

# Rev II Gone But Not Forgotten



REV'S OUTFIT PAYS RESPECTS  
... E-2 attends funeral rites.



NEWLY ADOPTED MASCOT  
... only a pup in 1952.

## Mascot's Funeral Carried Unforgettable Elements

By JOHN FULLER  
Battalion Staff Writer

It was, in its own way, a golden moment, with an unmistakable aura of history-in-the-making. The students filed into Kyle Field quietly. The scene of so much exultation, such anxious concentration, such tumultuous applause, was now one of thoughtful reverence. Here, less than 48 hours earlier, these same students had been united, by waves of indomitable Aggie spirit, with Coach Gene Stallings; now a different sort of spirit united coach and team and student body.

Here Reveille II had made her debut, had led the team onto the field and into victory, had captivated audiences for 14 seasons with her own particular brand of spirit. Here, now, the students paused to remember her.

For the diehard romanticist, the scene rendered abundant symbolism. It was a decade ago that Rev was in her heyday; it was then, in the Bear Bryant era, that she had earned a colorful reputation through her celebrated run-ins with game officials. Among the outstanding players of that era were Gene Stallings, Dea Powell, Don Watson, Loyd Taylor and Charlie Krueger; now Stallings, Powell, Watson and Taylor were back with the team as coaches, and Krueger's younger brother was starting at tackle. Surely this significance was not lost on coaches and players, sitting on the grass across the field from the casket.

As the last of the students were seated, the Memorial Student Center chimes rang out the hour, and for an instant they suggested the tolling of a bell.

The ceremony did, of course, have some of the outward trappings of a funeral; human nature would not have it any other way. Company E-2, traditional keepers of the mascot, held a conspi-

cuous place, comparable to that of the family of the deceased; the pallbearers were also in honor positions. And Reveille III, like any small child who cannot understand the meaning of a funeral and has not learned to grieve, was restless throughout the ceremony, barking first out of curiosity and thereafter at the echo of her bark.

Jerry Stevens made a brief biographical sketch of Reveille II, and offered by way of a eulogy a reading of Dr. John Ashton's poem "Goodbye Reveille," written for the first mascot in 1944.

As the last words of the poem echoed in the half-filled stadium, the chimes tolled the quarter hour.

The minutes that followed, with the wordless and reverent procession to the graveside near that of Reveille I, and with the symbolic turning of earth by those to whom Rev had meant the most, were undoubtedly thoughtful minutes for the thousands of students watching.

Some were probably prompted, for the first time, to ponder Rev's symbolizing of the "end of an era" cliché. She had begun her reign with the distinction of being "the only girl at A&M," but spent her last years with the necessarily altered nickname "the only girl in the Cadet Corps." Ironically, although the only difference in the phrases is the substitution of "Cadet Corps" for "A&M," it was also during her stint that the terms ceased being synonymous.

The shovel was passed from hand to hand. Slowly, the plain black casket disappeared from view forever. Students began filing out of the stadium's environs, as silently as they had entered earlier.

The chimes tolled the half hour, and it was evident from the expressions of those leaving the graveside, that everyone knew for whom they tolled.



QUEEN OF THE CORPS  
... young Rev had special doghouse.



IN HAPPIER DAYS  
... Rev with handlers in 1961.

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