

# A&M has long past-bright future

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 Jones succeeded Gath-

right 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 be-

fell the administration of G. R. T. Milner, and he resigned. 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 Shisa Dismas Hall and the Academic Building sprang up. Also, not long afterward, Guion Hall was built.



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

**University NATIONAL BANK**  
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

JOE R. SAWYER  
PRESIDENT

Dear Class of '73,

Choosing a university is a major decision in a young person's 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 society in which you live.

The Directors, Officers and Staff of University National Bank extend to each of you a warm welcome to College Station. University National, the only Full Service Bank in College Station, has been serving Texas Aggies for over a quarter century. We are conveniently located just across the street from the campus, at North Gate, within easy walking distance from the dorms. University National stands ready to assist you in all your banking needs.

The first days on campus are hectic to say the least, and we thought perhaps we might make things somewhat easier for you by inviting you to open your checking account before your arrival. Should you desire this service, simply clip the application provided below and mail it to us. We hope this will help in getting "one more thing out of the way".

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.

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*Joe R. Sawyer*  
Joe R. Sawyer  
President

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ON THE SIDE OF TEXAS A & M

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Upon my arrival in College Station I will notify you of my mailing address if not listed above. I will also stop by and sign a regular signature card.

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... Beware of those salesmen who come to you with a letter of recommendation from one of your friends and try to get you "in on the ground floor" of his fabulous company. It is bad enough that he has probably already taken your friend for a commitment of a lot of money he could invest to much greater advantage elsewhere.

What the salesman is attempting to do is to get you to make what he represents as a highly profitable investment which turns out to be an extremely expensive and highly concealed series of premium payments on a very limited insurance policy.

Most of the "deals" include a profit sharing dividend feature with the implication that these dividends will continually increase in size as the

company grows and makes better profits, but it will, in nearly every case, take years to ever recover the original investments.

By its very nature the special policy is difficult to understand, lends itself to misrepresentation, and defies comparison with other insurance policies which the laymen may understand. More often than not they are sold in high promotional manner, represented as a one-time-only opportunity for a person to get in on the ground floor.

Highly polished, canned sales presentations with exaggerated emphasis on the themes of profit, investment, dividends and the like often leave buyers unaware that they have merely bought an insurance policy.

The above article recently appeared in the monthly publication printed by the Better Business Bureau of Arkansas, Inc. (Little Rock, Ark.)

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