

Though He Is Gone, 'Pinkie's' Loyalty Lives On

"Nobody loved Texas A&M more than Pinkie Downs," declared President Earl Rudder. "His life and love for A&M will always be an inspiration to those of us who had the privilege of serving with him. Though his loss will be difficult to endure, his indomitable spirit will live on."

P. L. Downs, a fixture at Texas A&M since 1940, died Mar. 21 in a Galveston hospital following an illness of several months. He was 83.

As A&M's official greeter for several years, he had been affiliated with the university since he enrolled as a freshman in 1902.

Downs Memorial Fund Established

Texas Aggies and other friends have rallied to establish a P. L. Downs Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The Former Students Association continued this week to receive contributions to the fund.

Richard L. Weirus, executive secretary of the association, said a total of donations will be announced later.

Contributions to the scholarship fund may be made at the Former Students Association office in the Memorial Student Center.

He had hoped to live to be 92, at which time he wanted to give A&M's centennial address.

"Pinkie," as he was called by most of his friends, is credited with creating the famed thumbs up admonition of "Gig 'Em, Aggies" a number of years ago at an A&M-TCU football game. His theory was that if you gig a frog, he hops.

Downs served the school in various capacities. He was athletic business manager, then assistant director of publicity and information before becoming official greeter.

The Downs, who grew up only two blocks apart in Temple, were married Dec. 7, 1916, in Temple. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1966 with a reception at A&M's Memorial Student Center.

A Methodist virtually all his life, Downs was a member of the A&M Methodist Church Board of Stewards.

A loyal Aggie, Downs was noted for his maroon ties with "AG-GIES" emblazoned on them. He once donated two large trees from his yard for the traditional Aggie bonfire before the Turkey Day football game with Texas.

Born Feb. 26, 1884, at Temple, Downs was named after an uncle, Col. Pinckney L. Downs, a member of A&M's first graduating class in 1879.

"I wanted to go to A&M from the time I was 12," Downs used to chuckle, "but they wouldn't let me until I was 18."

At A&M, Downs earned a degree in marketing and finance, but told friends he majored in "Good 'ole Aggie Bull." He was a member of the Ross Volunteers, honors drill unit, the Sul Ross Literary Society, and was president of the A&M Tennis Club.

After graduation in 1906, Downs worked in the Temple bank for his father, F. F. Downs, for 28 years. He resigned to become a national bank examiner for the U. S. Comptroller of Currency.

Downs was a member of Texas A&M's Board of Directors from 1923 to 1933, and for five years was a member of the board of directors of A&M's Association of Former Students. The Downs' Natatorium at A&M is named in his honor.

A man who prided himself in "living my life for others," Downs for many years headed a "fruit project" at A&M to benefit patients at the Veterans Administration Hospital at Temple. Aggies donated apples and oranges from their big Christmas dinner in university dining halls.

For many years, Downs hosted a busload of VA patients from Temple for a home football game each year. He arranged for them

to be seated close to the Aggie bench and be recognized by the fans.

The Aggies' love for Downs was shown in 1955 when he was hospitalized for a time. Friends organized an "In the Pink" variety show which raised \$3,000 for Downs' hospital bill and paid off the mortgage on his home.

"Pinkie" used to say that he wanted his last words to be "Be good to the Aggies."

Memorial services for P. L. "Pinkie" Downs were conducted Thursday in the A&M Methodist Church of College Station.

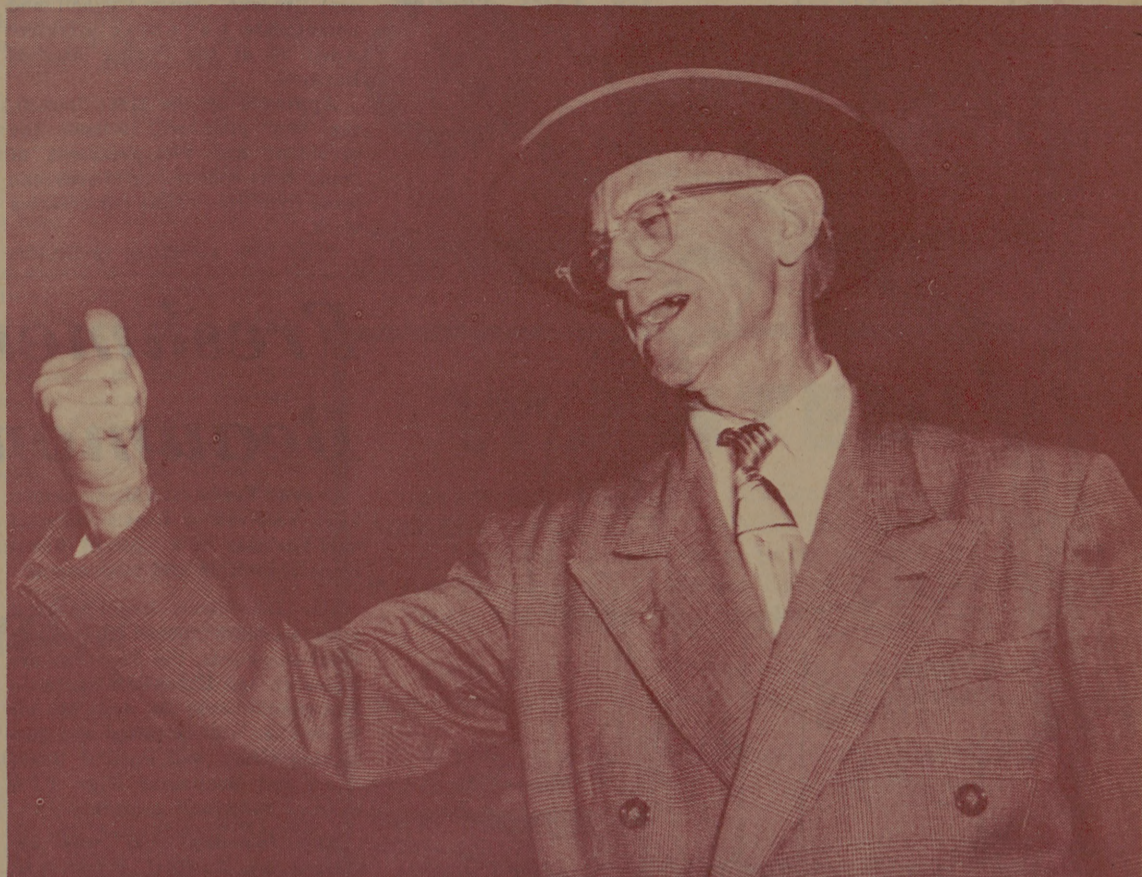
Dr. Walter McPherson, pastor of the A&M Methodist Church, officiated at funeral services. Burial was in the College Station City Cemetery. Callaway-Jones Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Pallbearers included Earl Rudder, Richard Weirus, Jim Lindsey, Travis Bryan Jr., Edwin H. Cooper and Bill Lancaster.

Members of the Brazos County A&M Club were honorary pallbearers.

Survivors include the wife, "Miss Bea," their daughter, Grey Downs of College Station; a brother, Fort Downs of Temple, and a sister, Mrs. Lyn P. Talley of Dallas.

Silver Taps ceremonies the Tuesday before Easter break honored Downs.



"Be Good to the Aggies"

the outside world

VIETNAM

Slowly, a program to pacify the countryside is gaining a foothold in Vietnam, with blackclad government teams fighting toe to toe with the Viet Cong for allegiance of the peasants.

Premier Nguyen Cao Ky offered his own three-part peace plan Tuesday and said negotiations should be limited to Saigon and Hanoi. Later he autographed a 175mm shell that U. S. artillery men fired at a Communist target across the demilitarized zone.

Secretary-General U Thant proposed a general truce in Vietnam to be followed by preliminary peace talks, and the United States announced it accepts the proposal.

WASHINGTON

President Johnson said Tuesday that he had "learned regretfully" that North Vietnam apparently has rejected a new U. N. bid to end the Vietnamese war.

NATIONAL

Mrs. John F. Kennedy sought solace in the hope that her husband had been the victim of a conspiracy when he was assassinated in Dallas.

Five youngsters helped Chicago police artists sketch a likeness Tuesday of a man who they said kidnapped their playmate, Carrie Stephens, 8.

A three-judge federal court rejected heavyweight champion Cassius Clay's bid Tuesday for a court order to keep him from being drafted into the army.

INTERNATIONAL

Pope Paul VI gave the support of the Roman Catholic Church on Tuesday to civic birth control education to check the population explosion so long as this education does not violate "moral law."

British warplanes blasted the shattered supertanker Torrey Canyon on Tuesday with tons of high explosives and then rained incendiary bombs on the ship in an effort to burn her leaking cargo of crude oil from the sea.

TEXAS

Friends of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, SNCC, picketed Southern University Tuesday when university officials refused to recognize the committee as an on-campus organization.

Surrounded by well-wishers, a happy family and historical reminders, Senator Bill Patman of Ganado was governor for a day Tuesday.

Lawmakers Vote Daylight Savings

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas will join most other states in observing six months of daylight saving time, House members decided Tuesday.

The House rejected, 67 to 90, a bill by Rep. Will Smith of Beaumont that would have exempted the state from the daylight saving time provision of the 1966 Uniform Time Act.

That decision saves the Senate from a decision on the controversial issue.

Texas will go on daylight time with most states on April 30 and keep the clock advanced an hour until Oct. 29 because of the action.

THE CLOSING minutes of the more than one hour of debate were marked by whistling, clapping and shouting when Smith said that if the legislature goes along with daylight time, "Let us tear down that great banner, that red, white and blue flag" of Texas.

Smith told the House that day-

light time would put "hundreds of school kids out in the dark and rain in the early morning waiting for the school bus."

"The lives of the children of Texas are far more important than any time bill," he said.

Rep. Gene Fondren of Taylor said, however, that Smith's bill would cause "great harm, great damage to business activity in the state . . . We would be an island in time . . . completely out of step with the rest of the nation."

"DAYLIGHT time will give our people and the people who visit our state an extra hour of recreation time in the afternoon," Fondren said.

The daylight time controversy has raged in committee and behind the scenes for months.

Giants of the entertainment industry lined up on different sides of the controversy. Movie owners — particularly drive-in movies — were for Smith's bill and against daylight time, while television stations fought it. Also lined up against the bill were airlines, railroads and the Texas Daily Newspaper Association.

Smith's allies included the Texas Restaurant Association and owners of some radio stations, particularly those which operate only in daylight hours.

REP. RALPH SCOGGINS of El Paso pleaded for passage of Smith's bill because his city's time would be the same as that of New Mexico if Texas stayed on Central Standard Time.

The Battalion

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Back Porchers, 'Skeeter' Civilian Weekend Extras



THE BACK PORCH MAJORITY
The young folk group will perform for a Town Hall Extra, which will open Civilian Weekend, April 22.

Houston, El Paso Mayors To Speak

Two major proponents of a city sales tax in Texas will be heard Thursday at Texas A&M.

Houston Mayor Louis Welch and El Paso Mayor Judson Williams are set for a Political Forum presentation at 8 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom.

"Urban Politics Today" is the principal topic for the evening, announced David Gay, Political Forum chairman.

Welch was first elected to the Houston City Council in 1950. He served eight years as councilman and is serving his fourth year as mayor. A graduate of Abilene Christian College, Welch is a past president of the Texas Mayors and Councilmen's Association and a former president of the Texas Municipal League. He is serving on two national committees — one a special education committee of the Health, Education and Welfare Department, and the other an anti-poverty committee appointed by President Johnson.

Accident Control Seminar Is Set

A safety seminar, "The ABC's of Industrial Accident Control," is scheduled here April 10-12. Taught by the Supervisory Development Division of A&M's Engineering Extension Service, the course stresses factors of strong safety programs.

A singing group billed as "The Back Porch Majority" will perform here April 22 as a Memorial Student Center Town Hall Extra.

The seven young men and women who comprise "The Back Porch Majority" began their career at Randy Sparks' nitery in West Los Angeles. Initially trained in a style imitative of "The New Christy Minstrels," the Majority soon came up with an individuality apart from other folk groups.

Also slated as a single act during the program is "Skeeter" Davis of Grand Ole Opry fame. Some of her top recordings include "Last Date," "The End of the World" and "Sunglasses."

Sammy Pearson, MSC Town Hall chairman, said the evening of entertainment will kick off Civilian Student Weekend activities at Aggieland.

Season tickets and activity cards will not apply for this G. Rollie White Coliseum performance, Pearson said. He said tickets go on sale April 10 at the MSC Student Program Office. There will be no reserved seats. "The Majority" has entertained for President Johnson and his family at the White House and has appeared at such unlikely events as the Jumping Frog Jubilee at Calaveras County.

A review of press clippings indicates the group has received

more than its share of standing ovations in performances throughout the nation.

One writer said the singers are so polished . . . so hard driving . . . so dynamic that they have to be ranked among the top club acts in the country.

Known around the circuit as the BPMs, the seven includes

Mike Crowley, Karen Brian, Mike Clough, Ellen Whalen, Denny Brooks, Linda Carey and Kin Vassy.

Some of the numbers listed in their material includes "That's the Way It's Going to Be," "Take a Little Bird," "Julie Ann," "He Was a Friend of Mine" and "Natural Man."



SKEETER DAVIS

Also appearing as a single act with the Back Porch Majority.

"Calamity Jane" Is Scheduled At Bryan Auditorium

The Stephen F. Austin Accapella Choir will present its production of "Calamity Jane" April 7 and 8 at 8 p.m. in the Bryan Civic Auditorium, announced Jim Austin, choir director.

The musical is based on a facet of the life of Calamity Jane, portrayed by Karen Kraft. The male lead of Wild Bill Hickock will be played by Ted Davis.

"We've gone to a great deal of expense to make it authentic," Austin said, "right down to shooting glasses out of people's hands and to constructing a replica of old Fort Scully at the entrance and an Indian village on the lawn of the auditorium."

Tickets for the production can be obtained at the Bank of Commerce, First Bank and Trust, Jarrot's Pharmacy of Townshire, First National Bank, City National Bank and the principal's office at the school. All seats are reserved. Tickets are \$1.50.

An orchestra composed of members of the Houston Symphony and Sam Houston State will provide the musical score.

Former A&M Student Earns Air Medal For Viet Service

U. S. Air Force Captain Donald D. Griffin, son of Mrs. F. C. Griffin of 402 N. Coulter in Bryan, has been decorated with five awards of the Air Medal at Vung Tau Army Air Field, Vietnam.

Captain Griffin, a VC-2 Caribou pilot, won the awards for outstanding airmanship and courage on successful and important missions under hazardous conditions in Vietnam. He has completed more than 140 combat missions.

He is assigned to Vung Tau as a member of the Pacific Air Forces, America's overseas air arm in Southeast Asia, the Far East and the Pacific.

Before his arrival in Southeast Asia, he was assigned to the 965th Aircraft Early Warning and Control Squadron at McClellan AFB, Calif.

A graduate of Stephen F. Austin High School, he received a B.S. degree in education from Texas A&M and was commissioned there in 1961 upon completion of the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps program.

His wife, Sue, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray D. Sorrells of 1019 Bledsoe St., Gilmer.

University National Bank
"On the side of Texas A&M"

—Adv.

Weather

Thursday: Partly cloudy to cloudy. Few light rain showers. Winds southerly, 10 to 15. High 86, low 68.

Friday: Mostly cloudy. Few early morning thundershowers. Scattered heavy thundershowers during afternoon. Winds south, 0 to 30. High 83, low 68.

First Bank & Trust now pays 5% per annum on savings certificates. —Adv.