

Traditions, Customs Make A&M Unique



WASHING DOWN OLD SULLY—Squadron 13 Fish give Sully his first washing and polish job for the 1955-56 semester. (This was in Sept. '55). This is how traditions begin at A&M. The members of Squadron 13 plan to be the first to wash and polish Sully each year from now on.

Since A&M was established in 1876, its customs and traditions have grown to help make this school one of the most unique in the world.

For the past 80 years customs and traditions have come and gone at A&M, some remaining only a few weeks while others have lasted nearly the whole time. It is these which make the school rich in its heritage.

Probably the first tradition and one of the most important is that "Once an Aggie always an Aggie". The class of 1880, first to graduate is said to have inaugurated it to promote school spirit. Today as we Aggies travel around the country we often meet one of these Aggies from older classes who inevitably greets us as a long lost brother and goes all out to make us feel at home. This custom of sticking together is now world known, and wherever two Aggies meet, no matter what their ages, there is sure to be much handshaking and back slapping.

Another great custom at Aggie-land is speaking to and meeting everyone you come in contact with. This custom isn't as old as most of us may think. F. J. Mikeska, '28, now an engineer in Shreveport, La., says when he went to school here nobody spoke as they do now. This has changed now, however, as you all so well know. The familiar "howdy" rings from dawn to dark throughout the campus.

Another tradition which dates well back into the beginning of the school is the custom of the senior ring. The first Aggie senior ring was worn by the class of 1894. The design has changed very little, so today we still wear the ring designed by that class.

The tradition of class distinction stems from the military training at A&M. The adage "rank hath its privileges" is very true here. The senior is the top dog and his word is law. The junior enjoys some prestige over the sophomore and the "fish" who are low men on the ladder. By the way "fish" is the name given the freshman by one of the classes in the 1880's, which one is not exact. The "fish" catches all the little messy jobs and lives only for the next year.

The Aggie has a language all his own. A person eating in one of the cadet mess halls would likely starve unless initiated in the Aggie mess hall slang. For example meat is called "bullneck", butter is "grease"; beans, "artillery"; dessert, "cush"; and syrup, "reg", a term which stemmed from the early 20th century cadets' name of "regulator" given syrup, because it was then sent in big 100 pound barrels. By the time the cooks reached the bottom of the barrel, fermentation had set in and made it into a very effective laxative.

Other terms which are familiar to the Aggie are "Bull", which means one of the Army officers

stationed here to teach military science; "the gate", meaning the North gate business district; and one of the most important words to every Aggie—"sack", meaning his own bunk where he catches as catch can, 40 winks.

The Corps Trips are another tradition which is of long standing. Today the Corps Trips are made by automobile to the cities to watch football games, but in the early days the school would rent a train and the entire Corps would pile in and chug away to the game.

There are many traditions involving Corps Trips. One of the most widely known is the Twelfth Man tradition. It started in 1922 when the Aggies played a football game against Centre College in Dallas. The opponents were tearing the Ag's up and the reserves on the Aggie bench were fast dwindling away. When the coach was down to his last reserve a young sophomore named King Gill, who had worked out with the team several times dashed out of the stands where he was sitting and suited up. Gill didn't get to play, but his gesture gave the school its famous tradition and today during the football games the entire student body, dates and anyone who happens to be in the Aggie section stands while the team is playing, ready to go in as the Twelfth man.

Another Corps Trip tradition which is not as pleasant as the Twelfth man tradition concerns the trip to Waco, for the Baylor game in the 20's. During the game there was a fight between several of the students from both schools. In the fight an Aggie was killed accidentally by a thrown chair. The entire Corps left the game, stole the train they had come from college on, and returned to A&M to load up the cavalry and artillery. The Aggies worked all night loading the train with the small army of cadets in full battle dress,

with the intent of going back to Waco and leveling the campus of Baylor. The Governor called out the National Guard however, and the train was stopped before it got to Waco. For this reason there has never been another Corps Trip to Baylor and there probably never be, such is the bitterness over the event.

Another custom at A&M is Final Review, which is held on the last day before final exams in the Spring. At this time the Corps stages a full dress review on the main drill field. After once passing by the reviewing stand under the command of the seniors the

command is turned over to the juniors, next years seniors and they march by saluting the graduating seniors.

Uniform customs change as do the uniforms. At one time the campaign hat was worn and you could tell a cadet class by the way he wore his hat. Today the cadets wear the overseas type cap but they have retained a different style of wearing it for each class.

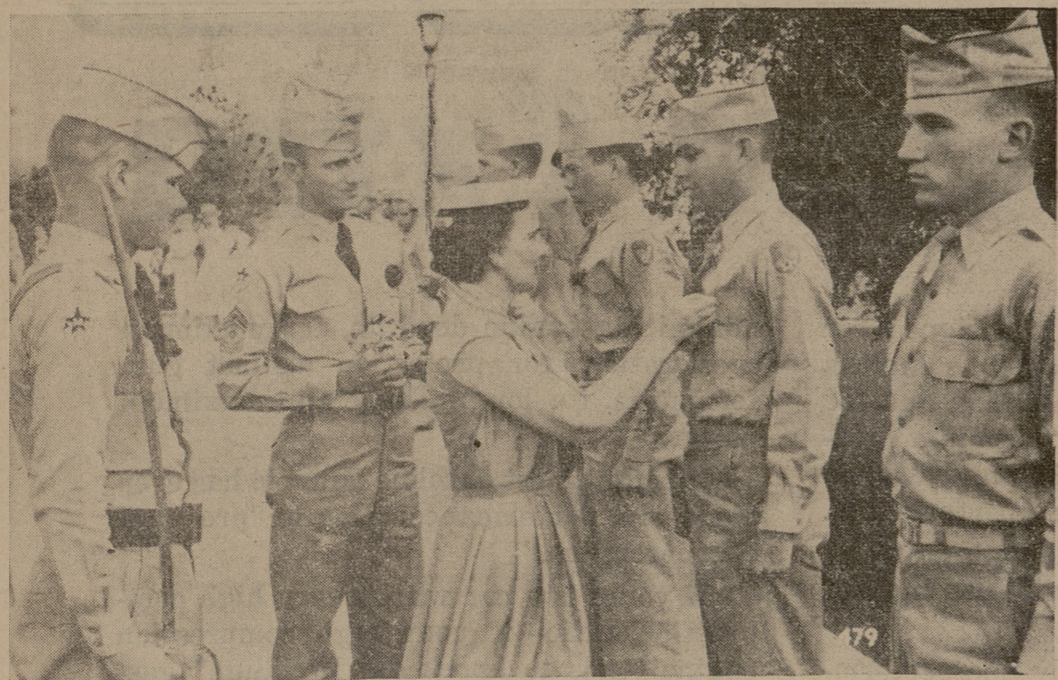
There are many solemn and beautiful ceremonies at A&M. The Aggie Muster held each year on April 21 to commemorate Aggie killed during the year throughout (See TRADITIONS, Page 6)



SIGNING UP FRESHMEN ELECTIONS—Last year's freshmen talk to Doris Bahlman, clerk in Student Activities Department, as they fill out cards to file in Freshmen class elections. These are held in the fall semester each year. The vice-president of the Freshmen Class represents his class in the Student Senate.

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Green BELL PEPPERS 2 lbs. 25c	Fresh GROUND MEAT 1b. 29c
Green CABBAGE 2 lbs. 9c	Meaty SHORT RIBS 1b. 29c
Yellow ONIONS 2 lbs. 15c	RUMP ROAST 1b. 49c
	Square Cut SHOULDER ROAST . . 1b. 39c
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