



The Battalion



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Days Of Old, 'Old Army' Told In 1888 Letters

Passing grades, the need of money from home and complaints about food are subjects today of most letters to parents from college students.

It was also that way more than 80 years ago, attested by a packet of letters acquired for Texas A&M archives by Board of Directors President L. F. Peterson of Fort Worth.

Significant information about A&M's history can be gleaned from the 37 letters written between April 23, 1888, and Feb. 4, 1889, by Cadet W. Lucius Holman to his mother and uncle in Pilot Point.

"THE DOCUMENTS provide some interesting and historical information on those early days of our university," noted President Earl Rudder in accepting the gift from Peterson. "Archivist Ernest Langford has known of their existence for quite some time."

Peterson, Fort Worth oilman and 1936 A&M graduate, said he found "some of the letters quite interesting . . . Cadet Holman's complaints about the food and life campus."

A&M was 12 years old at the time the freshman wrote his letters. The college was about to acquire the services of its most famous early administrator and president, Gov. Lawrence Sullivan Ross (1891-1898).

HOLMAN frequently wrote his mother, Mrs. P. G. Weeks, and uncle, often penning four letters a week, it was noted.

Postal rates were reasonable, however. Holman's letters to Pilot Point, a North Texas town 18 miles north of Denton, bear two-cent stamps.

Frequent requests for money did not support extravagant lifestyles. He mentions going to Bryan for shopping purposes only three times in 5 1/2 months. Holman apparently left school with typhoid fever in February, 1889, never to return.

He also requested parental permission to leave campus early for Christmas and a "corps trip" to Dallas for the state fair.

A&M Directors Favor No. 3, 9 Amendments

The A&M System Board of Directors has formally passed resolutions supporting votes for Amendments No. 3 and 9 in the general election next month.

Passage of Amendment No. 3 would permit broadening of the investments of the University Permanent Fund, in which the University System and the University of Texas System share.

Amendment No. 9 would permit the Texas Legislature to improve retirement benefits for members of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

The board's resolution endorsing a vote for Amendment No. 3 pointed out the cost of construction and equipping all buildings and other permanent improvements for the various divisions of the A&M system must be financed by a share of the income from the Permanent Fund.

"A policy of investing more broadly in high grade securities would provide more adequate income to the Permanent Fund for these important public needs," the board's resolution emphasized.

The board's resolution supporting Amendment No. 9 stated that the present retirement plan is inadequate for the needs of retired teachers and other employees.

"Retirement benefits are an essential part of the compensation plan for attracting and holding competent teachers and other employees," the board noted.

The board members pointed out that a better plan would permit the state's colleges and universities to compete more effectively in the employment of outstanding teachers, researchers, scientists and other employees.

University National Bank
"On the side of Texas A&M."
—Adv.

His financial requests were strictly educational in nature.

"I'VE NOT HAD a chew or a cigarette in three months," he reported.

Holman usually itemized requests, such as \$21.25 for a uniform, \$1.50 for a wood plane, 50 cents for a square and other prices for shop tools required by Prof. F. E. Giesecke, 1886 honor graduate who assisted in teaching shop and later became a revered professor of architectural engineering and Engineering Experiment Station director.

Holman apparently was a moderately good student with a weakness in math. He majored in agriculture.

"I can pass into the third class in June," he scribbled in one letter, "but all the faculty said it would be best for me to stay in the fourth class next year." In this he cites a favorite professor, Louis L. McInnis, who was appointed faculty chairman in 1887. A dorm was recently named for McInnis.

A&M's CAMPUS then consisted of four main buildings, all since razed or burned. They included Old Main in which students resided and attended classes, Gathright Hall for dining, Pfeuffer and Austin Halls. There also were five residences for professors.

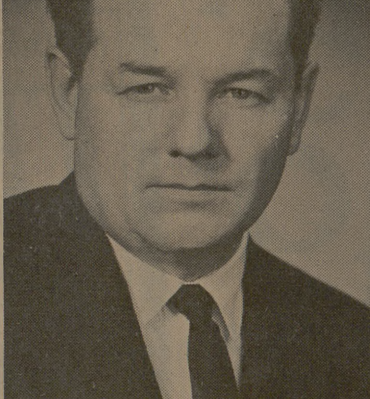
Students didn't have far to go to find open countryside. Holman borrowed a professor's shotgun, bagged 12 quail from three coveys and "at the railroad tank, shot four ducks and four green heads."

"I gave the professor six quales (sic) and two ducks," the freshman informed his mother.

"He said I could use his shotgun any time I liked."

HOLMAN'S PROWESS with a rifle was further attested.

"I went with Lt. (Guy) Carleton (A&M's fifth commandant, 1886-1889) and the first class to target practice. He said if I could hit the black spot (bull's eye) out of five shots, he would buy me a lemonade."



JACK K. RUNKLES

Dr. J. R. Runkles Named Director Of Water Institute

A soil physics professor, Dr. Jack R. Runkles has been named acting director of the A&M Water Resources Institute, Agricultural Dean H. O. Kunkel announces.

Runkles said Runkles has already assumed his new position in the Agricultural Engineering Building.

He succeeds Dr. Ernest T. Smerdon who resigned to become chairman of Agricultural Engineering at Florida University.

Runkles new responsibility includes direction and coordination of the forthcoming annual Water for Texas Conference which has attracted national and state water resource leaders to the A&M campus for 13 years.

The Soil and Crop Sciences Department agronomist joined the A&M faculty in 1964, coming from South Dakota State College. Runkles had taught and conducted research in soil physics since earning a doctoral degree from Iowa State University in 1956.

Runkles special field of research is soil and plant water relationships.

A former A&M student, he received his B.S. degree in agronomy in 1950. His M.S. degree in soil physics was awarded two years later.

"You know I'm not one to brag, Ma," Holman wrote, "but I hit four out of five and the lieutenant met his obligation."

The years 1888 and 1968 were much alike in terms of rain, according to the cadet. He wrote on Jan. 26, 1889, that it had been raining since he got back from Christmas (Jan. 2).

AN ASTUTE observer, the freshman's letters mention six boys being expelled for dueling, a fire which burned winter feed for A&M cattle and the drummer "beating up" for chapel.

Rapidity of today's communications by news media is reflected in a Nov. 11, 1888, reference to the presidential election.

"I've been grieving for the last two or three days about the election," he wrote. "I am afraid that (Democratic incumbent Grover) Cleveland will get beat by that Yankee (Republican candidate Benjamin) Harrison." He did.

Polls Close-7:30

Polls will close at 7:30 tonight in the run-off election for two Student Senate posts.

To be decided at the voting booths in the typewriter room of Francis Hall are senior Senate representative and Arthur J. Erickson and sophomore representative from the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Competing for Senior BA representative are Arthur J. Erickson and Robert Edgecomb. Tommy Henderson and Mitchell J. Timmons are running for Sophomore Pre-Vet representative.

Weather Clear For Baylor Game

Dry, cool air, light winds and generally clear conditions are expected to prevail over Central Texas this weekend, date of Texas A&M's football engagement with Baylor in Waco.

Weather station meteorologist Jim Lightfoot said a dry cold front to move through this area Thursday will dominate the weather.

"It appears there'll be no precipitation with the passage and none before Tuesday or Wednesday next week," he predicted.

"The weather looks to be generally clear to partly cloudy and mild in Waco Saturday," Lightfoot went on. "Waco's Saturday afternoon high should be 74, same as for the kickoff. Winds will be light and variable, with any at all from the southwest at 5 mph. There'll be low relative humidity, from 30 to 35 per cent."

He indicated the Saturday morning low will be 50 degrees. The Aggies and Bears kick off at 8 p. m.

MSC Leadership Committee Postpones Trip Until February

The Memorial Student Center Leadership Committee has postponed its fall trip until next semester, according to Tom Condry, public relations manager, "when hopefully plans will be complete."

The trip to Dallas, originally scheduled for November 10-11, has been set for February 9-10 due to planning problems.

"A Dallas lawyer is making the arrangements for us," said Paul Mabane, chairman, "and, due to his busy schedule, he was unable to complete plans before our deadline."

The purpose of the trip, says Condry, is to recognize senior student leaders at A&M and give them an introduction to culture.

"This way," Mark Fairchild, fall trip chairman, said, "the students gain a background in social

WEATHER

Friday — Cloudy to partly cloudy, winds North 10-15 mph. High 74, low 47.

Saturday — Partly cloudy, winds light variable. High 76, low 43. Waco—2:00 p. m. Partly cloudy, winds Southwest 10-15 mph. 74° humidity 40%.

Preparations Begin For Bonfire Work



'LIKE SHUFFLING CARDS'

A featured movement of the Texas Aggie Band's halftime performance at the A&M-Baylor game Saturday in Waco will be an oblique divide and fold, likened by Lt. Col. E. V. Adams to "shuffling cards." Height of Baylor Stadium seats will afford a good view of the formation, the director says.

Band Set For 'Card Shuffle' In First Road Appearance

A drill that takes advantage of the high angle of view afforded by Baylor Stadium will highlight the Texas Aggie Band's first road appearance of 1968-69.

A&M's band directed by Lt. Col. E. V. Adams will march Saturday at halftime of the 8 p. m. Aggie-Bear football game.

Described by one fan as "thunder and blazes under tasteful restraint," the 267-member band will offer a traditional "serpentine" entrance to the stirring strains of the "Aggie War Hymn" and its closing signature, the 50-yard tall, field-wide block "T."

In between, a unique movement aptly described by Adams as like "shuffling a deck of cards" will split the band by rank obliquely and riffle it back together. A sideline-to-sideline rank of 75 trumpets and cornets also will be featured in part of "Semper Fidelis."

Other music to be played by the Aggie Band, which is synonymous with excellence in precision drill and martial music, will be the popular 1967-63 march, "The Ballad of the Green Beret." The music was reissued this fall by popular request.

Directing the huge organiza-

tion in its third field performance of the year will be drum majors Michael B. Benton of Dallas, Lawrence A. Lippe of Yorktown and James J. Hall III of Corpus Christi. Band commander and right guide is Cadet Col. William R. Howell Jr. of Brenham.

The "dean of Southwest Con-

ference band directors," Adams is in his 23rd season as Aggie bandmaster.

Though invited to participate in Baylor's Saturday morning Homecoming Parade, the band will arrive in Waco in time to form for the game and return to College Station immediately afterwards.

Speaker Barnes To Address A&M Women's Social Club

Ben Barnes, speaker of the Texas House of Representatives and Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor, will be featured speaker for the monthly meeting of the A&M Women's Social Club at 2 p. m. Friday in the A&M Methodist Church.

A club spokesman said Barnes' talk is titled "The Rising Expectations of Texas."

In 1965, Barnes, then only 26, was elected by his colleagues to serve as speaker of the House of Representatives — the youngest man ever selected for the office. Barnes studied law at the University of Texas after attending Tarleton State College and Texas Christian University where he was named a distinguished student.

He received honorary L.L.D. degrees from McMurry College and Texas Tech and was named one of the five "Outstanding Young Texans" by the Texas Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1965.

The University Apartment Council has elected Don Taylor president for the 1968-69 school year. The Apartment Council's function is to help solve problems that arise in the university apartment areas. Personal grievances of the residents are reported to the representatives of the various areas, who start actions to solve the problems.

The council represents student residents and their families in the university-owned apartment areas of College View, Hensel, and Southside.

In the past the council has solved such problems as securing parking space for the residents and requesting night patrols by the Campus Security through the various housing areas.

Members of the council also host the children of apartment residents at Halloween and Christmas parties and an Easter egg hunt. On Civilian Weekend the members act as servers in the barbecue line.

Other new officers are John Bendele, first vice-president; Richard Anderson, second vice-president; Eldon Welch, secretary; and David Shoemaker, treasurer. R. L. Chapman, day student counselor, is the sponsor for the organization.

"We also hope to view an 'interesting' architectural exhibit, and in general have a good time," said Fairchild.



Bryan Building & Loan Association, Your Savings Center, since 1919. —Adv.

Next Meeting Of Committee Set Oct. 31

By DALE FOSTER
Battalion Staff Writer

Many hours of hard work and numerous grade points are destined to go up in smoke next month as Aggies start work Nov. 23 on the world's largest bonfire.

The bonfire will be lit before several thousand spectators on Nov. 26, preceding the Thanksgiving Day clash with the Longhorns.

Signifying "the undying love of every Aggie for his school and the burning desire to beat the hell out of TU," the bonfire will culminate a three-day effort of cutting and stacking logs by students with final touches being added up until the last minute before torches ignite the greatest symbol of Aggie Spirit.

"EACH YEAR'S bonfire is the bonfire of the freshman class," emphasized Head Yell Leader Bill Youngkin, head of the Bonfire Committee. "How big and how good they want the bonfire to be depends upon how much effort they want to put out and how much pride they have in their work."

"This is the biggest undertaking of students at A&M as far as labor and time are concerned. Each class strives to build the biggest bonfire ever built, and the things that make it are a lot of blisters and a lot of determination," he added.

THE BONFIRE is the result of much planning and coordination. Preparation began for this year's stack with meetings back in April. The next session of the Bonfire Committee will be next Thursday in the Memorial Student Center. "One of our aims this year is to have the Corps logs ready and to have the lanes into the cutting area cleared before the actual cutting begins," Youngkin said. "The cutting area is the same as last year, about six miles out of Bryan on the north side."

"THE CENTER pole will probably be here Tuesday or Wednesday before the work weekend and will probably approach about 80 feet above ground," he continued. "Guardshifts will start as soon as it arrives. Approximately 30 to 50 men will watch the area at all times, usually working in four-hour shifts."

"Those who are not physically able to cut, carry, and stack logs volunteer to guard the bonfire. Classes will be let out Nov. 23 for work on the Bonfire."

The head yell leader noted that a lot of help is received from many people. The only problem ever encountered is getting enough equipment. Gasoline and oil are bought at a cut-rate price from a local consignee.

"THINGS have gone efficiently so far, with equipment promised, and we hope they continue to do so. Everyone that has access to trucks, tractors, hand saws, and items of this nature can call me. It would be appreciated" he commented.

In the past equipment has come from all over the state, with former students, parents, and other interested parties helping. Already this year a bulldozer has been promised by Tenneco of Houston.

SAFETY meetings will be held before the bonfire work begins to instruct workers in the proper handling of axes and to show freshmen the correct way to carry logs without hurting their backs. Youngkin noted that safety will be continually stressed because too many accidents is the one thing that could cancel future bonfires.

He added that the MSC Radio Committee will be used for an elaborate system of communications. It takes a lot of control for the work to be carried off correctly. Radio Committee Chairman Jess Rhoden will serve as communications chief.

BONFIRE coordinators besides (See Bonfire, Page 3)

Rodeo Deadline Set Wednesday

Entries for the 1968 All-Aggie Rodeo will be accepted only from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. Wednesday according to Charles Stewart, president of the Texas Aggie Rodeo Association.

With the exception of barrel race contestants, entry fees for the rodeo, scheduled for Nov. 1 and 2, must be in at time of closing books.

Persons interested in entering should contact Mrs. Warren Moore, 206B Spruce, College Station. Phone: 846-3138.

Teacher To Talk About Counseling

Elementary school counselor preparation in Texas will be discussed Wednesday (Oct. 30) in an Education Department colloquium at Texas A&M.

Mrs. Beatrice L. Wehrly, department instructor and doctoral student, will make the counseling and guidance program presentation.

Liberal Arts Dean Frank Hubert, acting department head, said the 8 p. m. colloquium will be in room 406 of the Academic Building.