

A&M's Customs

Aggie Traditions Play Vital Role

For the past 90 years customs and traditions have come and gone at A&M, some remaining only a few weeks while others have lasted throughout the school's history. Probably the first tradition and one of the more important

is "Once an Aggie always an Aggie." The class of 1880, first to graduate here, is said to have inaugurated it to promote school spirit.

As Aggies of today travel around the country they often meet one of the A&M men from older classes who inevitably greet them as long lost brothers and go all out to make them feel at home.

THIS CUSTOM of sticking together is now world known, and wherever two Aggies meet, no matter what their ages, there is sure to be much handshaking and backslapping.

Another well-known custom at Aggieland is speaking to and meeting everyone you come in contact with. This custom isn't as old as most may think. F. J. Mikeska, '28, says when he went to school here nobody spoke as they do now.

THE TRADITION of class dis-

tinction stems from the military training at A&M. The adage "rank hath its privileges," is very true here. The senior is top dog and his word is law. The junior enjoys some prestige over the sophomore, and the "Fish" are low men on the totem pole.

One of the most widely known traditions involving Corps Trips is the Twelfth Man. It started in 1922 when the Aggies played a football game against Centre College in Dallas.

Top opponents were tearing the Aggies up and the reserves on the A&M bench were fast dwindling away. When the coach was down to his last reserve a young sophomore named King Gill, who had worked out with the team several times, dashed out of the stand and suited up.

Still another time-honored tradition at Aggieland is Midnight Yell Practice. In addition to the two regular after-supper yell practices held each week during football season, the band and student body participate in midnight affairs before each home game.

At 11:30 p.m. the band leaves its dorm and marches up and down the streets of the campus, gathering members of the student body and dates in its wake.

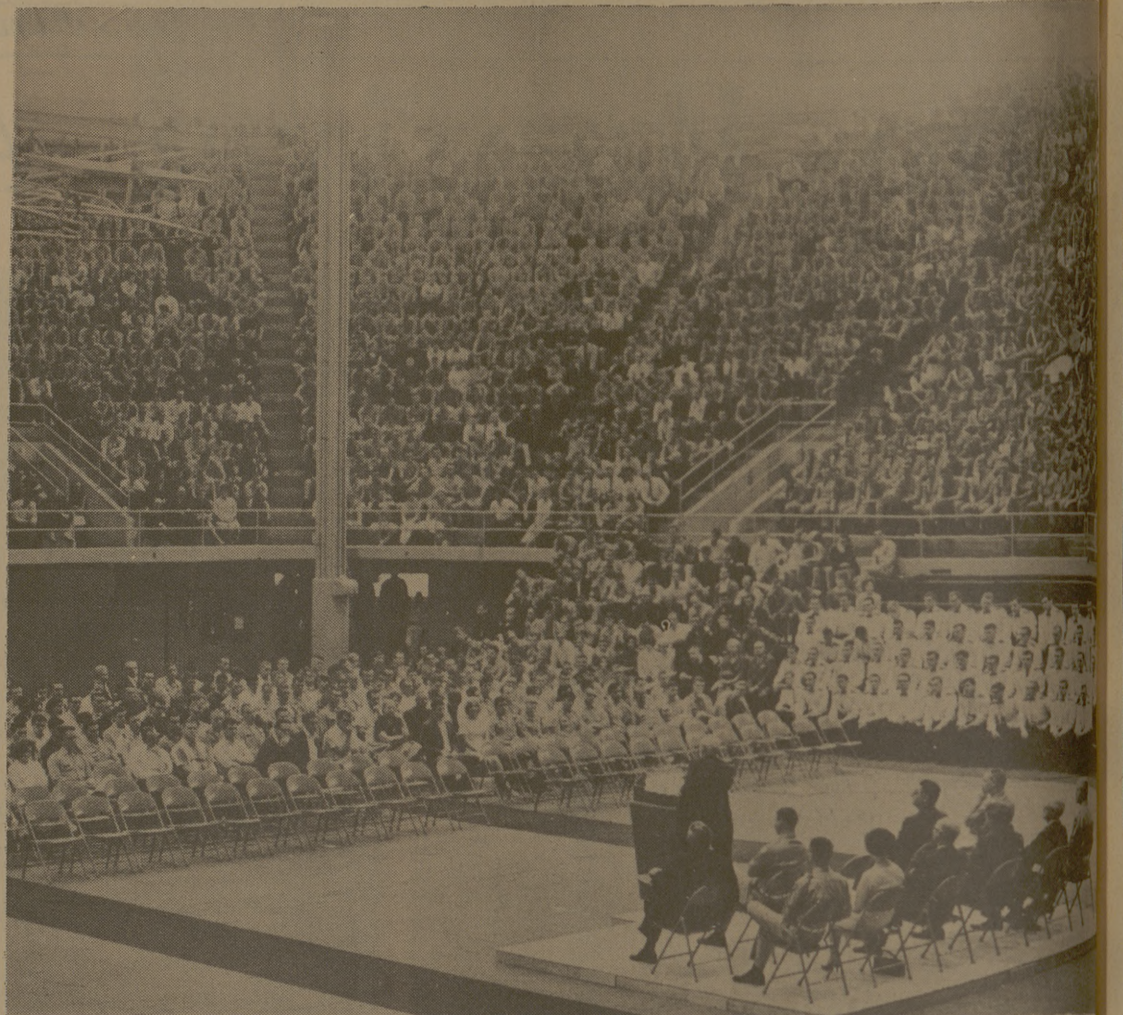
Another of the much-publicized customs at A&M is the tradition of kissing one's date when the Aggies score in a football game. According to the code, any touchdown, extra point or field goal warrants a "movie love scene" type kiss.

Two other famous traditions are annual ones, the Aggie Muster and the Aggie Bonfire.

The muster service is held every year on April 21 to honor the Aggies who have died since the previous muster. Their names are called out and for each one a comrade answers "Here." Muster ceremonies are observed all over the world and this is reserved as the day of reunion for all A&M students, past and present.

The famed Bonfire is the world's largest and is set off the night before the annual Thanksgiving Day game with Texas as a symbol of A&M's flaming desire to "beat the hell out of TU."

The incoming freshmen will soon discover that the customs mentioned here are but a few of the many he'll adhere to during the next four years.



AGGIE MUSTER CEREMONIES

The annual campus muster ceremonies are held on April 21 to honor the Aggie dead. Observance of the tradition is world-wide and muster has even been held on battle-

fields during World War I and II, Korea and Viet Nam. When names of the Aggies who have died since the previous muster are called, living comrades answer, "Here."



MIDNIGHT YELL PRACTICE

This time-honored tradition is held on Friday night before each home game by the student body. At 11:30 p. m. the band leaves its dorm and marches up and down the streets of the campus, gathering members of the student body and dates in its wake. The marchers arrive at Kyle Field at midnight and a lengthy yell practice begins.

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