

Aggie Bonfire, Football Game Top Activities

Cadets Face Longhorns In Grudge Battle Renewal

By DANI PRESSWOOD
Battalion Staff Writer
Lighting of the world's largest bonfire Wednesday night will kick off Thanksgiving holiday activities which include the traditional Texas A&M-University of Texas grudge battle and several post-bonfire parties.

The finishing touches will be put on the 1965 bonfire Wednesday afternoon and the torch will be set to it by the yell leaders at 7:30. A march-in by the Texas Aggie band and a yell practice will precede the lighting.

As a precautionary measure the First Battalion will form a security circle around the structure. No smoking or picture taking with flash bulbs will be permitted in the area beginning at noon Wednesday.

Bonfire-watchers are cautioned to view the spectacle from a distance of at least 100-150 feet.

The second annual Hall of Fame Dinner will follow the bonfire at 8:30 p.m. in Duncan Dining Hall. Inducted into the A&M Athletic Hall of Fame will be national champion football coach Homer Norton, Olympic stars Walt (Buddy) Davis and Darrow Hooper, and former Aggie football players Jack Mahan and Tyree Bell. Norton will be inducted posthumously.

A performance by country-western singer Johnny Cash is on tap at 9 p.m. Wednesday in the Lakeview Amusement Club on Tabor Road. He will be accompanied by June Carter and the Statler Brothers.

Students will have a large selection of dances to choose from in the Bryan-College Station area after the bonfire.

The "Come As You Are Bonfire Bonanza" will get under way at 9 p.m. Wednesday in the Tri-angle Ballroom.

The dance, sponsored by the Mechanical Engineering Wives Club, will last until 1 a.m. Music will be provided by the Citations and free setups will be served.

Admission is \$2.50 per couple and tickets may be purchased at the door.

A seniors-only party will begin at 9 p.m. Wednesday at the Bryan Country Club.

"The Rogues" will play for the "Senior A-Go-Grood," and free setups will be provided. Tickets will be sold for \$3.

Tickets Remain

About 1,000 tickets are left for the Aggie-Texas game Thursday. Seats are located in the bleachers along the east side in the bottom three rows, the end zone and temporary box seats set up on the cinder track.

Date tickets will go off sale 5 p.m. Wednesday. Regular tickets will go off sale at halftime during the game.

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The American Legion Hall will house the "Bonfire Blowout" at 9:30 p.m. Wednesday. The Finders will play for the dance which lasts until 1:30 a.m.

Admission will be \$3 per couple. Thanksgiving worship services will be conducted in the All Faiths Chapel Thursday at 9, 10 and 11 a.m.

Two special Thanksgiving services have been arranged by the Bryan-College Station Ministers Association.

"These services are planned in hopes that our community might be encouraged to express thanks to God in every way throughout the year," the Rev. Lloyd Elder said. He is chairman of worship

and special services committee of the association.

A 15-minute program will be telecast on Channel 3 Wednesday morning. A panel of three local pastors will be interviewed.

Community Thanksgiving services will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday at the Calvary Baptist Church, 2009 Cavitt in Bryan.

Kickoff time for the annual Turkey Day game will be 1:30 p.m. Thursday. The Aggies and the Longhorns will be meeting for the 72nd time in the most famous rivalry in the history of the Southwest Conference.

The Cadet Corps will march into Kyle Field preceding the contest.

What It Takes To Build World's Largest Bonfire

By TOMMY DeFRANK
Battalion News Editor

The Aggie Bonfire—symbolic of the love Aggies have for their school, and the burning desire to beat the livin' hell outa TU.

The Aggie Bonfire—cross between a county fair, Army field maneuver and a major disaster area right after the disaster.

The Aggie Bonfire—massive, flaming testimonial to frayed nerves, aching muscles, lost sleep, round-the-clock operations, fantastic coordination and sheer raw guts.

What does it take to build the largest Bonfire in the world?

It takes personalities—like the graduate student, a giant of an ex-Marine who volunteered for service Sunday night.

He was given a radio and told to guard the ravine below the President's home.

He crawled around the area making his patrols, and then camouflaged himself and waited for trouble that never came.

"I know he was out there," recalled a stacking area boss, "because he called in every half-hour. But he hid himself so well I couldn't find him when I went out to relieve him."

It takes an element of danger—like the carloads of Teasips who attempted to unload bound fraternity pledges in the Bonfire area.

Or like the Aggies whose lunch was interrupted by a three-foot copperhead. One pinned the reptile to the side of a bank while another sliced off its head with a pocketknife.

It takes an unfortunate toll—like the freshman who nearly lost a toe, or another who broke a leg and fractured his other ankle when freshmen tried to load a log without waiting for supervision.

It takes determination—like the stacking boss who stayed on the job more than 48 hours before knocking off for sleep.

It takes some comic relief—like the Bryan girls who cursed outer perimeter guards because they weren't allowed to come any closer to the stack than a couple of hundred yards.

Or the ill-timed junior who heard his radio crackle with the warning that "three bulls" were bearing down on the communications post just as the three officers arrived to hear the same report.

It takes close calls—like the Bryan high school motorcyclists who cut across a field and were nearly cut down by a truck hauling logs from the cutting area.

It takes potentially dangerous situations—like the four girls found hiding near the Bonfire area who explained they thought it would be fun to crack security. Guards were prepared to rough up the unidentified visitors before they meekly surrendered.

But the core of the Bonfire effort rests upon the individual performances of all Aggies—juniors and seniors that chop logs; freshmen and sophomores that carry them; lone bosses that supervise cutting and transport; communications men, medics and road guards; loaders, stackers and truckdrivers, and various other students that man key but often overlooked positions.

Most people marvel when the Bonfire is put to the torch without realizing the unbelievable work that has gone into it.

Few spectators appreciate the five days of cutting, loading, stacking and guarding that precede the blaze.

But to the Aggies who have endured cold meals, blisters, push-up sessions, 16-hour or longer days, 1 a.m. guard details and the like—the pre-fire work is painfully but proudly alive.

The Bonfire of today has come a long way since the first one, a 12-foot trashpile built in 1909. Unlike other college bonfires, it has grown from its original proportions to heights usually averaging 80 feet.

So, too, have the headaches and preparations necessary to build it.

But the end result has always remained the same—a huge compilation of logs that eternally remains a source of pride for all those who have ever worked on one.



"Welcome to our campus and our little informal Bonfire burning tonight! We want to do everything possible to make your visit enjoyable inspite of your disappointment in th' outcome of tomorrow's game!"

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