

Fish Drill Team sets tryouts for Sept. 7

An organization that exacts a price but pays a dividend and limits its membership to freshmen only will take on new students shortly after the 1970-71 school year begins.

It's the Fish Drill Team, undefeated three years and national champions of 1968, 1969 and 1970. Tryouts for the 1970-71 team will be held on the Duncan Hall drill field at 5 p.m. Sept. 7, announced senior advisor Richard A. Hanes of San Antonio.

"Interested students should be Army or Air Force ROTC cadets and need not have marched with a drill team previously," he said.

Many Fish Drill Team members of the last three years had never put a rifle through the manual of arms before enrolling at Texas A&M. Upperclass advisors provide knowhow, devise sequences and supervise drills of the unit that starts from scratch every year.

The team is commanded by a freshman elected by its members. Members are housed in regular Corps of Cadets units and drill

each day.

Drill meet competition is usually limited to one off-campus appearance during the fall semester. The competition season, including the annual Texas A&M Invitational Meet, comes during the latter part of the spring semester.

Winner of 14 straight competitions, including the last three National Intercollegiate ROTC Drill Team championships in Washington, D. C., the team has been praised by parents, the U. S. Army legislative liaison officer and opposing team members.

After the 1969-1970 team outmarched 17 of the nation's best at the national capital Cherry Blossom Festival last April, Maj. Gen. William A. Becker declared the performance superlative.

"I admit I am prejudiced," the 1941 A&M graduate stated, "but I couldn't see another outfit as military, as well prepared and as precise as the Texas A&M Freshman Drill Team."

Spontaneous applause greeted

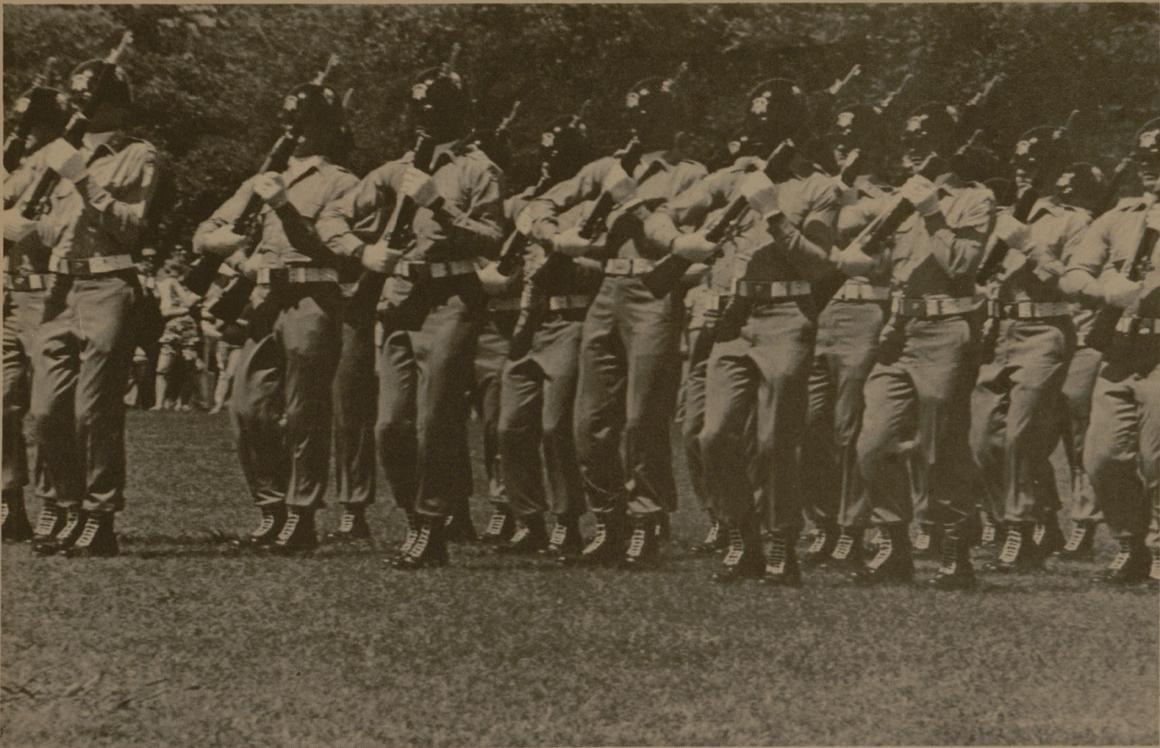
the team 11 times during an exhibition drill at the half of the Maroon-White spring football game. The same reception was given at a Mother's Day Review performance, for which even President A. R. Lueddecke stood.

Working with the 1970-71 team under Hanes will be seven other upperclass advisors. Like Hanes, they have competed on national championship teams.

Junior advisors Larry L. Latta of Dallas and Louis B. Ullrich of San Antonio marched behind the class of 1972 FDT guidon. Six more advisors include the three top members of the 1969-70 team. They were commander Beverly S. Kennedy of Austin, executive officer and guidon bearer Dan A. McClung of Shreveport and right guide Leonardo Hernandez of San Antonio.

Marvin L. Byers and Gregory P. Walk of Houston also marched with the class of 1973 team.

J. Malon Southerland of the commandant's office is chief honorary sponsor.



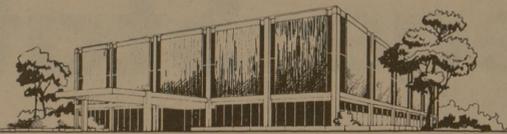
1969 - '70 Fish Drill Team shows national championship form

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