

# etCetera

October 11, 1982

## Merry-Go-Round a carousel of food and fun

By Lori Genitempo

No one has pinpointed what has made the Merry-Go-Round on West Berry Street a TCU "hangout" for the past 25 years.

Some suggest the reasonably priced old-fashioned hamburgers and the homemade onion rings are at the top of some people's list. The service and the convenient location may also attract customers. Others like to sit on the faded carousel horses and carve their initials into them.

Owner Bill Gamblin said it is the pink lemonade Ices that have enticed TCU students to the hamburger place since 1957.

Gamblin, who bought the place in 1979, said the combination of the nostalgia, the unique red-and-white carousel and the super food just caught on.

"For years, TCU students and Paschal High School students have made a drink with our lemonade Ices and a tot of gin or vodka," Gamblin said.

Last year part of the Merry-Go-Round's nostalgia crumbled. The old Ices machine, which had

faithfully made the pink lemonade Ices for over 20 years, broke down.

"TCU students complained when it broke, so I bought a new one, but the old one made the best damn Ices you've ever tasted. You know, it (lemonade and alcohol) does make a damn good drink!" Gamblin said.

The Merry-Go-Round's flavorful food is enhanced by the restaurant's flavorful history. Rex Lanier, a TCU graduate in 1947, originated the idea and designed it with the help of his twin brother.

"I wanted an original idea. It was a dream of mine all my life to build my own restaurant," Lanier said. His dream came true in 1957. Lanier sold the restaurant 12 years ago and it underwent a succession of owners until Gamblin bought it.

The horses and the red-and-white carousel top with the neon lights flashing around it were "the cleverest thing around in those days," Lanier said.

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*Reasonably priced old-fashioned hamburgers, homemade onion rings, faded carousel horses and pink lemonade Ices have enticed TCU students to the Merry-Go-Round since 1957.*

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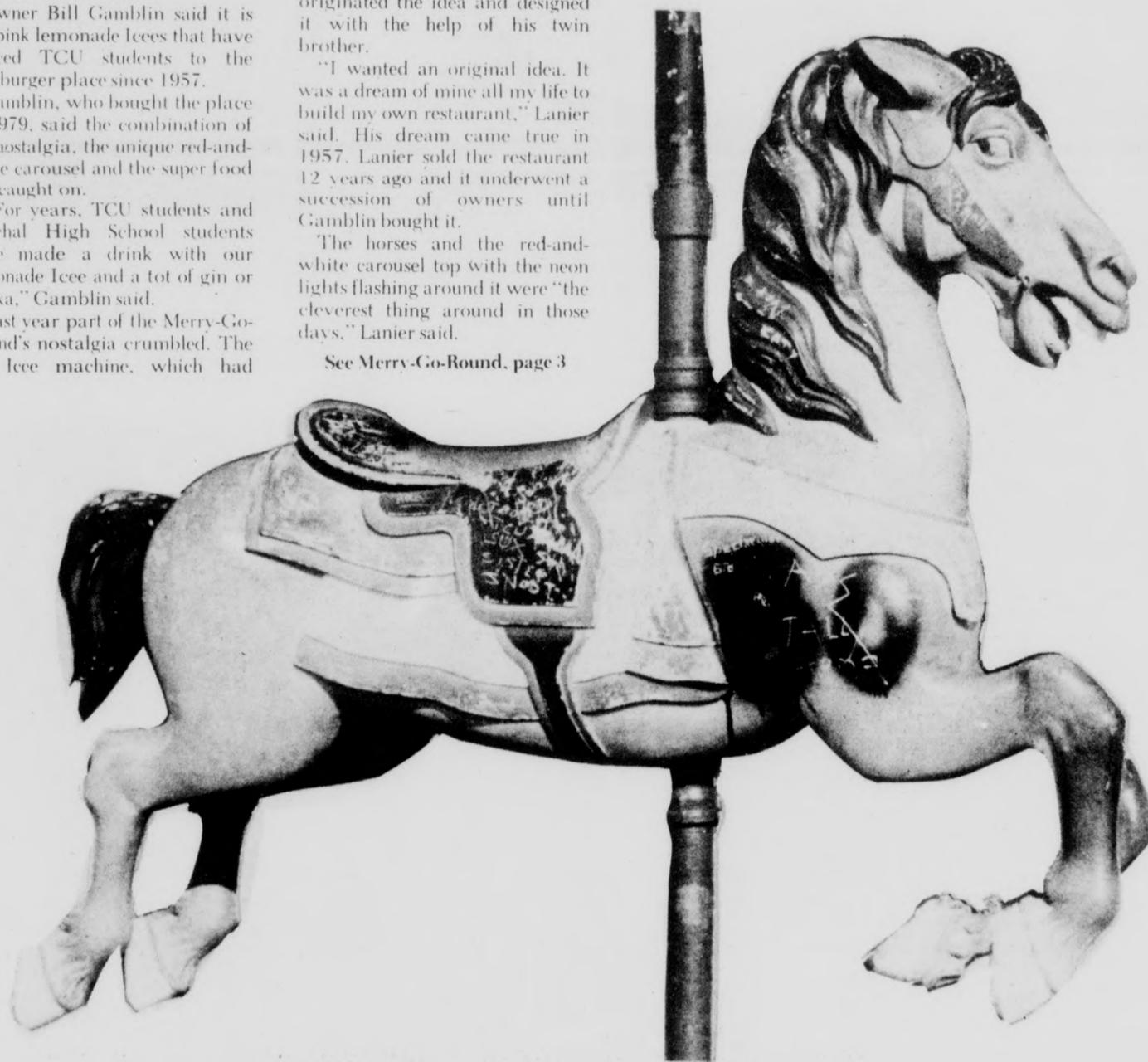


Photo by Marty Tristan

# Diamond—the gems of rock'n'roll

By Jennifer Skiff

They call themselves Diamond. They're a group of talented musicians who have three things in common: Louisiana, TCU and a goal.

Six years ago, they were a group of kids doing the one thing they liked best, making music.

Their work together started when they were in high school, when they met and put their talents together. Their hard work and accomplishments turned into a success story.

Dan Midgett, who was a sophomore in high school when the band began and is now a TCU junior, plays the guitar. Since age 10, Midgett said, he had a dream.

That dream was of a band named Diamond.

While searching for fellow band members, Midgett met up with Eddie Ahern. Ahern is a senior music major at TCU and is the drummer for the band.

Midgett, a radio-TV-film major, said he knew what the band was going to look like when he was 10. That was also when he thought up the name Diamond. He named the band Diamond because it allows easy-to-remember slogans: "the hardest rock," "a girl's best friend" and "the gems of rock'n'roll."

Ahern said the band struggled and worked hard for five years until its first big break came—the New Orleans newspapers gave the band excellent reviews.

One of their songs, "She's Got a Secret," soon became one of the most popular songs in New Orleans, he said. All of the clubs where they played were booked full, even as they traveled through Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Ahern, Midgett, and another band member, Tom Swartzendruber, decided to move to Fort Worth, a plan they made before their group became popular in New Orleans, Ahern said.

Ahern and Midgett study at TCU. Swartzendruber, the bass guitar player and singer, lives in Arlington. Diamond also acquired a Fort Worth resident, Jefferson Dalby, who plays the keyboards.

If there is time left over after studying, the band practices two hours a day. Ahern said the band is a full-time job because they are constantly practicing, writing songs and trying to get bookings.

But the hard work doesn't discourage them because the band members have a common goal: "All our lives that's all we've wanted to do," Midgett said.

Diamond has an enthusiastic backup crew of six TCU students. Working most of the time for nothing, crew member Ken Knuckey said he doesn't ask for pay. He just has fun.

Midgett said Diamond is not a "copy" band and is proud of its original music material.

The band's repertoire includes an assembly of different styles of music.

Ahern spends time rehearsing with the TCU second and third jazz band for improvement and also to keep up with the ever-changing styles of music. Ahern has been playing the drums since he was 4 years old.

Diamond began as a heavy metal music band but now boasts of its musical flexibility. The band plays anything from the blues to hard rock 'n' roll to jazz.

Diamond, once praised by the New Orleans paper, *The Times Picayune*, and a New Orleans local rock station, WRNO, for being a top New Orleans band. It is now hoping to successfully entertain a Fort Worth audience.

Last year Diamond played at local clubs, the Fast Lane and Savvy's, and it plans to play there again this year. Popular among fraternities, Diamond began its season this year playing at a TCU fraternity party.

But crew member Knuckey said TCU students don't support the band. Midgett agreed and promoted Diamond.

"We're worth getting . . . because we're a band based here at TCU," Ahern said, adding that they would like to play at more TCU functions.

If one doesn't catch a glimpse of Diamond at a local club, one may hear the band members when they practice in their dormitory room at Tom Brown Dorm. Either way, Diamond is a group of musicians who are trying to make their way to the top of the record business—with a layover at TCU.

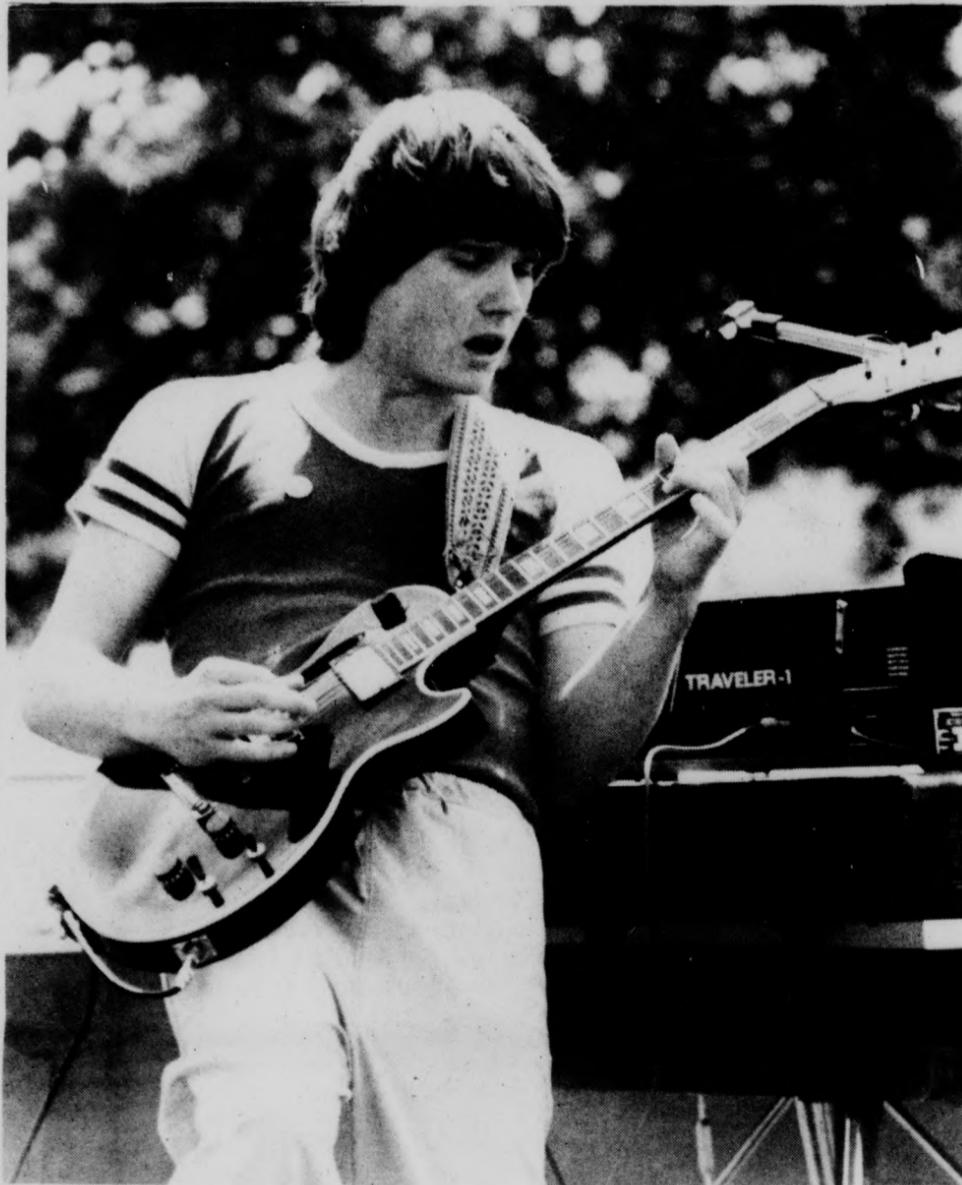


Photo by Stacy Cockrell

**SHE'S GOT A SECRET**—Dan Midgett, a TCU junior radio-TV-film major, plays one of Diamond's most popular songs, "She's got a Secret." Midgett has dreamed since age 10 of being in a band named Diamond.



Photo by Stacy Cockrell

**FROM NEW ORLEANS TO TCU**—Eddie Ahern, senior music major, plays the drums for Diamond. Most of the band members met in high school, and after making a name for themselves in New Orleans moved to Fort Worth.

# Merry-Go-Round a carousel of food and fun

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He searched all over the United States for the horses and finally found them in New York.

The horses are worn and faded now and have hundreds of initials carved into them.

Gamblin said the four carousel horses are a trademark and repainting them would "look like washing out history to me."

"Dozens of people come in and look for their initials carved in the horses and on the tables," he said. "Most of them had done it years ago when they went to TCU."

"Little kids and even 250-pounders sit up on the horses -- I've even sat up there a time or two."

Both Gamblin and Lanier attributed the success of the Merry-Go-Round to Tom Whitley, who managed it from the start for 17 or 18 years. Whitley worked there when business boomed in the early 1960s.

"Tom passed away a few years ago and it's a real loss. He lived and breathed the place and made friends with the customers. He always knew what they wanted each time," Lanier said.

Gamblin said that he is striving to uphold the restaurant's ideals. He said he insists on fast service and quality food. The Merry-Go-Round hamburger has been voted

seventh of the top 10 best hamburgers in Fort Worth.

TCU Associate Dean of Admissions Janet George attended TCU in the early 1970s when the Merry-Go-Round was "the" place to be.

"It was a popular place to eat at and just hang out. All the guys would go there late at night for their fourth meal of the day," George said.

"I'm glad to hear they are remodeling it. I've eaten a lot of burgers there over the years; they were really good," George said.

The Merry-Go-Round once dominated the fast-food places on West Berry Street, but the arrival and build-up of many others has somewhat diminished the restaurant's grasp on the business.

To keep up with the keen competition, Gamblin has begun plans for expansion by adding on an enclosed dining room.

Jack Collins, the current manager, said he plans to help build up the place and add more charm to it. He said giving children free balloons, fixing the neon flashing lights around the top and playing carousel music will enhance the atmosphere.

Gamblin said his goal for the place is to clean it up and make it more comfortable "but resist changing the historical and nostalgic atmosphere."



Photo by Marty Tristan

**GRAFFITI** - The carousel horses at Merry-Go-Round have been carved and painted by many customers throughout the years. After a long search, the original owner finally found the horses in New York.



Photo by Marty Tristan

**MERRY-GO-ROUND** - This hamburger spot has been a favorite for TCU students for 25 years, but no one can quite agree why. The current owner

said the Merry-Go-Round's Ices are the drawing card. Others have said it's the carousel horses.

# Roaches 'too close for comfort' in dormitory

By Beth Kaufmann

There was a roach in my coffee mug this morning, the mug that says "Genius at work."

"I'm having some hot tea. Would you like some?" I asked.

"I thought you'd never ask," he replied.

"Why did you move over to my desk?" I asked. "I was under the impression that you liked hanging around—and in—my refrigerator."

"Ever since you started putting everything in your ice box, including unopened brownie mix, I decided to start foraging elsewhere for food. You know, you were getting pretty clever there for a while. Sitting up till all hours of the night with a Nike in hand just waiting for some unsuspecting relative of mine to lunge for a banana or cantaloupe."

"Yeah, well, I thought it was understood that RAs had private rooms. The late night visitation was great for a while, but then I got tired of you all mooching everything. The morning you were in my bathtub was pushing it, you know."

"We got the message when you had the dorm fogged."

"Now, wait a minute. That was Housing's idea. Unfortunately, they fogged out the wrong residents. Maybe they thought gassing the dorm would chase out some of those triples. It wasn't too successful, I might add."

"Speaking of gas and ovens, what about this past Thursday night when a group of you put one of those nasty Raid foggers in the

second floor kitchen? Sixty or 70 of us were decimated. You must admit that the place looked like Auschwitz or something. What a holocaust!"

"Well, genocide or not, our efforts to contain you all don't seem to do any good. You guys, and girls, obviously, propagate faster than bacteria in a cesspool. For heaven's sake, you use the microwave oven as a breeding ground!"

"Good vibes, ya know."

"Well, now that you pests have become permanent guests, I think you should at least start paying rent. You've been eating us out of hall and home. Surely you remember that night I had to fight one of your friends for my fork in the kitchen?"

"After all, 'possession is nine-tenths of the law.' What about the time you smashed my uncle against the wall?"

"Which uncle? You must have at least a dozen. Anyway, I thought the smear added to the decor."

"Yeah, well they don't treat us that way in Foster and Waits."

"That's 'cause they have carpeting and nice furniture in their dorms. Everyone knows that Jarvis is just a roach hotel. You guys thrive on our woodwork."

"Fiber in the diet is essential these days."

"Is there anything we could do to remedy this situation? We just can't go on living like this."

"Well, there is one thing."

"Name it."

"How about building us another dorm? Y'all are getting too close for comfort."



## events etc.

### Monday 11

**Council For Educational TV** 8 a.m., Student Center Room 207&9  
**Residence Hall Staff** 9 a.m., Student Center Room 211  
**OSP** 11:30 a.m., Student Center Room 205&6  
**Panhellenic** 3:30 p.m., Student Center Room 218  
**IFC** 3:30 p.m., Student Center Room 222  
**Chemistry Club** 4 p.m., Sid Richardson Lec. 4  
**Films** 5:30 p.m., Student Center Room 202  
**Alpha Phi Omega** 9 p.m., Student Center Upper Lounge

### Tuesday 12

**Student Life Secretaries** 8 a.m., Student Center Room 207&9  
**Brite Chapel** 11 a.m., Robert Carr Chapel  
**OSP** noon, Student Center Room 202  
**Parents' Weekend Committee** 3:30 p.m., Student Center Room 204  
**Traffic Appeals** 3:30 p.m., Student Center Room 202

**Creative Programming** 4:30 p.m., Student Center Room 215  
**House** 5 p.m., Student Center Room 222  
**Recreation and Travel Committee** 5 p.m., Student Center Room 214  
**Spirit Wranglers** 6 p.m., Student Center Room 207&9  
**Koinonia** 6 p.m., Student Center Room 204  
**Campus Chest** 6:30 p.m., Student Center Room 202  
**Young Life** 7:30 p.m., Student Center Ballroom

### Wednesday 13

**Independent College Fund** 9 a.m., Student Center Room 207&9  
**OSP** noon, Student Center Room 202  
**University Chapel** noon, Robert Carr Chapel  
**Lunch** 12:30 p.m., Wesley Foundation  
**New Employee Orientation** 3 p.m., Student Center Room 205&6  
**Interview Workshop** 3 p.m., Student Center Room 218  
**Homecoming Representatives** 4 p.m., Student Center Room 203  
**Forums** 4 p.m., Student Center Room 202

**RHA** 4:15 p.m., Student Center Room 222  
**Programming Council** 5 p.m., Student Center Room 211  
**Catholic Community Supper** 5:30 p.m., Wesley Foundation  
**Canterbury** worship, dinner, program  
**Trinity Episcopal**  
**Student Foundation** 5:30 p.m., Student Center Room 222  
**Circle K** 6 p.m., Student Center Room 205&6  
**ICTHUS** 7 p.m., Student Center Room 207&9

### Thursday 14

**PRSA** 8:30 a.m., Student Center Room 207&9  
**Arnold Air Society** 4:30 p.m., Student Center Room 205&6  
**Texas Nurses Association** 5 p.m., Student Center Ballroom  
**Angel Flight** 5:30 p.m., Student Center Room 207&9  
**Prelaw Association** 5:30 p.m., Student Center Room 204  
**BSU Dinner** 5:30 p.m., University Ministries  
**Free Supper** 5:45 p.m., Wesley Foundation  
**Tau Beta Sigma** 6:45 p.m., Student Center Room 203  
**Running Club** 7 p.m., Student Center Room 215  
**Black Student Caucus** 7 p.m., Student Center Room 207&9  
**Church of Christ** 7:30 p.m., Student Center Room 202

**Lutheran Ministries** 8 p.m., Student Center Room 204  
**Kappa Alpha Psi** 8 p.m., Student Center Room 216

### Friday 15

**Graduate Studies** 8 a.m., Student Center Room 205&6  
**PRSA** 8:30 a.m., Student Center Room 207&9  
**Student Life Staff** 8:30 a.m., Student Center Room 214  
**Voices United** 6 p.m., Student Center Room 205&6  
**DSF Friday Night**, 7 p.m., UCC  
**Campus Crusade Fall Retreat** Sky Ranch

### Saturday 16

**TMEA** 8 a.m., Student Center Rooms 202, 203, 204, 211, 207&9  
**RHA Convention** 8 a.m., Student Center Ballroom, 215, 216, 218, 222  
**Chinese Fellowship** 7:30 p.m., Student Center Room 218

*etCetera is a special weekly section of the TCU Daily Skiff, a student publication produced by the Texas Christian University journalism department. It is published on Mondays.*  
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 Mari Rapela, Assistant