

RETROSPECT

Giants in Texas

By B. Lynn Whitfield, Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library
Photos from Southwest Collection Heritage Club

IN CELEBRATION OF THE UNIVERSITY Theatre's 75th anniversary, the university archive decided to design an exhibit to document its growth and achievements. The University Theatre began as part of the speech department and was one of the original departments of Texas Technological College. The first and only theatre faculty member was Ruth Pirtle, whose job included teaching speech therapy, public speaking, and producing pageants and plays. A thespian club, the Sock and Buskin Club, supported Texas Tech students' interest in theatre well through the 1970s, and in 1967, a yearly Summer Repertory Theatre was begun.

Elizabeth Taylor and James Dean

Texas Tech students were not the only ones taught through the speech department's program, however. While perusing through the Heritage Club photographs at the Southwest Collection, a set of interesting images turned up. The images had a brief description but nothing really to substantiate who or where the photographs originated. The persons depicted in the photos were famous actors with a group of young men and women. What were these pictures of and who were those young men and women gathered eagerly around the persons resembling famous actors?

The chase was on for supporting documentation. After several failed attempts,



the proof was found in the manuscript collection of a former Texas Tech theatre professor, Ronald Schultz. A folded, 8 1/2 x 12-inch brochure described the Summer High School Speech Workshop held annually at Texas Tech. Conducted by Tech staff, it included speech fund-

stagecraft, acting and The program was open to any interested high school student who was a sophomore or junior or an outstanding freshman. There, on the cover of this brochure was one of the images discovered in the Heritage Club photographs.

In the summer of 1955, students participating in the Summer High School Speech Workshop paid a fee of around \$40 to attend the sessions and go on the field trip. What did these hopeful thespians get in exchange for their money? The thrill of a lifetime, it seems!

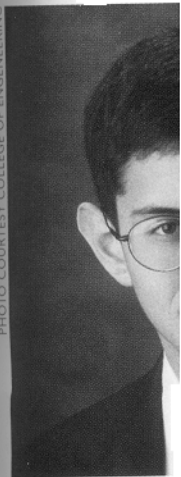
The field trip to Marfa, Texas, was to the set of "Giant," a film based on the novel by Edna Ferber. Filming on the outdoor set that day were none other than Elizabeth Taylor and James Dean, both of whom posed for pictures and signed autographs for the star-struck students. The students also got to speak to legendary director George Stevens, as well as watch some of the scenes being filmed. Additionally, they had the opportunity to pose for pictures on the steps of the church set used in the film. An incredible value for \$40 by today's standards.

Interesting tidbits such as the "Giant" tour can be found in the exhibit, "The History of the University Theatre," at the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library. Open to the public, three cases are devoted to this exhibit which highlights themes such as origins of the theatre, its numerous tributes to Shakespeare, and the production of actual tent shows on campus grounds. ■



Compiled by

PHOTO COURTESY, COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING



David "Alex" mechanical engineering recipient of a Award presented The \$5,000 per renewed for up alternating co- is a student member Society of M Society of History Engineers and Mathematics

Mandy Cunniff Winfrey, both Department of Fisheries M scholarships the American

Two Texas Tech Law students won championship trophies Truth Moot Court Baton Rouge, Crawford and represented Texas in the competition the National Association's a team beat six Brief in the national Oralist in the and Wevodau team won with coach during conference, Win of the conference Texas Tech named director Moot Court C

RETROSPECT

Archive of Turkish Oral Narrative (ATON)

By **H.B. Paksoy, D. Phil.**, Archivist, Archive of Turkish Oral Narrative
Photos by Richard Kyle, Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library

"No objects can be represented through pure concepts of understanding, apart from the conditions of sensibility...."
Immanuel KANT, *Critique of Pure Reason*.

HUMANITY NEEDS CONSTANT NOURISHMENT of its inherent sensibilities; not providing such invariably leads to mass

injustices and horrors of war. On the other hand, serious lessons of life need not be presented in a dust-dry form, especially because the profound truths are not always formulated by one person working in solitude. These lessons are the collective constructs of human mind, or specific portions thereof, seeking to make the experience more memorable.

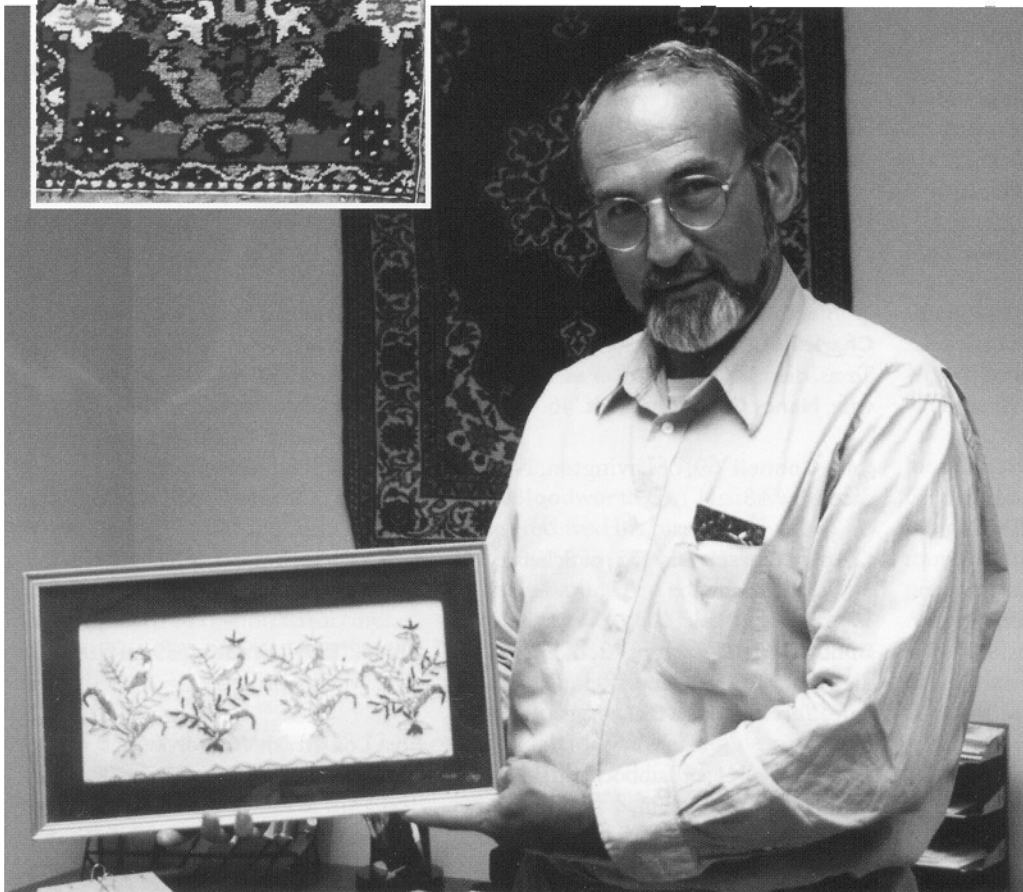
The holdings of the Archive of Turkish Oral Narrative of the Texas Tech University are a prime example of this human and very humanizing endeavor, numbering in the thousands. These tales help us understand how a present culture, dating back to ancient

Visit the Archive of Turkish Oral Narrative online at <http://www.lib.ttu.edu/aton/> or in person on the third floor of the main library on the Texas Tech University campus. Hours are 9-12 a.m., Monday through Friday.

times, has been dealing with matters ranging from philosophy of life issues to encounters with technological as well as theological developments.

These oral narratives have been created distilling the wisdom of all ages, in oral composition (until collected by ATON), in solemn or humorous varieties. In either event, the ATON tales represent their creators' desire to pass the hard learned and distilled lessons to future generations in unforgettable form. We ignore them at our peril.

Founded in 1971, the ATON was donated to the Texas Tech University in 1980. ATON is the world's largest, first and thoroughly indexed sound archive of Turkish folktales. The term oral narrative encompasses a wide range of forms and subjects such as the supernatural, puzzles and ingenious deductions, humorous tales, moralistic tales, romances (amatory and/or heroic), anticlerical tales and anecdotes. A portion of the ATON holdings have been published in book form over the years, and similar efforts will continue in the future. ■



Paksoy displays an example of Turkish handiwork at the archive. Although most of the holdings are recordings and documents, there are some artifacts in the ATON, including the traditional rug shown in the inset photo.

Compiled



Greg Krell

Texas Tech won several Intercollegiate competition in the University Ventana yearbook won several yearbook categories won several honors the two publications 28 individuals Formby, editor and University L from Texas Greg Krell won five awards

The Texas Law ch Students National at the nation Atlanta, Georgia chapters the school and reside. against Jimmy Jor of the chap

The Texas placed eight Association Events

What's Old is New Again

By B. Lynn Whitfield, University Archivist/Assistant Records Manager
Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library

EVERY SUCCESSFUL INSTITUTION has a vision in mind and goals with which to reach that vision. In seeking to be a nationally significant and successful university, Texas Tech has sought to make changes in its physical appeal, increase student diversity and attract noted professors and researchers. One might assume that the attitude "out with the old and in with the new" would be the catch phrase.

Not at Texas Tech. In its quest to look forward, Texas Tech has not lost sight of where it has been, but in fact is merging the old with the new. Seventy-five years of traditions live on, though sometimes in a slightly different form.

In 1965, Mortar Board and the Southwest Collection joined together to preserve the pictorial history of the university. The "Pictures for Posterity" project asked the alumni, faculty and staff to contribute images that would document the start and evolution of Texas Tech. A frequent donor of photographs, President Clifford B. Jones wrote, "How fine it is that this effort is being put forth. I have always been so intrigued by the possibility and need to preserve this area's history." This photographic project could be used to demonstrate Texas Tech's roots and how its traditions have evolved. Here are a few cases in point:

The Little Beauty Lives On

One of the original structures, the Livestock Judging Pavilion was once



The centrally located Livestock Judging Pavilion remains one of the most distinctive buildings on the Texas Tech University campus.

used by the animal science department, as well as for a theatre production and basketball games. Now commonly referred to as the "Ag Pavilion" by most, this gem has undergone several restorations and upgrades to extend its lifespan. Livestock no longer parade through the building. Instead, students of landscape architecture enjoy their drafting classes here, in what is probably one of the most scenic of all Texas Tech facilities.



Early bookstore facilities on the Texas Tech campus served as meeting places for students until the University Center was built.

Where There are Students, There are Bound to be Books

The 1927-28 bookstore was miniscule compared with the corner location the current store occupies. In roughly two years, the bookstore will be relocated to a new wing of the University Center. As a Barnes & Noble store, this facility will offer a wide selection of books beyond the normal academic textbooks. It is also slated to have a coffee shop. Interestingly enough, earlier versions of the bookstore had coffee shops popular with students.

Let's Throw a Bonfire

In 1958, the Saddle Tramps dedicated the Southwest Conference Circle, which was funded by the Saddle Tramps and the Class of 1957, with the lighting of the bonfire. The circle fell out of favor years later because of its

limited size and then changes within team memberships, not to mention the fact that Texas Tech had become part of the Big 12 conference.

The Colorful Green Mile

Lubbock was once touted as the "Chrysanthemum Capital of the World," and evidence of this fact proudly covered the Texas Tech campus. A red-gold variety of the flower was even named after Texas Tech administrator Marshall Pennington in 1966. Thousands of bright chrysanthemums were planted until around the 1970s when problems with the saline content in groundwater made it difficult to grow them. Smaller plots of the flowers were planted later. Further landscaping has resulted through the efforts of the Campus Caregivers, which revived the Arbor Day planting activities that had been founded by President Bradford Knapp back in 1938.



Although not grown in abundance on campus as they once were, chrysanthemums continue to bloom every fall in several locations.

Seal of Approval

Another recognized icon is the university seal. A large monument of the university seal stands beside the fountain at the Broadway Avenue entrance to campus. The spot is a favorite one for family portraits during graduation time. The university seal has also been incorporated into a new Texas Tech tradition in the form of an official class ring sponsored by the Texas Tech Ex-Students Association. ■