

Freshman, His Date and Aggieland



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 Battalion Staff Writer
 (ED NOTE: Shirley is the wife of Aggie Senior John Gumert, author of our 'First Corps Trip' story in Section II. A senior journalism student at TSCW, Shirley has written this story based on her own experiences learned while dating her husband during his years at A&M.)

One of the most believable Aggie traditions is that freshmen ALWAYS have the prettiest and greatest number of dates to visit the campus. Whether the occasion is a fall football game or a spring ball, the Fish's dates seem to dominate the scene.

Aggies say that there are many reasons for this tradition. In the interest of poor old seniors who have nothing but boots, water-fights and a glimpse of Fish Jones' date to comfort them on weekends, this article omits the reasons. It is simply directed to girls soon to make their first trips to Aggieland—from one who came to the

campus three years before she earned her MRS.

Fish have their first big dating opportunity on Sept. 22 this fall, for the Villanova game. After you prospective dates have accepted invitations for the weekend (first advice: Do accept promptly.), you may begin to wonder what to expect. For full details, ask a friend who has already been to Aggieland several times. This article is only an outline for you (and your mother).

At A&M, you'll meet a variety of Aggies—your date's buddies, his "Fish Old Lady," his CO, Pinky Colonel Joe and Loupot. Wait and let your Fish explain the present-day Aggies (if he can), but try to be a little informed about Pinky, Colonel Joe and Loupot before you arrive.

Pinky is A&M's official greeter and accurate forecaster of the annual Turkey Day score. His real name is P. L. Downs, Sr. Class of '02, but Pinky is the only handle used for him. Whether he's wearing a bright pink shirt or a conservative business suit, Pinky has the most sincere "Howdy Aggie!" greeting on the campus.

Colonel Joe Davis is the Commandant of the Corps, the advocate of "Old Army" and the ideal of all who plan to go Regular Army. An already famous "cush" question for the Fish is "Which Aggie drowned out Colonel Joe last year?"

It's also good to know as many traditions as possible before you make your first trip to A&M. Get a Freshman Handbook if you can, and learn the "Aggie War Hymn," yells, etc.

You still won't be prepared for tradition at its loudest and best—the Aggies' Twelfth Man support of the football team and famous Aggie band. When you first walk into Kyle Field or go to yell practice, you'll wait for the roar to die down, only to find that Aggies (especially Fish) never stop yelling.

By the way, those are yell leaders, not cheer leaders, out front.

Be able to identify Reveille, the Aggie mascot, too, and know where the tomb of Reveille I is.

And besides that tomb landmark, you'll soon be familiar with the Aggies' own (paint encrusted) Old Sully—a statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross, soldier, statesman and knightly gentleman. There are many traditions about Sully you'll learn. However, if you're a Tessie, be sure to notice his instantaneous salute in your direction. And ask no questions.

Your date may require you to jump off Gathwright Hall, a three-story building. If he lets you eat in Sbsia or Duncan mess hall, you may be surprised at hearing about bull neck, sand, etc. If it weren't for your presence, your date would be wearing his napkin tucked into his collar, too, so don't laugh at the other Fish.

Besides meeting Aggies and learning their traditions, you'll also meet their parents and other Aggies' dates. If you return to the campus often, you'll soon be looking for and finding many familiar friends.

It might be a relief to your mother to know that College Station's hospitality couldn't be more generous. If your date gets you a room in a private home, you'll be staying with people who will become as close as members of your own family. Ready with just the

right amount of advice and speaking enthusiastically about A&M, the family helps make the weekend more complete.

Of course, you may be staying in A&M's fabulous Memorial Student Center or in a hotel or tourist court located near the campus. Such facilities are also above average.

The headliner events this fall will naturally be Aggie football games, but your date will plan many activities besides the game itself. So pack a variety of clothes.

For the game itself, toss a coin as to what to wear. Remember that September in College Station is HOT. However, if you bring only cottons, it'll be sure to snow—or at least rain. Life is against the Aggie date.

Pictures of girls in high heels at Coed-U games may look sophisti-

cated, but there's another side to the story at A&M. Dates planning to become part of the Twelfth Man stand through the entire game and "Saw Varsity's horns off" as enthusiastically in the fourth quarter as in the first minutes of play. Some girls are brave (or maybe blister proof), but your date will probably admire you more if you're able to walk down the ramp in comfortable flats at game's end.

Usually, a dance is squeezed into the weekend schedule at A&M. Your date should be able to tell you whether the dance is formal, semi-formal or casual. Or get a subscription to the Batt and read what it says.

Aggies have several favorite picnic spots near the campus so you may need blue jeans or shorts, too.

DON'T GIVE UP HOPE, THERE'S ALWAYS A WEEK-END—An unidentified senior and his date enjoy Rue Pinalle, A&M's version of a French nightclub at one of the weekend dances during the 1955-56 school year. This is one of the many activities scheduled for those crowded football weekends.



A&M's Famous Singing Cadets

Freshmen Eligible For Singing Cadets

The Singing Cadets are the official "gleeclub" of A&M and have received recognition over the state for their popular singing programs.

All students, including freshmen, are eligible to become a part of this group.

If you are interested, you should contact Bill (Pop) Turner, director of the group, at the Music Hall and arrange for an audition. (Music Hall is located near the South Area Dormitories).

These auditions can be arranged during Freshman Week, first week of regular semester between the hours of 4 p. m. and 6 p. m.

Singing Cadets hold regular weekly rehearsals at the Music Hall and during the fall and spring semesters present numerous con-

certs both on the A&M campus and over the state.

Special holidays are always highlighted by their presentations. Concerts are held on Christmas, Mothers' Day, Aggie Muster Day and a regular spring concert.

Besides these programs the Cadets travel to such cities as Dallas, Sherman, Abilene, Gonzales, Fort Worth, Mt. Pleasant, Laredo, San Antonio and Denton—to mention a few of the towns the group visited last year.

Usually numbering about 50 men, The Singing Cadets are presented with keys each year for their participation. The group elects administrative officers each spring who serve during the following year.

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