



### LOUPOT Has Top Standing Among Merchants, Students

A small building at the West edge of North Gate has a traditional standing both in the business atmosphere of the A&M University area as well as the personal life of its students.

Inside Loupot's Trading Post, the Aggies will find one of the best friends they can make while at A&M. J. E. Loupot, '32. He is not hard to spot, being a little more than thin, a little lacking in hair, and with an ever-present grin.

Old Army Lou, as many have come to know him, has many ties with A&M, dating back to 1928, when he entered A&M as a fish. After leaving A&M a few years later, he tried business in other parts of the state.

But after a few years, Loupot decided he could do more for the Aggies, and his alma mater, right here in College Station. So he returned and set up a small shop at North Gate.

Determined to make his future here, Loupot moved his business to its present location in a modest brick and stucco building across from the new dormitory area in 1942.

Since that day, Old Army Lou has done as much for the Aggies as its possible for a man of his means to do. A few examples will prove the point.

He sells books on the rental system. A student pays 95 cents to \$1.95 rent, plus a deposit on the book. When brought back to Lou at the end of the semester, the deposit is returned if the book is still on the current book list.

Lou considers the freindship of Aggies and the local community one of his best assets.

"This is nothing but good business," said Loupot. "If the Aggies like the way I do business, they will keep coming back. And they will tell their friends about it, too."

Loupot's is probably known best as a book store, where the customers don't have to pay new book prices, but can usually find used books at much better rates. All books are University approved.

Aside from the book business, Lou has a complete line of name-brand clothing, both for civilian students and Corps men. A complete line of accessories are also found at Lou's and he will not be beat on prices. He has the brass, belts, shoes, extra uniforms, school supplies, and room furnishings that the beginning Aggie needs.

The reason Lou can offer such low prices is obvious. There are no high overhead costs to pay, no set amount to be given to outside interests.

Says Loupot, "I do business to give the Aggies the best value possible. When an Aggie needs help, I will give it to him individually."

The tradition of Loupot will live as long as Aggies exist. For he has helped them, and they have in turn helped him. A mutual trust and a mutual interest such as this cannot help benefit past, present, and future Aggies.

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## Texas A&M Is Oldest Public Institution Of Higher Learning

Texas A&M's history began in the fall of 1876 when 40 students attended the school's first classes.

A&M, the state's oldest institution of higher learning, has grown to house a student body of over 12,000 and an academic structure of more than 60 departments.

In July of 1862 President Abraham Lincoln authorized the Morrill Act permitting the Federal government to offer each state a grant of public lands which could be used to raise funds for establishing colleges specializing in agriculture and the mechanical arts.

In the first year of its existence, A&M's enrollment jumped from 40 on Oct. 4, to 100 in January and 331 in the spring.

In these early years, accommodations were insufficient for anything like this number. The second and third floors of Gathright Hall and the second, third and part of the fourth floor of the Main Building were used for barracks.

During cold winter months, students kept these rooms warm with fire wood. Each student had his own axe, cut his own wood at the common wood pile and carried it to his room in his arms.

Wood piles were kept outside each building with the owner's name above each, roughly on this order, "This is John Jones' wood pile. Keep your hands off of it!"

The first floor of Gathright

Hall was used as a dining hall with classes held on the first floor of the Main Building.

As for the actual campus in these early days, one professor said:

"The campus was such a wild waste that it was not considered safe for children to be out at night. The howling of wolves provided nightly serenades. On one occasion a wild animal wandering over the campus threw the whole community in a frenzy of excitement. An alarm was given and the whole battalion of students and some professors turned out to kill it but in the high weeds of the campus it easily escaped."

The conduct of the professors also left room for improvement during the memorial '76. Following complaints from throughout the state the Board of Directors fired the entire faculty.

A mathematics professor showed his contempt for being fired by going fishing. "I can't be bothered," he said.

In the late '70's the mid '80's, Garland James succeeded Gathright as president, four buildings were constructed and the entire curriculum was revised.

The school slumped badly in the 80's until Lawrence Sullivan Ross was named president in 1890. Once the state legislature even considered abandoning the college, with the buildings to be used as a Negro insane asylum.

Ross literally saved the school from destruction. During his

eight-year reign, enrollment increased tremendously, the first Corps trip was held in Houston, property value reached \$389,502,64, and most of all, the college for the first time acquired a good name among citizens of the state.

During the first years of the century such events as a cane rush between freshmen and sophomores caused quite a stir.

One morning mysterious notices had been tacked up at various places forbidding any freshmen to carry a cane past the bandstand between 4:30 and 4:45 p.m. At the blast of a bugle, at the proper hour, groups of freshmen and sophomores emerged from every hall, clad in old clothes.

A freshman, attended by a bodyguard, attempted the feat and the struggle was on.

Reinforcements arrived and the battle raged for two hours, but without success on either side.

President H. H. Harrington's administration was rocked by a

student strike. After several days, most of the students went home. One student, crossing the Brazos, was met by his father with a shotgun. He returned. Harrington resigned. The same fate befell the administration of Col. R. T. Milner, and he resigned also.

Two tragedies enabled the campus to first take on its present appearance. In 1911 the mess hall burned and in 1912 Old Main was gutted by fire.

Soon afterwards Sbisla Dining Hall and the Academic Building sprang up. Also, not long afterward, Guion Hall was built.

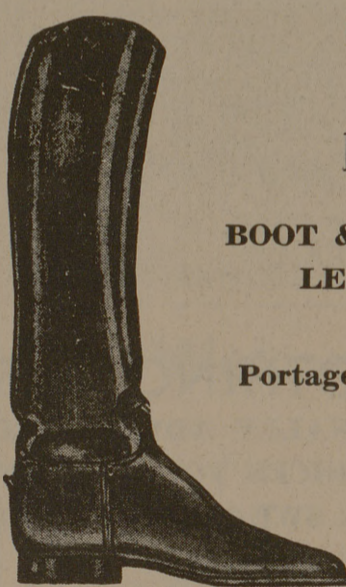
World War I gave the school its first test. The entire 1917 senior class enlisted. More than 200 Aggie grads served in the war and 52 gave their lives for democracy.

After the war the Reserve Officers Training Corps was established and A&M immediately became a member. With the change, the famed Aggie grey gave way to khaki and olive drab.



FORMER STUDENTS

Aggies from another era helped to make A&M what it is today, and many of the traditions they started are still here.



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