

Thursday, November 9, 1950

## Success Story ... Aggie Style

### *M. T. Harrington, '22, Takes Office As First Ex to Head Texas A&M*

Twenty-nine years ago a tall, thin youngster strode the stages of college drama at A&M and won for himself the title "a personage supreme." Today, that same personage, no longer a lad, steps into the leading role of the college.

Marion T. Harrington will be making history in that role. For this afternoon, when he is formally inaugurated as President of the A&M College of Texas, the former cadet will set a precedent in the 75 year history of the school.

Purely by coincidence this first former member of the famous Twelfth Man student body to take the helm at A&M, will also be the twelfth man to hold that job.

Born 49 years ago in Plano, he the second of four sons of the late E. O. Harrington, who, upon his death in 1940, was that Northeast Texas town's oldest merchant. An older and a younger brother, T. C. and J. O. Harrington, are today operating the furniture and undertaking firm which their father established.

Harrington's grandparents had been early Texas settlers. It was in the days of the Republic that they made their covered wagon trek from Kentucky.

The youngster was graduated from Plano High School in 1918 as top ranking boy in his class. He immediately set a course for College Station where he chose to study the then-new field of chemical engineering.

Nor did the 16-year old lad let his comparative lack of years retard his career at Aggeland. He started as a "fish" on a record that ranked as excellent, scholastically and otherwise.

A natural talent for entertaining engaged him in dramatic pursuits where he, in the vernacular of the time, "panicked" an audience. He was active in other fields, too, and became president of the Collin County Club and a member of the "Y" Cabinet.

Military, he was chosen in his junior year to receive the drill medal for "E" Infantry. His senior year found him as a cadet captain in the Infantry Shock Troops.

And, in scholastic and professional pursuits, he ranked as a distinguished student and a member of Tau Beta Pi, national honorary engineering fraternity. He was also a member of the Chemistry Club.

The 1922 Longhorn had this to say of the senior who answered to either "Tom" or "Empty."

"Although not a man in age, Tom is more than a man in brains. As a mimicker he is a personage supreme. He had great success in college drama, and would be a scream professionally had not a higher calling seized him. Success awaits him as a Chemical Engineer."

That year, Harrington received his B. S. degree in Chemical Engineering and went to work as an analytical chemist with the Texas Company in Port Arthur. Between June and September of 1924 he worked as a chemist with the Texas Gas Company.

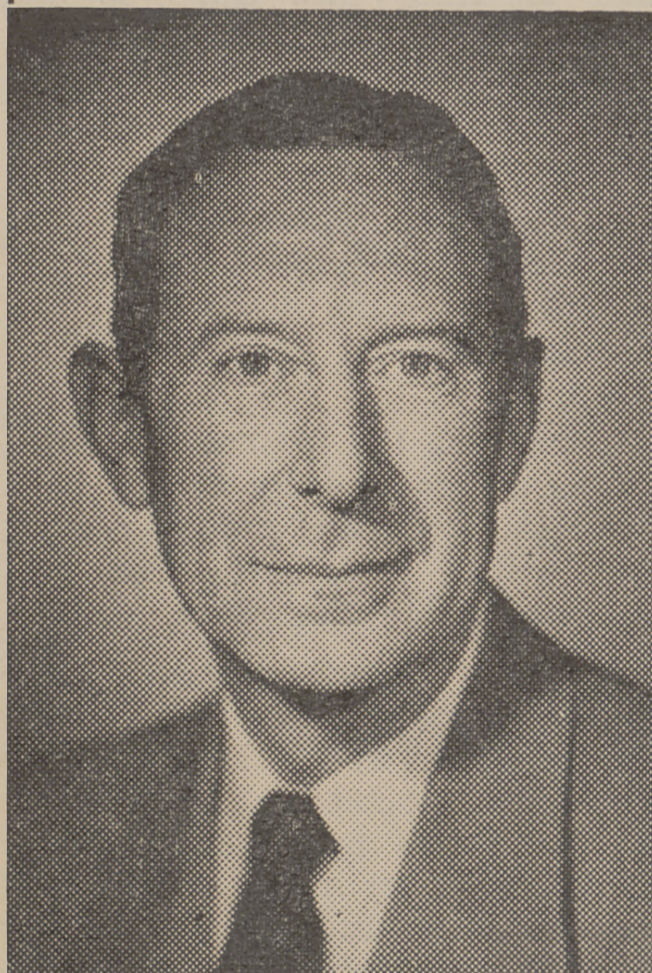
Fate apparently had not intend-

*Cadet Tom Harrington*



*"Success awaits him . . ."*

**M. T. Harrington**



**President, A&M College**

ed for him to be a chemist, though, for he returned to A&M in 1924 to begin a teaching career that led to his present position. His first years back here were spent as an instructor in the Chemistry Department.

He was not long in establishing a reputation as an outstanding lecturer in his field, being particularly gifted in the ability to explain the intricacies of a difficult subject clearly.

He still continued in his own education, too, and, in 1927, received his M.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from A&M. In the ensuing years he was granted a leave of absence to study at MIT, the University of Michigan, the University of Southern California and Iowa State College. He re-

ceived his Ph.D. from the latter school in 1941.

During this time, he had engaged in a few other pursuits, too. One of these netted him his wife, the former Miss Ruth Norris, daughter of Mrs. Wesley Norris, 6441 Gaston Ave., Dallas. In 1933, he married the small, attractive brunette who had been working as librarian at Highland Park High School in Dallas.

Mrs. Harrington, incidentally, was succeeded in that post by her sister, Ester. When three years later, Tom's younger brother, J. O., also an A&M graduate, came over from Plano to marry Ester, the superintendent at Highland Park said he had no intention of hiring any more Norris girls as librarian . . . "at least until I'm  
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