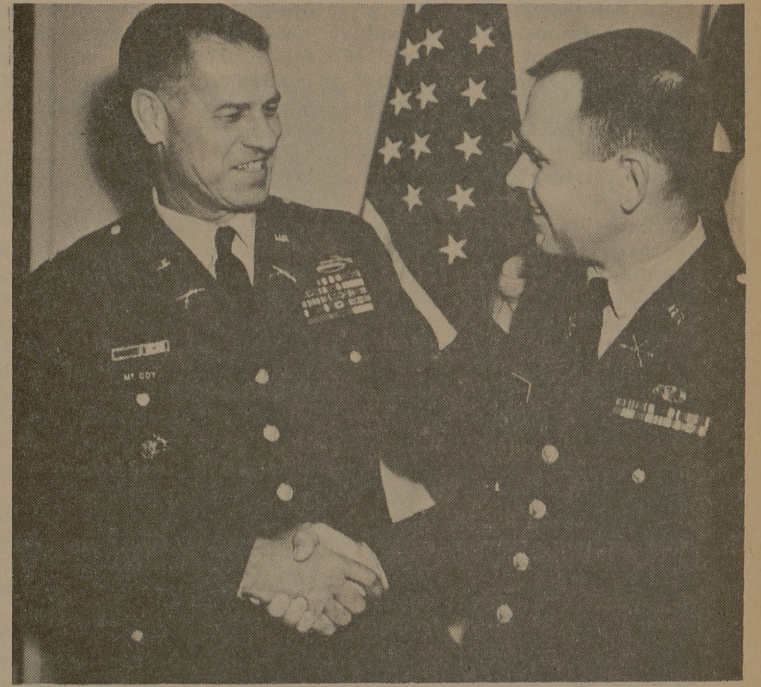


# Military News



**MAJOR PROMOTION**

Maj. Homer J. Gibbs (right) of Texas A&M was presented his promotion papers by Col. Jim H. McCoy, commandant, Tuesday. The Aggie-ex teaches in the Military Science Department.

## Three Officers Get Grads Attending Awards, Oath Here Squadron School

Two 1962 Texas A&M graduates from Bryan are attending Squadron Officer School at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Air Force Capt. Charles M. Cole Jr. and Capt. Sam Piccolo will receive 14 weeks instruction in international relations, command-staff team duties and aerospace doctrine at the Air University school. Piccolo graduated from S. F. Austin High in 1958. He studied accounting and was commissioned at A&M. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony S. Piccolo, 605 Berka Lane, has since taken a master's degree at Michigan State. Son of Dr. and Mrs. Charles M. Cole, 507 E. 24th, Captain Cole completed SFA in 1957 and received a degree in history at A&M.

## '62 Grad Receives Vietnamese Cross

Army Capt. Raleigh E. Coppedge of Cuero, a 1962 Texas A&M graduate, has received the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with silver leaf for service in Vietnam. Captain Coppedge was cited for his role with the Viet Cong near Loc Ninh. South Vietnam Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky spoke at the ceremony near Lai Khe.

"It is fitting this nation honors the heroes who came to help defend its territory against aggression, but it is even more important for us to bear in mind that the pages of glory which you have written here do not belong to any one nation alone — they belong to the entire family of 'free men'," Ky said.

Coppedge is on assignment as intelligence officer of the Second Battalion, 28th Infantry, First Division.

The officer studied marketing at A&M and was commissioned through A&M's ROTC program.

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## Mosquitoes Cost Professor Blood, Tears For Research

When Dr. Darryl Sanders hears a hungry buzz, he knows he's about to lose a little more blood in the cause of science. He doesn't even say "Ouch!" anymore.

The Texas A&M professor regularly rolls up his sleeve and offers a succulent forearm to the eight different kinds of mosquitoes which inhabit Gulf Coast salt marshes from Louisiana to below Corpus Christi, Texas.

Vacationers and campers know how fierce the mosquito hordes can be. And so do cattlemen who must move their herds out of the

rich grasslands every summer or see them become gaunt and die.

The loss of thousands of acres of coastal pasture during the summer is the motivation behind a substantial interdepartmental research effort now under way at A&M.

Entomologist Sanders said "We're looking for weak links in the life cycle where the mosquitoes might be susceptible to some cultural practice." By this, he means something like drainage of breeding areas.

"We know we can kill them with insecticides. The question is whether we can afford to," Dr. Sanders continued.

Not only the Department of Entomology, but the Wildlife Science and Animal Science departments are collaborating.

Some experiments with insecticides will be carried out in the spring. The wildlife researchers will determine the effect on small animals while the animal scientists and agronomists at the research substation near Angleton will be studying a small herd of cattle pastured on the coast in Brazoria County between Angleton and Galveston.

It is near here that Dr. Sanders has set up several "Malaise" traps for mosquitoes and where he takes samples of larvae from the standing water.

And, as a standard method of counting the populations and species present, he bares an arm and counts the number of landings per minute. Or, he simply counts the number which land on the front of his shirt.

"They can really smell you," Dr. Sanders said. Counts up to 200 landings per minute have been made after hurricanes.

"After these storms, they'll move out of the marshes—maybe 20 miles into populated areas. It's then that the mosquito control districts have to create some sort of barrier strip with insecticides," he went on.

Included in the eight species found on the Texas coast is the "Southern House" mosquito which is the primary carrier of encephalitis. It prefers humans, birds and horses to cattle, however.

The primary coastal mosquito pest is one called *Aedes sollicitans* which lays eggs on the ground where they wait for high tides or heavy rains to hatch. Biologically clever, the eggs, like some cold capsules today, have built-in release times so all don't hatch in a given flooding to fall prey to another natural disturbance.

Not only mosquitoes, but other blood-sucking insects must be considered in the five-year project.

"Horse flies also have a big influence on blood loss from cattle," Dr. Sanders noted.

So far, the study has been aimed at establishing the normal biological conditions. The experimentation will begin this spring.

If the researchers are able to find the mosquito's Achilles Heel, the economic impact on the cattle

## Eleven Caught Smuggling Pot

LAREDO, Tex. (AP)—U. S. Customs officers arrested 11 persons, including students from Oklahoma and Florida schools during the past weekend on charges of smuggling marijuana, the Webb County sheriff's office said Monday.

Six of those arrested were identified as students at St. Gregory's College, Shawnee, Okla.; four were from Florida State University, and one was a soldier stationed at Ft. Hood, Tex.

Only the soldier remained in custody Monday night, a deputy said.

Arrested at the International Bridge spanning the Rio Grande between Nuevo Laredo and Laredo were six students from the Oklahoma school. They were Gabriel Alonzo Rivero, 17, Mexico City; Thomas C. Joseph, 19, Clinton, N. Y.; Thomas M. Dowd, 19, and Marc L. Noel, 19, both of Buffalo, N. Y.; and Thomas E. McGuirk, 18, Salisbury, Md.

They were released Monday after posting \$2,500 bond each. U. S. commissioner Lawrence Mann said the students had four and a half ounces of refined marijuana in their car at the time they were arrested.

Arrested at a Laredo motel after allegedly picking up a package containing eight and a half pounds of crude marijuana at a Laredo bus station were Douglas Hassing, 20, Peru, Ind.; James L. Roberts, Jacksonville, Fla.; Gail I. Gour, 23, a co-ed from Opelouska, La.; Robert Carnley, 23, and Keith Komyakovsky, 23, both of Tallahassee, Fla. All were identified as Florida State University students and were released Monday after posting \$5,000 bond each.

David Gerstein, 22, Howard Beach, N. Y., arrested with the FSU students, was being held for military authorities from Ft. Hood Monday night, a deputy said.

A Webb County deputy said the recent arrests brought to 106 the number of persons arrested at Laredo so far this year on charges of smuggling marijuana into the United States from Mexico.



**GROWING STRONG**

The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas began in 1871, six miles from the nearest settlement, with a donation of 2,400 acres from the citizens of Brazos County. Today, the Texas A&M University physical plant exceeds \$100 million and 5,200 acres.

## Brazos County Citizens Figure In A&M's Origin

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the first in a three-part series describing the influence of Texas A&M on the Bryan-College Station community. Its influence will be surveyed in three ways: First, the establishment of the school and its history through the present will be discussed. Second, the university's economic impact on community businesses will be described. The current image of Texas A&M and its administrative policies will form the conclusion.

By MIKE PLAKE  
Battalion Feature Editor

President Abraham Lincoln set the stage for A&M's beginning by signing the Morrill Land Grant College Act in 1862.

In 1871, the Texas Legislature appropriated \$75,000 to construct the main building on the newly-formed Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas campus. Proceeds from land donations under the Morrill Act, the legislature appropriation, and 2,416 acres of lands donated by citizens of Brazos County, finally established Texas A&M College in practicality.

Two buildings and three cottages housed the first classes in 1867. Forty students studied under six professors and the first President, Thomas Gathright, in that term.

A&M's HISTORY since that time has been predominantly military-oriented. Six Texas Aggies received the Congressional Medal of Honor. During World War II, the school received widespread recognition by supplying more officers to the Armed Services than any other U. S. institution.

The area surrounding the school has grown with it. From forty students in 1876, the student population has increased to more than twelve thousand in 1968.

The Bryan-College Station community, six miles from the original buildings, now lies next door. Its population has grown from less than a thousand in widely-scattered areas in 1870 to more than 51,000 in 1967.

LAND AND property holdings of the university have increased from the original 2,400 acre donation from the citizens of Brazos County to more than 12,900 acres. An especially important histori-

cal change took place on August 23, 1963, when the name of the school was changed from Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College to Texas A&M University. This change, "emphasizing the stature the institution has achieved in its 90 years," according to a university bulletin, has indirectly affected other changes in its make-up.

One such change occurred in 1965, when membership in the Corps of Cadets was made non-compulsory. This change made an already increasing number of civilians on campus expand even more. With a greater number of civilians came the problem of representation, and the problem of adjusting the attitudes of the school to include civilian opinions.

The history of Texas A&M gives an inkling to the future. Since World War II, the policies and attitudes of the institution have changed to fit the times. In addition to performing admirably the task of training an increasing number of R.O.T.C. cadets, the university has adapted itself to the growing number of civilians. It will change from what began as a small school for specialized technological training to one offering substantial programs in business, pure sciences, and social sciences.

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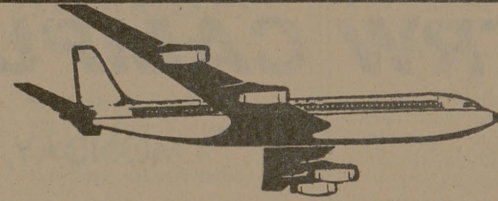
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