

# Bonfire symbol of Aggie spirit

There is no finer indication of the true Aggie spirit than the Aggie Bonfire, which symbolizes "every Aggie's burning desire to beat Texas on Thanksgiving day and the flaming loyalty he has for A&M".

Each bonfire is considered that of the freshman class that builds it. The fish furnish most of the

manpower, though seniors and juniors oversee cutting, trucking and stacking. The fish hook arms under short saplings on which the 400 to 900 pound logs are toted to trucks.

Power cranes are used almost exclusively for stacking now, where manual labor was once the only force. Double stacking

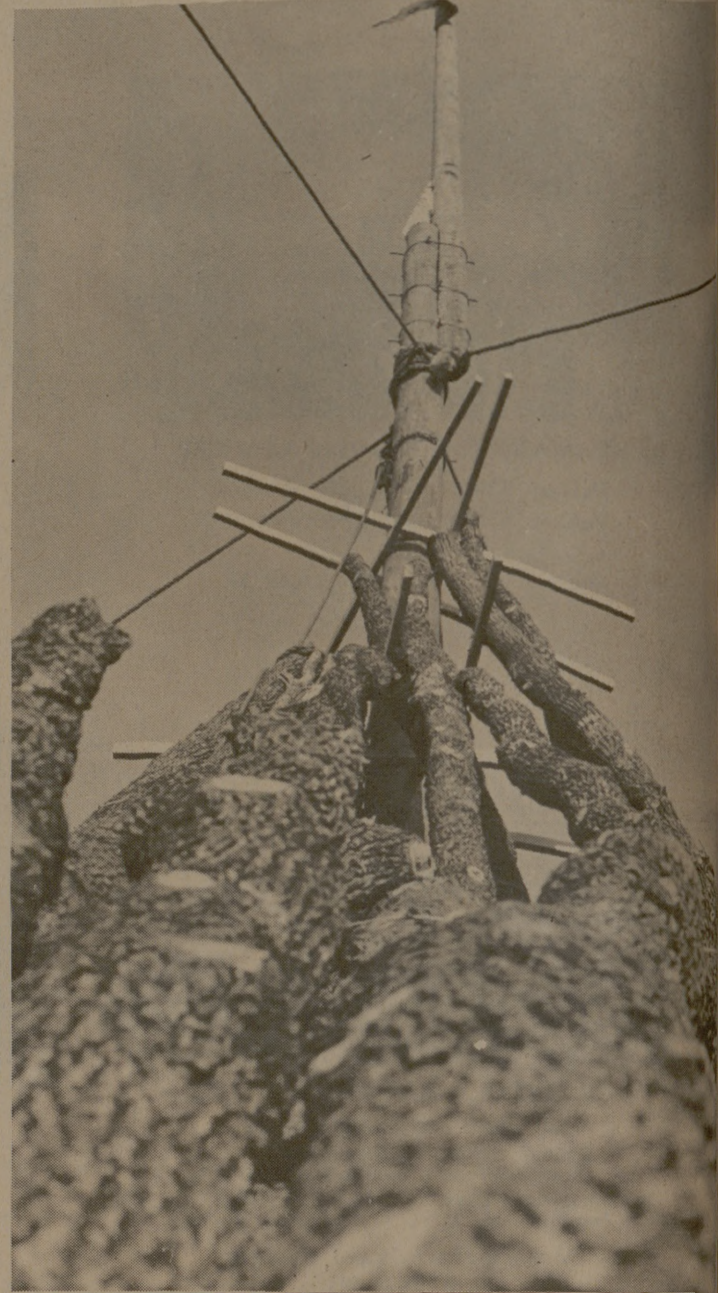
achieves 60 to 80 foot heights, but requires special and careful placement of logs end-to-end on top of the first stack. Considerable research and experimentation has gone into making the center strong and compact.

Numerous safety precautions are followed, including only jun-


iors and seniors handling axes. Gloves and goggles are required for transportation regulations are rigidly enforced.

As the logs are moved from the cutting areas to the stacking area on the Duncan drill field just east of the president's home, the spirit and pride swells within everyone

who works on the Bonfire. A strict security and safety fire is maintained around the site at all times and only those who are working on the stacking are allowed to come near the Bonfire. The work goes on for days and into the nights, right up until the torch is thrown onto the stack.



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