

A&M gains ground in 1975

Reveille III is in her grave, the Aggie Liberty Bell is in Austin and the old water tower is in the junk yard.

Those are the "losses" for Texas A&M University during 1975, which will go down as another vintage year for the state's first public institution of higher education now on the eve of its centennial.

Even the losses are not really losses. The Aggie mascot's successor, Rev IV, has already assumed her position under the watchful eye of the Corps of Cadets. The Liberty Bell, currently on display in the state capitol, is temporarily being shared

with the rest of Texas during the nation's bicentennial. The Board of Regents has made it clear the replica will be returned to its rightful place in the Academic Building rotunda after the national celebration. A futuristic-looking two-million-gallon replacement for the antiquated water tower is now in service.

Texas A&M continued to be among the nation's pacesetters in enrollment increases, registering its largest one-year gain, of 3,784 students, to surpass 25,000 for the first time. The final fall tabulation was 25,247. Academic qualifications remain high, with entering freshmen

still exceeding the national average on the Scholastic Aptitude Test by some 130 points. The ranks of National Merit Scholars also continues to grow.

Expansion of the university's research activities continued at a record pace, with the volume for the 1974-75 fiscal year totaling \$39.3 million. Current funding is running about \$4.2 million ahead of last year's level. The funds cover programs in all major fields of study, with special emphasis placed this year on energy related projects.

The Center for Energy and Mineral Resources was formed to coordinate and expand the university's research regarding better use of existing fuels and possibilities for new sources for the state. The Legislature included in its appropriations for the current biennium \$1.9 million for energy studies at Texas A&M.

Another development at Texas A&M this year was the inauguration of the Texas A&M University Press. The nation's newest scholarly publishing house has already released eight books, with the first, *Storms Brewed in Other Men's Worlds*, winning one of Texas' top literary awards, and another, *With Santa*

Anna in Texas, drawing widespread attention because of its conflicting version of events at the Alamo.

Other scholarly developments during 1975 included an invitation to join the American Council on Learned Societies and announcement that the executive offices for the South Central Modern Language Association will be moved here, from Rice.

Construction and campus improvements pushed the value of the physical plant past \$300 million. The final phase of the University Center was completed, two new residence halls were opened, and work was initiated on the first two College of Agriculture buildings on the West Campus. These new facilities will include space for the College of Architecture and Environmental Design and an office and laboratory building for the College of Science. Also, plans were unveiled for a \$12 million addition to the library complex.

Still another development was the installation of the \$4.5 million AMDahl 470V/6 computer, the first of its type to be operational west of the Mississippi. Data Processing Center officials estimate the new computer can handle 10 times the amount of work possible with the previous system.

It was a fruitful year in athletics as well as academics. In addition to compiling their best football record in nearly two decades and, in the process, sharing the Southwest Conference championship, the Aggies won the SWC basketball title, set a school record for wins in baseball and earned an NCAA playoff invitation.

Superman to battle Spiderman

NEW YORK — DC Comics and Marvel Comics are coming out jointly with the most asked-for comic magazine of all time — "Superman vs. The Amazing Spider-Man."

This special giant-size comic is expected to become the collector's item of all collector's items for comic fans. In it Superman and Spider-Man confront each other in "the battle of the century."

Superman, as all comics buffs know, was the first costumed hero with super-powers. It is from his success that all other superheroes have sprung.

Spider-Man, on the other hand was created in the 1950s. His arrival signaled the development of human, non-heroic characteristics in the superhero — worries over acne, girlfriends, self-image, etc.

Comics buffs have taken both the classic Superman figure and the neo-classic Spider-Man depiction to heart, and friendly arguments have emerged over which is really the greatest superhero.

The story behind the creation of this special comics magazine encompasses a friendship and rivalry that goes back more than 30 years. Carmine Infantino, publisher of DC, and Stan Lee, publisher of Marvel, actually collaborated on comic strips in the early days of the industry, with the former doing the artwork and the latter the editorial.

With public interest fanning the flames and pushing Superman and Spider-Man toward an inevitable confrontation, Carmine and Stan put their heads together and solved the difficult problem of pooling the resources of rival comics publishing giants to produce this adventure.

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