

Former Students' Association

Working For A&M College

By FRANK N. MANITZAS
Battalion Co-Editor

A&M's Association of Former Students is about as old as the college itself.

Founded in 1880, the association has passed through many reorganizations during its 72 years and now includes about 28,000 A&M men on its mailing list. At the beginning, it was known as the Association of Ex-Cadets.

Changes were made again in 1886 and 1896 when the group became known as the Alumni Association of A&M, and later in 1921.

A. F. (Smiley) Mitchell, '09, of Corsicana is president of the association for the coming year. Vice president is J. Harold Dunn, '25, of Amarillo.

Executive secretary, James B. (Dick) Hervey, '42, of College Station keeps the association on the move throughout the year.

The association is governed by council of 185 members that meet on the campus twice a year. The fall meeting of the group will be Saturday and Sunday in the Memorial Student Center.

Receives Present Name

In 1921, the association went through one of its final forms of reorganizing and received its present title. The main difference between the present organization and previous ones is that membership in the association now is available to anyone having enrolled at A&M. The others required graduation for membership.

Through the years, the association has raised funds to provide the college with extra benefits needed, but not available through state funds.

Until 1942, raising of funds for student loans was the FSA's main objective. In the early '40s, funds were available to provide loans to students who could meet basic qualifications. They are: a student must have been enrolled here for at least one semester, have a grade point ratio of about 1.5, and be able to repay the loan in the future.

During the past few years, about \$100,000 was loaned annually to students.

In 1942, the association gave up the charging of annual dues and started the A & M Development

Fund. Now, members are asked to donate gifts each year for the enlargement of the fund.

The fund was started in June, 1942. First project was the building of the Memorial Student Center. During the following three years, \$234,000 was collected and given to the college as the initial fund for the Center.

Other projects of the association include:

- The Gold Star Fund—Started in 1944 and continued the following year, \$50,000 was allotted to help in the education of sons and daughters of A&M men killed in World War II.

- Standards and Colors for Cadet Corps—In 1947, money was given to provide new standards and colors for the Corps.

- Opportunity Award Scholarships—In 1950 and '51, 50 opportunity award scholarships were given at a cost of \$50,000. This increased the original 50 awards given in 1946 at the same cost.

- Endowment Scholarships—In 1947 and '48, an endowment of 160,000 was set up to provide an annual scholarship to an outstanding student.



DIRECT OFFICE—J. B. (Dick) Hervey of College Station is the executive secretary for the Association of Former Students. He maintains the association's office here in the Memorial Student Center.

- Golf Course—In 1949, \$25,000 was given to help in the construction of the golf course.

- Former Student's Directory—In 1949, \$15,000 used to publish a Former Student's directory up through and including the class of 1952.

- Chromium Rifles — In 1949, 135 chromium plated rifles were presented to the Cadet Corps at a cost of \$1,400.

- Gun Cases—In 1951, money was provided for the construction of gun cases to house the Metzger Gun Collection in the Center.

- "Story of Texas A&M"—In 1951, money was provided for the publishing of George Sessions Perry's book, "The Story of Texas A&M."

- President's Emergency Fund—In 1951, \$1,000 was provided as the president's emergency fund.

available to him for use in matters in which state funds are unavailable.

- All-Faith Chapel — In 1952, \$34,000 is now on hand for the building of an all-faith chapel on the campus.

The association ranks among the top 10 colleges and universities in the number and percentage of former students who donate to similar funds. In the last 10 years, \$750,000 has been given by the association to the college.

Besides its fund program, the organization helps in the operating of 175 A&M clubs throughout the world. It also sponsors a football film circulating library, a class reunion program, semi-monthly publication of The Texas Aggie, and conducts 400 musters annually.

The association has been big in its operation, in its donations and usefulness to the college.

College Calendar, 1952-53

(Continued from Page 1)

March

- 2, 3 Aggie Players—"The Miser."
 - 5 Student Senate Meeting.
 - 6 Fish Ball—Sbisa Hall.
 - 7 Third Division Basic Ball Sbisa.
 - 9 MSC Council Meeting.
 - 14 Sports Day, High School Day—Guion Hall.
 - 16 Student Life Committee Meeting.
 - 19 Student Senate Meeting.
 - 27 First Regimental Combat Ball—Sbisa Hall.
 - 28 Military Ball—Sbisa Hall.
 - 29 Singing Cadet Concert—MSC.
 - 30 Mid-Semester Grade Reports.
 - 31 Intramural Fite Nite.
- April**
- 2-6 Spring Recess.
 - 9 Student Senate Meeting.
 - 11 Ross Volunteer Dance—MSC, Sophomore Ball—Sbisa.
 - 13 Annual Meeting, MSC Council.
 - 16 Student Senate Meeting.
 - 16-18 NIRA Rodeo.
 - 18 FFA Regional Judging, FFA Dance, MSC.
 - 20 Student Life Committee Meeting.
 - 21 Aggie Muster.
 - 24 Cotton Pageant, Cotton Ball—Grove.

- 25 Hillel Club Dance—MSC, Spring Dairy Show, Cattleman's Ball—MSC Singing Cadets Banquet.

- 27, 28 Aggie Players—"Harvey."
- 30 Phi Eta Sigma Banquet.

May

- 2 Engineers Ball—MSC, Engineer Convocation—Guion, State FFA Judging.
- 6 Family Picnic Newcomers Club—Grove.
- 7 Student Senate Meeting.
- 8 Aggie Follies.
- 9 Aggie Follies, Little Southwestern Livestock Show, Open House, Texas Chick, Poultry and Egg Show, All College Dance—Grove.
- 10 Parents Day.
- 11 Arts and Science Awards and Merits Convocation—Guion Hall.
- 12 Student Senate Banquet.
- 14 Final Appreciation Intramural Managers Barbeque.
- 15 Press Club Banquet.
- 16 Ring Dance—Grove.
- 18 Student Life Committee Meeting.
- 19 Spring Sports Barbeque.
- 25-29 Semester Examinations.
- 29 Commencement, Baccalaureate, Final Ball.
- 30 Final Review.

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