brand new buildings ready for use. The Livestock Judging Pavilion and all of the other 1925 buildings are still here today, primarily because of the foresight of their designer, William Ward Watkin.

Although Watkin copied the Pavilion's layout from a similar building at Iowa State, he insisted that its frame be constructed of steel rather than of wooden timbers as was the Iowa pattern, so that, and I quote from an April 1924 letter in which Watkin noted, "It will serve for a good many years the purpose at Lubbock."

In many ways, the Pavilion's purpose was versatility. During Tech's first academic year of 1925-1926 with 900 students enrolled, the building served as an all-purpose center. It was pragmatically utilized for student convocations, band concerts, dances, church services, basketball games, and occasionally even for livestock judging.

The Pavilion provided facilities that allowed Tech's stock judging teams to be the school's first to gain state and national recognition. Its first team in 1927 placed second at the Fort Worth Fat Stock Show and in 1928 defeated both Texas A&M and Oklahoma A&M for the championship.

The Pavilion hosted its first of many judging contests for area high school students in 1926 when seven teams participated; in 1928, 28 teams judged here, and through the



An early ag class uses the Pavilion.

many years that followed, the number of teams grew into hundreds.

Stock judging served to introduce the thousands of high school students to the Tech campus, including yours truly, the 1957 champion dairy cattle judge of the Gruver Future Farmers of America.

The versatility of the Pavilion was not without its problems. On March 29, 1926, Tech President Paul Horn wrote the following to his superintendent of Buildings and Grounds:

Dear Mr. Warlick:

There is to be an important student convocation Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock in the Stock Judging Pavilion. This pavilion has been in use today and consequently there will be need of a little special cleaning in getting it ready.

This early-day versatility of the Pavilion simply reflected the versatility of the young college it served. During that first year, Texas Tech was struggling hard to live up to its charge from the Legislature to offer a versatile curriculum in "technology and textile engineering . . . and complete courses in arts and sciences and any and all other degrees given by colleges of the first class."

Tech's watchword became, "Do the best you can with what you have." In that light, this little building well served its purpose, and coincidentally, I'm proud to say, so has Texas Tech.



The Pavilion, built in 1925, was an original Tech structure.



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The Spring Pageant



During its early years, Texas Tech sponsored a spring pageant to close out the school year. The following is an excerpt from the *Toreador* describing the first pageant, held June 1, 1926:

'The Spirit of West Texas, a historical pageant depicting the development of West Texas in its various stages, was presented by the students of the Texas Technological College Tuesday evening . . . to crowds estimated by newspaper reporters as from 6,000 to 10,000 persons, with the medium of 8,000 as a conservative estimate. Each scene in the first episode, 'The West of Yesterday,' was greeted with expressed appreciation. The pioneers or native West Texans present being carried back to bygone days when they lived the scene in reality were joined in their ovation of approval by the younger generation and transient citizens who were seeing the scenes enacted for the first time. Both generations were enthusiastic over the second episode which presented 'The West of Today,' in which the Tech was the outstanding feature.

The presentation of the pageant was successful from every standpoint, and the directors, Misses Ruth Pirtle and Johnnye Gilkerson, assisted by Profs. [W. R.] Waghorne and Harry LeMaire directing the musical accompaniment of the orchestra and band, have been the recipients of much praise and commendation from every source.

Less than two hours time was consumed in the presentation, which was remarkable considering the many different scenes and the fact that approximately 500 students were used in the performance. A large platform with a higher elevation for the Queen's throne was erected at the south entrance to the salle porte of the administration building, and a spotlight attracted the attention of the audience to

the center of action. The decorations were elaborate for an outdoor performance and very attractive.

Seats were arranged for about 2,000 persons and the remainder of the audience found seats on the ground and remained in cars during the pageant. President [Paul] Horn, who had been confined . . . several days, was driven to a vantage point in the semicircle formed by the audience, where he sat throughout the performance.

The coronation of Miss D'Ann Sammons as queen of the pageant was probably the most impressive scene of the entire evening. Preparations for this event were quite elaborate, and the climax of impressiveness was reached when Dean J. M. Gordon, acting in behalf of Dr. Horn . . . placed the jewelled crown upon the head of the kneeling Queen and declared her queen of the campus to be honored by her many subjects. To the Queens's court came a party of Spaniards and a dance given for her pleasure. The Tech of the future passed before the court, then the entire cast of characters passed back in review to pay honor to the newly crowned queen.

Although Tech presented a pageant in each of the next three years, the College was forced to cease its financial support as funds became scarce. As a result, the pageant was cancelled in 1930. The West Texas Chamber of Commerce, however, served in 1931 as sponsor for the program, which was given in conjunction with the Chamber's convention in Lubbock.

Apparently the pageant provided the College with a good method to promote itself. One local businessman, after seeing the 1926 performance, remarked: "I never knew before just what they had at Tech. I can appreciate the institution more since seeing the pageant."

TEXAS TECH IN RETROSPECT

By Cynthia Martin

Would we do it again . . . we would!



When Texas Tech opened in 1925, one of the phases of college life which appealed to both students and Lubbock residents was athletics.

Even before the college opened, a group of businessmen formed an organization known as the Matador Club to support football and other athletic events. But it was not just the men who were interested in sports. Tech women were also anxious to be involved.

During the school's first year, the Women's Athletic Association (WAA)

was formed under the direction of Johnnie Gilkerson, Tech's only women's physical education teacher. The sports recognized by the WAA were baseball, basketball, volleyball, swimming, hiking, horseback riding, tennis and gymnastic stunts.

A certain amount of work in any of these recognized sports was equivalent to a definite number of points, and those who attained the required number of points were awarded a letter. Team managers for each one of the

sports were elected by the athletes.

These early women athletes had to contend with problems of little or no equipment and poor facilities. A large room in the administration building served for many activities, and until 1927 basketball games were played in the Livestock Judging Pavilion.

At least one game was cancelled when the opposing team refused to play in a livestock arena. The tennis team played on dirt courts and the first lockers were Hemphill-Wells boxes.

But the 1926 *La Ventana* noted that, "work is progressing nicely, although somewhat handicapped by lack of gymnasium and proper equipment," and that, "girls' athletics at Texas Tech are on a par with other schools of the state in spite of the difficulties to be overcome."

Indeed, Tech's first women athletes displayed tremendous optimism and enthusiasm. As one Tech hiker commented after a 50-mile hike from Lubbock to Plainview, which left her sunburned and with blistered feet, "would we do it again . . . we would!"



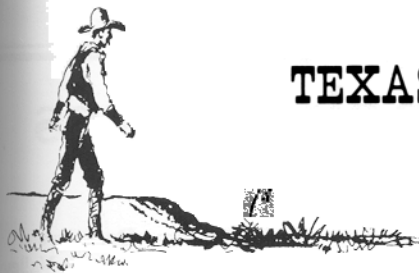
Tech women riders in front of the gymnasium.



These beauties were two of Tech's first women tennis players.



Women's hiking group one mile south of Hale Center on the second day of the 50-mile Lubbock to Plainview hike.



TEXAS TECH IN RETROSPECT

The Yaqui: Tech's first scientific expedition

By Cynthia Martin '74



The Yaqui Expedition members . . . before and after.

Fifty years ago, a party of Texas Tech University professors, Lubbock community professionals and a Harvard professor made one of the earliest scientific expeditions among the Yaqui Indians of Sonora, Mexico

Dr. W. C. Holden became interested in the expedition through discussions with an immigration officer who had been closely associated with a group of Yaqui refugees at Tucson, Arizona.

Financing an expedition in 1934, though, was no easy task—the depression was at its worst and many banks were closed. But the Tech administration enthusiastically approved the project and the Lubbock community was not only supportive, but generous with donations.

On March 1, 1934, the group left Lubbock for the Yaqui villages located on the Yaqui River, 275 miles south of Arizona. They set out in a borrowed truck and a car, with very little money, donated food and supplies, but with great enthusiasm for what Dr. Holden viewed as an opportunity of a lifetime.

Spending most of their time in and around the village of Torin, the expedition made investigations of Yaqui history, physical characteristics, ethnol-

ogy, medicine and architecture, as well as studying the natural history of the area.

Dr. C. J. Wagner, a Lubbock physician, studied Yaqui medicine and performed a number of surgeries under very crude conditions, including the removal of a bullet carried for 19 years by a Yaqui man.

Dr. Carl Seltzer of Harvard measured the heads, faces, noses and thighs of over 100 Yaqui men.

W. G. McMillan, Lubbock building contractor, studied Yaqui architecture as well as the snakes of the area, and Dr. Holden gathered valuable historical and anthropological information about the Yaqui. Dr. R. A. Studhalter, Tech

professor of botany, studied Yaqui agriculture and collected botanical specimens.

The Lubbock and Tech communities kept up with the expedition through the detailed accounts sent by Lubbock newspaper editor, Charles Guy. Of particular interest were his descriptions of the Fiesta de Gloria, a passion play enacted during the last four days of Holy Week, terminating at noon on Easter Sunday.

In all, the expedition secured 144 museum pieces and a small botanical collection, took over 800 photographs, made numerous sketches, and shot 1,200 feet of movie film. In addition, they gained the good will of the Yaqui.

The group returned on April 15.



The expedition camped and did their own cooking.



TEXAS TECH IN RETROSPECT

The Saddle Tramps: A Frontier Tradition Lives On

By Cindy Martin

The term "saddle tramp" may not invoke a very positive image to some, but anyone who has attended Tech or has seen the Saddle Tramps in action at a Tech football game knows differently.

Saddle Tramps, a men's service organization dedicated to the improvement of Texas Tech, was founded in 1936 by head yell leader Arch Lamb. Lamb was nominated by a men's social club who visited his shoe shine stand and decided "Let's put the shine boy up for yell leader."

He was 23 years old and had no experience, but upon his election he decided to see what could be accomplished through the position. The student body at that time was on probation for destruction of property in town and bonfires to which Lubbock citizens had made "involuntary donations."

Lamb and other yell leaders Paul "Grandma" Bowers and Bud Thompson met and conceived the idea of an organization which would lead this student spirit into more constructive channels.

The name of the group was derived

from the story of the saddle tramp which Lamb related to the others. The saddle tramp, according to Lamb, would ride in, work for a short time, and then move on, usually leaving things in better condition than he found them.



Arkansas Hog goes into the Homecoming 1945 bonfire.

To Lamb, students were transients like the saddle tramp, and should work to improve the campus while they were here.

The first group of Saddle Tramps consisted of ten men, hand picked from the schools of arts and sciences, engineering, and agriculture. Connor Cole was the first sponsor.

Wearing dark trousers and white shirts dyed red, this early group began the tradition of the scarlet shirts and black pants by which the Saddle Tramps are recognized today.

From its beginning, the central theme of the Saddle Tramps has been, "If it is for the betterment of Texas Tech, let's work at it," and the organization has been responsible not only for generating school spirit, but for many other worthwhile campus projects.

Each semester new Saddle Tramp pledges must learn a tremendous amount of information about Tech.

So if you want to know whose names are on the Administration Building or why there is a blarney stone in front of the Engineering Building, ask a Saddle Tramp.



The Saddle Tramps as they appeared in the 1937 La Ventana.



TEXAS TECH IN RETROSPECT

The Ko Sharis: Fifty-two years of 'delight-making'

By Cynthia Martin

In April 1984, over a hundred former Ko Sharis met in Lubbock to mark the 52nd anniversary of the club. Organized in 1932 from an earlier high school club, the group decided on an Indian theme and asked Dr. and Mrs. W. C. Holden, who both had an interest in Indians, to act as sponsors.

According to Dr. Holden, "The girls turned their charm on me. Had the intent been on any other subject, I would have said no. As it was, they hit me in my soft spot and I accepted."

The Holdens wrote an initiation ritual based on Indian literature and suggested the name Ko Shari from the Pueblo Indian word meaning "delight maker." Colors chosen for the club were silver and turquoise and their song was adapted from "The Indian Love Call."

The first Ko Shari pledges were initiated in 1933 in the Holden's living room. But with the completion of an excavation of Pueblo Indian ruins near Santa Fe, the Holdens decided to hold

the next initiation there during Easter break. Thus began a cherished tradition carried on through 20 years.

The annual trip to Santa Fe became as important as Thanksgiving and Christmas for the Ko Sharis. On the Thursday before Easter, the group traveled on chartered buses to Santa Fe, where they "practically took over" the La Fonda Hotel.

On Friday they made a tour of archaeological sites and visited pueblos in the area. Saturday was spent enjoying Santa Fe; mingling with Indians, artists and movie stars.

According to Dr. Holden, "Everything led up to the climax that night with the initiation in the kiva, lightened only by the pinon fire in the corner fireplace. It was all so realistic and emotional that it could have rivaled other occasions on the spot four centuries ago."

Ko Shari became Pi Beta Phi sorority in 1953, and the initiation trips to Santa Fe became only memories. Since that time Ko Shari members have scattered to all parts of the country, but many have kept in touch with each other. After the success of a reunion this

year, another is being planned for the near future, but this time the "delight-makers" will return to Santa Fe.



Marion Coolidge (left), LaNelle Doshier, Fran Holden and Betty Boulter in front of the La Fonda bargaining for turquoise and silver, 1946.



Prize-winning Ko Shari float decorated in turquoise and silver, 1949.



Ko Sharis climb into ancient caves in Frijoles Canyon on an exploration.

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