

Bonfire symbol of Ags' unity

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".

The 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 and 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 juniors 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 ring 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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79c

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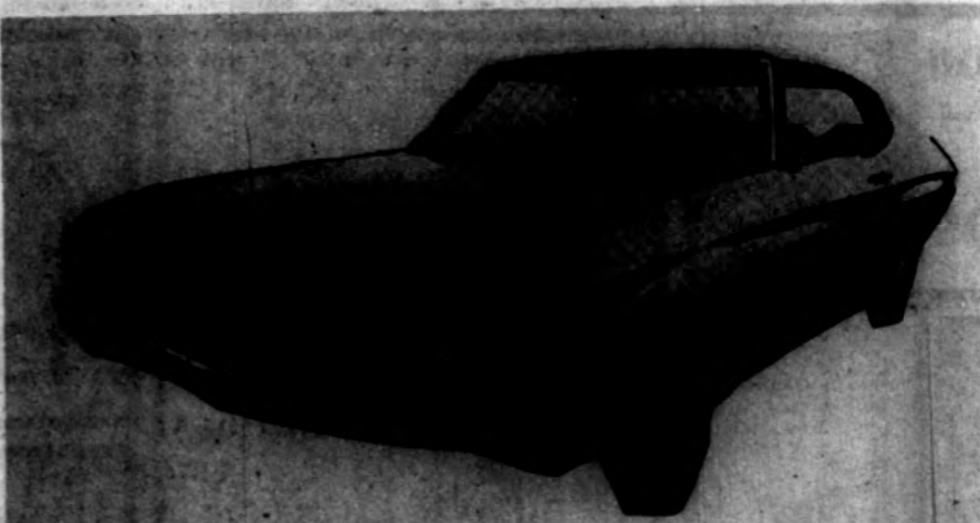
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