

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1963

RV Company Remains Best Since 1887

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 drake 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 deceased 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.

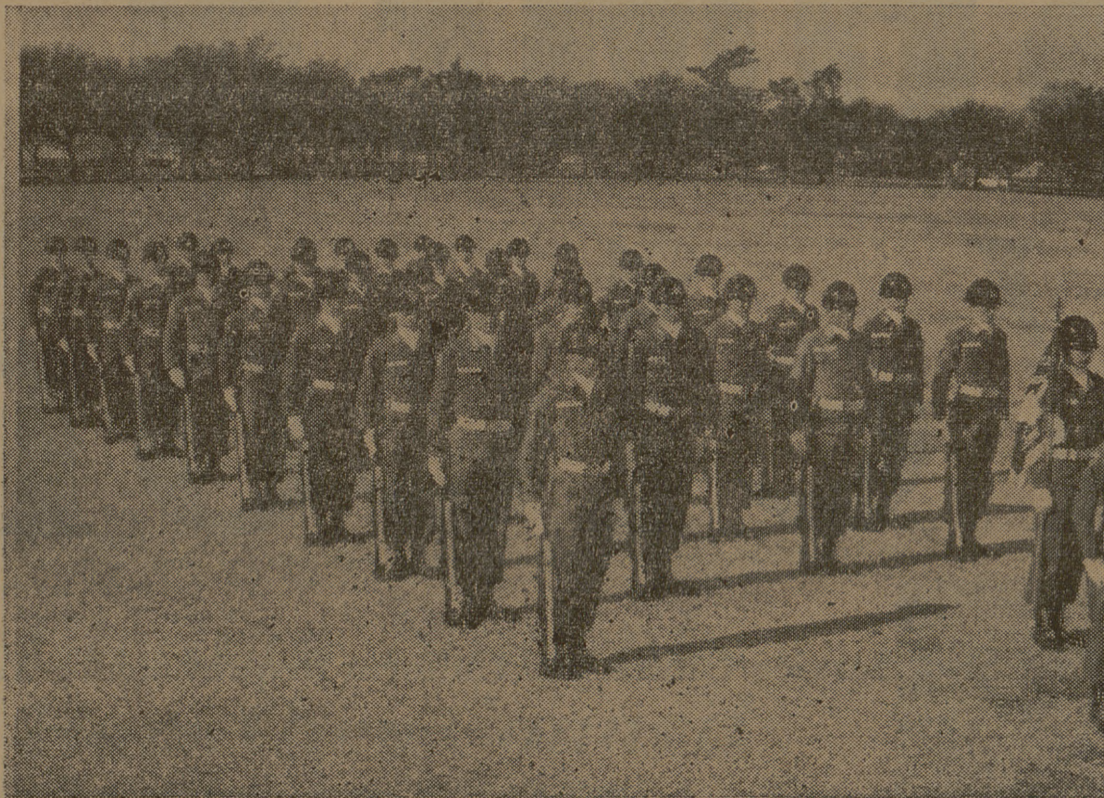
At the time of organization the membership was restricted to forty cadets chosen from the junior and senior classes. New members were accepted into the company by an election held early each scholastic year. The basis of acceptance was military ability and popularity.

After 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.



Freshman Drill Team

Members of this elite group of freshmen are chosen after tryouts early each year. They represent A&M at drill competition throughout the year and perform at many campus affairs.

Fish Drill Team Is Almost Busy As Ross Volunteers

Another activity freshmen will be interested in if they are members of the Corps of Cadets is the Fish Drill Team.

Made up exclusively of members of the freshman class, the Fish Drill Team is almost as busy during the year as the Ross Volunteers.

The team is picked by tryouts from among the freshmen and practices just like other drill teams

to get intricate maneuvers down to perfection.

Upperclassmen who are former members of the Fish Drill Team act as supervisors for the group.

Campus activities of the team include presentations of skill in marching after various reviews held for visiting groups or dignitaries.

The team attends several drill contests during the year, and past drill teams have brought home

trophies from almost every meet they have entered.

The team's uniform is the regular Class A uniform with wide white belts and white leggings, white helmet liners and white rifle slings. Completing the outfit are white gloves and a white neck scarf.

Competition is keen for places on the Fish Drill Team and members consider it a distinct honor to wear the uniform of the group.

'Living Room' Of Campus Is Student Center

With its many varied facilities, the Memorial Student Center has become the center of student life at A&M. The incoming freshman will soon find it lives up to the title, "living room of the campus."

The sprawling structure was completed in 1950 at a cost of \$2 million. Since then even more money and work has contributed to the facilities.

It came about through the efforts of the Association of Former Students. The MSC is dedicated to Aggies who have given their lives in military service. The names of these men appear on a large plaque beside the main entrance.

IN ADDITION the hotel portion and numerous meeting rooms, the MSC has varied recreation facilities.

For the athletically inclined there are bowling and table tennis areas in one wing of the building.

Record rooms are found in the east wing, with a complete collection of all types of music.

The browsing library, where records are checked out, has magazines and books. The materials are not for checking out and remain on shelves for the student who wishes to spend a short while reading.

Next to the library is the game room where facilities for playing cards, chess, dominoes and other table games are available.

Another favorite place is the piano room, where an instrument is available for students to play or listen to.

IN THE MAIN lobby are many couches and chairs. This is a favorite place for visitors to meet students.

Full meals are served in the cafeteria three times a day. A fountain room is also provided where students may eat breakfast or grab a sandwich all day long.

The Ballroom on the second floor is the site of many dances and banquets. Also on this floor is the Serpentine Lounge, another favorite meeting place.

On the third floor the Metzger Gun Collection is open most hours of the day for students and visitors to inspect the many old and unusual firearms.

Extra-Curricular Phases Discussed

Section Three of this year's freshman edition of The Battalion is designed to inform the incoming student of some of the extra-curricular phases of A&M University.

There are stories on some of the campus recreational facilities, traditions, provisions for entertainment, and leading A&M organizations.

Also included are information about churches and religious life at A&M and a statement from student chaplains.

"The Fish Market"

To relieve a badly overcrowded situation in our text book department - which is doing a volume more than double that done the first year (1955-56) it was moved to its present quarters - we have moved ALL Freshman text books to the old B&U Building directly across the street from The Exchange Store.

There, courteous attendants will assist you in selecting your books from open stock or in locating your lay-a-way package. In minutes you can be on your way.

The Exchange Store

"In Its Fifty Sixth Year of Serving Texas Aggies"

P.S. After you have shopped "The Fish Market," come across the street and browse the wide selection of school supplies, study aids, quality paper backs and sports clothing in your official store—The Exchange Store.