

Story of Kyle Field and Aggie Yells Adds Color to A&M History

Carmichael Starts 2nd Year As Aggie Athletic Director

By DON ENGELKING
Starting his second year as head of the A&M athletic department, W. R. "Bill" Carmichael, an Aggie ex from the class of '28, Carmichael assumed his duties as Athletic Director last summer when he succeeded J. W. "Dough" Rollins, who was acting director at that time. Rollins had taken over in lieu of Homer Norton in March of 1947.

At the time of his appointment Carmichael was executive secretary of the Texas High School Coaches Association and principal of Stephen F. Austin High School in Bryan.

Carmichael's experience as a coach started upon his graduation from A&M in 1928. That year he took his first job as assistant football and head basketball coach at

Timson. After two successful years there he moved to Panhandle and in 1931 came to Bryan where he was assistant football coach and head cage coach until 1939.

During that time his cage teams went to the State meet twice and won the district title five times.

In the fall of 1939 he became principal of the Lamar Junior high school and in 1946 he was promoted to the principalship at the senior high school.

Carmichael's active coaching days ended in 1939 but he has continued to be associated with the coaching business as is evident by the fact that he was secretary of the Texas High School Coaches Association from 1944 to 1947.

During Carmichael's first year at A&M there has been a great many changes in the Athletic de-

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partment. Although most of the big changes during the past year were not due directly to Carmichael's actions he has nevertheless had a hand in making the improvements.

During the past year Aggie hopes for victory in the near future in all major sports have increased considerably. An outstanding collection of high school football players have been given scholarships to Aggieland. Also basketball and track stars from high schools all over the state will be here for registration this week.

Credit for the addition of these athletes to A&M may not all be due to Carmichael's efforts but he is definitely the man behind it all. Carmichael resides in Bryan with his wife and son. Carmichael continued his education after he received his bachelor's degree by completing the work for a master's degree here at A&M in 1936.

After getting his master's degree in education he took a year of work on a doctor's degree at Colorado Teachers College in Greeley, Colorado.

The building of Aggie Athletic teams can not be accomplished overnight but it is hoped that Carmichael's efforts along with the efforts of others will pay-off within the next year or two.

Ag Runners May Take SWC Crown In Cross Country

Aggie distance runners have already started preparing for the 1948 Cross Country season by working out daily on the cross country course in back of the creamery.

The first meet for the Aggie team will be some time in October. The Conference meet will be held November 15.

Cross Country is one of the four minor sports in the Southwest Conference. The Conference Champ is determined each year at the conference meet.

Aggies who will be trying for a place on the team are; Webster Stone, Jerry Bonnen, J. D. Hampton, Carrol Hahn, Royce Raven, Mark Geeslin, and Jim McMahon.

Only five men are needed for a team. The length of the Cross Country course is 2.7 miles.

This year should be one of the best for the Aggies in this sport. Texas University, the defending champions, will not be as strong as last year due to the loss of Jerry Thompson, their number one man.

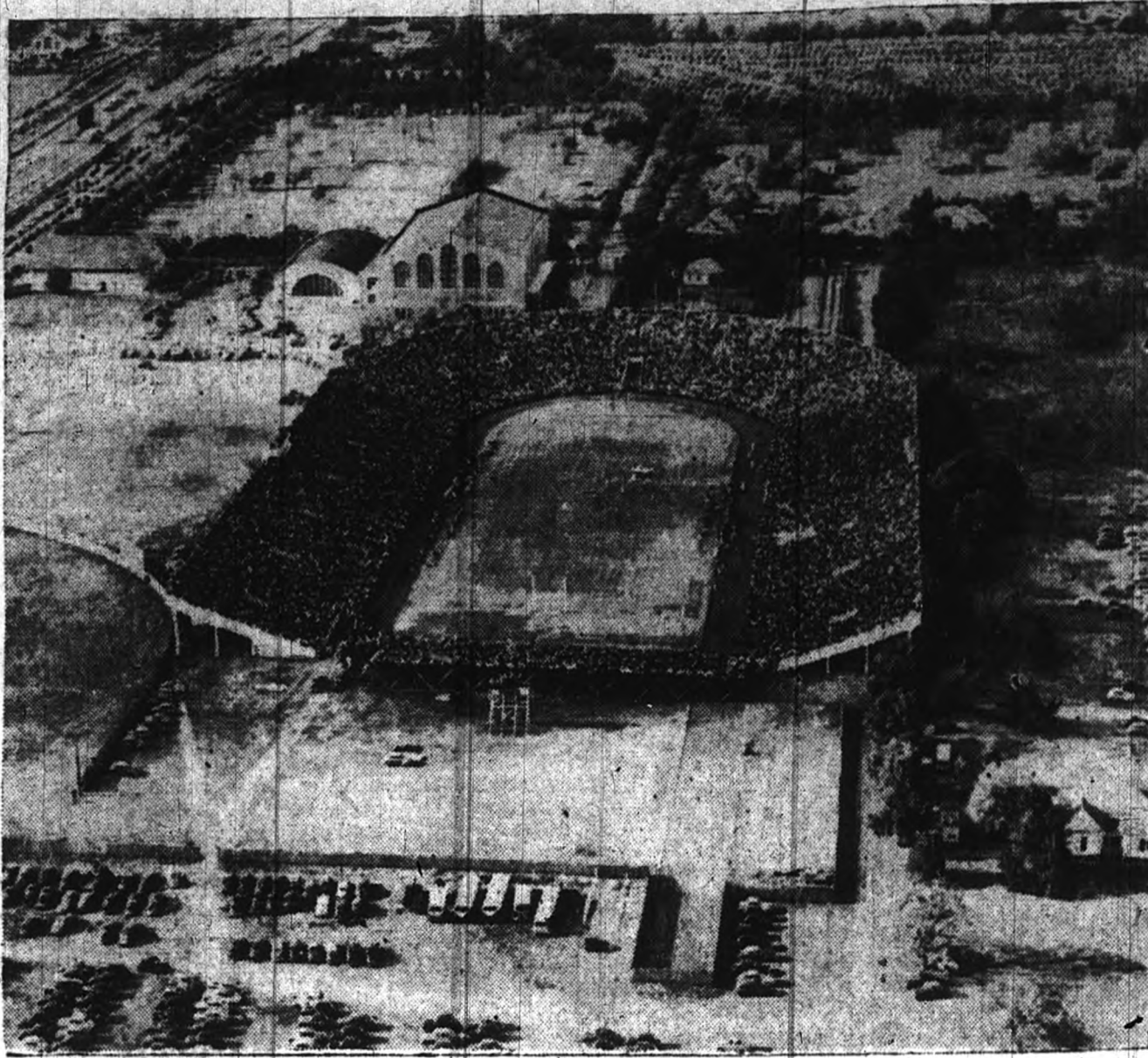
Dallas Fans Honor Coach Matty Bell

Early this fall Dallas folks will honor one of the greatest figures in football.

Madison Bell, the moanin' Matty of some of the game's finest moments, is going to have tribute paid him for the distinction of being the dean of head football coaches in the Southwest Conference.

No other mentor has been head coach of more than two Southwest Conference schools. Bell started at Texas A. and M. in 1929 and came to Southern Methodist in 1934.

In that span he was head coach all except one year—1934 when he was line mentor at SMU. He became head coach in 1933 and except for three years spent in the Navy has been directing Southern Methodist's grid teams ever since.



A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF KYLE, with standing room only. This picture shows DeWare Field House in the background and the hand ball courts in the upper left corner. The score board of the baseball field can be seen in the lower left corner. This picture was taken before the erection of the new score board at the south end of Kyle Field.

Kyle Field's Concrete Stadium 17 Years Old; New Dressing Rooms First Addition Since '31

Kyle Field Stadium, around which all Aggies interest begins centering about this time every year, is the culmination of many years work of a great number of people. It represents to the present and ex-students of A&M, all that is great in sports in the Southwest Conference.

When interest in football began building up at A&M around the last decade of the 19th century, intra-squad games were held on the ground in front of Ross Hall where the YMCA now stands.

Later, games were held at the Brazos County Fair Grounds which was situated where Kazmeiere Chicken Farm is now on College Avenue. It was there in 1902 that the Aggies were given the title of "football champions of the south" after they had defeated Tulane.

In 1905, a new football stadium was opened and named Kyle Field in honor of various members of the Kyle family that were active in promoting athletics at A&M. The new field ran east and west instead of north and south as it does now.

The college bought the wooden grandstands that had been at the Brazos County Fair Grounds and had them moved to the new field on the campus. At different times during the first few years, additions were made to the stands until their capacity was well over 2000.

In 1908, the Battalion sponsored an election for the student body so that it could choose a name for the field which was hailed as the "finest in the state." The name Kyle was selected and ceremonies were held to dedicate the area which includes Kyle Field Stadium, DeWare Field House, P. L. Downs Natatorium, and the Baseball Stadium.

The modern concrete stadium now stands crosswise on the approximate position where the old wooden stands were.

This modern stadium was built in sections and the last was finished in 1931; built in a horseshoe shape, the south end was left open.

The most tireless worker on this project was James Sullivan, business manager of the Athletic Department from 1919 to 1931. When he was made business manager in 1919, there was no concrete stadium on Kyle Field. When he left the department in 1931, the stadium had been built at a cost of \$340,967.75.

This accomplishment, according to the 1931 Longhorn, was a direct result of James Sullivan's zeal and foresight in business management. Sullivan lived to see the stadium completely paid for after the big football season of 1941.

A recent addition to the facilities of Kyle Field are the new dressing rooms built under the west stands of the stadium.

Containing offices for all the coaches of the staff, a large class room, a dressing room for the varsity football squad, one for the freshman football squad, and a training room complete with all necessary physical therapy equipment is the most modern in the southwest.

The name Kyle Field has become synonymous with Aggie athletic teams and is a revered name in any Aggie's memory. It has become one of the traditional places to which exes return when they come to visit the campus.

Its fame is known throughout the southwest as a place where the Aggies are toughest to whip and many teams arrive to play the Aggies here, confident that they will win, only to find out that Kyle Field is too tough for them. It is an inspiration to all A&M men.

There are many stories floating around about Kyle Field and the many teams that have met their doom on it, but one of the

First Grid Stadium Held Only 500 Fans

By BILL POTTS

In preparation to welcoming a new class of men to the A&M campus, much digging has been going on in the old Battalion and Longhorn files for information. The following sports oddities were unearthed and are being passed on.

There is much speculation today among A&M students as to how the Aggie yell and wildcat originated. Some claim that they are both descended from the old Rebel yell of the Civil War period while others contend that there is no connection whatsoever.

Those that do claim that these traditional ventings of enthusiasm originated from the old Confederate yell are just as adamant in saying that the yell today sounds nothing like the one which veterans of the Confederate armies used to scare the devil out of the "Damn Yankees."

The A&M yell is different from other school's cheers in that it is called a yell instead of a cheer. Also those men in white that will be in front of the student body this fall at football games are not "cheerleaders" but yell leaders.

The oldest yells in use today are the two preserved as part of the words of the Aggie War Hymn: "Chig-ga-raa-gar-em" and "Hullabaloo canek canek." Another old one is "Farmers Fight," also included in the War Hymn, which dates back to the time when A&M students were called Farmers rather than Aggies.

"Rant" Started T.
Most of the familiar yells of today were created shortly before 1916. Yell Leader W. K. "Runt" Hanson probably started more A&M traditions than any other Aggie, even more than Sully Ross. For one thing, he introduced a dog mascot, who not only wore a blanket but trousers as well! This took place during the season of 1915, 17 years before Reveille appeared.

Hanson originated the T formation. It became quite a colorful spectacle, for each cadet carried a maroon handkerchief in one hand, white handkerchief in the other. As signals were given, the T would suddenly become all maroon, all white, or white on one side, maroon on the other.

Another touch of color in Hanson's day was the creation of the letters A M C in the stands. White shirts were worn under the blue blouses as regulation at that time. Cadets seated at certain spots in the stands took off their coats, letting their white shirts show—and there was a M C in living letters.

Still another touch of color at football games is remembered by students still on the campus. Campaign hats used to contain red linings, and when hats were flashed during certain yells, the stands became brilliantly red.

Capacity 500
Before football became important at A&M, squads scrimmaged in front of Ross Hall, where the YMCA is now. The Aggies became football "champions of the south" by beating Tulane in 1902. That game was played at the Brazos County Fair Grounds, on College Avenue where Kazmeiere's chicken farm is now.

In 1905 a new athletic field was opened, called Kyle Field in honor of several members of the Kyle family, many of whom had been prominent in A&M affairs.

The old football field ran East-West, crosswise of the present North-South field. A wooden grandstand with the enormous capacity of 500 (that's right, 500) was hailed as "the finest in the state." Extensions, in the form of bleachers without sun-shade, were soon added. But students were unhappy even so, because of the lack of a gymnasium or field house.

Seven Years Bad Luck
Despite the acquisition of Kyle Field, luck went against the Aggies. For seven years they were beaten by Texas University teams.

But the '09 A&M team was different. Not only did it beat the Haskell Indians—a feat comparable to beating Notre Dame today—but it walked over TU twice in one year. Playing in Houston the Aggies beat Texas 23-0. Later, in Austin, the Aggies got a 5-0 victory by virtue of a single touchdown (Only 5 points for a touchdown in those days).

That same year the A&M baseball team faced the N. Y. Giants in an exhibition game, and lost only 0-7—not bad, when you remember what the Giants were in those days.

In 1911 the A&M-Texas game at Houston broke up in a riot after a TU win. Relations were broken off for some years as a result.

Intramurals Too
While intercollegiate activities were being built up, the college never lacked general-participation athletic activities. Company athletics go so far back into A&M history that no one knows when they started or who started them. By 1903 they were in full swing, and company teams were followed as eagerly as the "big" teams.

In 1927, the present intramural program was begun, incorporating the company athletics. W. L. Penberthy, now dean of men, came to A&M the next year and took over management of the program.

P. L. Downs Natatorium Built In 1932 for Eighty Thousand

By LEON SOMER

A&M students breathed a sigh of relief when college contractors started construction in 1932 of P. L. Downs Natatorium.

A&M's first swimming pool was located in the basement of the YMCA but was found to be inadequate for the needs of the students here.

In the original plans \$70,000 was set aside for the construction of a pool adjoining DeWare Field House.

To complete the work A&M picked men who were, at that time, working for the school. These included Dr. F. E. Giesecke who was college architect and W. A. Orth who was Superintendent of Building and College Utilities.

The pool was opened on March 15, 1933 and was named in honor of P. L. "Pinky" Downs, Jr. who was largely responsible for A&M's getting its first swimming pool.

At first it was planned to make the pool 100x50 feet but before construction was started the size was changed to a 100x 60 feet. This change was made because standard pools for college swimming meets were 100x 60 feet.

The final cost of the pool was \$80,000.

The pool has one of the best filtration plants of any pool in the nation. It is drained every two years and the bottom of the pool is cleared of any sediment whenever necessary.

The present seating capacity of the Natatorium is 600 and each year several swimming meets are held in the pool.

When the pool was first opened it was to be used only by Aggies but with the increasing need for a place to swim by College Station residents, the pool was also opened to them.

Presently in charge of the Natatorium is Art Adamson. Adamson is coach of the Aggie swimming team. He came to A&M in 1934 and since then Aggie Swimming teams have piled up an impressive record in Southwest Conference competition.

Adamson has done much for swimming in College Station and largely through his efforts have many Aggies learned to swim.



BILL CARMICHAEL

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