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'Tough' Fish Got Promotions

About the toughest men ever to exist on the A&M campus, according to many Exes, were the "fish sergeants" of the 1930s. The making and breaking of these "fish prodigies" was a unique and often highly humorous project undertaken with the cooperation of the upperclassmen throughout the entire Cadet Corp.

The one or two fish sergeants appointed each September were generally selected on the basis of their own appraisal of themselves. A freshman who soon after his arrival showed that he possessed such essential qualities of leadership as arrogance, over-confidence and high self-esteem stood a good chance of being selected for this rather dubious honor.

The carefully chosen fish was usually approached by a senior several weeks after school began. He was informed that since he was so obviously a born leader, he had been selected for immediate promotion to the rank of cadet master sergeant and had supreme authority over any cadet at A&M below a senior. Several "fish corporals" were sometimes appointed to aid this ambitious new Top-Kick in his inevitable crusade to "clean up the Corps."

Chevrons were sewed on the new fish non-com's sleeves, upside down, of course, so there would be no mistake as to his proper rank. Before assuming his duties the duped fourth classman had usually written his parents, his home-town newspaper and his girl back home, boasting of this great honor that had been bestowed upon him.

He then began his duties with the satisfaction of having reached his high position in such a short time and eagerly anticipating the very likely possibility of becoming Corps Commander before the year was over.

For about a week the fresh fish Top-Kick was allowed the run of the campus and practically any privilege he desired. He maintained the strictest discipline among the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, often resorting to the frequent use of his ram pad and, some say, the occasional use of a paddle or Sam Browne belt on particularly unruly cadets.

About the time this new pseudo-dictator assumed he had the entire campus under control, things strangely began going wrong for him. A brawl would develop among unruly "wetheds"

and when he entered to break it up, he would accidentally wind up on bottom. Curiously, when he arrived on the scene of a pre-planned water fight he always wound up soaking wet.

Then, without warning, some "unforeseen catastrophe" arose, much to the dismay and disbelief of the fish sergeant. Sometimes a surprise "shakedown inspection" by a senior staff member would reveal such previously planted but nevertheless unauthorized articles in the cadet's room as a portion of a bottle of whiskey, pornographic material or college property, obviously stolen.

Naturally, a serious offense such as this could not be ignored. A military "kangaroo court" was immediately set up and the fish non-com, still loudly proclaiming his innocence and complete ignorance of the evidence presented, was placed on trail. The court consisted of high-ranking seniors and, some say, with the occasional help of a fun-loving "bull" who had been informed of the matter.

Needless to say, the "court-martial" always resulted in the conviction of the framed cadet. As proper punishment, the disgraced fish sergeant was ceremoniously stripped of his rank.

Exchange Club Names Mitchell Boy Of Month

William T. Mitchell of College Station has been named Boy Of Month for April by the Exchange Club of Bryan-College Station.

Mitchell was honored Tuesday at a luncheon meeting of the Exchange Club where he was presented with a plaque of recognition for his accomplishments.

He had a high scholastic average during his four years at Consolidated High School and was outstanding in many varied extracurricular activities. He served the Student Council for two years and was a standout in drama and literary events in the scholastic league.

Mitchell excelled in basketball and rifle shooting, and was awarded the Distinguished Expert Rifleman medal. He is now serving as an apprentice rifle instructor.

His sports were rounded out by participation in track, football and tennis.

James P. Hannigan, A&M University Dean of Students, is Chairman of the Selection Committee of the local service organization.

ELECT JOEL HOGAN

Pd. Pol. Adv.

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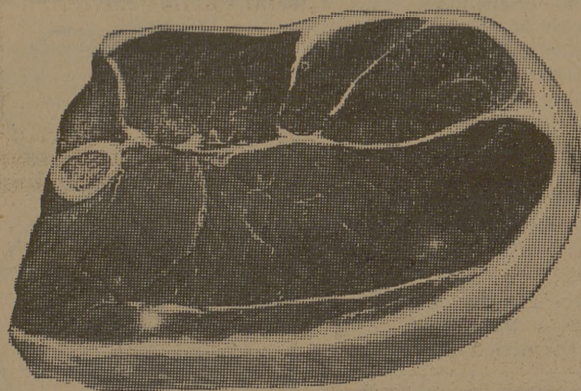
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- ROSEDALE LIMA BEANS** 2 300 Cans 25c
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- GULF SPRAY** Pint Can 35c
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