

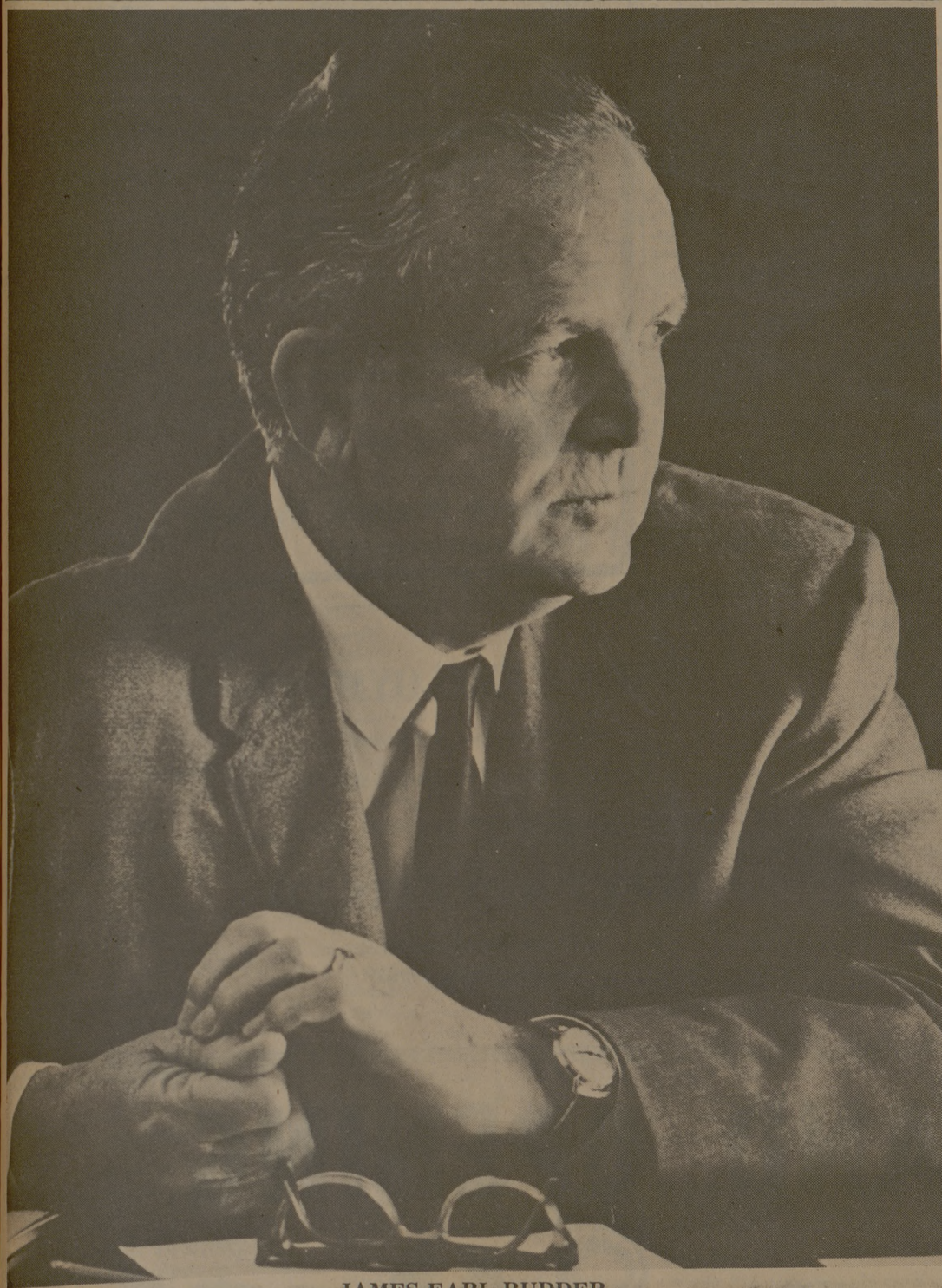
The Battalion

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Telephone 845-2226



JAMES EARL RUDDER

Rudder Dead at 59; Services Wednesday

James Earl Rudder is dead. The 59-year-old Rudder, president of Texas A&M University and the Texas A&M University System, died at 5:10 p.m. Monday in St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston. Death, according to the hospital, was caused by circulatory collapse brought on by a kidney infection.

News of Rudder's death was withheld for nearly three hours (until 8 p.m.) until members of

All classes will be dismissed and campus offices closed Wednesday, in tribute to President Rudder, announced Chairman Clyde Wells of the Texas A&M System Board of Directors.

his family could be notified. This was done at the family's request. The retired Army general developed the kidney infection Sunday and was moved from his third-floor private room to the hospital's intensive care unit.

His condition, which had been listed as satisfactory, was changed to serious.

He continued to worsen, and Monday he developed irregular blood pressure. Monday afternoon his condition was listed as critical.

Rudder, president of Texas A&M for the past 10 years, first became ill at his home in College Station Jan. 29. He was taken to St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan.

The following day he was transferred to St. Luke's and was believed to be suffering from a heart ailment. He was transferred to Methodist Hospital, also in the Texas Medical Center in Houston, when it was learned that he had a cerebral hemorrhage.

On Feb. 5 he underwent surgery to remove a blood clot from

his brain. Following the operation, his condition was listed as serious.

He was transferred back to St. Luke's Feb. 6 and underwent surgery to stop stomach bleeding brought on by a stress ulcer. He later underwent two more operations to control the bleeding.

On Feb. 19 his condition was listed as satisfactory by his doctors, the first time he had been listed as other than serious since the beginning of his ordeal.

At the Feb. 24 meeting of the A&M Board of Directors, board member H. C. Heldenfels of Corpus Christi told board members that he had been to Houston over the weekend to see Rudder and that he had been assured by doctors that no brain damage was

present and that a "rapid recovery" by Rudder was expected. Barring setbacks, doctors told Heldenfels, Rudder would be home in 30 days to 6 weeks (by the middle of April).

It was after the board of directors meeting, in March, when Rudder underwent further operations to control his stomach ulcer. A 1932 A&M graduate, Rudder returned in 1958 to become vice president of the institution. A year and a half later, in July, 1959, he became president of the university. In September of 1965 he was named president of the A&M system.

The system includes Texas A&M, Prairie View A&M College, Tarleton State College, the Texas Forestry Service, the Texas Mari-

time Academy, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, the Texas Engineering Extension Service, the Texas Engineering Experiment Station and the Texas Transportation Institute.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Margaret Williamson Rudder; two sons, James E. (Bud) Rudder Jr. of Tulsa, Okla., and Robert Rudder of College Station; three daughters, Mrs. M. M. Walton of Midland, Mich., Miss Jane Rudder who is teaching school in Hearne, and Miss Linda Rudder, a student at the University of Texas at Austin; a brother, John Rudder of Brady; and a grandson, Marc of Midland, Mich.

For President Rudder Services Tomorrow, Silver Taps Tonight

Memorial services for A&M President Earl Rudder will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Interment will be in a local cemetery with military honors.

Hillier Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. In lieu of flowers, the family requests gifts to the James Earl Rudder Memorial Fund at the university.

The body will lie in state in the rotunda of the System Administration Building from 9 a.m.

until 12 noon Wednesday. The elite Ross Volunteers will form an honor guard in the rotunda.

Persons wishing to pay their respects are urged to park east of the System Building and enter by the east door.

Silver Taps for the 59-year-old former major general are scheduled at 10:30 tonight in front of the Academic Building.

Wednesday services will be officiated by the Rev. James B. Argue, former College Station Methodist Church minister now

pastor in Little Rock, Ark. Mrs. Argue was a member of the presidential party at Rudder's inauguration March 26, 1960.

Participating in the services will be the Singing Cadets, civilian chaplain Ed Donnell of Freeport, corps chaplain Harry A. Snowdy of Port Lavaca and an honor line of approximately 40 students through which the casket will enter the coliseum.

Muffled drums will be sounded during the entrance. (See Silver Taps, page 2)

'Service' Describes Life Of A&M's Earl Rudder

By Tom Curl
James Earl Rudder's death ended his life as head of the vast Texas A&M University System, a system that includes one university, two colleges and research and extension branches.

But his life was by no means restricted to the field of university administration. His eventful life was full of private and public service on the athletic field, in battle and in government positions.

Born in Eden, Texas, Rudder attended what is now Tarleton State College and then transferred to Texas A&M in 1930, where he majored in industrial education and lettered in football.

While at Tarleton he worked his way by milking a Jersey cow given him by the Lions Club and selling the milk to the dorms.

At A&M, he held concessions to sell brooms to the freshmen and to sell cold drinks at athletic events. In between, he was jerking soda, dishwashing, janitorial, and waiting tables.

Barlow "Bones" Irvin, former A&M athletic director, was a line coach for the Aggies during Rudder's two years of football. Irvin remembers the 180-pound center as a "very aggressive" player who "started most of the time."

"I don't know anything but good about him" commented Irvin.

After graduation in 1932 Rudder was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Reserve. His first year out of college, during the depression, found him earning less than in school. For two bits an hour, he swung a pick and shovel excavating for a bridge near Menard.

In 1933 he became a teacher and coach at Brady High School, where he met his future wife, Miss Margaret Williamson of Menard. They were married in June, 1937.

Rudder returned to John Tarleton Agricultural College (as it was then called) in 1938, where he was a football coach and teacher until 1941, when he was called to active duty as a second lieutenant.

It was in the military in World War II that Rudder gained the reputation for excellence that was to be with him the rest of his life.

After schooling at Ft. Benning, Ga., and a term as a battalion executive officer at Camp Atterbury, Ind., Rudder attended the Army Command and General Staff School in the fall of 1942. In June, 1943, he organized and trained the 2nd Ranger Battalion, which ultimately played an important part in the D-Day invasion.

The most spectacular military maneuver on that day was the assault on the 90-foot cliffs at Pointe du Hoc in Normandy, France. The then Lt. Col. Rudder was ordered by a lieutenant general not to lead his Ranger Battalion in an assault on the cliffs.

When the general told Rudder he could not risk his being knocked out in the first round, the Texan faced him and said: "I'm sorry to disobey you, sir, but if I don't take it, it may not go." With that, he led his troops in the bloody assault and scaled the cliffs.

"No soldier in my command has ever been wished a more difficult task than that which befell the 34-year-old commander (Rudder) of this Ranger force," commented General Omar Bradley, then commander of the U.S. Ground Forces in Europe.

Rudder's forces suffered more than 50 per cent casualties during the first day of the invasion. Although wounded twice, Rudder remained in action.

In December, 1944, he took command of the 109th Infantry (See 'Service,' page 3)

State, University Officials Praise Rudder

'His Loss Will Be Mourned'

By Pam Troboy
Battalion News Editor

Gov. Preston Smith joined other Texans Monday night in paying tribute to President Earl Rudder, "a great Texan whose loss will be mourned by all who knew him."

"Not only has the state lost a great educator, but also a war hero, of whom we were all proud," Smith said. "Mrs. Smith joins me in extending our sincere condolences to the family."

Sen. Ralph Yarborough called Rudder's death a tragic loss to the state, the school and the cause of education.

"Earl Rudder has brought Texas A&M University to new heights of achievement, excellence and prestige," Yarborough said.

"The university and the state needed his services," he said. "He has made a high mark in the history of Texas education and I join with the 11 million other Texans in mourning the loss of this able, energetic, dedicated public servant. His family, his university, his state, his community and the nation will all miss his dynamic leadership."

Rep. Olin E. Teague of College Station said that Rudder "was one of the closest friends I had in the world and I don't think anyone knows more than I do what a great American and what a great Texan we have lost. He was the best."

State Sen. Bill Moore said that the loss was one of a "very good personal friend who would really be missed." He said that Rudder was one of the "finest administrators ever at A&M."

Senator John Tower sent Mrs. Rudder a telegram this morning expressing his sympathy. He said that Rudder was "an outstanding Texas leader and a man in whom we can all take pride. His loss is not only yours but that of all Texans."

The senator's secretary indicated that he would insert some remarks concerning Rudder into

the Congressional Record.

Congressman Graham Purcell, from the 13th district, said that he had lost a good friend whose "wise counsel and warm friendship will be sorely missed."

"The distinguished soldier and war hero, administrator, educator and friend of Texas A&M has passed the torch to us," Purcell said. "His firm hand on the helm has guided the university through troubled waters and it is up to us to carry on his unfinished task. We are all better for his having passed our way and we can best serve his memory by carrying on the work he was unable to complete."

Clyde Wells of Granbury, chairman of the board of the Texas A&M system, called Rudder's death "not only a tremendous loss to Texas A&M but to the entire nation."

"He was a great administrator and leader, taking any assignment and doing it well," Wells said. "He was a leader in France and then when Gov. (Allan) Shivers asked him to take over the land office, he took care of that task well."

"When we asked him to become an administrator of a major university, he did that well. He was a leader that many people are going to miss. We shall miss him and hope to find a man that can take this position and do the job that Gen. Rudder was able to accomplish."

Frank C. Erwin, chairman of the board of the University of Texas, said that the university mourned the passing of "a great Aggie, a great Texan and a great American."

"Unfortunately," said Erwin, "his like will not again pass this way soon."

Ford D. Albritton Jr. of Bryan, member of A&M's board of directors, called Rudder "the man for the era."

"Earl Rudder did what was required and as a result led Texas A&M University through its finest era," he said.

Gen. Rudder placed this university in a position of achievement, not only on campus but in building a reputation of international excellence," Albritton continued. "He was indeed a great man. His loss will be felt at home, throughout the nation and in the world."

Dr. Horace R. Byers, academic vice president, said that A&M had lost a "great leader of students and an inspiring leader of

faculty and staff." "He was a kind man who loved people—from the lowliest worker to the highest government official or business tycoon, from the most humble student to the most distinguished professor. He will be sorely missed."

Tom Cherry, business affairs vice president, said that he didn't have words to express his personal grief, but that the university, state and nation had suffered a great loss.

James P. Hannigan, dean of (See His Loss, page 3)

'Phenomenal' Growth Seen During Rudder's 10 Years

By Tom Curl
"I accept this charge in full realization of its gravity and importance to our state and nation. It is a charge I will do my utmost to keep. May the Almighty guide and grant me wisdom in this undertaking."

Thus ended the inauguration address of James Earl Rudder as he accepted the position of President of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. It was the end of the beginning; a beginning that led to phenomenal

growth in physical facilities and student enrollment in 10 short years.

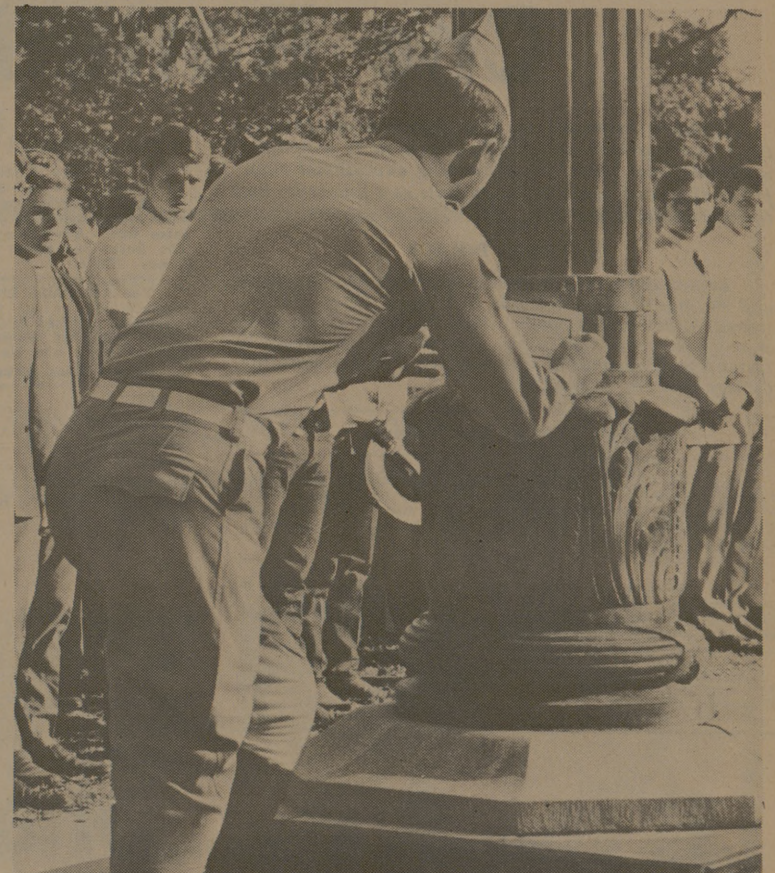
Earl Rudder was president of the state's original land-grant university for just three days short of a decade; a decade that saw enrollment almost double in number as the university was opened to all students on an equal basis.

President Rudder returned to the A&M campus in February, 1958, as vice president and was elevated to the presidency in July, 1959. His inauguration in March of the next year brought responses from students, faculty and his peers in administrative

positions.

"I congratulate this institution and all of Texas for the good judgement shown in selecting him to be president of Texas A&M College," said Dr. Troy Middleton, president of Louisiana State University, at the inauguration of Rudder.

"In the individual spheres of our classrooms and laboratories, we pledge you our dedicated efforts for the good of the young men entrusted to us," was the promise of Dr. Tyrus R. Timm of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Sociology, on behalf of the faculty. (See Phenomenal, page 2)



TAPS TONIGHT—Student Senate President Gerry Geistweid this morning places the card announcing Silver Taps tonight for the late A&M President Earl Rudder into its holder on the flagpole in front of the Academic Building. The action was part of a brief memorial service for Rudder held shortly after 8. Academic Vice President Horace R. Byers spoke briefly about the late president. (Photo by David Middlebrooke)

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