

Aggie Band Trademark

At all halftime performances the Aggie Band marchers close their precision drills by forming the block "T". Here the band is completing a performance given last year at the A&M-TCU football game on Kyle Field.

Band Leads Marching Trend

BY DAVID S. JONES
COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Across Texas, high school and college band directors are taking closer and more critical looks at their present marching techniques and are apparently coming to the realization that today's audiences are looking for a more streamlined approach to performances. During the past years the trend has been to get away from "high-stepping shows" which come complete with more regalia than a circus sideshow. A LEADER AND imitated marching unit in this revolution is one which a California sports writer in a flight of imagination described as "reminiscent of the powerful Roman legions victoriously parading into the coliseum." It is the world's largest military band, the Aggie Band. Band directors all over the country have been known to stop, stare

and say aloud, "How I wish my band could do that." A glimpse at the many contests held across the state this year reveals that marching techniques at variance with the Aggie styles are out of date today. THE CADETS' formula for success is, however, anything but a well-kept secret. The fact is that complete mastery of the Aggie technique is possible only in an organization like the A&M Band. Without previous warning, how many bands could assemble their entire marching contingent in formation with instruments and music at any hour of the day or night? Not many to be sure. But a combination of obedience, alertness and strict marching discipline combined with the fact that the Aggie Band lives together makes this possible in the 240-piece organization. ONE OF THE remarkable facts

about the band is that it exists at an institution where there is no school of music. No scouting program is carried out by the band's director, Lt. Col. E. V. Adams. Practice, obedience and desire go into making the Cadets what they are. The band lives, works and play together, enabling them to strive that much harder for those whom they know the best. Adjoining the four-story dormitory which houses the band is an actual-size football field used exclusively to work out the precision drills. SINCE ALL members of the band must also be members of the A&M Corps of Cadets, uniforms are not among problems the band encounters. Band members wear the only distinctive unit insignia on the campus, the band lyre. The Band is divided into two company-sized outfits for conveni-

ence of Corps administration. Maroon Band and the White take turns appearing at parties, basketball games and affairs at which the extra would be too bulky. ALWAYS ON HAND at major sports contests on the band also plays at many town football games. The trip made to date by the band was to Los Angeles, California, years back when A&M met in gridiron competition. Col. Adams said last year the band will visit both Baton Rouge, La. and Lubbock this season for the first time. In previous years the cadets had alternated between the LSU and Texas Tech bands. The band also travels to major cities in Texas each year to lead the Corps Trip parade to Austin every two years for the Governor's Inauguration.

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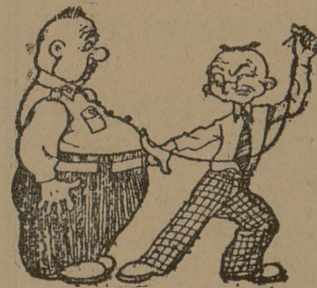
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