

# A&M President Earl Rudder Noted Educator, Soldier and Statesman

When Earl Rudder was promoted to president of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas recently, he brought to that office a rare combination of educator, businessman, soldier and statesman.

The career of A&M's new president has been distinctive in many fields and especially in the military, and had his accomplishments been limited to that field alone, he would, no doubt, be numbered among the great graduates of the College of which he is now the president.

But Rudder's career has also been outstanding in the field of politics, and especially for his major role in rebuilding the Veterans' Land Program as Texas Land Commissioner; he has earned a respected place in Texas history.

He also has been successful in business, and as a teacher and football coach.

Now, Rudder faces a new challenge in an otherwise already illustrious career; that of being president of Texas' oldest institution of higher learning. He is facing this new job with the same enthusiasm and devotion which made him one of the most decorated Texas soldiers of World War II. Probably General Omar Bradley's statement in 1944 that "no soldier in my command has ever been wished a more difficult task than that which befell the 34-year-old commander (Rudder) of this Provisional Ranger Force," is apropos at this time.

A farm boy from Concho county, Rudder worked his way through

John Tarleton Agricultural College, and the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. He graduated from A&M in 1932 with a Bachelor of Science degree after having lettered in football.

After a brief period of employment with the State Highway Department, Rudder began coaching football and teaching at Brady High School. In 1938, he returned

to John Tarleton College as a football coach and teacher. He was at Tarleton in 1941 when he was called to active duty in the Army as a first lieutenant.

Rudder was sent to England with his 2nd Ranger Battalion just before D-Day. He had organized and trained this outfit which was to have the "most difficult task", as Bradley said, in

the Normandy invasion; scaling the 100 ft. cliffs at Pointe du Hoc. Later in the campaign as commander of the 109th Infantry Regiment, Rudder's forces were instrumental in helping stop the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge.

The decorated soldier returned to Brady after the war and engaged in various business enterprises. He served as Mayor of Brady from 1946 to 1952, and in 1953 was employed by the Brady Aviation Company as vice president in charge of public relations and labor relations.

On Jan. 4, 1955, Rudder was appointed Commissioner of the General Land Office of the State of Texas. He stepped into an office shaken by scandals in the Veterans' Land Program. In time, suspicion surrounding the program dissolved and the office was returned to a place of integrity and respect. While Commissioner, Rudder promoted the interests of the two great educational funds, the Permanent School Fund and the Permanent University Fund, which form the foundation of the public and higher education systems of Texas. Both funds increased by more than one-third during his three years as Land Commissioner. Texans named Rudder to his first elective term as Commissioner of the General Land Office in 1956.

Resigning the Land post to accept the vice presidency of A&M in February, 1958, Rudder has been the chief executive officer of the College since. He was named president on July 1 of this year.

The new president's honors, decorations and awards form a long, impressive list, but the modest, hard-working educator would rather talk about the future growth and development of his alma mater, A&M, than about past accomplishments. And if past experience is a measuring stick, we will venture that Earl Rudder, soldier, statesman, businessman and educator will give A&M the leadership it needs in this epochal period of its history.

## Civilian Students Headed by Council

An important organization on the campus composed only of civilian students is the Civilian Student Council, the policy making body of the civilian students at A&M.

In the past the CSC has played important roles in the honor code, the football seating situation, the parking situation, the Aggie Sweetheart selection, Parents' Day, faculty awards and many others.

Charles W. Graham, Thorndale, was elected president of the 1959-60 council at the council's last meeting in the Senate Chamber of the Memorial Student Center.

Graham, a senior veterinary medicine major and representative to the council from College View served as vice president on last year's council.

Arthur Roland Dommert, Crowley, La., was elected vice president. A senior veterinary medicine major, Dommert was treasurer on last year's council.

Other officers elected were Mike Carlo, secretary; Ben Havard, treasurer; and James Hall, parliamentarian.

Robert O. Murray, Jr., acts as advisor to the council. New members to this year's council are included in the following:

James Lively, Navasota; Michael J. Carlo, Alamo; John Garner, Livingston; Thomas Butler, Corpus Christi; Larry Clark, Fort Worth; Jim Hall, College Station; Dusty Thames, Plainview; Kenneth Dorris, Fort Worth; Guy Pittman, College Station; and Wayne Allen, Jacksonville.

## Valuable Grant Given Foundation

The A&M Research Foundation recently has received a \$17,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to support research in the Department of Oceanography and Meteorology.

The grant will support a two-year study of the reef environments and the carbonate deposits of Campeche Bank for a better understanding of the relationship of the deposits, biology and the water mass.

Dr. R. G. Bader, associate professor of oceanography, is the principal investigator, and Brian Logan, a research scientist in the department, is the associate investigator.

## Advisory Council For Journalism Named by College

A 17-member statewide advisory council has been named by A&M to work with and assist the Department of Journalism, President Earl Rudder has announced.

The council has named J. Harve Washington, director of employee communications, Continental Oil Co., Houston, chairman and L. O. Tiedt, farm reporter, KTRH-TV, Houston, secretary.

Other members of the council are Bert Brandt, photographer, Frank Fields, Humble Oil and Refining Co., Gene Robbins, Chamber of Commerce, John H. Murphy, executive director, Texas Daily Newspaper Assn., all of Houston; James E. Knight, public relations director, ALCOA Rockdale plant; Ed Ray, managing editor, San Antonio Express and News; C. G. Seruggs, associate editor, Progressive Farmer, Ben H. Decherd, Dallas Morning News, T. H. Maloy, regional public relations manager, Safeway Stores, J. P. McEvoy, Time Inc., all of Dallas; Calvin Pigg, farm editor, WBAP-TV, Fort Worth; Pat Taggart, general manager, Waco News Tribune; Tom Whitehead, president, Texas Press Assn., Brenham; Robert Whitten, publisher, Navasota Examiner and Windell Shannon, president, The Herald Coaster, Rosenberg.

## A Good Choice

The over 2,000 freshmen who will enroll in the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas Sept. 17 will embark on one of the most important phases of their life—that of obtaining a college education. This Class of 1963 has no doubt chosen one of the best institutions available in the state of Texas. It is an institution staffed with able instructors, all who are dedicated to their profession and all who are striving to make Texas A&M the best institution of higher learning.

This new class is most fortunate in having two men like Chancellor M. T. Harrington and President Earl Rudder calling the signals for the College. The two, both graduates of Texas A&M, are close friends—friends who stand together to make this College an institution of progress and an institution that will prepare a man for any work he chooses. Dedicated to the goodwill and future of the College, the two men will surely see that Texas A&M stands high in the circles of higher education.

The years ahead while at A&M will be tough ones for this new class. There will be many hours of discouragement and hardship, but still there will be hours of success, companionship and happiness. As the years pass, memories will gather—good memories—and these freshmen will look back and smile at the hours of hardship. Yes, they will look back on the memories this vast campus has instilled in them and say, as does every Aggie—"It's great to be a Texas Aggie."

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