

Twelfth Man Tradition Enjoys Nationwide Fame

A&M's Twelfth Man tradition enjoys long-time far-reaching fame and proof of this was sent to The Battalion recently by Ben Trotter, '59, who is stationed at Fort Banks, Mass., near Boston, Mass.

The clipping is from the Boston (Mass.) Herald and is a reprint of a May 15, 1946, column of noted Sports Columnist Bill Cunningham. Cunningham died recently and some of his best columns are being reprinted.

Following are excerpts of the column which give a first-hand account of the Twelfth Man tradition:

"There's been a little touch of Texas around here lately, Strang-uh! For one thing, an old Fort Worth boy, Col. (Kentucky, that is) Alvin N. McMillin, has been here brushing up on his culture. Amongst those he's been brushing it up with is an old Dallas boy, Col. (likewise Kentucky, that is) E. William Cunningham, who chances to be oversigned.

"We're a couple of black land mavericks who strayed long ago, darned nearly strayed together as a matter of fact, but didn't, and it was funny to find ourselves sitting side by side as imported guests at the very happy banquet of the local chapter of the University of Indiana Alumni. There was nothing funny about Col. McMillin's being there. He is the distinguished coach of the Cream & Crimson Fighting Hoosiers, who last season won the football championship of the mighty Western Conference, and landed the Col in the top spot as "Coach of the Year."

"Myself? I was present to pay my respects—with a few well chosen words—and I paid 'em. "The Col., of course, is the famed Bo McMillin, the Centre College All-American quarterback of 1919-20 and the gentleman who won fame in his time by defeating Harvard singlehanded with one of the most sensational solo feats in the history of Harvard Stadium.

"Bo was the rabbit-legged quarterback and captain, to the best of my memory, of the North Fort Worth High School eleven. I was the dashing center rush and captain—no, come to think of it, I was a blocking back that last year—of the Terrill School team of Dallas.

"The local A&M alumni of the region were very active, to state it quaintly. Uncle Charley Moran was the A&M coach, but he got

himself into conflict with the powers that were and quit, or he was fired. I never knew which. He promptly came up, however, with a new connection far to the northeast of our native prairies. It seemed the name of the place was Centre College, and it appeared to be located in a place called Danville, Ky.

"Bo and the rest has become warmly attached to Uncle Charles and they decided to go up into the borderlands with him. They did, and the rest is history. It was super-terrific history in 1919, '20 and '21.

"I wasn't so warmly urged as the rest to go, as it was mostly a Ft. Worth deal, and anyhow, at that point the Dartmouth Club of Texas, or so the three or four brethren called themselves, decided to install a Dartmouth scholarship in the prep school I had the honor to attend. I decided to shoot for it.

"There were but two of us 'working our ways through Dartmouth.' I worked mine playing the piano in chapel mornings, and whatever was current on the athletic field afternoons. The other self-helper helped with the janitorial and the grounds. He wasn't a bad tackle, either, as great eastern throngs were due to see shortly.

"And, in hindsight, it's funny still how it all worked out. I got back to the home country ahead of Bo and the rest, and was only fairly well broken in as a newspaper cub on the city side, which means the news side, of The Dallas Morning News, when that great Centre team dropped off in Dallas on its way back from the Coast to play what amounted to an exhibition game for the benefit of the North Texas folks—mostly their own folks.

"This was to be their last game as an historic team, and, oddly enough, this same Texas A&M was to furnish the opposition. The Texas Aggies of those days were-

n't the mighty machine they later became. In fact, this affair was expected to rank with the Alamo as a one-sided slaughter.

"A Boston paper with which I'd filed my name as a possible correspondent in that particular district wired me to send a routine 500 words and the lineup. I had never written a sports story before and was a little uncertain about the whole business, but the sort of miracle a man in the field of sports literature waits half his life to see blew loose in that stadium that afternoon. The pitiful Texas club came out of its locker room crying and fighting and proceeded to murder the great nationalized eleven.

"So there, a fledgling, I sat with the greatest sports story of the time in my lap. In fact, it was one of the greatest of all time. It reeked with color, drama.

"There was a great story angle in the fact that the Texas team used up everything it had on the bench, and the coach sent up into the stands to get a sub who hadn't 'made the trip' but had paid his own way to be a spectator and was sitting up there with his girl. This swain, hastily summoned, was rushed below, hurried into a suit and thrown into the fray where he starred all over the place.

Began Tradition "This latter, incidentally began a tradition at A&M which holds today and which runs the opposition, and most of the audience, crazy. It's that every A&M student must stand up and cheer every minute of every contest an A&M team is in. That's their tribute to that sub, whose name I've forgotten. The slogan of the school ever since has been, 'The Stands Are the Twelfth Man on the Football Team. Play Your Game.'

"That story got me my job in Boston.

"That was 25 years ago. "Thanks, Bo."



Doing Laboratory Work

All students at A&M will have at least one laboratory course during their stay here and those majoring in technical fields will find that their schedule will be filled with them. This group of students is at work in one of

the advanced science laboratories. Laboratories are required in courses ranging from freshman biology and chemistry to advanced nuclear engineering.

Singing Cadets Welcome New Voices to Organization

Back in 1906 at Aggieland, ten students got together and organized their own singing group.

Today this group is known as "The Singing Cadets" and consists of 55 members. Under the direction of Robert C. Boons, the group gives concerts at schools, colleges and civic organizations throughout the South.

The members are majoring in architecture, engineering, veterinary medicine, liberal arts; in fact, they are from practically every major subject in college. None of the members plan to make singing their career.

"The Singing Cadets," dressed in special uniforms, have sung with the Houston Symphony Orchestra and many other organizations and they have traveled to almost all parts of Texas and the South to give concerts.

They practice each day from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Music Hall—and

they like it—they get pleasure from their work. They have and are bringing choral entertainment that has and is drawing the plaudits from noted musicians and singers throughout the land.

Their record album has surpassed all other similar college albums in sales—over 11,000 have been sold to date.

Overseas and in the far corners

of the United States, former students of A&M demand their record albums—and with one accord say, "The Singing Cadets are tops."

All students interested in joining this colorful group should contact Boone, director of the Singing Cadets, in the Memorial Student Center. Several trips are planned during the coming year.



Checking Mail

New students will find checking their mail a daily habit and will always welcome a letter from their parents or that special girl (or girls as is the case with most Aggies). There are two U. S. Post Offices located on the campus, one near each dormitory area.

Two Post Offices Serve Mail Needs of Students

While a student at A&M you will be wanting to hear from your folks, your girls and other friends. This poses the question of just how does a person receive mail at A&M.

Mail is delivered at two places on the campus. One is at the main post office at the North Gate, the other is the post office in the Memorial Student Center.

You will have to go by either of these two places and fill out an application for a post office box. This is where you will receive your mail. Be sure to do this as soon as you are assigned a room so that you can pick the post office nearest your dormitory.

The college does have a special delivery service, therefore it is important that you give your correct room number when filling out the card for the post office

box. Immediate delivery is made in the special delivery department.

A&M BOASTS

(Continued from Page 1) their part in the great emergency program of training a victorious military force.

Six former students of A&M have been awarded the Medal of Honor for exceptional bravery in World War II—all but two of the awards being posthumous.

A&M trains citizens soldiers—trained men to be available for military service in a war emergency.

That it has well met that objective is evidenced by the splendid performance of its sons and by these overall figures of its training program in round numbers.

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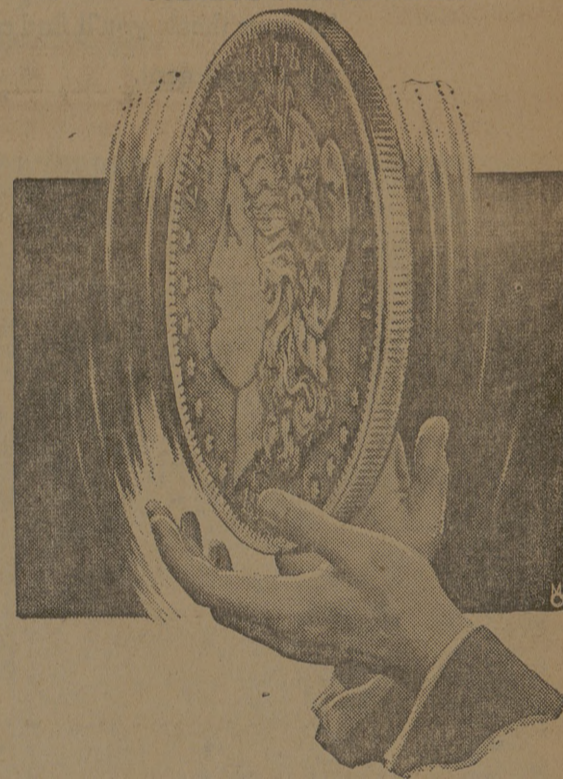
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