THE T-ANCHOR PROJECT

Less than two miles from the West Texas State College campus was one of the oldest ranches in the Texas Panhandle, the T-Anchor. In 1927 the state purchased the ranch headquarters and 200 acres of surrounding land for the use and benefit of WT and for the preservation of its historic tradition. Along with the purchase, the legislature appropriated $3,000 for improvements, which was not very much considering the amount of work that the run-down ranch needed.

Professor Frank R. Phillips, head of the Department of Agriculture, and his assistant Professor T.M. Moore were put in charge. Almost immediately after the purchase, the College began the removal of its on-campus farm laboratory. In a matter of two months, the two professors along with a few other faculty members and agriculture majors converted the historic ranch headquarters into an important addition to the college.

The group transported a two-story, 30 foot x 70 foot frame barn and two frame dwellings from campus to the ranch. After some repairs, the buildings became the center for the modern dairy and living quarters for students that worked on the farm. They also moved and modernized the dairy and swine equipment and built and repaired fences.

A herd of about 20 dairy cows was purchased from early Panhandle and New Mexico breeders willing to help the Department of Agriculture by greatly reducing their prices. In addition, six head of mature hogs were transported to the farm from campus.

An organization of laborers, mostly students, was formed to operate the project under the supervision of Professor Moore. Soon groups of dairymen, mechanics, farmers, landscape men, carpenters, repairmen and hog herdsmen were running the farm and learning the tools of the trade. An unbeatable spirit of loyalty for the T-Anchor and WT developed among the students that lived on the farm.

As the T-Anchor project grew, it not only prepared hundreds of students for careers in agriculture, but it also opened many avenues of much needed revenue for WT.