

Inclement Weather Frowns on Review and Mass Rally

Brig. Gen. Brant Will Be Review's Honored Guest

Life Magazine, Newsreel Photographers, Other News Agencies Here to Cover Event

Brig. Gen. Gerald C. Brant, commanding general of the Gulf division of the U. S. Air corps and commandant of Randolph Field, will be the honored guest of the full-dress mounted review of the 6500-member cadet corps beginning this afternoon at 4 o'clock.

The continuation of inclement weather current at press time Wednesday night will cause the review and other functions set for today to be postponed till Friday afternoon, it was determined at a meeting of A. & M.'s National Defense Week committee late Wednesday afternoon.

Newsreel photographers, representatives and photographers of Life magazine and other news agencies began arriving Wednesday night to relay the important event to the nation.

Climaxing three days of military exhibitions as A. & M.'s part in National Defense Week celebrations, the review is the first of the 1940-41 long session.

Throughout the review, 40 planes from the advanced training school at Brooks Field, Texas will fly overhead in mass formation if the rainy weather lets up.

Following the review, the cadet corps and expected 4500 civilians will gather in Kyle stadium to hear brief national defense addresses by A. & M.'s president T. O. Walton and Lieut. Col. James A. Watson, commandant and professor of military science and tactics.

The Texas and Brazos county branches of the Reserve Officers Association has cooperated with the corps in the three-day observance.

Wednesday night the R.O.A. entertained 525 members of the senior class who are junior members of the organization and who will receive commissions as second lieutenants following graduation next June.

"The meeting was of particular significance to these men," Lieut. C. M. Simmang, chairman of the meeting and an instructor in the A. & M. mechanical engineering department, said, "because of the recent announcement by the War Department that all graduating seniors in the Reserve Officers Training Corps will be called for active duty early in June."

Civilians who attend the Kyle Stadium function following the review are asked to sit in the section adjacent to ramp E, committee chairman Col. Ike Ashburn said Wednesday afternoon.

The review, which college officials predict will be witnessed by the largest crowd ever to see an A. & M. review with the exception of the annual Final Reviews each June, was originally scheduled to be held Feb. 18 but was postponed two days so as to climax the Defense Week events.

"Although National Defense Week has been celebrated nationally Feb. 12 to 22 for the past several years, this marks the first time that A. & M. has taken an important part in the exercises," committee Chairman Col. Ike Ashburn, executive assistant to President Walton, said.

The cadet-faculty committee guiding the three-day observance includes, besides Col. Ashburn as chairman, Maj. E. J. Howell, former state president of the R. O. A.

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During 1940 the Highway Research Board cooperated in the holding of a similar conference at Iowa State college, Ames, Iowa, and owing to the response at that conference the School of Engineering at Texas A. & M. offered its services to the board with the result that the forthcoming conference has been arranged.

Co-directors of the conference will be Dean Gilchrist and Roy W. Crum, director of the Highway Research Board, Washington, D. C.

Hereford Auction Set for Feb. 25

An auction sale of registered hereford cattle will be held by the Mid-South Texas Hereford Association in the A. & M. stock judging pavillion Feb. 25 at 1 p.m.

Fifty one of the best cattle in this area have been consigned to this auction and Earl Gartin of Greensburgh, Indiana, will be the auctioneer.

A round-table meeting, discussing methods of advertising and selling pure bred cattle will be held in the lecture room of the Animal Industries building Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be led by Frank Farley, Kansas City, of the "Hereford Journal"; O. E. Peterson, Fort Worth, of "The Cattleman"; and Earl Gartin, Greensburgh, Indiana, auctioneer.

The Mid-South Texas Hereford Association, organized at A. & M. last summer, is made up of breeders from eight or ten counties in this section of Texas.

Highway Engineers From Nine States Meet Here Feb. 24

Economists and highway engineers will meet at Texas A. & M. college, February 24-25, for a conference on highway economics which is to be conducted under the joint sponsorship of the School of Engineering at the college, the Highway Research Board of the Division of Engineering and Industrial Research, National Research Council, Dean Gibb Gilchrist has announced.

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1941 Freshman Ball Makes \$461 Profit

"With nearly 500 paid admissions, the freshman class cleared \$461.66 at their annual Fish Ball held last Saturday night Feb. 15 in Sbsia Hall," Freshman Class President T. S. Parker said today.

The total ticket sales and gate receipts amounted to \$748.10, but from this was deducted \$286.44 for expenses which were listed as follows: orchestra, \$150; use of Sbsia Hall, \$92.86; \$40.60 for government revenue tax; and \$2.68 for decorations. This is an increase of over eighty dollars compared to the net amount taken in by the freshman class of last year.

Invitations have been extended to members of the highway departments of nine states, Dean Gilchrist said.

NATIONAL DEFENSE TRAINING has been a number one course in the curriculum of the Texas A. & M. college since its establishment in 1876. Since then 4,600 cadets have received reserve commissions, 450 more coming up in June. More than 1000 are now taking the advanced military training in seven branches of the service. In the current national emergency a department of aeronautical engineering, basic and advanced CAA flying instruction, defense courses in engineering, enlarged airport facilities and cooperation with the national defense program are important adjuncts of A. & M.'s activities.

—Photos by Howard, Berry,
Courtesy Texas Capital News Service



4th Annual Sophomore Ball Friday

Sophs and Seniors Asked to Attend Function in Uniform

A colorful ceremony in which regimental colors and American flags will be presented is to be the highlight of the fourth annual Sophomore Ball Friday night, Bill Bryant, class president, announced yesterday.

The massing of these flags will be brought in the center door under regular color guard and be marched to the band stand between lines of cadets while the cadets stand at attention without saluting. The flags will be deposited in the holders on the stand and will remain there during the remainder of the dance.

This ceremony will be held in connection with the observance of National Defense Week on the campus. Photographers and reporters from Life magazine will be present to record the event.

"Please cooperate and all wear uniforms to the dance because Life magazine will cover the event and be taking pictures," Bryant asked the sophomores. After intermission those who wish may change into tuxedos, he added. Cadet Colonel William A. Becker asked seniors who attend the dance to wear dress uniform and boots for the same reason.

Over one hundred girls from TSCW are to arrive as guests the Aggie Sophomore class Friday afternoon. Ed Gordon has been in charge of the date bureau for making these arrangements in cooperation with Grace Riddell, president of the TSCW sophomore class.

To accommodate the girls, the first four ramps of Law Hall will be vacated by 3 p.m. Friday. Those wishing to reserve one of the rooms may do so at the commandant's office after 8 a.m. Thursday. A fee of 35 cents per night will be charged for the payment of the maids keeping the halls. Girls who stay in the dormitory must be in by 2 a.m. both Friday and Saturday mornings and escorts will be held strictly responsible for compliance with this requirement, it was announced from the commandant's office.

Ed Gerlach and his orchestra will play for the ball, which will be held in Sbsia Hall from 9 til 1. Sophomores who failed to buy tickets before the dance may do so at the door for \$1.10. A regular Corps dance will be held Saturday night.

Organization of Student Aid Fund Completed at Second Meeting; Fund Is Now Ready to Go into Action

Saddle and Sirloin Club Adds 96 Members

With 92 old members participating, the initiation of 96 new members into the Saddle and Sirloin Club was held Monday night Feb. 17 in the Animal Husbandry pavilion.

Before the initiation was administered, a meeting was held in the Animal Industries lecture room where each candidate was introduced and welcomed into the club by President Graham Purcell, Archer City. Plans were also discussed for the coming Aggie Little Southwestern livestock show and the Cattleman's Ball, both to be sponsored by the Saddle and Sirloin Club.

After the welcome and introduction, the candidates were taken to the Animal Husbandry pavilion where the initiation was held.

Tigner, Hall Named Theater Assistants

Ben S. Ferguson, owner and manager of the Campus Theatre, has announced that Charles Tigner, formerly of Dallas, and H. L. Hall, College Station, will serve as assistant managers of the theatre in the future.

Tigner and Hall replace C. E. Lewis who recently moved to California.

"All business pertaining to the theatre such as benefit shows and other matters may be discussed with either of these two men," Ferguson said.

Hall has been connected with the Campus Theatre since it was opened nearly a year ago. He was formerly a projection room operator.

Ferguson also announced a new policy of benefit shows to begin soon. Clubs interested should contact him or one of his assistant managers, he said.

Ex-Student Will Address AICHe

George Armistead Jr., former A. & M. student and now a prominent chemical process engineer, will be on the campus Thursday to address the student branch of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

Armistead was formerly connected with the Process Management Corporation of New York City, an organization which deals with patents concerning oil refining and refinery gas utilization. Since leaving New York he has been engaged by the Republic Oil Co. to aid in the designing of the plant which they recently constructed in Houston.

The process engineering in which Armistead has been engaged has brought him in direct contact with one of the newest fields for research in the oil industry.

Committees Make Reports; Gillis Elected Secretary

The Student Aid Fund Committee completed its rules of procedure at its second meeting Tuesday afternoon and elected Tom Gillis, sergeant-major of the corps, to fill the newly created job of secretary of the committee.

The rules for the operation of the committee include arrangements for raising funds and their use in aiding Aggies. Besides providing for sending suitable expressions of sympathy to the families of Aggies who die while enrolled in the college, the rules stated the method of using the funds in cases of merited need.

Emphasis was placed on the fact that the Student Aid Fund work will in no way be charity. Cadets who benefit from the use of the fund will be asked to sign a non-interest bearing, no-maturity-date note for the amount received.

Dan A. Russell, head of the rural sociology department and executive-secretary of the committee, stated, "This does not mean that a student will be continually reminded of the obligation after he leaves college. He will be sent a reminder of the service on the date which he anticipates he will be able to repay the fund so that it may be loaned again to some other Aggie who needs it. If he is still unable to repay the fund, no more will be said. It is strictly on honor obligation," he concluded.

Chairman George Fuermann presided at the meeting. On a motion of E. L. Angell, manager of student publications, the office of secretary was created and Gillis elected to fill it. The duties will be to record the proceedings of the meetings as distinguished from the duties of the executive-secretary who is responsible for the fund and keeping permanent records of the obligations and benefits rendered by the fund.

Charles Tigner, co-manager of the Campus Theatre, appeared before the committee and offered the facilities of his theater for a benefit show, the proceeds to go to the Aid Fund. The offer was accepted and Skeen Staley, J. H. Focke and Gillis were appointed to make arrangements for the showing.

Unusual? Huh-Uh--Graduating Seniors Were Faced With A Parallel Situation During Hectic Days of 1917

By Tom Gillis

The turbulent foreign situation and the contemplated term of active service for graduating seniors which was announced by the War Department questionnaires threw an unusual shadow across the military aspects of Texas A. & M. College. But the shadow is not entirely unfamiliar or unparalleled for those who are acquainted with the long history of the institution. It will not be the first time that A. & M. has given military aid to our country in time of emergency.

It happened in 1917 too. The situation during that first World War was a little different, but A. & M. did more than its share in providing officers and men for the armed forces. This fact is permanently commemorated by the star-studded flag which now hangs in the rotunda of the Academic Building, which was presented to the college by an act of congress.

There was a senior class here twenty-four years ago too; it had only 138 members, but it was every

bit as ready to face the problems which confronted it. There was no ROTC training then; it was just military training and was required of all students during the full four years. All students were instructed in infantry except for a group of senior privates who manned a small field piece. The uniform worn was the tight-necked blouse of cadet grey.

But on April 6, 1917, congress declared that a state of war existed between the United States and the Central Powers.

Throughout the remainder of April some of the seniors, by groups of twos and threes, resigned from the college to join up and fight; however, most of these went into the navy or the marines.

A short time after the declaration it was announced that a military camp would be opened at Leon Springs, Tex., for the training of officers. The entire senior class applied for admission to this camp for training in different branches of the service and they moved en masse to the training

center about the second week in May. Except for a few physical rejections, the group completed the 90-day training period and was sent overseas. The rejections left about 12 or 15 seniors on the campus.

"The seniors who were well up in their work scholastically and seemed to have a good chance of graduating were declared graduated, but some of the students who were behind in more than a few subjects were not conceded graduation, and to this day have not been granted a diploma by the college," explained George A. Long, member of the class and now auditor of the Branch College office.

In June, when the time for regular graduation arrived, Dr. W. B. Bizzell, then president of the college, journeyed to Leon Springs, where he made a graduation address and presented diplomas to those who had been granted them. The few seniors who remained on

the campus simply went by the registrar's office and picked up their diplomas.

It was not until 20 years later that this class had any real graduation exercises. In 1937, at their twentieth reunion, they were invited by the class of that year to attend their ceremonies as a group and share the formalities of the program with them. The class accepted, and 85 per cent of the members attended and were thus formally "graduated".

After serving during the war, the men were offered three alternatives as concerned their further military services for the government. These choices were: (1) immediate and complete separation from the armed forces, (2) separation and the acceptance of a reserve commission, or (3) active regular commissions to be granted to a limited number on a test basis. Thirteen members of the class are still in the army, most of them with the rank of lieutenant colonel.