

TEAM'S ACTIVITIES VARIED

RV's Are An Elite Group

Since 1887 the Ross Volunteers have stood as the elite group which represents the best A&M has to offer, as well as the oldest organized group on campus.

Though the name and size have changed several times since the group was founded, the purposes and traditions of the group have remained much the same.

The original company was called the Scott Volunteers, in honor of Col. T. M. Scott, who was business manager of the college at that time. The Volunteers described the purpose of their organization as to band together the most military men in the school into a crack drill company.

In 1891, when ex-Governor Lawrence Sullivan Ross became president of the college, the name of the company was changed to Ross

Volunteers in his honor.

Following the death of Ross in 1898, the name was changed to Foster Guards, again honoring the new president of the college, L. L. Foster, who had succeeded Ross. The company marched under the name of the Houston Rifles during President Houston's administration. The plan of the organization was to change its name in honor of each succeeding president of the college.

In 1902, H. H. Harrington, son-in-law of Gov. Ross, became president of the college. When the name of Harrington Rifles was proposed, Harrington requested that the company again assume the name of Ross Volunteers.

It was then decided to make the name of Ross Volunteers permanent, which it has remained.

At the time of organization the membership was restricted to forty cadets chosen from the junior and senior classes. New members were accepted into the company by an election held early each scholastic year. The basis of acceptance was military ability and popularity.

After the World War I some non-military students were elected, but in 1923 the company decided to make non-military students and those not making a "B" in Military Science ineligible.

At present, to be eligible for membership, one must be taking the advanced Military Science or Air Science course at the time of his appointment, must have a 2.0 overall grade point ratio in his Military or Air Science course and at no time have failed a Military

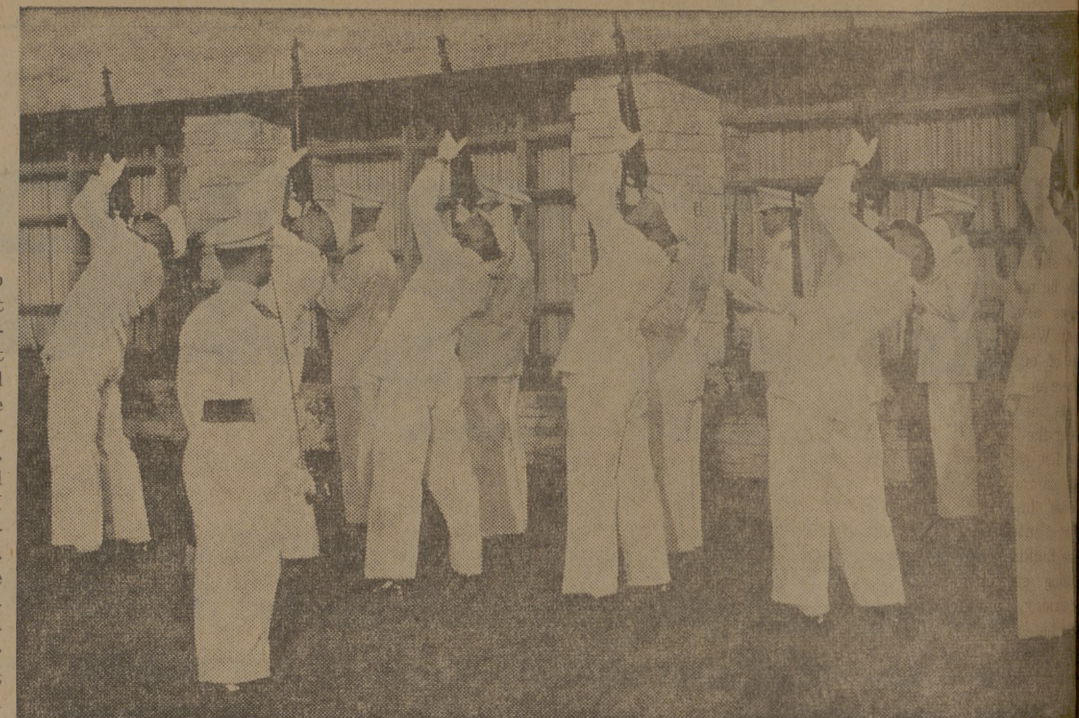
or Air Science course.

Also at this time, membership became limited to 133 members at a ratio of two juniors to one senior. This ratio insures a constant flow of candidates for special training and development in the company and for qualified potential leaders of the highest caliber.

The company suffered a period of inactivity during World War II when the advanced Reserve Officers Training Corps was disrupted. In September, 1948, however, the Volunteers were reactivated. Following is the preamble to the Constitution of the Ross Volunteer Company which was adopted at the time of the reactivation and which has remained the same:

"The Ross Volunteer Company of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, as here under constituted, is a voluntary military organization for the purpose of representing to the staff, Faculty, and Corps of Cadets of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, and to the citizens of the State of Texas, an organization of military distinction and example, made up of a membership of men selected from the Cadet Corps who will best accomplish the purpose and ideals of the organization.

"In its social functions, as sponsored by the School of Military Sciences of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, it is intended that the Ross Volunteers make tangible contributions to the general social and cultural life of the Corps of Cadets of the college; that social distinction be combined with social enjoyment; and that the dress, general bearing, and conduct of the membership and their activities reflect credit upon the college at all times."



Ross Volunteers In Action

Three squads of Ross Volunteers are picked each year to give the final salute at the annual Aggie muster in the Spring to A&M men who have died. This is only one of the varied activities in which the Volunteers participate during the year.

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A&M Boasts A Proud History Of Turning Out Military Men

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.

ROTC Began in 1920
The Reserve Officers Training

An outstanding illustration of the group were the 46 young men, A&M-trained reserve officers on duty at Corregidor and in the face of insurmountable military history.

More Began Here
In addition to some 7,000 officers trained and commissioned at A&M, the college has in at least another 7,000 of World War II.

They received from the varying degrees of military training that enabled them to enter officer candidate schools to better play their part in a great emergency program of the military history.

Six former students of A&M have been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for exceptional service in World War II—all but two of them being posthumous awards.

A&M trains citizen-soldiers, military men to be available in the event of a national emergency. That it has well met this objective is evidenced by the performance of its sons in these overall figures of its training program in round numbers.

Corps was inaugurated in 1920. Since that year, military training and education has been given to membership of 41,000 young men.

At this time training is given in both the Army and Air Force. Advanced ROTC training is given to commissions in the Army Reserve, was given approximately 7,000 men before the program was discontinued in the emergencies of World War II.

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

The present building was completed in 1953 and boasts a collection of some 30,000 technical and periodicals.

The Veterinary Library is located in the Veterinary Building west of the main campus tracks. It is a special library for the students of veterinary medicine.

The Architect's Library is located on the fourth floor of the Academic Building. It is another specialized library, primarily by the students of architecture.

Cushing, Other Libraries Hold Much Knowledge For Students

A building on the campus located directly east of the Academic Building should be one of the most used buildings on the campus, but many students struggle through four years at A&M without taking advantage of the services of Cushing Memorial Library.

Staffed by professional librarians and headed by Robert A. Houze, the air conditioned library has over 300,000 books at the student's disposal.

As you enter the first floor of the library you enter the newspaper lounge where the library has over 50 newspapers from over the state and nation for your up-to-date study of world events. The periodical reading room is on the left, and almost all the national magazines are represented here.

On the right is the reserve and required reading room. As an entering freshman will soon discover, a great many assignments are given that are referred to as required reading.

For Outside Reading
The professors intend for the students to do reading above and beyond the text in order to supplement and further their understanding of the material being studied.

The required reading room contains volumes which have been placed on reserve so that they can be easily obtained. This room is full of grade points; all the freshmen have to do is find them and use them.

Going up the stairs to the second floor, on the left is the main

loan desk. There is where books from the general collection are located. In the lobby on the floor are located card catalogs to aid in locating books.

On the right at the top of the stairs is the reference room. Here are located periodical indexes, encyclopedias, dictionaries, atlases, bibliographies, year books, and certain issues of the New York Times and other newspapers including The Battalion on microfilm for your reference.

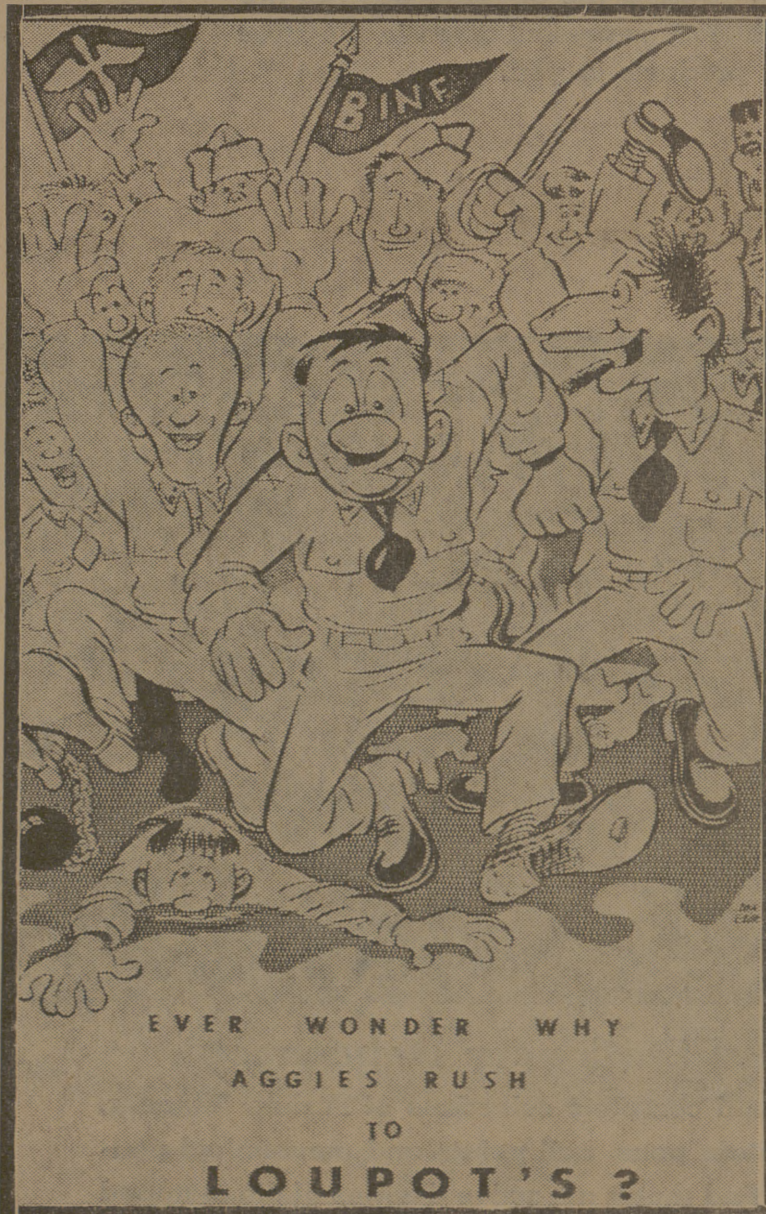
'Closed Stack' Program
Cushing Library is operated on a "closed stack" program which means that a check slip has to be filled out and presented to the librarian at the main loan desk in order to obtain a book from the general collection.

Library hours during the long session are from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. Monday through Friday. It is open from 8 until 12 noon on Saturday.

On Sundays the library opens at 2 p.m. and remains open until 10 p.m. Books are checked out for two weeks and are subject to renewal for another two weeks.

Other Libraries, Too
Other libraries are located on the campus under the supervision of the various departments and divisions of the college.

The largest of these is the Texas Engineers' Library. This is located directly east of the Cushing Library. It was established in 1943 as a cooperative project between A&M and the State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers.

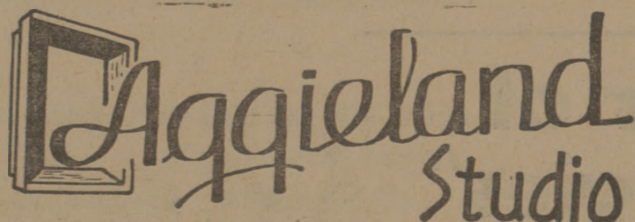


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