

(Continued from Page 8)

Crane he was the best offensive center I ever had. He played every minute of every game and as a senior made All-Conference unanimously.

I remember, we took those 27 boys to Athens to play Georgia the third game that year. Old Lloyd wasn't much for leg snappings, so we had our manager suited up to center the ball for fourth-down punts. Har-Mehre and Ed Danforth of the Atlanta papers didn't believe what they saw. "You mean this all the players you got?" I said, "No, these are the ones that went to play." And damned if they didn't beat Georgia 6-0, the only game we won all year.

Well, you say, what kind of coaching is that when you lose about 100 boys and keep only 27? I have to believe I wouldn't lose that many today, because I'm not a driver I was and I probably wouldn't demand as much, but let me tell you that was the beginning of a change in attitude at A&M. It was never easy, though. The stress was on me from the start, and some of the stuff that came out of Fort Worth and other places was really rough. The thing I resented most, though, was that every time something came up, usually at recruiting time or before a big game, a rumor would start about us going on probation or, after we were on probation, about staying there. Anything to foul us up.

I HAD A MAD on for the other coaches in the conference because they were out to get me. I thought there was a lot of apocryphal stuff going on. I made up my mind early I was going to beat them or kill myself trying. I hated all of them. They used to get me thrown out of the conference, and I felt that they were making a whipping boy out of me. Looking back and knowing how much we shook that conference up—it took a lot to swallow the idea of losing to A&M—I have to admit I'd probably done the same thing in their position.

I know now we should have been put on probation. I know, now, I was not just trying to justify it in my mind when I said that if we were paying players, then other schools were doing it twice as bad, which some were. I'm not going to go soft on that point. I'm not sure how many of our boys got something. I guess about four or five did. I didn't know what they got, and I didn't want to know, but they got something because they had other offers and I told my alumni to meet the competition. Well, Bob Manning and Tom Sestak, who is still playing in the pros, signed affidavits that they got \$100 to sign and \$50 a month for tuition. Coaches from Baylor and Texas helped them file.

I HAVE NEVER thought you would have a bunch of hired football players. Maybe you can have two or three or four getting something extra. I've had them, but you can usually tell one of them a block away, the way he goes about things, the

way he puts out. If an alumnus working such-and-such a place finds he's losing a boy he might give him something, but he'll usually tell you, too, because he wants you to know what he thinks he's doing for you. It's mighty hard to turn something down if you've never had anything, I can understand that, and it's hard for the parents, too. At A&M I don't know whether we'd have won or not without paying players, but I'll say this, most of the kids didn't play like they got something.

After we got put on probation I told our people—our alumni, everybody—if there was any doubt in my mind about a boy getting something, we weren't going to play him. I'll never forget a boy we signed right after that. There was a question in my mind about him, because my wife got close to the family and the mother confided in her what another school had offered. I called the alumnus in that area and told him, "Don't lie to me, don't put me on the spot. If that boy's getting something I want to know it." He swore he wasn't. Well, the day I left A&M he was riding me out to the airport. He said, "Bear, remember the time you questioned me about that boy, and I told you I didn't give him anything?" I said, "Yeah." He said, "Well, I told you a damned lie."

Anyway, we were at Houston in May of 1955 for the league meeting when the affidavits came to my desk. Jim Owens, who coaches Washington now, was with me, and the night before the story broke we had our meeting of athletic directors. I wanted to talk about this thing, but all those guys wanted to do was play cards. Howard Grubbs of the SWC, who's a good fellow and does a good job but then was just on the wrong side, said, "We can't discuss any business here tonight." I said, "Well, I want to," and he said, "We can't, period."

SO WE PLAYED cards all night long—D. X. Bible, Matty Bell, Dutch Meyer, Jess Neely

and John Barnhill. George Sauer played awhile, but he was scared the Baptists would catch him and he quit. At 8 a.m. we broke up, and John Barnhill of Arkansas and I went down to breakfast to have some cereal. Barney leaned over and said, "Bear, they got you. They're going to cut your guts out. Now you know what's been going on for years, but they got you now and they're going to stick it to you and you just gotta face it."

So I went up to my room with Owens, and it was already on the radio and TV and everything: A&M is going on a two-year probation for recruiting violations. The league had already had its meeting and decided it, and the athletic directors knew it even before we sat down to play cards. Our athletic committee man hadn't told me, he'd just gone on home. Well, Jim drove, and I cried all the way back to A&M. At 6 o'clock I had to make a speech, and I got up and said something about when the going is tough the tough get going, and I was tough and a going son of a gun, and I started crying again, and the Aggies went wild.

WE NEVER GOT to the Cotton Bowl during my four years at A&M because of that probation thing, but we went undefeated and won the conference championship in 1956 and we beat Texas for the first time at Memorial Stadium in Austin. And I tell you, there were a lot of wonderful people who stuck with us all the way, people they call "Aggie Exes." Mr. Zachry and Herman Heep let me use their private planes, and Mr. Heep cut me in on an oil deal that I'll be getting checks from for years to come—not very much money but a thoughtful gesture. I still have investments with Johnny Mitchell, who was a great help to our program. The fact is, I never made the money people thought I did in Texas. I lost on the two apartment houses I built, and I made some poor investments. After we won the championship they wanted to give me a bonus. I said, no, just

buy my house, which they did for about a \$10,000 profit, which let me pay long-term, capital-gains tax. Another thing, too, they put in my contract that I would get a percentage of the gate for our 1957 home games. I don't think any coach ever got that kind of deal before or since.

W. T. (Doc) Doherty (a former A&M Board member) was probably more upset than anybody when I left. He was a fine man and was probably most responsible for my being there. He had me on his company payroll, and we were really close. When I told him I was leaving he couldn't understand it. "What do you want? What do you want?" I said it wasn't the money. I heard he got real bitter after that and made statements that the way I left was absurd, that I didn't treat them right. I wrote him a letter thanking him for all he had done and trying to explain how I felt, but I never received an answer.

WELL, THE TRUTH was I didn't want to go back to Alabama, never intended to. I could have gone back two or three times, and I refused. But they kept reminding me what Alabama had done for me, and how I was the only one who could bring Alabama football back to where it once was, which wasn't true, but it sure got to me. Every day I was getting a sackful of letters, hundreds of them from grade-school kids telling me they'd want to play for me if I came back. Well, heck, I just couldn't refuse.

The worst thing, though, was going in there and telling my boys at A&M. I hadn't had to do that at Kentucky, because they were away on vacation. I went in there with those Aggies and I tried to talk. I got to crying, and it got to be like a Holy Roller meeting, everybody crying, old John Crow and everybody. But I'll never forget that look on Mary Harmon's face when we drove down University Avenue into Tuscaloosa. She was in hog's heaven. I wished then I'd gone back years before.

## University Cleaners

(Next door to Holick's)

112 N. Main St.

Phone 846-6615

North Gate

Dry Cleaning

Laundry

Insignia

Alterations

Ernest Sebesta '39

## A Small Note to Transfer Students:

In the midst of the rush of welcoming new freshmen and returning students, we want to take time to welcome you to Aggieland. We hope you will enjoy continuing your education at A&M.

If at any time we at Loupot's Trading Post can assist you in any way with information or advice to help you get along at A&M, please call on us.

## LOUPOT'S TRADING POST

North Gate College Station

J. E. Loupot '32

Approved Textbooks — Supplies — Instruments — Clothing — Shoes — Tux Rentals  
Complete Line of Veterinary Books, Instruments, Clothing

★ FREE ★  
(With This Coupon) (Good Only Sept. 15, 16, 17, 18)

WELCOME  
!!! WE MEAN IT !!!

- BUY ONE CHAR-BROILED HAMBURGER GET ONE CHAR-BROILED HAMBURGER "FREE"
- WE FEATURE
- HAMBURGERS — CHAR-BROILED "One Makes A Meal"
  - Absolutely the Best Anywhere
- "OLD FASHIONED" ICE CREAM PARLOR
  - Premium Grade Real Ice Cream
  - Sundaes Galore
  - Malts — Shakes — Ice Cream Sodas
- PLEASING ATMOSPHERE
  - Ample Seating Capacity
  - Meet Your Friends Here
- BACKGROUND MUSIC

A&M EAST GATE **Dutch Treat** HIGHWAY 6

## WHITE AUTO

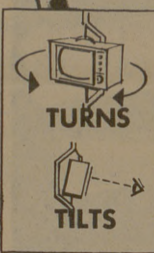
"biggest little store in Texas"



Dorm Pal, Den-Mate  
**12" TV DYNAMO**  
IS AT HOME ANYWHERE!  
NOW

**99<sup>95</sup>**

NO TRADE-IN REQUIRED

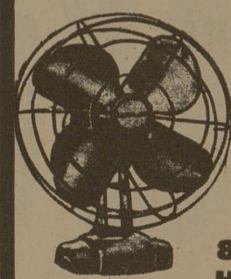


If you need to consider space—don't give it a second thought! 12" compact portable goes great anywhere—in the dorm, den, patio, bedroom! It's so economically priced, yet has features you would expect to find only on much more expensive models! You'll get big screen reception and sound! Aluminized picture tube and out-front speaker system! 122-133 from Japan.  
**STURDY TV POLE 122-73 \$9.95**

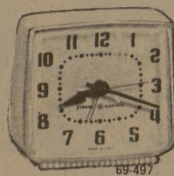
NORTH GATE

- major appliances
- auto parts
- hardware
- bicycles
- sporting goods
- housewares
- radio & t.v. service
- tape recorders

We buy and sell  
Used Appliances  
bicycles, air conditioners, etc.

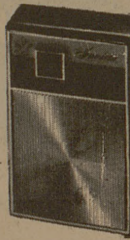


**4<sup>95</sup>**  
8-in. HANDY FAN  
GREAT FOR SPOT USE!



For Only... **2<sup>98</sup>**  
G.E. ROOMMATE ALARM CLOCK!

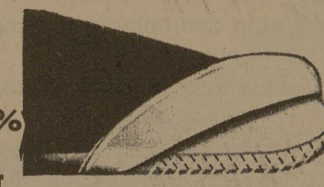
Register for  
**FREE**  
10-Transistor  
RADIO  
to be given away  
October 1



SAVE 31%  
Unbreakable  
Plastic 30-Qt.  
Waste Basket  
**88¢**



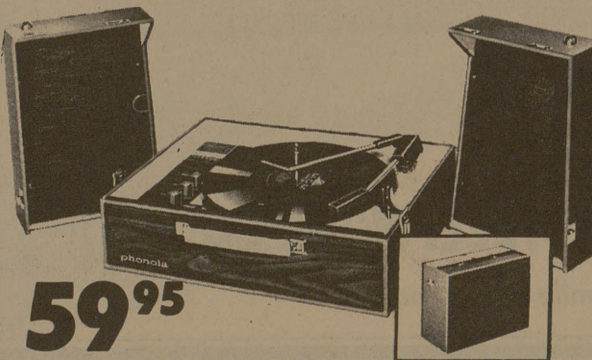
SAVE 21%  
PLASTIC  
GARMENT  
BAGS  
**77¢** EA.  
42" zipper for Dress and 29" for suit.



**Tuflex Pad & Cover 77¢**

Professionalize your ironing—durable pad helps eliminate wrinkles—reflects heat of iron back through clothes. 72-606

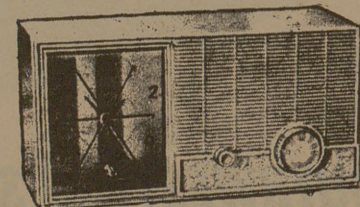
AMAZING QUALITY  
SUCH A LOW PRICE!



**59<sup>95</sup>**

Give the Life of the Party... Get Phono!

Give a portable stereo designed for on-the-go living, smartly styled to show off anywhere, and precision built to put new pep in sound reproduction! 4 speakers in 2 removable enclosures! 122-815



**ARVIN 5-TUBE CLOCK RADIO 15<sup>95</sup>**

Wake to music or wake to alarm! Arvin makes any morning a happy one! Easy-to-read clock face, Vohet Voice-speaker!