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LOCAL HISTORY OF A. & M. COLLEGE

OFFICE OF PRESIDENT AGAIN
CREATED—ATTENDANCE
RAPIDLY INCREASES.

THE ROSS ADMINISTRATION

Following the retirement of Lawrence Sullivan Ross from the Governor's chair in 1891, the board of directors again created the office of president and elected Governor Ross to the position. He at once put new life into the school. So rapidly did the number of students increase that two years later he was compelled to give notice thru the press that no more students could be accommodated. There were then 109 rooms in the dormitories and these were capable of housing 250 students. But in the fall of 1893 students came in so rapidly that 343 were registered before the arrivals could be stopt.

First Student Publications.

The first student publication ever put out by A. & M. appears to have been a monthly, "The Texas Collegian," which first appeared in October, 1879. The second student publication, "The Journal," appeared just once in 1893. Records on this point conflict.

The next year, however, the long-

cherished dream of the founders of the first enterprise was realized and the session of 1894-95 witnessed the successful founding of "The Battalion." But it was more of a magazine than a newspaper at first, because it was published under the auspices of the Austin and Calliopean Literary Societies and appeared but once a month. It also changed staffs three times a year, the editors being chosen alternately from the two literary societies.

In the spring of the same year appear the first college annual, known as "The Olio." Tho it appeared but once, it depicted the life of the college well and has ever since been a source of information to students of the history of this college, much of the information here set forth being taken from it.

Student Labor Fund.

The Legislature in 1894 appropriated for the first time \$5,000 for a student labor fund. The existence of this fund has made it possible for many deserving young men to attend A. & M. who otherwise could not have done so and has fostered a spirit of self-reliance among its beneficiaries.

During this period of growth a number of buildings were constructed: Ross Hall in 1892, the (original) Mess Hall in 1897, and the Agricultural and Horticultural Building in 1898.

In 1892 D. W. Spence accepted a position as assistant professor of Civil Engineering and drawing at this college, and by successive rises at length

became dean of the School of Engineering, which position he now holds. C. W. Hutson, an author and writer of some note, whose very features impress one with the idea that he was a deep thinker, accepted the position of professor of History and English in 1893 and remained in that position for many years.

Corps Has Snow Fight.

On February 13, 1895, a heavy snow fell and, it being such an unusual happening, the corps had a snow fight the next day, "A" and "C" companies being pitted against "B" and "D." The following day, as a result of the frolic, there were sixty-one names on the sick report.

In May of that year the corps attended the great Confederate reunion in Houston as the body guard of the veterans. This was probably the first corps trip to a distant city ever taken by the cadets. On March 29 of this year also occurs the first mention of the Ross Vounteer ball.

President Ross died January 3, 1898, and R. H. Whitlock, professor of Mechanical Engineering, acted as president pro tempore until the vacancy was filled. Ross has the distinction of having served longer than any other president of A. & M., but after all his term of service was only seven years. A marble tablet erected to his memory is now imbedded in the wall in the rear of the chapel rostrum.

FOSTER ADMINISTRATION.

The year following the death of President Ross, L. L. Foster, formerly a member of the Railroad Commission of Texas and formerly Commissioner of Agriculture, was elected president of the college. President Foster devoted conscientious efforts to the work of the college and the institution made good progress under his direction. Foster Hall was built during this period.

Girl Students.

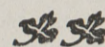
The records of this time make mention of "The Twins," Misses Mary and Sophie Hutson, who were probably the first girl students ever to attend A. & M. At the time of the publication of the first Long Horn (1903), they were doing Senior work in the technical departments of the college and expected to receive certificates at commencement. To them is due the honor of having first suggested to that Senior class the idea of getting out a college annual, and they are said to have done considerable work themselves on the publication.

Miss Emma Fountain, now Mrs. Marsteller, entered the second year of their stay and spent three years in the college as a student of mathematics and languages. Miss Helen Bittle (now Mrs. Bagley), the Davis twins (one of them now being Mrs. R. J. Potts), and Dr. Brown's two daughters were girl students who attended later.

(To Be Continued.)

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