

# Morrill Act Paves The Way

Because of an act passed by an enemy congress during time of bitter war, Texas A&M College stands today after 85 years of growth and progress.

In July of 1862, President Abraham Lincoln authorized the Morrill Act permitting the federal government to offer each state a grant of public lands which could be used to raise funds for establishing colleges specializing in agriculture and the mechanical arts.

The War Between the States

was still raging, and it was four years later before a financially-void State of Texas Legislature could vote to accept the terms, under reconstruction rule.

First step in setting up the college was a 180,000-acre land grant given the state by the federal government. The acres sold for 87 cents apiece, bringing in \$174,000 which was invested in seven per cent frontier defense bonds.

This was the college's first endowment, accompanied by a

\$75,000 appropriation for the first building.

After the funds were obtained, next on the list was selecting a location for the college. One as near to the center of the state's population mass was necessary, and a nearness of railroad service was also needed. Bryan was the place.

But saloons and taverns on every corner of the frontier Texas town caused the location to be placed five miles south, in a spot thick with dewberries. A

stake was driven in the ground, and the legislative committee sent to pick the spot declared: "Here we'll build the college."

Land was donated by people of Brazos County, 2,416 acres, and building commenced. Unfortunately, the college ran out of money with only the foundations for its two original buildings completed.

More money was raised, and a main building, combination mess hall and dormitory, and five resi- (See FOUNDING on Page 3)

**A&M Campus—1894**  
The A&M Campus in 1894 was little more than scattered buildings on a barren prairie. and the old Main Building are in the center, and Pfeiffer Hall is on the right. None of the structures are now standing. On the far left is Austin Hall. Ross Hall

## United Chest Adopts Goal

A goal of \$16,200 for support of fifteen agencies was formally adopted last night by the College Station United Chest Board of Directors.

This is an increase of \$1,050 over last year's campaign goal. Dr. John C. Calhoun, general chairman, announced, and reflects the growth of community services required of the Chest.

The budget will be allotted in four general areas: youth, \$6,400; recreation, \$2,000; welfare, \$4,800, and medical, \$2,700. An allocation

of \$300 has been made for campaign expenses.

Agencies that will participate in the fund, and the amounts recommended for each by the Budget and Admissions Committee, are:

American Red Cross, \$2,000; Boys' Clubs of America, \$500; Boy Scouts, \$2,000; Brazos Committee on Alcoholism, \$300; Brazos Valley Crippled Children's Therapy Center, \$1,800.

Brazos County Hospital Fund, \$300; Brazos County Youth Counseling Service, 1,400; Bryan-College Station Girl Scouts Area Council, \$2,500; College Station Community House, Inc., \$350; College Station Recreational Council, \$1,700; Salvation Army, \$750.

Texas Rehabilitation Center, \$300; Texas United Fund, \$750; College Station YMCA, \$300; College Station Local Chest Charity Fund, \$950.

The board set the dates of Nov. 1-15 for the campaign.

Members of the Campaign Committee to be in charge of the drive for funds are Chairman K. A. Manning, Gus Watkins, Irwin Lloyd, Taylor Riedel, M. L. Cashion, and Mrs. C. W. Pewther.

## Folklore Paper Wins Penrod Third Place

John Penrod, '63 English major from San Antonio, has won third place in the 1961 Student Paper Contest sponsored by the Texas Folklore Society.

His paper, "Los Corridos de Mexico," is a study of Mexican ballads which he collected from Latin American A&M students and from visits to Mexico.

The paper was one of four submitted from a class in folklore taught by Dr. John Q. Anderson of the Department of English, a former president of the Texas Folklore Society.

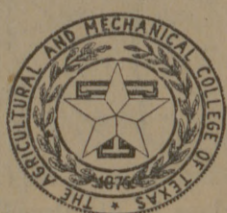
The student paper contest in which Penrod's paper placed is conducted annually by the Texas Folklore Society and is open to all students in senior colleges in Texas.

In addition to a small money prize for the first place winner, other papers are considered for publication in the annual volume of folklore published by the society.

The volume of 1960, "Singers and Storytellers," includes a student paper entitled "Ghost Stories from a Texas Ghost Town" by Tucker Sutherland, '60 who wrote the paper while he was a student under Anderson.

Anderson will offer the course in folklore and folksongs again this spring.

## 85TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



# THE BATTALION

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# Band Gets Lubbock Trip; Special Train Scheduled

## 'Fish' Of 1889 Had His Troubles

By GERRY BROWN  
Battalion Staff Writer

"A prolonged shrill whistle—the train stops. 'College Station' sounds in the ear of the young man who is seated in one of the coaches and looking out the window, eager to catch a glimpse of his destination, the A&M College of Texas, of which he intends to become a fish."

This was the setting in 1889 when Charles Prokisch, a newly arrived freshman, first came to A&M. We know of his story because in the December 1889 issue of the College Journal, forerunner of The Battalion, Prokisch published his personal story called "Experiences Of A Fish."

After leaving the station house he was questioned by the surrounding cadets as to his name, hometown and other important things. Upon arriving at his dormitory the new "fish" was welcomed by other cadets already present and shown to a room by the quartermaster.

Deciding that he could use a short nap the "fish" climbed into his bunk only to be interrupted by loud murmurs in the hall. Suddenly the door flew open and our "fish" found himself confronted

by "a motley crowd who are apparently as blood thirsty as tigers."

Before he could utter a word he found himself thrown on his bed, back upwards, and a good deal of "strap oil" applied to the posterior part of his body. After each member of the worthy assembly had had their turns, our "fish" mentions that they withdrew leaving him contemplating on what he has gotten himself into.

Within the first few days our "fish" became so shy as to scent danger at every step and "wished that he had never seen this place." Soon, however, with his enrollment in a company and the commencing of his military exercises he found that he had forgotten the troubles of everyday life. And, Prokisch recalled, after "several years of hard work and the victory is won, he looks back upon this initial period with a proud feeling and when the moment of parting comes, with a sigh of regret he bids his companions farewell."

So ended the story of a "fish" who in 1889 came to face the same problems that face the present "fish" who is a member of the class of '65, or the future "fish" who will represent the class of '86.

## Seniors Eligible For Fellowships In Theology

The Rockefeller Foundation is awarding a one-year fellowship to graduating seniors who may be interested in attending graduate theological school.

Fellowships are awarded to those who are not now planning to attend graduate theological school but who would be willing, if awarded a fellowship, to attend such a school for one year in order to consider the ordained ministry. The program is not designed for those who have definitely made up their minds to go into the ministry.

The fellowship for unmarried and married men without children provides for room, board, tuition, fees, and \$500 for books and miscellaneous personal expenses. Married men with children are granted the same plus \$1,000 dependency allowance for their wives and a \$300 allowance for each child.

If, at the end of his first year of theological school, the holder of the fellowship decides the ministry is not his calling, he will be free to withdraw without repayment of the fees.

Nominees must be male, no older than 30, and citizens of the U. S. or Canada.

## Lubbock Aggies Host Bandsmen

Leaving Caldwell at 7 a.m. Saturday, members of the Aggie Band will embark to West Texas as special guests of the Lubbock A&M Club, with enticing weekend scheduled for all members.

Special transportation arrangements have been made with the Santa Fe Railroad, and the Band, 277 strong, will be traveling in a new, split-level tourist coach train designed for the scenic run between Chicago and California.

Personal automobiles will be used to transport Band members from A&M to Caldwell, and the cars will be parked at the depot and guarded all weekend while the unit is in Lubbock.

"The Santa Fe Railroad really went all-out this time providing us luxury coaches; we've used them on several trips, including one to California, Oklahoma and to Lubbock," said Col. E. V. Adams, band director.

Brownwood will be the first stop on the trip, with a Coke break sponsored by the Brownwood A&M Mother's Club, who will furnish drinks for the band members during lunch time on the train. The break is at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch at 11:15.

Because of facilities on the train, which is designed with two levels, the top for sitting and seeing and the bottom for baggage and toilet facilities, members will be able to shave and clean up before arrival (See BAND on Page 4)

## Aggie Players Offer Shaw's 'Candida' As 2nd Production

"Candida," a production revolving around an 1895 London setting and written by George Bernard Shaw, will be the Aggie Players' second feature of the fall season according to Vic Weining, director of the play.

With a cast of six, the sophisticated comedy will be presented Dec. 4-9 "in the round" on the stage of Guion Hall.

Members of the cast are John Donald Deliz, as Marchbanks; Sharon Prisk, Candida; Ruth Ann Simmons, Prossy; Sam Cely, Burgess; Dave Lee, Lexy, and John Paxson, as Rev. Morrell.

Dr. E. E. Stokes of the Department of English will speak to the cast next Oct. 12, on interpretation of the play.

## ACCOMPLISHMENT REVIEWED ON BIRTHDAY

# A&M Seeks Bigger Things In Next 85 Years

By ALAN PAYNE  
Battalion News Editor

A&M quietly celebrated its 85th birthday yesterday and immediately began looking forward to even bigger and better things in the future.

Fifteen years remain before the first centennial celebration, but these years promise great things—mainly through the efforts of the Century Council.

From an enrollment of 40 in the fall of 1876, the school has grown to 7,694 students and over 50 academic departments and divisions.

In the first year of its existence, A&M's enrollment jumped from 40 on Oct. 4, to 100 in January and 331 in the spring.

In these first early years, accommodations were insufficient for anything like this number. The second and third floors of Gathright Hall and the second, third and part of the fourth floor of the Main Building were used for barracks.

During cold winter months, students kept these rooms warm with fire wood. Each student had his own axe, cut his own wood at the common wood pile and carried it to his room in his arms.

Wood piles were kept outside each building with the owner's name above each, roughly on this order, "This is John Jones' wood pile. Keep your hands off it!"

The first floor of Gathright Hall was used as a dining hall, with classes held on the first floor of the Main Building.

As for the actual campus in these early days, one professor said:

"The campus was such a wild waste that it was not considered safe for children to be out at night. The howling of wolves provided nightly seranades. On one occasion, a wild animal wandering over the campus threw the whole community in a frenzy of excitement. An alarm was given and the whole battalion of students and some professors turned out to kill it, but in the high weeds of the campus, it easily

escaped."

Even though uniforms were worn that first year, discipline appears to have been lax. Exercises were held San Jacinto day, but the corps broke ranks at the conclusion, ran furiously for the nearest woods and found a swimming hole.

The conduct of professors also left room for improvement during the memorial '76. Following complaints from throughout the state, the Board of Directors fired the entire faculty.

A mathematics professor showed his concern at being fired by going fishing. "I can't be bothered," he said.

In the late '70's and mid '80's, Garland James succeeded Thomas Gathright as president, four buildings were constructed and the entire curriculum was revised.

The school slumped badly in the '80's until Lawrence Sullivan Ross was named president in 1890. Once the state legislature even considered abandoning the college, with the buildings to be used as a Negro insane asylum.

Ross literally saved the college from destruction. During his eight-year reign enrollment increased tremendously, the first Corps Trip was held in Houston, property value reached \$389,502.64 and, most of all, the college for the first time acquired a good name among citizens of the state.

Intercollegiate football first served to unite the student body in 1892, with the first clash with Texas University in 1894. In 1902, the Aggie gridders were named "Champions of the South" after beating Tulane.

First football games were played at the Bryan Fair Grounds, with bleachers accommodating 500. These bleachers were later moved to the campus, and Kyle Field came into being.

During the first years of the century such events as a cane rush between freshmen and sophomores caused quite a stir.

One morning, mysterious notices had been tacked up at various places forbidding any freshmen to carry a cane past (See COLLEGE SEEKS on Page 3)



**A&M Cadet—1891 Version**  
Cadet Pvt. Walter D. Adams, '92, of Forney, is shown as he appeared at the installation of Lawrence Sullivan Ross as A&M president in 1891.