

## TEXAS TECH IN RETROSPECT

### *1st Annual All-College Frolic*

BY DAVID MURRAH

Texas Tech's initial year produced a lot of "firsts," some of which remain as traditions on campus today. But one major event has faded into history, not for a lack of success or enthusiasm, but rather because its popularity led to bigger and better things.

That event was the First Annual All-College Frolic, staged before a standing-room-only audience at the old Lindsey Theater in downtown Lubbock in February 1926. According to the school paper, *The Toreador*, the 14 acts produced by various student organizations made the evening an "unqualified success."

*From the first act to the 14th, time after time the theater was engulfed with a mighty wave of applause, and right well did each act deserve that response. . . Only on the Majestic or Orpheum circuit, or any "big time" vaudeville, can one find a competitor as to entertainment. Each club and organization of the college vied with one another as to which could offer the best brand of amusement, while the whole was arranged and blended with a grace and symmetry that left the audience wondering if this could have been the product of the college or the Hippodrome.*

*Set within a Spanish theme, the program featured singers and dancers, skits, satirical orations, a tumbling act, and this dramatic final scene:*

*The curtain was drawn—oh, beautiful scene! Lovers two, strolling in the moonlight: he implored her in song to listen to his plea. She was coy, but at last she listened, as she answered the whole stage was flooded with moonlight: miraculously many lovers appeared, and there on their knees some of the college's most eligible bachelors besought—nay, implored the maid of their choice to*

*share their lot, while the ladies answered negatively or otherwise, which may have a host of meanings. They sent us away humming the moonlight melody, with a feeling that the college frolic was a huge success . . .*

But the Frolic did not become an annual event. Apparently the idea carried over into the spring to become the annual outdoor Pageant held at the end of school from 1926-1929, and in 1931.

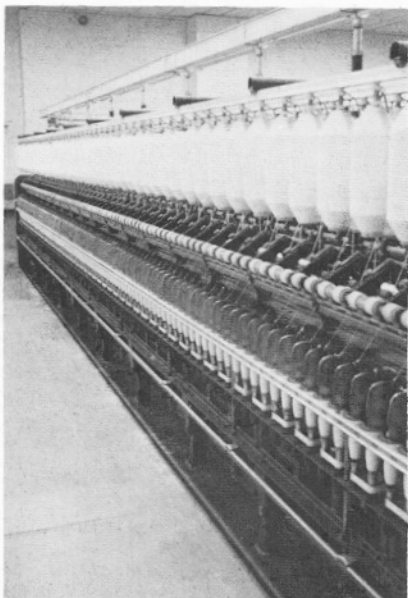




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### *Textile Research Center Produces the Fabric of History*

BY RICHARD MASON



Conventional ring spinning produces racks of yarn, the foundation for fabric.

It's an unlikely spot to alter agricultural history, but Texas Tech University's Textile Research Center has done just that. Hidden away on the north side of campus, the Textile Research Center usually escapes student notice. In fact, the TRC will be moving off campus to the Devro Building in East Lubbock.

Nonetheless, the TRC enjoys a national reputation and frequently hosts international visitors curious about state-of-the-art research in textile handling and manufacture. The TRC studies textile operations ranging from fiber production through the dyeing and finishing of woven fabric.

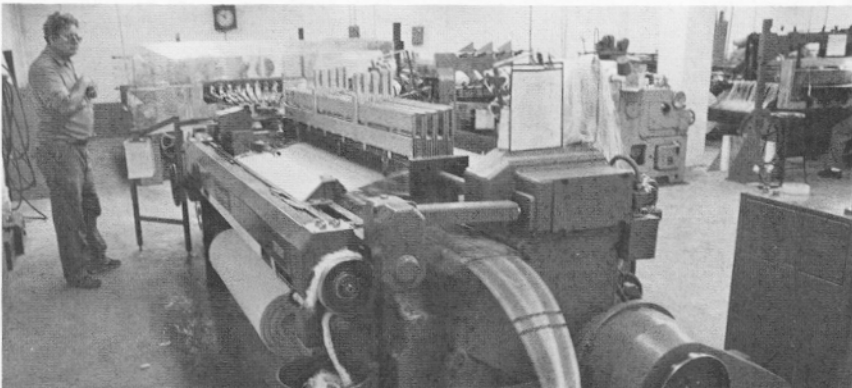
Textile engineering was part of the University's original mission when the school opened 60 years ago. That mission expanded dramatically following World War II when the South Plains became the state's major cotton producing region.

In 1945, Chicopee Manufacturing Corp. of Massachusetts selected Tech as one of five locations for a Pilot Spinning Plant to conduct spinning research with short staple West Texas cotton. By 1950, the textile engineering department had established Textile Research Laboratories as the department's research arm.

Plains Cotton Growers, a Lubbock-based promotional agency, reactivated interest in the Pilot Spinning Plant in 1958 when that group and the Cotton Research Committee for the state of Texas each contributed \$25,000 to resurrect the Pilot Spinning Plant for further tests on West Texas cotton.

Today, the Textile Research Center contains a full-scale textile mill and a chemical processing pilot plant. It is, in fact, the only facility of its kind in Texas and part of a statewide program to develop new uses for Texas natural fiber production.

The Textile Research Center maintains a close liaison with the textile industry and state and federal governments. All aspects of fibers, yarns and fabrics are involved in research programs within the brown brick walls.



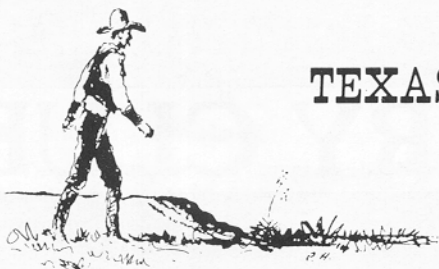
The Textile Research Center acquired the flexible rapier, or shutterless loom, in 1978. Simplicity in operation provides an easy conversion between research projects

The TRC contains an automated instrument testing line which mechanically evaluates cotton lint characteristics. Cotton breeders use the data to generate better plants for agricultural producers.

Farmers benefit most, however, when someone buys their crop. The TRC made an important contribution along these lines in the early 1970s by determining that open end spinning—a technique new to the textile industry—would generate quality yarns from natural fibers like cotton.

Indeed, the TRC produced quality denim through open end spinning within four months from the time a leading national denim manufacturer publicly announced the process could not be done. Techniques pioneered at the TRC helped to establish the farmer-owned textile mill at Littlefield which uses low cost, low micronaire cotton to weave cloth for that same national denim manufacturer.

Gather a large enough group of denim-clad students and chances are you will find someone wearing fabric produced through techniques pioneered at the Textile Research Center.



## TEXAS TECH IN RETROSPECT

### *La Ventana: Tech's Window to the Past*

BY CINDY MARTIN

Through the last 60 years, the *La Ventana* has been, as its name implies, "the window" through which students and alumni have viewed their experiences at Tech.

The events of Tech's first year are recorded in the pages of the initial volume of the *La Ventana* which rolled off the press in June 1926. Though handicapped by a late start and a lack of both tradition and organization, the editors did an admirable job of fulfilling their goal to "catch and portray faithfully the spirit of youth that is characteristic of Texas Technological College, the youngest and most promising of the educational institutions of the State."

The first issue of the *La Ventana* included standard items such as photographs of buildings, students and administrators and a message from the President. There is a calendar of the year's events, articles and photographs highlighting the major social activities, documentation of student organizations and sporting events, and of course, photographs of the winners of the Vanity Fair beauty contest.

But it also included a few items which did not become standard in



*Women's gym class was held in the Administration Building during the first year. Caption under this photograph in the annual read, "It might be said that some of the girls are showing fine form in these pictures."*

later issues. In a section titled, *La Inquisicion*, are essays on the kissing situation at Tech, the pajama episode at Cheri-Casa, and an article called "The Rack" which purports to be the "place where all campus parasites and low-lives will receive theirs in the neck."

Though the cost of publishing the annual was reported in the student newspaper as \$5,700, a financial statement in the yearbook showed total expenditures of \$36,381.72 with a deficit (to be made up by a free-will offering from the janitors) of \$9,809.86.

Receipts included graft from the photographer, bribes from businessmen and the sale of bootleg whiskey to students. Expenses were incurred not only for printing, engraving and photography, but also for theater tickets and trips for the editors, and Coca-Colas for the business staff.

The first issue of the *La Ventana* offers a view of serious students who were, as Paul Horn phrased it, "comrades in a great adventure this year." But it also shows that not all the adventures are found between the pages of a book.



*La Ventana recorded athletic activities of the year, including this early track meet.*



## TEXAS TECH IN RETROSPECT

### *The First Meeting of The Board of Directors*

BY JANET NEUGEBAUER

The first meeting of the Board of Directors of Texas Technological College was held March 2, 1923, in Sweetwater.

The streets were brightly decorated in red, white and blue when Governor Pat M. Neff arrived to join a crowd of 5,000 West Texans celebrating the passage of a bill creating a college to be located West of the 98th Meridian and North of the

21st Parallel.

Later, presiding at the first meeting, Neff told board members he envied them their privilege of leadership because the establishment of this college marked the beginning of a new era in the industrial and economic history of Texas. He said no act as Governor had given him more pleasure than signing the bill.

The first order of business was the election of officers. Amon G. Carter of Fort Worth was elected

chairman and C.W. Meadows of Waco was elected secretary. The selection of a president was deferred to a later time.

A resolution was passed expressing appreciation for Governor Neff's role in establishing Texas Technological College and for presiding at the first board meeting.

Before adjournment, Chairman Carter invited the board to Fort Worth for the next meeting on April 10, 1923.



*The first meeting of the Texas Technological College board of directors was held March 2, 1923, in Sweetwater. Front row, from left, they are: C.W. Meadows, secretary; Silliman Evans, staff correspondent, Fort Worth Star-Telegram (not a director); Ex-Governor W.P. Hobby; Mrs. F.N. Drane; and Gov. Pat M. Neff. Back row: R.A. Underwood, vice chairman; Clifford B. Jones, treasurer; Dr. J.E. Nunn; Amon G. Carter, chairman; and J.W. Carpenter. (Missing from photo was Mrs. Charles DeGroff.)*



## TEXAS TECH IN RETROSPECT

### *Bobbins and Wranglers: Early Student Organizations*

BY JAN BLODGETT

Tea dances, picnics, fairs, rodeos, dinners, formal dances, bridge parties and lectures—all these formed a part of student life at Texas Tech during its first decade.

Adding to the formal program of learning designed by faculty and administration, students quickly organized clubs and societies. These groups promoted school

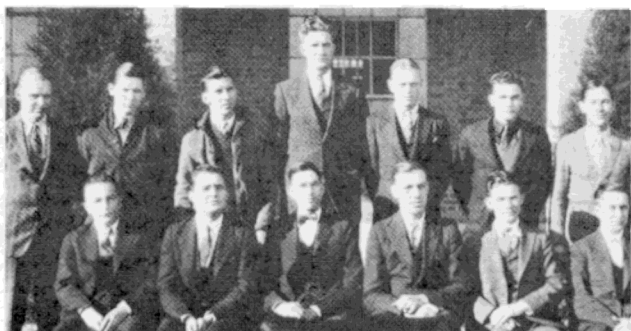
spirit, friendship and scholarship.

They included the New Mexico Club, Central Texas Club, Southern Scholarship Society, Stag Bridge Club, Zeta Bridge Club, Tech Piano Club, Women's Forum Cabinet, La Mesa Rendonda, Sans Souci, Wranglers, Bobbin, Silver Key, Y.W.C.A and Dairy Club.

One group, the Probation Club,

formed for only one year. It consisted of 10 women who had been put on probation for coming in 15 minutes late from a dance.

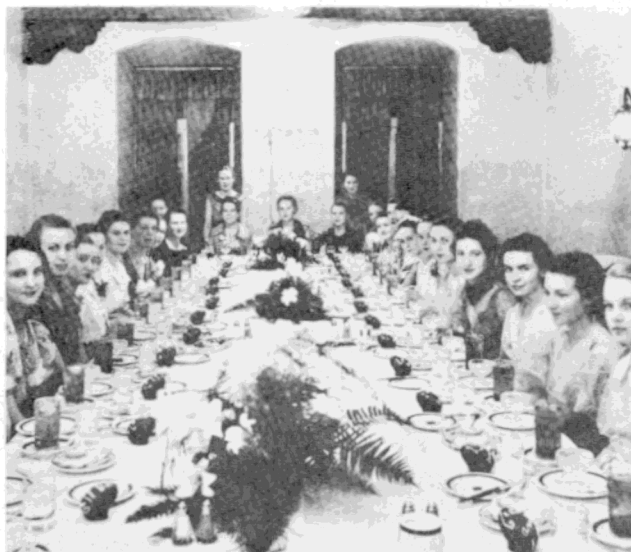
Many of the other clubs, while occasionally undergoing name changes, remained active and are still helping students to establish "everlasting friendships and higher scholastic standards."



*Members of the Phi Psi Textile Fraternity had as their motto "Always Toward Perfection."*



*The Home Economics Club was organized in 1925 to further friendship, social life and democracy. The group also maintained a loan fund for students majoring in Home Ec.*



*Members of the Las Vivarachas at an initiation dinner. Organized in 1929, the club's purpose was to promote social spirit and higher scholastic records among its members.*



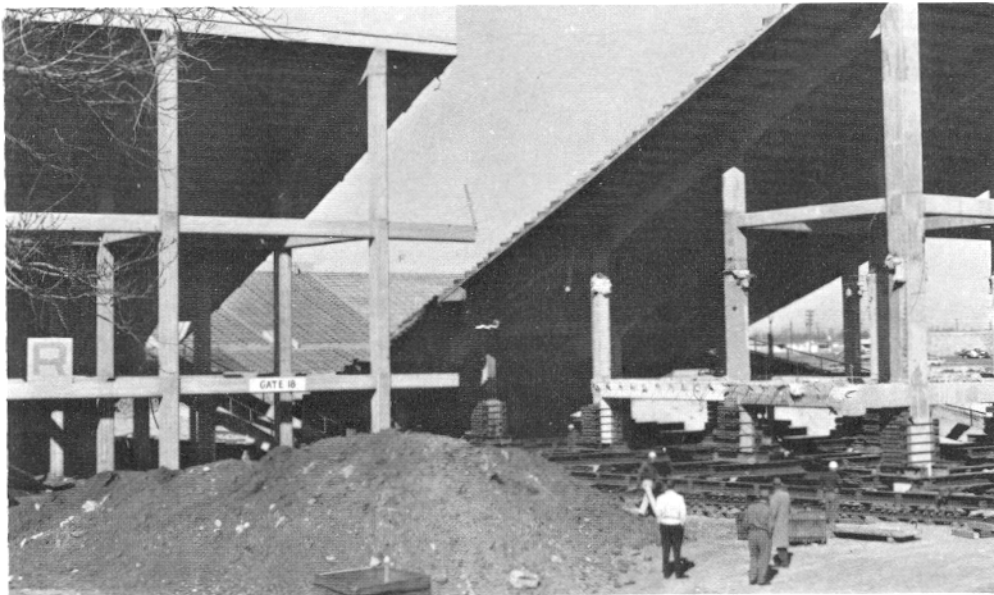
*The Gargoyle Club, originally founded as the Architectural Society, sponsored educational lectures, dances and an annual picnic.*



## TEXAS TECH IN RETROSPECT

### *Fulfilling the Dream*

BY DAVID MURRAH



*In 1959, the east stands of Jones Stadium were cut into sections and trundled eastward on railroad tracks to allow for expansion of the seats.*

The scene: The Student Union Building on the University of Arkansas campus at Fayetteville, Saturday, May 12, 1956, 10:33 a.m.

A crowd of 50 news reporters, photographers, and camera operators await the end of a meeting of the faculty representatives of the Southwest Athletic Conference. A representative emerges from the meeting room, invites members of the press to an adjoining room where a news release is distributed. The reporters stampede to the phones.

"Texas Tech is in the Southwest Conference!" yelled Lubbock radio reporter John O'Brien into the microphone and over the air to an anxiously awaiting Lubbock audience.

O'Brien, who was covering the event for Lubbock radio station KDUB via a live remote hookup, had carefully set up his equipment

outside the meeting door. But at the last minute, the announcement site was changed, forcing O'Brien to leave the microphone in the hands of his engineer while he dashed to the meeting.

When the word was given, O'Brien sprinted back to the microphone to shout his dramatic proclamation.

The news touched off a celebration in Lubbock and, to a radio audience, Tech President E.N. Jones proclaimed the college's "unbounded joy" over the conference's decision.

Today, 30 years later, Texas Tech, Lubbock and the surrounding area still rejoice over Tech's admission to the Southwest Conference.

The action changed the face of the campus. In 1956-57, the Saddle Tramps built the Southwest Conference Circle. Jones Stadium, origi-

nally constructed in 1947, was enlarged in 1959 to nearly twice its capacity through an elaborate process which required the move of the east stands.

Tech began competing for the Conference championship in basketball in 1957-58 and in football in 1960. Since that time, nearly 9 million people have attended Southwest Conference athletic events on the Texas Tech campus.

Reporter John O'Brien must have sensed the vital importance of his 1956 broadcast. The live drama of the news announcement of Tech's admission into the SWC is preserved by recording in the oral history files of the Southwest Collection and is one of hundreds of tapes, films, photographs and other records which preserve the history of Texas Tech.

