

Tales Of Yesteryear

Civilian Puzzled At Military Life

By MIKE BERRY
 Battalion Staff Writer
 A fixture of every military organization since time began has been the Civilian-in-Uniform, the Sad Sack. At Texas A&M, he

has been variously personified. He has been Fish Jones, Fish Doodle, Fish Squirt, and now, Cadet Slouch.

One of the earliest expressions of the puzzled civilian mind at the rituals of military life at A&M is recorded in the May 22, 1919 issue of The Battalion.

A letter to the editor, begins with an original, if unflattering, salutation: "To Hon. Editor of the Batty-lion which are a magazine greatly expanded with the male cow."

The correspondent allows a modest revelation: "As you no, I have just arrived in Hon. U.S.A. for the purpose of detaining much ignorance and other things from Hon. A. and M. penny tentiary."

"First, I would require to no, why I called 'Fish' when I can not even swim?" begins the list of grievances.

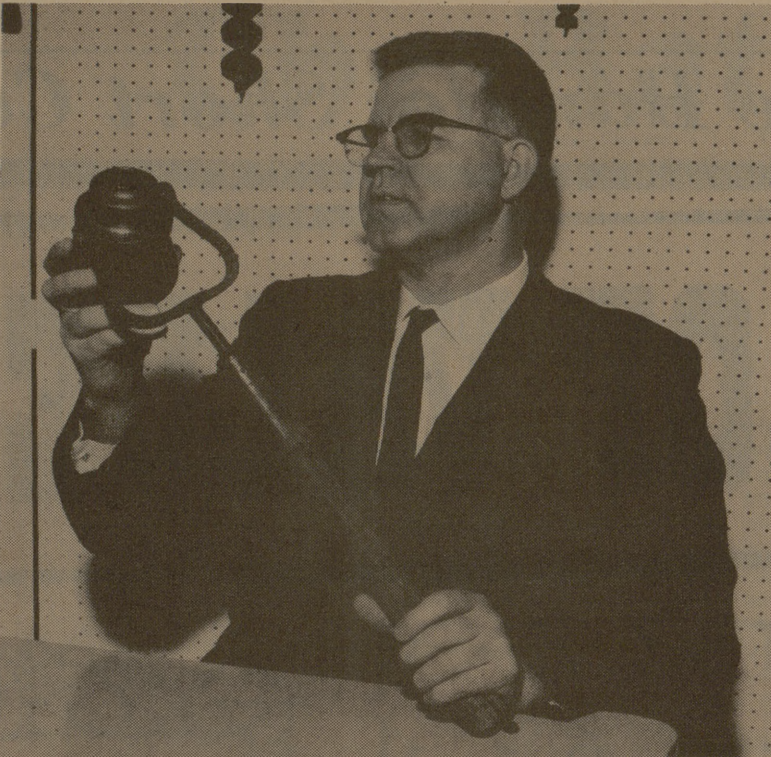
"My anecdotes are very much over-come with large blows which are very pronounced upon me, and always because of something I have did to Hon. Gen. Principals of which I know nothing."

"Why there a man who always plays tunes on a brass horn for us to do things by? He also leads the Hon. muskan company in mellowe."

In a unique perspective of the ceremony of retreat, he writes, "There are other men with brass horns who make much noise at Hon. Retreat when all listen for Hon. Colonel to holler. When he holler everyone stand still and listen for him to say more . . . This are a very happy company for it are always singing when it are going to eat! I am very misstumped at these things."

"Yesterday I eloped off to Hon. Bryan city to see emotion picture show which are great mirth. I are been feeling much confinement and dis-ease since my girl so far absent she cannot come to see me dance last week."

Some things haven't changed very much at A&M since 1919.



VOTE FOR ANDY JACKSON

The slogan is suggested by a campaign torchlight held by Dr. Leslie V. Hawkins. The brass torchlight is one of 800 antique tools and gadgets collected by the industrial education professor.

Stone Age Relics Included In Prof's Tool Collection

A Texas A&M industrial education professor teaches history, and has ready-made training aids. Dr. Leslie V. Hawkins collects old tools.

From Mexico to Pennsylvania and Oregon, Pakistan, India and Saipan, the industrial arts professor has gathered tools. His relics of bygone workshops date from the Stone Age.

Part of his 800 specimen collection will be exhibited in Huntsville April 3, at the annual celebration of the birthday of Sam Houston's wife. Mrs. Grace Longino, Sam Houston Shrine director, invited Hawkins to display his ancient tools.

Scattered from here to yon, stored in footlockers, cabinets and closets at his home and department, the collection is at Hawkins' fingertips.

The director of an annual Texas Industrial Arts Association Conference held at A&M points proudly to a wooden treadle lathe, crossbow, bow drill from India, gold pan from Oregon and a kerosene "magic lantern," forerunner of today's 35 millimeter slide projector.

And he has chests full of saws, planes, dividers, hand and bar

clamps, chisels, screw-drivers, hammers, planes and bolt wrenches.

"Each of these things tells a story of its own," Hawkins commented. "Each item is a lesson in history, a story of man's struggle to reach the 'good life.' Each tool represents slow, methodical progress toward providing a better standard of living," the states' industrial arts "Teacher of the Year" explained.

One gadget no completely-equipped kitchen of the 1880s would be without is described as a "mechanical engineer's nightmare." The hand-operated gear is fastened to a kitchen table and automatically peels apples.

"The man who designed it probably made himself a lot of apple cider before he got it adjusted," Hawkins grinned.

He has a tri-square made entirely of wood, fastened together with three wooden pegs.

"I don't know whether nails were unavailable, or whether the builder was too poor to afford them," Hawkins mused.

Molding cutters, a type of plane, fills about 100 spaces in Hawkins' collection. They were constructed for 100 different purposes.

"The tool was made for the job to be done," the educator explained. Age of many of his tools, such as the molding cutter, can be generally ascertained. He has a metal device, a shaper, that took the molding cutter's place in 1875.

Some items are still usable and actually in use in old woodworking shops. Craftsmen still use the wooden plane, Hawkins noted,

because rosin in worked wood sticks to metal planes.

In most cases there is no method of determining age, origin or value of the tools.

Only quick action has preserved some items. A student's father was cleaning a shed and found the "magic lantern." It was to be thrown away, but the Aggie said no. He presented it to his prof.

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Transportation Conference Set March 31-April 1

Methods of cargo movement will concern shippers and transporters at the annual Transportation Conference March 31-April 1 at Texas A&M.

Sponsored by the Texas Transportation Institute as an educational feature for business and industry, the conference will center on business logistics and effective service.

Approximately 125 leaders from the transportation industry are expected for the conference. B. F. Biaggini, president of the Southern Pacific Company since 1964, is the first speaker. He will discuss "Selling Transportation in a Customer Oriented Market."

Biaggini joined SP in 1936 at Ennis and rose through engineering and executive ranks to vice president at Houston in 1955. He became a vice president in the executive department at San Francisco the next year, and was elevated to executive vice president and the board of directors in 1963.

"Buying Transportation" is the topic of William L. Robinson, general traffic manager for Sears, Roebuck & Company. A Sears employe since 1947, he worked in catalog sales, personnel and retail departments before taking his present post in 1957.

Luncheon speaker March 31 will be W. B. Johnson, REA Express board chairman. The president and chief executive officer of Illinois Central Industries will discuss "Educational Requirements in the Transportation Field."

Water, Sewage Association Chooses New Officers Here

W. J. Weems of Abilene became president of the Texas Water and Sewage Works Association Wednesday during a business meeting at the association's short school here.

Weems, director of water and sewer departments at Abilene, succeeds W. R. Hardy of Fort Worth.

A president-elect and four vice presidents were named at the meeting of the 4,500-member organization. Secretary G. R. Herzik Jr. of Austin was reappointed for the eighth year.

Haskell R. Street of El Paso became president-elect. He is a member of the Public Service Board of El Paso Water Utilities.

Vice presidents are J. D. Henry of Dallas, Hugh McPhillips of

Port Arthur, James Pirkle of McCamey and Gilbert O. Baird of Taft. Henry is district division supervisor of Dallas City Water Works. McPhillips serves on the City Water Department of Port Arthur and Pirkle and are water supervisors.

Herzik, state sanitation engineer of the Department of Health, is only the second secretary of the 48-year-old association. He has been secretary since 1959, succeeding V. M. Ehlers, who was secretary the first 41 years.

State Senator Jack Strong, who discussed state water legislation with the association, said only statesmanship will provide the answers to Texas' future water demand.

Mrs. A&M Contest Slated Saturday

Thirteen finalists for Mrs. A&M will vie for the crown Saturday night at a dance in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom.

Finalists were chosen from 30 entries. Their identities will remain secret until Saturday night, announced Joy Cator, president of the sponsoring Aggie Wives' Council.

Mrs. A&M will receive a silver tray, a bouquet of roses, a hairpiece, and a portrait. Two runnersup will be named.

Committee Considers Senior Class Gift

The Senior Class Gift Committee is meeting each week to suggest a class gift to the university.

Class members with gift ideas may contact Andy Cronk, Glenn Dromgoole, Tom Murrah or John Moore.

1965 - 1966

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Official notices must arrive in the Office of Student Publications before deadline of 1 p. m. of the day preceding publication.

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