The Old Dining Hall was completed in 1927 at a cost of $50,000. Although the interior was renovated several times, the exterior remained the same. As enrollment grew, the kitchen and dining areas became too small. The creaking, uneven floors were one sign that the building’s foundation and structure were failing.

The Old Dining Hall couldn’t be saved.
Tarleton family members gathered to say good-bye to the Old Dining Hall.

When tradition is laid to rest, the head of the family presides. Dr. Dottavio did the honors for Tarleton.

Demolition staff, President Dottavio, Director of Planning, Design and Construction Aaron Wand, and VP-Finance & Administration Jerry Graham huddle to make sure everyone is on the same page.
Demolition was a long and careful process
The New Dining Hall was ready for students when they returned in the fall.
Dairy Center Mission: The Dairy Center will provide enabling infrastructural support for teaching, research, and service/outreach programs to meet the needs of higher education, the dairy industry and society in Texas and the Southwest.

The new dairy sits on 80 acres donated by the Texas A&M University Agri-Life Research Center.

First phase construction will include a rotary milking parlor, several teaching labs, a classroom, a few offices and 100 cows. The hope is that the first cows will be milked at the new Dairy Center in January or February, 2010. The second phase will include adding more cows and building a creamery that can produce dairy products like cheese, milk and ice cream.

“In my short time at Tarleton, I have discovered incredible spirit and pride in our traditions. You may not know how much of the university’s tradition is rooted in Agriculture. Tarleton was founded in 1899 as the John Tarleton Agricultural College, and our university newspaper is called the “JTAC.” Our athletic teams formerly were called the “Plowboys,” and we still have a Plowboy spirit organization. The oldest remaining university building is the mule barn at the Agricultural Center. Tarleton has the largest agricultural teacher-preparation program in the nation - larger even than my alma mater The Ohio State University. And the Tarleton campus hosts the nation’s largest gathering of FFA students (about 10,000) each March.”

--excerpt from President Dottavio’s remarks

Rep. Miller explains how to hold the reins

Clay Dameron, Dairy Center manager, explains how to milk a cow.
Trogdon House Restoration

Physical facilities personnel move the last piece of furniture – a piano – out of Trogdon House in June.

15th President and Lisette Dottavio swung the first hammer to start the renovation project.

Trogdon House was built primarily using student labor in 1923 at an original cost of $8,000. Construction was supervised by Dean J. Thomas Davis, whose family moved into the residence in 1924 and occupied the home until 1948. Tarleton’s 11th President E.J. Howell and his family lived in the house from 1948-1952. The home’s namesake, 12th President Dr. W.O. Trogdon lived there from 1966 to 1982, when the home was converted to office space, most recently for Institutional Advancement staff.

Renovations approved by the Texas Historical Commission include turning the upstairs into private living quarters and installing a kitchen on the first floor. The downstairs will be restored for the president’s use for meetings, dinners, receptions and other official functions.

Current photos courtesy of the Texan Express.