

Texas Tech IN RETROSPECT

BY CINDY MARTIN
SOUTHWEST COLLECTION

TECH ENTERS THE SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE

In 1996 the Southwest Conference will officially disband, ending its more than 80-year history of competition. Texas Tech was a member for 40 years, but some fans will remember Tech's long struggle to be accepted into the conference.

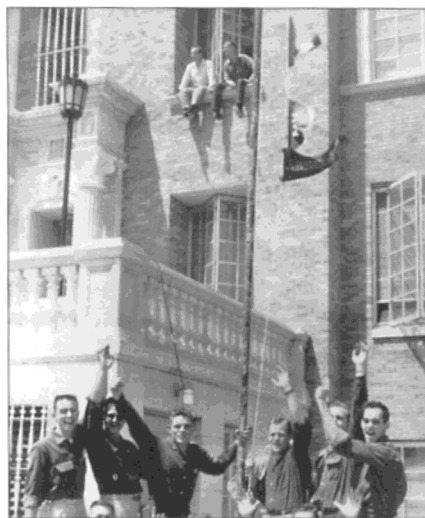
The Southwest Conference was formed in 1914 as the Southwest Intercollegiate Athletic Conference with Arkansas, Baylor, Southwest, Oklahoma, Oklahoma A&M, Rice Institute, Texas and Texas A&M as charter members. Tech first applied for admission in 1927 but was turned down. After being denied entrance again in 1929 and 1931, Tech joined the Border Conference in 1932.

Through the 1930s and 1940s, Tech continued its efforts to gain admission, but each application again met with failure. In the 1950s, however, the college administration and particularly Coach DeWitt Weaver and Athletic Commission Chairman J. William Davis began working behind the scenes to improve Tech's chances of admittance.

The Lubbock community also got behind the effort. The Chamber of Commerce devoted time, money, energy and enthusiasm to the cause, and it was reported that Lubbock women returned their charge plates to several Dallas department stores in an effort to pressure SMU to vote in favor of Tech's admittance.

Finally, in 1956, after 29 years of struggle, Tech was admitted as a member of the Southwest Conference. The unanimous decision was announced from Fayetteville, Ark., at 10:32 a.m. on May 12, 1956, and a celebration broke out immediately.

The Toreador issued an "extra" edition within 15 minutes of the announce-



Saddle Tramps raise SWC banners, including that of its newest member, Tech!

ment, the Victory Bells began ringing, classes were dismissed and a pep rally began in front of the Science Building. Following the pep rally, students marched downtown for another celebration near the Hotel Lubbock. The entire city celebrated with the crowd estimated at 50,000. The Lubbock Avalanche-Jour-

nal reported that "not since the announcement of the college's location here or the ending of the wars has such pure, unrestrained joy swept the Hub City...."

The celebrations were reported as impromptu, but in fact, the city and college had been planning the activities in anticipation of a favorable vote. An April 28, 1956, memo from Tech President E. N. Jones to the celebration planning committee charged them to "proceed as inconspicuously as possible in coordinating the various activities which will, more or less, spontaneously develop on May 12, should we receive the good news of Tech's receiving an invitation to membership in the Southwest Conference."

Though the Southwest Conference is gone, it won't be forgotten. The Southwest Collection has recently been designated as the home for the records of the conference. In addition, the Southwest Collection holds numerous other materials relating to the history of Texas Tech and the Southwest Conference. *F*



Tech students snake dance down Broadway for a celebration in front of the Hotel Lubbock.

Texas Tech IN RETROSPECT

BY JANET NEUGEBAUER
SOUTHWEST COLLECTION

JACK TEAGARDEN SET FEET TAPPING IN RAIDERLAND

Texas Tech has hosted its fair share of music artists. A memorable one was Jack Teagarden, one of America's best-loved jazz musicians. On a December evening in 1962, when Teagarden settled his trombone to his lips and played "Fidgety Feet," it set feet tapping all across Lubbock's Municipal Auditorium. The concert was sponsored by the Student Union.

Born into a family of Indian ancestry at Vernon, Texas, in 1905, Weldon John "Jack" Teagarden taught himself to play the trombone. This was easier than one might think as both of his parents were musicians.

In the late 1920s, he migrated to New York where he replaced Glenn Miller in Ben Pollock's band and later played in Paul Whiteman's band before forming his own in 1939.

"Big T," as he was known in jazz circles, always had a dignified and gracious manner. Tech students remembered his black dinner jacket, his glossy black hair and wide smile.

They also remembered he didn't hog the limelight, but shared it with his quintet. Teagarden's smooth, polished style of Dixieland showed each member off to advantage. It was also ideally suited to the blues that he sang.

Favorite selections for the Tech concert included "St. Louis Blues," "Saint James Infirmary" and "Riverboat Shuffle." Teagarden also sang "Stars Fell On Alabama" in his soft

Texas drawl that enchanted the audience throughout the evening.

In less than two years, Jack Teagarden was dead at the age of 58. The cause of death was pneumonia following a liver ailment. He was in New Orleans doing what he loved most – playing his music. **F**



Jack "Big T" Teagarden

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Texas Tech IN RETROSPECT

BY CAMERON SAFFELL
SOUTHWEST COLLECTION

"Some of Our Best Crop Land" ~ THE HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE FARM

Instruction in agriculture was one of the original provisions in the legislation creating Texas Technological College. When the school opened in 1925, the academic buildings and campus used only 400 acres of the 2,000-acre site. The remaining 1,600 acres were designated the College Farm for the Division of Agriculture until that land was needed for other purposes.

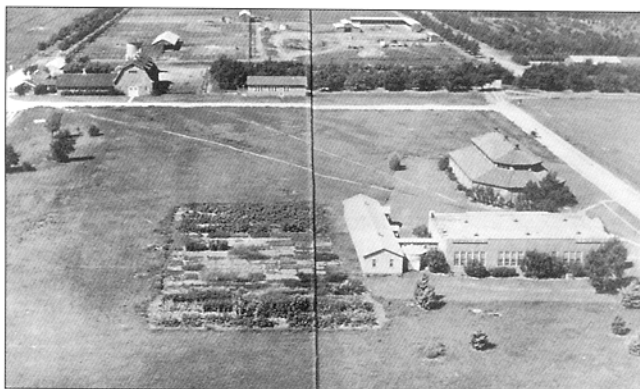
In the first decade the College Farm functioned as a department within the Division of Agriculture, separate from any of the instructional departments. However, this arrangement did not always respond to the instruction needs of the division, so President Bradford Knapp abolished the department in 1934. He transferred all the equipment and most of the fields to the animal husbandry department.

Having control of most of the acreage on the College Farm, the animal husbandry department set out to make it a showplace of how a modern farm should look and operate. "Pastures, barns, silos and other equipment of the type and character to illustrate best the agriculture of the region were built. Separate pastures were set up and maintained for horses, cattle, sheep and pigs. Agriculture students were hired to maintain and operate the farm as part of their studies at Texas Tech.

The agronomy department received four fields totaling 30 acres in the 1934



Students in the animal husbandry department show their sheep in this 1926 photo. Note the Administration Building in the background.



This 1938 La Ventana shows most of the school's facilities, including the Livestock Pavilion (right center) and the Dairy Barn (top left).

reorganization. Their lands were used to plant and study cotton, sugar beets, wheat and other small grains. Later, they were able to expand their instruction and research capabilities and begin to breed and grow certified seed varieties.

After World War II, expansion of the college and growth of the city of Lubbock began to eat away at the College Farm. The new Tech Freeway crossing the College Farm took 30 years and necessitated the construction of an underpass near Indiana Avenue for driving beef cattle from the pastures northwest of the highway to the cattle barns west of

the modern Recreation Center. Dean W.L. Stangel strongly opposed the cattle underpass, instead wanting the highway to go under a cattle bridge. His fears were well-founded, as the cattle were terrified at entering the narrow underpass. Herders were forced either to haul the cattle by truck or bring police out to stop traffic on the highway to move the cattle.

Other expansion projects devoured more farm land. The Lubbock Municipal Coliseum and the National Guard Armory eliminated much of the northeast portion of the farm. In the 1960s the Law School and the new Museum also required farm land. But the final blow came in 1969 when 260 acres of "some of our best crop land" was set aside for the new Medical School. Only the acreage north and west of the Health Sciences Center remained.

The demise of the College Farm did not eliminate field instruction for the School of Agriculture. As the farm's land decreased, officials were able to obtain land away from campus. The first major acquisition was the PanTech farm and ranch near Amarillo in 1947. Texas Tech also acquired cultivated farm land in Terry County and near New Deal.

At its peak the College Farm was indeed a showcase for Tech and a major draw for many agricultural students. In the heart of the modern campus the Livestock Pavilion and the Dairy Barn stand as reminders of the College Farm.

Texas Tech IN RETROSPECT

BY ELLEN ATKINSON
SOUTHWEST COLLECTION

STRIKING IN APPEARANCE: THE MUSEUM OF TEXAS TECH

Many Techsians are familiar with the Museum of Texas Tech University on the north side of the campus. But many do not know the reasons for its distinctive architectural design. The museum building, completed in June 1970, is a remarkable example of organic architecture – a style that echoes the shapes and raw materials of the natural world. Virtually every element that one sees (or doesn't see) has significance.

The building's simple, clean lines are reminiscent of mesas found in arid and semi-arid lands. The wide, elevated base or "plateau" upon which the building sits denotes the sparseness of vegetation and inhabitants of these lands. Even the color of the building is significant. An Austin company created a special beige ceramic brick, called the Texas Tech Museum Blend, so the building could represent and be a part of the semi-arid landscape.

The small reflecting pool wrapped around the Moody Planetarium symbolizes the vital, life-giving role of water in arid environments. The building received the 1971 Texas Society of Architects Award of Merit "for outstanding architectural design and achievement."

The "new" Museum, built at a cost of \$2.5 million, was more than three times larger than its predecessor, the "old" West Texas Museum in what is now Holden Hall. This alleviated the chronic problems of parking on campus and overcrowding of storage and exhibit spaces. Moving to the new building, however, meant leaving the Peter Hurd Mural behind. The fresco painting was permanently absorbed in the walls of the rotunda. Although proponents were hopeful that the mural could be trans-



For more than 25 years the architecture of the Museum has been a topic of conversation and conjecture. (Graduate Catalog, 1989-90, Southwest Collection)

planted, they relented when they realized that moving it would inflict irreparable damage.

The new building was not only to continue the mission of a general regional museum, it was also to serve as a showcase for the International Center for Arid and Semi-Arid Land Studies (ICASALS).

Dr. Grover E. Murray, Tech's eighth president, conceived ICASALS 30 years ago to provide a unique role and scope for the University. The interdisciplinary program developed, documented and disseminated knowledge about arid and semi-arid lands, their peoples and their problems.

A reminder of this marriage of the Museum and ICASALS can be seen on the building's exterior doors. The ICASALS icon on the door handles includes three symbols – sun, earth and water –



Construction of the new building began in September 1968. At left is the steel skeleton of the Moody Planetarium. (Heritage Club #C198, Southwest Collection)

the interaction of which determines the aridity of any land. A 1966 University Daily article stated that "the round disc represents a dust-covered sun or an arid world, while the waves splashing across it depict the need for water in order to survive."

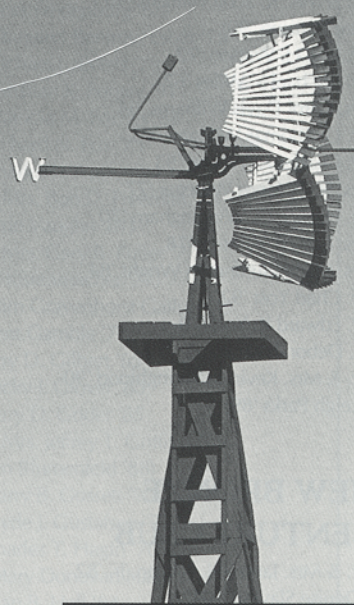
The ICASALS vision was never completely incorporated into the new Museum. The building itself, though, stands as a monument to West Texas and arid and semi-arid lands everywhere.

Texas Tech IN RETROSPECT

FROM THE HOLDEN PAPERS
PHOTOS COURTESY FRANCES M. HOLDEN

THE WILLIAM CURRY HOLDENS: CHAMPIONS OF HISTORY

One of the Southwest's preeminent historians, Dr. William Curry Holden served on the Texas Tech faculty from 1929 until 1968, working as history and anthropology professor, researcher and administrator. Together with his historian/writer wife and partner, Frances Mayhugh Holden, they established institutional treasures which will remain for centuries. In their 50 years together, the Holdens were prominent in the establishment of the Texas Tech Museum, Southwest Collection, Ranching Heritage Center and the archaeological area that became the Lubbock Lake National Historic and State Archaeological Landmark.



Dr. William Curry Holden arrived in Lubbock in late summer 1929 with three degrees in history from the University of Texas and a successful record at McMurry College. He had been invited to join Texas Technological College as chair and professor of history and anthropology and to head the museum. Photo, 1930.



Holden's contributions to scientific investigation, resulting from his several expeditions to the Yaqui Indian tribe of Sonora, Mexico, from 1934 to the 1960s, resulted in an ethnological collection for the Museum of Texas Tech, several scientific publications and Holden's historical novel, "Hill of the Rooster," published by Henry Holt, New York. Photo, courtesy of the Southwest Collection, is from the first expedition to the Yaqui Indians, April 1934. Holden is on the far left.



In 1939, Holden and Frances Virginia Mayhugh '36 of Plainview married. That partnership lasted 50 years until April 1993 and his death at age 96. As director of Tech's Archaeological Field School in 1939, Curry, with Fran, is on the kiva at Pueblo III Arrowhead Ruin near Santa Fe, N.M.



Holden was responsible for the first building of the museum, later named Holden Hall. His wife served as his associate director, "without portfolio and salary," for more than 20 years. Photo, 1995.

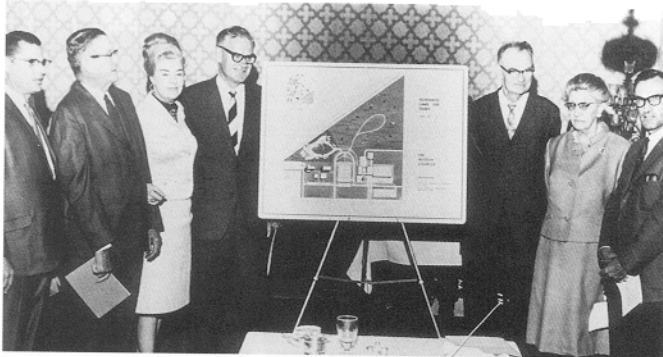


The South Plains fresco mural was painted on the rotunda walls of Holden Hall by Southwest artist Peter Hurd. At the mural dedication Nov. 18, 1954, are (from left) Hurd, Holden, Clifford B. Jones and Walter Posey.

Holden and two of his students are credited as the discoverers of the area which became the Lubbock Lake National Historic and State Archaeological Landmark. The students brought him a projectile point they had found in the city's excavations of an old spring in the Yellow House Canyon north of Lubbock. Holden recognized the point as being of Paleo-Indian age. He instigated archaeological investigations which proved him correct. Continuing excavations of the site have revealed it to be one of a few of its kind in the world. In 1969 photo, courtesy of the Museum of Texas Tech University, Holden points out to students evidence of early man, animal and plant life preserved in the strata for many thousands of years. Across from Holden is Dr. Mary Elizabeth King (in glasses), former professor of anthropology at Texas Tech.



The Holdens had a dream that a new museum could be built away from the central campus and be more accessible to parking and group visitors. Fran Holden interested their friend, Helen DeVitt Jones, in the museum project. The result was Jones' challenge grant, which helped to create the handsome museum building located at 4th Street and Indiana Avenue. Photo shows the Holdens in front of the new museum, 1971.



Dr. Grover Murray, president of Texas Tech, invited the Holdens to co-chair a committee to develop an appropriate attraction to be located on 15 acres adjacent to the museum. The group, composed of representatives of long-time ranching families, decided on a center to interpret the ranching heritage of the American West. Fran Holden, who was acquainted with Christine DeVitt of the Mallet Cattle Ranch, was assisted by Murray, the Tech Board of Directors, and members of the committee, in interesting DeVitt in the plan to acquire historic Texas ranch buildings and relocating them to the Tech campus. The buildings were to represent the historic period of the development of western cattle ranching from the 1830s to 1910. DeVitt contributed the first \$50,000 to create the DeVitt-Mallet Interpretation Center. Members of the Planning Committee for the Ranching Heritage Center include (from left) John F. Lott, D. Burns, Frances Holden, David Kritser, Curry Holden, Christine DeVitt and Frank Chappell, Sept. 1, 1969.



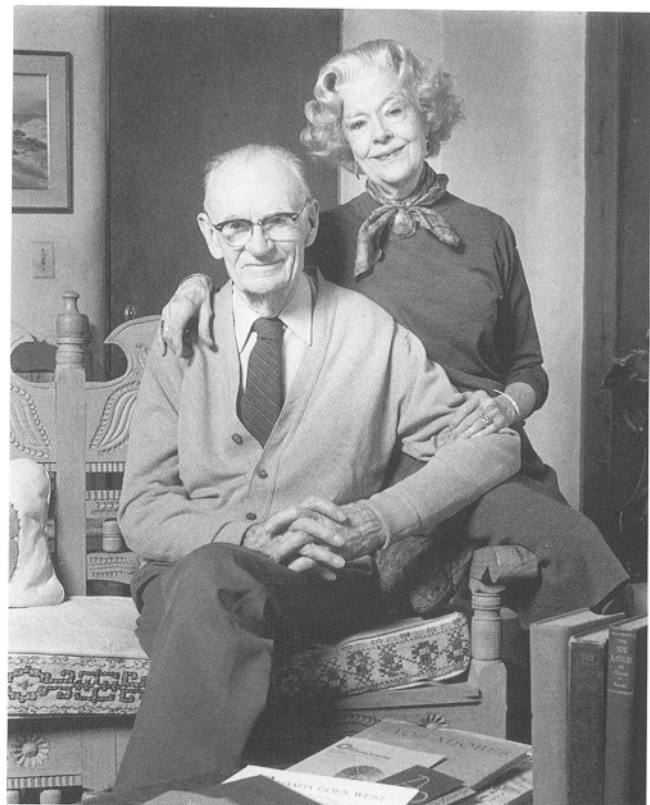
Curry Holden receives Christine DeVitt's \$50,000 check from her emissary to create the DeVitt-Mallet Interpretation Center. In left background is Tech President Dr. Grover Murray and at right is Big Ed Wilkes, master of ceremonies for Ranch Day, 1974.



At the groundbreaking of the DeVitt-Mallet Interpretation Center are (from left) Helen DeVitt Jones, Fran Holden and Ms. Jones' daughter, Dorothy. The planning committee arranged the dedication of the Ranching Heritage Center and the DeVitt-Mallet Building to concur with the Sesquicentennial National Celebration on July 3-4, 1976.



The dedication was a memorable event for all in attendance. It was highlighted by an authentic longhorn cattle trail drive from near San Antonio to Lubbock and a thunderstorm that stampeded the cattle across the area in front of the museum and Ranching Heritage Center. Lady Bird Johnson, wife of President Lyndon B. Johnson (second from right), and her friend (left) visit with Curry and Fran Holden prior to the dedication of the Ranching Heritage Center. Photo taken July 3, 1976.



Another important aspect of the Holden vision was development of the Southwest Collection, which formally opened in 1955. In 1986, the Holdens made an initial gift to the archive of their personal papers, photograph collection and library. This, in addition to the establishment of a special Southwest Collection fund, has been recognized with the naming of the William Curry and Frances Mayhugh Holden Reading Room in the new Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library, which will be dedicated in the spring of 1997.

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Texas Tech IN RETROSPECT

BY PRESTON LEWIS
INTERIM DIRECTOR

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

Though most of these columns deal with the past, this one will look toward the future as the Southwest Collection moves this fall into new quarters.

The new Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library henceforth will be our home. Mansion, though, seems a more apt description than home because of the size and beauty of the new facility. Situated between the University Library and the Agricultural Pavilion, the new building will provide almost 78,000 square feet of climate-controlled floor space. That is more than five times the floor space in the Southwest Collection's previous quarters in what is now the Math Building but was originally Texas Tech's library.

The new building will be a campus showcase, its architectural design blending in nicely with the campus' predominate Spanish Renaissance style. From the outside, three octagonal towers with red tile roofs give the building a distinctive feature. Two of those towers are book-ends for the facility's magnificent reading room.

The cathedral-like reading room will provide an awe-inspiring environment for students and scholars conducting research in the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library. Named in honor of William Curry and Frances Mayhugh Holden, the Reading Room and adjacent carrels will accommodate more than 60 patrons with a spacious and pleasing study environment. The reading room in the previous quarters could barely handle a tenth that number of patrons comfortably.

As homage to our Library heritage, the original wrought-iron gates in Texas

Tech's first library have been incorporated into the east end of the reading room and matching wrought-iron railing and trim has been included throughout the facility.

A gallery along the north side of the building will house permanent displays on the Southwest Collection as well as the other units of the University Library which will have offices in the new facility. Those offices will include the University Archives, the Archive for the Vietnam Conflict and the Library's Rare Books Collection. Additionally, the facility will be the new home for editorial offices of the West Texas Historical Association and its annual yearbook.

Offices for the association and the various collections housed in the new building will open onto a rotunda beneath the third tower. Ultimately, the Coronelli Globe, which was the University Library's one-millionth acquisition during the presidency of Dr. Grover Murray, will be displayed in the rotunda. The globe is currently being refurbished in preparation for the dedication ceremonies next spring for the new building.

Behind the offices are the non-public areas of the new facility where documents and materials will be processed. The building includes an accessioning area where materials are received and logged in. From there materials – whether they be paper records, photographs or films/audiotapes/videotapes – go to their specific areas for processing before they are taken to the stacks or the appropriate vault for storage.



Ribbon-cutting for the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Building will occur in the spring. (Tech Photo)

Upstairs, the stacks area offers a climate-controlled environment that provides a constant temperature and humidity as well as a positive ventilation out-flow which helps prevent the intrusion of bacteria or fungi which could damage valuable books and documents.

Additionally, the facility has a new conservation laboratory funded by the Hoblitzelle Foundation. The Hoblitzelle Conservation Lab will provide an appropriate environment for state-of-the-art preservation of valuable and one-of-a-kind materials.

All in all, the facility, designed by Komatsu/Rangel Inc. of Fort Worth, will put Texas Tech in the league with only a handful of other universities nationally which have free-standing archives. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for the spring semester. A month of dedication activities headlined by a nationally known speaker is scheduled for April. **F**