

Here's Why The Band Is Quicker Than The Eye



The Aggie Band practices a script formation

Band Leaves Tonight For LSU Performance

The Aggie Band leaves for LSU tonight at 7. The cadet musicians will go by train with the football team to Baton Rouge where they are scheduled for a half-time performance in tomorrow night's grid game.

This will be the band's second off-campus exhibition for the current school year. Their first performance was at half-time in the A&M-Texas Tech game in San Antonio, two weeks ago.

The mid-game marching will be divided into three phases. The first of these, "precision drilling," will consist of the standard Aggie movements plus a newly developed silent drill routine.

Patterned after specialties of the Ross Volunteer Company and last year's Freshman Drill team, the latest addition to the band routine will be done without the aid of music or drums.

The second phase of the performance will be the salute to the two schools. Facing the LSU stands, the band will play "Tiger Rag" in script while playing "Tiger Rag." It will move from this into the block letters "TAMC" from which it will play "The Twelfth Man."

The final phase of the Aggie's portion of the half-time activities will be the band's forming a moving "T" perpendicularly on the field. The "T" will traverse the field and counter-march back into itself. The band will be playing the "Aggie War Hymn."

Members of the band will board a train for College Station immediately following the game. They will be back at A&M at 10 a.m. Sunday.

Funds for this second post-war trip to Baton Rouge are being provided from funds appropriated to the band last April. The next half-time performance by the band will be at next week's A&M-TCU game.

he starts the process of putting the idea into practice on the band drill field.

Many schools follow the practice of mimeographing diagrams for each member of a band to explain to him exactly what he has to do. This process takes almost two weeks. Adams accomplishes the same thing in about 15 minutes by getting the band on the field and explaining what is to be done and how.

Since the band always marches in a unit ten men in width and 15 men long, it begins each practice drill in this formation. (The total membership is actually in excess of 160, but lack of instruments cuts the marching strength to 150.)

From a top-floor room in the band dormitory, Adams and the cadet drum majors spot each man in the position he will be required to take in a given formation. In the case of forming block letters, this is a fairly simple procedure since individual ranks usually form a prescribed line in the letters.

With script letters and other more intricate formations, however, an assignment must be made to each man individually. When a member has been spotted on the field, he locates himself in relation to those men near him and then finds the most direct route to move from the unit formation to the design.

Not all plans, of course, work out as well in practice as they did on paper. In this case, the idea is either scrapped or modified.

In forming a design on the field, correction must be made for optical distortion. Lines of men that run horizontally to the spectators' line of vision have a tendency to appear shallow and must have about twice the number of men that are needed in a line running perpendicular to the line of vision.

Just what are some of the formations employed by the band? In the simple category comes the normal right and left turn, the minstrel turn, and the standard counter-march.

A minstrel turn is, in the words of Colonel Adams, "a matter of changing direction of the band by having each succeeding file move down its corresponding diagonal." It's known technically as a mathematical turn.

As for the counter-march, it is merely a matter of reversing the direction of march by having the band march back through itself.

As each rank reaches the end of the field, the bandsmen perform two right turns and march back between their rank and the rank adjoining.

The Aggie Band uses a variation of the counter-march which the members themselves have designated the "Lost Indian" counter-march. It accomplishes the same end as the standard counter-march but is done in a different manner.

It works on the principle that the band marching as a unit actually consists of several rectangles, one within the other. Thus, the two outside files and the front and rear files form a rectangle ten men by 15. Inside this is a rectangle nine by 14.

The Lost Indian counter-march is done by revolving rectangles. In other words, the men in the right outside file do to-the-rear, and a column right, those in the front file march to the right and do a column right, those on the outside left file continue the march with a column right, and the rear file marches to the left followed by an immediate column right.

The rectangle therefore, is revolving clock-wise. When the men have reached the position exactly opposite that in which they started they change their direction so that they are all heading toward the far goal post.

The rectangle within this one goes through the same movements in a counter-clockwise direction. The move is timed so that the entire band heads off for the far goal post at the same time. Small wonder that radio men dread the task of trying to describe such a movement.

The precision and perfection for which the band has gained a reputation come from long and hard practice. A band drill practice is held Monday through Friday at 5 p.m. All formations are practiced until each member knows them thoroughly and then—they are practiced some more.

If there is any indication that every phase of every formation is not perfect, a 5 a.m. practice is held. There is little or no chance of slips.

Add to this work three hours of rehearsal each week plus the various military and campus functions for which the band is called, and it's easy to see why the band members can well be proud. Those radio announcers don't know how easy their lot really is.

Moving Van Hauls Instruments On Band Trek to Baton Rouge

How would you like to move a house full of furniture to Baton Rouge and back over the weekend?

That's just about the problem faced by the Aggie band this weekend—and any other time that they make an appearance away from the campus. The business of shipping instruments is no small detail in planning a band trip.

While the musicians are struggling to catch their forty-winks on train headed to LSU, their horns, drums, music, and other paraphernalia will be headed the same way via the highway.

Band instruments are shipped in much the same manner as furniture. An enclosed moving van from a local transport company carries them to and from their destination. This is a far cry from the days, not too long gone, when each bandsman was responsible for getting his own music-maker to out of town marches.

The van is loaded by the band members themselves under the direction of the cadet supply officers. Confusion is avoided by the use of a system devised over years of experience.

Each instrument has a predetermined place in the van. The cadets form two lines at the rear of the truck and start feeding things down in an orderly fashion. When it comes time to remove the instruments, the order is reversed.

Band members remove their piece, relock the case, return it to the van, and then lock the van. In this way, there is no chance of losing either the instruments or the cases. An advantage of trucking is that any loss or damage is covered by the trucking companies insurance.

At Corp Trip marches, the truck is on hand at the point of origin to distribute band paraphernalia and also waiting at the far end of the parade route to receive the instruments.

Murals Begin: B QM, A Flight Look Strongest

Aggie Intramurals got off to a big start Wednesday after being rained out Monday. Four basketball and six tennis games were scheduled and all were played except one.

Of course, it is too early in the year to be able to tell which are the strongest teams so the only determining factor for the schedule arrangement was last year's outcomes. The senior scheduler has tried to distribute the teams so that no two of the best will be in the same league. This action will keep a team that might be the eventual second place winner from losing out in the early stages of the competition.

Tight Play Wednesday

In the basketball opener, two tight games were played between K Flight and D Infantry and A Transportation and the Senior Company. News Bonner led the Paddlefoot to a 13-12 edge over the Air Force despite stellar play by Bob Moody for K Flight. Felix Copeland led the Seniors to a 13-12 victory over the T. C.'s by scoring eight of their thirteen points.

B. Quartermaster swamped the hapless from D Flight in a 17-4 rout led by Sherman Hink. Schuelke and Alfred were high point men for the Air Corps.

Nick Holland and Dick Hightower faced the G Flight team to (See INTRAMURAL, Page 6)

Murals Begin: B QM, A Flight Look Strongest

Five-O Club Names Mrs. Koban Prexy

The Five-O Club met in the solarium of the college YMCA Thursday evening for the initial gathering of the 49-50 season. Mrs. Jim Hoban, president, was in charge of the meeting.

The next meeting was announced for 7:30 p. m. on Thursday, October 6 in the solarium. Regular meetings will be held on the first and third Thursdays of each month.

Members of the program committee appointed by the president are Mrs. Jack Bebinger, chairman, and Mesdames Bob Kilgore, H. O. Myer, Johnnie Reeves, Joe Coulter, and Cliff Harrel.

Tentative plans were discussed for a Halloween party and a welcoming tea. Mrs. Hoban and Mrs. Coulter served tea and cookies to Mesdames Jack Williamson, Hugh Wallace, Bob Kilgore, Jack Bebinger, Frank Neville, Herb King, H. O. Myer, LeRoy Giebel, Don Riddle, and Mrs. C. T. McLaughlin, a guest.

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Here is a picture of Main Street, Typicaltown, U.S.A. It is a glimpse of any town—our town. Its busy thoroughfare lined with shops of all kinds signifies the free business life which American communities enjoy.

To change this scene is unthinkable. And yet, this very picture is endangered by the many evils that haunt our land today. Atheism, communism, crime, and delinquency fill the air, and there are wars—and "rumors of wars."

To combat these enemies, we need love, fellowship, tolerance, and understanding—and the source of such weapons is to be found in the Church.

In order to equip more people with the banners of Christianity, in order to bring us all a fuller realization that the Church can save the things we hold dear, there will appear in this newspaper each week a series of religious pages. They will contain beautiful, human-interest pictures, and the brief, colorful stories will serve us all as reminders of our religious obligations.

This series is part of a nation-wide campaign designed to stimulate and renew interest in the Church—a need which concerns the very nature of our living.

And the people making this program possible, in cooperation with this newspaper, are those whose shops and establishments line the streets of our town. At the bottom of these pages is a list of names—the laymen and businessmen who feel the necessity for bringing the Church within the vision and grasp of more people.

To do this to strengthen our way of life, to better it, and to make it more secure, against the forces which seek its destruction.

THE CHURCH FOR ALL . . . ALL FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the greatest factor on earth for the building of character and good citizenship. It is a storehouse of spiritual values. Without a strong Church, neither democracy nor civilization can survive. There are four sound reasons why every person should attend services regularly and support the Church. They are: (1) For his own sake. (2) For the sake of his children's sake. (3) For the sake of his community and nation. (4) For the sake of the Church itself, which needs his moral and material support. Plan to go to church regularly and read your Bible daily.

Book	Chapter	Verses
Sunday	Luke	12 15-21
Monday	Matthew	7 24-28
Tuesday	Psalm	127 1-5
Wednesday	Psalm	90 1-6
Thursday	Mich	6 4-6
Friday	I Corinthians	13 1-3
Saturday	Matthew	26 34-40

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A & M Christian Church

9:45 A.M.—Church School
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7:30 P.M.—Evening Worship

A & M Church of Christ

9:45 A.M.—Bible Classes
10:45 A.M.—Morning Worship
7:15 A.M.—Youth meeting

A & M Methodist Church

9:30 A.M.—Cadet Coffe Hour
10:00 A.M.—Sunday School
11:00 A.M.—Morning Worship
7:30 P.M.—Evening Worship

Christian Science Society
11:00 A.M.—Morning Worship

College Station Baptist

9:45 A.M.—Sunday School
10:50 A.M.—Morning Worship
6:15 P.M.—Baptist Training Union
7:15 P.M.—Evening Worship

St. Mary's Chapel

8:30 A.M.—Sunday Mass
10:00 A.M.—Sunday Mass

St. Thomas Episcopal Chapel

8:00 A.M.—Holy Communion
9:30 A.M.—Aggie Coffe Club
9:30 A.M.—Church School
11:00 A.M.—Morning Worship
6:30 P.M.—Evening Service

A & M Presbyterian Church
11:00 A.M.—Morning Worship