



'Welcome' Greets Visitors

One of the first parts of the A&M campus visible to persons approaching the college is the elevated water storage tank. On the sides of the tank are written "Welcome to Aggieland". Also on the tank are the insignia of the various branches of the U. S. Army.

Freshman Wins Essay Contest On Advantages Found at A&M

(Editor's Note: For the past two years, C. L. Babcock, '20, Beaumont insurance man and former editor of The Battalion, has sponsored essay contests on the good of A&M to its students. The first contest was on "Texas A&M—What It Means To Me." The contest conducted last spring by Babcock through The Battalion was on "The Advantages I Find at Texas A&M" and was won by Harry Pendery, a freshman preparatory-dental major from Fort Worth. The award carries with it a \$250 award for first prize. The essay is being republished in this Freshman Edition of The Battalion in order that incoming students may get a picture of A&M through the eyes of a student.

By HARRY PENDERY

"I believe the advantages of A&M lie in its ability to provide for the scholastic as well as social needs of its students.

"Like many other recent graduates from high school, I was faced with the immediate decision of choosing a college to continue my education. Another problem which caused me concern was that of choosing a major course of study. I avoided making these decisions for fear of making the wrong one.

"After consulting many college bulletins and talking with many people who are enrolled in dif-

ferent colleges, I began to take special notice of Texas A&M. The young men I talked to from A&M seemed to have something extra when they talked about the school. They seemed to take special pride in being called "Aggies," and seemed to be more than anxious for me to choose A&M.

"When seeking further information, I found most people to have great respect for "Aggies," and for the school. This, in addition to that "something extra" found in A&M students, turned my attention more than ever to A&M, and I felt that I should consider it seriously before I would be able to choose the right college.

"Having reached a tentative decision to attend A&M, I wrote the registrar for further information and for entry application blanks. I received a prompt reply in the form of a personal letter of encouragement, accompanied by other information about curricula and by application blanks. I was impressed by the different courses of study offered by the school. A part of the material sent to me told about the Basic Division at A&M. This was the answer to one of my problems—that of choosing a major course of study.

"The Basic Division offered special guidance and training by competent instructors for the purpose of helping young men choose a vocation, based on their aptitudes.

In addition, I found A&M to be rated very high scholastically. Combined, these reasons seemed to offer what I wanted to get out of college.

"I found the answer to another pressing problem that most students face, that of having enough money for a college education. A&M being a state supported school, I found the cost of tuition, as well as room and board, to be very reasonable and within the range of my finances.

"My first dealings with the staff at A&M came during the late summer when I had to report to take a series of tests. I was greatly impressed with my first view of the beautiful, famous A&M campus; however, my best impression of A&M came from the friendly manner of the staff members who extended a helping hand to all the students taking the tests. Their warm attitude, combined with the friendliness of the students, further revealed to me the qualities of "Aggieland."

"As the day of departure from home and old friends neared, I felt depressed, but confident I had chosen the right school. Upon arrival at "Aggieland" I immediately became lost in the mass of strange people from different walks of life, further complicated by the upperclassmen, who informed us of the traditions of "Aggieland." Through the process

of "whipping out" (introducing oneself to strangers) these new faces became those of friends, and my shyness in meeting new people was soon a thing of the past.

"Immediately I seemed to be lost in my studies, with no hope of ever getting out of the "failure"

category. However, after special interviews with the helpful professors and counselors of the Basic Division, I gradually learned what was expected of me. I found studying to be like a job, involving hard work and much effort on my part.

"The Corps of Cadets I found at this point, played a very important role. In each "outfit" there is a scholastic officer who has the special job of checking progress in grades. I found in the Corps attitudes favorable to (See FRESHMAN on Page 8)

A&M Boasts Proud History Of Military School Tradition

Since 1876 when A&M first opened its doors with six students it has had a military school.

The college has shouldered wholeheartedly its responsibilities for teaching military training under the National Land-Grant Education System.

For many years A&M has had the largest military school in the United States.

It is now one of six military colleges.

At least two years of military training are required of all students, except veterans, physically handicapped, foreign nationals, men over 21 years of age and transfer students with more than 30 credit hours.

Organized by military units and living under military supervision, the cadets wear their uniforms

throughout the school year.

In World War I 52 former students died in military service.

Following the war the New York Sun, in an analysis of war participation by American colleges and universities, declared that A&M had furnished a greater proportion of its alumni as commissioned officers than any other school.

The Reserve Officers Training Corps was inaugurated at A&M in 1920. Since that year basic military training and understanding has been given to more than 41,000 young men.

At this time training is offered in both the Army and Air Force. Advanced ROTC training, leading to commissions in the Officers Reserve Corps, was given to approximately 7,000 men before the program was discontinued under

the emergencies of World War II.

By December 7, 1941, some 5,000 reserve officers, trained at A&M were already on active duty helping to weld the army that was to win World War II.

An outstanding illustration of that group were the 46 young Texans, A&M-trained reserve officers on duty at Corregidor and Bataan. Their epic of fighting ability in the face of insurmountable odds is military history.

In addition to some 7,000 reserve officers trained and commissioned at A&M, the college takes pride in at least another 7,000 officers of World War II. They received from the college varying degrees of military training that enabled them to quickly enter officer candidate school and to better play

(See A&M on Page 3)

Good Note-Taking Insures Grades in College Courses

Don't drop your pencil while a lecture is in process. This is one of the first things you as a freshman will need to know at A&M.

Good note-taking is very important if you expect your college days to be successful ones. It is a smart freshman who will listen in class and take notes of "everything" the professor says. College professors move their

lectures at a rapid pace and you must be alert in order to keep up with their pace.

Keep your notes where they are easy to find and read them over every chance you get. With a good set of notes and a good interpretation of the text book, that first quiz, one of your biggest mountains to climb, will seem easy.

Welcome Freshmen to Shoe Headquarters for TEXAS AGGIES

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