

Rings Have Many Stories To Tell

Aggie rings stolen or lost have been recovered years later in strange ways.

A&M rings have been recovered in foreign nations, various states of this country and at scattered points in Texas.

Take the case of the stolen ring found beside the body of a dead Chinese soldier in Korea in 1953. The owner of the ring lived in Corpus Christi and had not seen his Class of '45 ring since it was stolen in 1952. The Aggie said he put the ring in his wife's purse prior to going on a fishing trip and the purse was stolen from their car.

A tribute to the Aggie ring and the way Aggies feel about it was paid by W. L. White in his book, *Queens Die Proudly*. The book was published in 1943 and tells the story of a group of B-17 Flying Fortress bombers and their crews during the ear-

liest days of World War II.

Army Air Force Officer Frank Kurtz tells in the book of his thoughts upon seeing his bomber crew, including an Aggie, dead beside their gutted B-47 at Clark Field in the Philippine Islands. The Aggie was Lt. Arthur Edward Gary, a member of the Class of 1940, who was co-pilot of "Old 99," as they called the plane.

"So I went down to the line for the last time alone," Kurtz said later, "and took from each the thing I thought he valued most . . . And when I came to Tex (Gary) at the end of the line — it had to be his A&M ring, the thing he was proudest of, and I knew he'd want to send it to his mother."

Another Aggie serving his nation during World War II left his ring with his wife before going overseas. Shortly after,

her purse was stolen. It was in July of 1951 that a former student spotted the ring, learned the man had no right to wear the ring, recovered it and sent the ring to the rightful owner.

It was not an Aggie but a man living not far from the campus who found a ring near the Continental Divide in the Colorado Rockies. The Bryan resident found the ring while he and his family vacationed in Colorado.

An Aggie had lost it while enroute to the West Coast. He told the Association of Former Students office that the ring slipped from his fingers while he and his wife played in the snow.

"We searched the area for about four hours trying to find it," the Aggie wrote to J. B. Hervey, executive secretary of the association.

There are stories from World War II days when the ring served as an important means of identification when an Aggie — and some 20,000 of them were in the armed forces — moved into a new unit.

A truck driver from South Carolina wrote recently to the office of Dean of Students J. P. Hannigan to report finding a ring at a truck stop in New Jersey. "The man said he had known Aggies and knew what their rings meant to them and wanted us to find the owner," Mrs. Laura B. Brady, the dean's secretary, explained. And they did just that, returning the ring to its rightful owner.

Lt. John E. Harris of the Class of '42 was piloting a B-17 on a bomber mission to Stuttgart, Germany, in the spring of 1944 when his plane was attacked by German fighters.

Shortly after the plane exploded. It was after V-E Day that U. S. Army personnel visited the swamp where the bomber crashed.

The remains of Lt. Harris and two other crewmen were returned in a common casket and buried in the National Cemetery in Louisville, Ky.

Mrs. Harris still mourned the loss of her son and pondered the question of where was the ring which he always wore.

The years passed and in the spring of 1952 a missionary returning from Africa wrote to her. He told of meeting aboard a ship a Methodist minister from Latvia whose son-in-law lived in Germany and, while salvaging the wreck of a bomber, found an Aggie ring. The minister explained that due to customs regulations, they had not sent the ring to the U. S.

You're Not Alone By Considering Change In Major

Do those midsemester grades have you wondering if you want to be a scientist after all? Or a mathematician, an engineer or whatever?

You are not alone.

"Half of all college freshmen will change their vocational objectives at least once during their college career," Dr. Lannes Hope, assistant professor of psychology and a member of the Counseling and Testing Center staff, said Wednesday.

"Many students will change their vocational objectives two or three times."

A basic fact which Center Director S. A. Kerley, Hope and others strive to get across to freshmen is that ample help is available for a student whose midsemester grades leave something to be desired.

"The first step," Hope said, "is to verify if the student is doing

poorly because of less than average ability, poor high school preparation or bad study habits."

ATTENTION CAN be centered upon helping the student develop a "realistic appraisal of his abilities and interests" the first step is completed.

A number of sources of help the student are on campus as he begins matching abilities and interests with "picture profiles" the requirements of jobs.

Helping the student to meet through time-tested instruments tests basic facts about his personality pattern is a key step. It involves the student taking several one-hour tests.

"The emphasis is upon the student doing his own thinking, simply supply the facts," Hope said in discussing the role of the counselor.

The results of the vocational preference inventory test taken during the summer and the additional tests are explained to the freshman.

"Don't expect to immediately change all of your vocational plans. Take your time." This is key advice from Kerley, Hope and others concerned with vocational counseling.

Rail, Bus, Boat Federal Tax Now Dropped

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 10 per cent federal tax on rail, bus and boat fares passed out of existence at midnight Wednesday and a similar levy on air fares was cut in half. As a result, travelers can expect to save nearly \$150 million a year.

The Eastern railroads and some bus lines will boost their fares to offset the tax change. But all air fares will remain at current levels, at least for the present.

As a result of the tax changes, voted by Congress last summer, the government will incur a revenue loss of about \$170 million a year. Savings to the public will be less, however, because of partially offsetting fare increases.

THE TAX was first imposed during World War II to raise revenues and at the same time discourage nonessential use of overloaded transportation facilities.

It was kept on the books long after the war because it was a potent producer of income. Receipts from the passenger fare tax have totaled nearly \$4.5 billion since 1941.

While the tax on rail, bus and boat travel will be completely eliminated, the 10 per cent air travel tax will be replaced by a 5 per cent federal "user charge."

Display In MSC Features Paintings, Bronze Sculptures

Ten oil paintings and seven bronze sculptures by artists Fred Remington and Charles M. Russell are currently on display in the lobby of the Memorial Student Center.

The exhibit will continue through Dec. 10.

Sponsored by the MSC creative arts committee, the art collection belongs to the Amon Carter Museum of Western Art in Fort Worth.

The selected works from Remington and Russell include "The Old West," "The Old Stage Coach" and "Up Your Hands."

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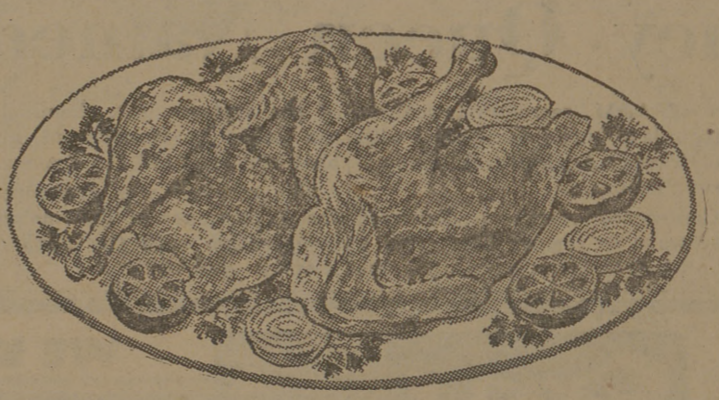
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