## A&M has long past-bright future

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

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 name above each, roughly on this be used to raise funds for establishing colleges specializing in ag- pile. Keep your hands off of it!" riculture 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

the fall of 1876 when 40 students right Hall and the second, third safe for children to be out at were constructed and the entire places forbidding any freshmen attended the school's first classes. and part of the fourth floor of the Main Building were used for

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

Wood piles were kept outside each building with the owner's order, "This is John Jones' wood

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:

Choosing a university is a major decision in a young persons life. I would like to congratulate you on your choice of Texas A & M... a University which will help prepare you to meet the ever increasing demands placed upon you by the complex

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Dear Class of '73,

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 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, "The campus was such a wild Garland Jones succeeded Gath-

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Texas A&M's history began in second and third floors of Gath- waste that it was not considered right as president, four buildings had been tacked up at various 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

to carry a cane past the bandstand between 4:30 and 4:45 p.m. At the blast of a bugle, at the proper sophomores emerged from every hall, clad in old clothes.

A freshman, attended by a bodyguard, attempted the feat

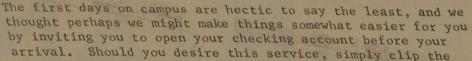
Reinforcements arrived and the fell the administration of battle raged for two hours, but R. T. Milner, and he resign without success on either side. President H. H. Harrington's administration was rocked by a hour, groups of freshmen and student strike. After several days, most of the students went home. gutted by fire. One student, crossing the Brazos, shotgun. He returned. Harring-

Two tragedies enabled the pus to first take on its pres appearance. In 1911 the mess burned and in 1912 Old Main w

Soon afterwards Sbisa Dir was met by his father with a Hall and the Academic Buil sprang up. Also, not long after



Fish put the polish to statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross Polishing 'Sully' one of many traditions at Texas A&M



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Again, welcome to Texas A & M University and College Station. We are looking forward to meeting you personally upon your arrival and if we might be of assistance prior or after your arrival please contact us.

Very truly yours,

Jar R. Samy-

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