

# Ross Volunteers: A&M's Oldest Tradition - Rich Organization

A 21-gun salute by A&M's Ross Volunteers' Firing Unit is harmonized with the bugle's sound of "Silver Taps" in traditional respect for the death of an Aggie.

Silver Taps is just one of the many Ross Volunteers' activities. The volunteers were organized in 1887, making it the oldest student organization at A&M and one of the oldest in the state.

Originally they were called the Scott Volunteers in honor of Col. M. M. Scott, who at the time of organization, was the business manager of the college and special representative to the Board of Directors.

In 1891, the name of the company was changed to Ross Volunteers in honor of then A&M President Lawrence Sullivan Ross. The name of the organization changed twice after the death of Ross in 1898, but returned to its original name in 1906 at the request of A&M Pres-

ident H. H. Harrington, son-in-law of Ross.

"The company consists of three platoons," said Bill Walker, company commander. "The tallest members of the company belong to the First Platoon or 'Trees', the medium-height members to the Second Platoon or 'meatballs' and the short members to the 'Third Platoon or 'Squats'."

"Corps members can apply for a junior position in the volunteers and are chosen by senior company members," said Walker. "Not more than 90 juniors are elected each year."

"Company members are chosen on the basis of personal characteristics and leadership," continued Walker. "They must also maintain a 2.30 grade point ratio."

"Being a member of the firing squad is the most sacred privilege granted to a member of the Ross Volunteers and the greatest or highest honor one can ever



achieve while at Texas A&M," said John Adams, administrative officer for the volunteers.

The firing unit is named at the spring banquet which is prior to April 21 each year. The firing squad is composed of 21 second classmen and commanded by the Company Executive Officer.

Each platoon elects seven members with one alternate for membership on the team. This year Mike Thun, executive officer, is commander of the Firing Unit.

"Activities for the R.V. Company begin each year in the fall with the Induction Banquet for juniors," said Adams. At this time juniors are sworn-in, and receive their ribbons and cords.

The rest of the fall consists of drilling and training the newly-initiated juniors.

Every other year the Company attends the January Inauguration of the Governor of Texas and presides as his Honor Guard for

the occasion. The group will see a new governor inaugurated in 1973.

The Ross Volunteers attend the Mardi Gras each year where they are the lead element in the King Rex Parade.

The new 21-member firing squad is named at the spring banquet which is followed by Parent's Weekend later in April. This is the company's last presentation of the year. Outstanding junior cadets from each platoon and the company are presented.

The year concludes for the R.V.'s with Muster on April 21.

"On April 21, which is the anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto, Aggies everywhere gather together to pay tribute to departed Aggies for the previous year," said Adams.

"This happens wherever there are Aggies, regardless of what day it is," he continued. "Two or more Aggies are all it takes."

# The Battalion

Vol. 67 No. 191

College Station, Texas Tuesday, December 5, 1972

845-2226

## High Court Agrees To Decide Residence Issue

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court agreed Monday to rule on higher tuition fees for out-of-state college students—an issue that could have heavy impact on fees paid by all students of state-supported colleges.

The case accepted for review next spring comes from Connecticut. There a three-judge court held students who had set up permanent residence could not be charged the higher fees for the full length of their academic careers.

Possibly riding on the outcome of the \$200 million to \$400 million collected by the states in non-resident tuition each year. If the justices agree with the panel in

Hartford, all students in state colleges may wind up paying higher tuition.

The Connecticut tuition system was challenged by two students. One married a University of Connecticut student and moved into the state from California. The second was a graduate student who moved from Ohio.

The fees, established by the state legislature last year, allow local residents to attend the university at \$175 a year, but charge out-of-state students \$975.

The three-judge court in Hartford in striking down the system last June, said that even if a higher tuition is reasonable at the

start it is wrong to charge this higher rate throughout the student's academic career.

Connecticut appealed. It told the Supreme Court the Constitution gives states "a wide range of discretion in enacting laws which affect some of the residents differently from others."

Although not involved in the Connecticut case, the new law extending the vote to 18-year-olds has deepened the problem of non-resident tuition. If a state grants a student the right to register and vote in his college town, many educators see this as a prima facie evidence of residence in the state which would carry with it exemption from the higher non-resident tuition.

## A&M's 'Coach Bum' To Share Philosophy

Max Bumgardner, 1947 All-America end at the University of Texas and now "brain coach" for A&M, will share his sports philosophy and colorful background with the Brazos County

A&M Club at the final 1972 meeting Wednesday.

Club president John West noted the Wednesday evening program includes election of 1973 officers. Activities begin at 6:30 p.m. at

the Crown and Anchor Inn on Hwy. 30, 1.7 miles east of the Hwy. 6 bypass.

The 7 p.m. dinner includes an 8-ounce char-broiled chopped sirloin and trimmings at \$3.50 per person. Reservations must be made by 5 p.m. Monday at 846-1223 or 846-7578.

West emphasized the club meetings are open to anyone interested in TAMU.

## Allende Says ITT Attempting To Start Chilean Civil War

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP) — President Salvador Allende of Chile accused International Telephone and Telegraph Co. on Monday of trying to start civil war in his country. He told other poor countries to beware of powerful U.S. firms.

"We are witnessing a pitched battle between the great transnational corporations and sovereign states," he declared in an 80-minute speech to a packed session of the 132-nation U.S. General Assembly.

He recalled the thoughts of Thomas Jefferson that merchants claim no countries and are inter-

ested only in profits. ITT's chairman and president, Harold S. Geneen, was not available for comment in response to Allende's charges.

Allende, coming here from a visit to Mexico, said ITT had tried to prevent his taking office after the 1970 election through terrorist activities that culminated in the assassination of Gen. Rene Schneider, army commander-in-chief.

"Before the conscience of the world I accuse the ITT of attempting to bring about civil war in my country," he said. "That is what we call imperialist action."

## Political Forum To Host Dan Rather

CBS News White House Correspondent Dan Rather will speak Wednesday at A&M in a Political

Forum presentation.

"The Press vs The Administration" will be the noon topic of the nationally prominent television reporter-news analyst who was born in Wharton, studied journalism at Sam Houston State and worked in Houston.

A specialist on reporting national politics, he anchors the CBS Sunday News and has had many prominent coverage slots, on election night and at both national conventions.

At the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago, Rather took a nationally televised punch to the mid-section, thrown by a security guard who had been evicting a Georgia delegate from the hall.

He has had other run-ins and turn-offs. Rather kept a camera crew on the White House lawn past 10 p.m. on the night of a crucial U.N. Security Council debate on the Israeli-Arab conflict, in hopes of getting a post-debate statement.

As Time magazine reported it:

"Enter, lawn left, President Lyndon Johnson and Lady Bird, hand in hand. Double take by Rather. Then: 'Good evening, Mr. President.' Pleasantries. The President and First Lady stroll on, then return to Rather. Cameras on by now, taping. Almost casually, the President tells Rather that developments had kept the U.S.-Russia detente intact, had helped save the U.N."

Among other things, Rather, learned there had been "some exchanges" with the U.S.S.R., the first hard news on the use of the hot line; that the Israelis were not going to give up easily what they had won and that the President did not feel that anything would stop the Israeli in pursuit of admitted goals: Jerusalem, the west bank of the Jordan, the Syrian heights, Aqaba, the Suez.

But it was a stifled scoop. President Johnson didn't know the cameras were on, the press secretary passed to Rather through a CBS executive. The material can be used as the basis of a news report, "but as for use of the



DRUMS TOLLED Monday afternoon for naval academy graduate Lt. Thomas S. Moore ('65) as he marched through the Corps area quadrangle after losing his bet on the Army-Navy game with Capt. Edward Schillo, a 1964 graduate of

the U. S. Military Academy. Moore and his lone bass drummer were accompanied only by the few choice words he muttered as he circled the area.

## Occult Master Speaks Wednesday

Masters of the Occult will be the subject when Daniel Cohen speaks to A&M students Wednesday.

The Great Issues Committee is sponsoring this presentation at 8 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom.

Editor of Science Digest and one of America's leading authorities on the supernatural, bizarre and occult is Daniel Cohen. He examines fact and fiction, history and legend, religion and super-

stition through the centuries.

He is the author of such books as "The Modern Look at Monsters," "Monsters of the Occult," "A Natural History of Unnatural Things," and "Voodoo, Devils and the New Invisible World."

Cohen has an outgoing interest in the supernatural and refers to himself as a skeptical observer of the occult and bizarre. His predilection for fantasy has always been coupled with a science writer's desire to know the facts behind the legends.

"I have, over the past few years," he writes, "crossed verbal swords with many of the leading lights in the field. My involvement in the occult has led me to a number of televised debates with such figures as the late Bishop Pike, the medium Arthur Fod, and a host of assorted astrologers, palm readers, flying saucer 'contactees', and the like."

He recently spoke at the international parapsychology conference in France, and taught a course at the New School for Social Research in New York City on strange beliefs of modern times.

Born in Chicago, Cohen attended public schools there, and then went on to the Chicago branch of the University of Illinois. Losing interest in biology, he switched to writing, and eventually became editor of the college paper.

He graduated from the school of journalism at Illinois in 1959. After a job with Time, Inc., and 10 years on the staff of Science Digest magazine, he took the plunge — "with my heart in my

mouth" — and turned to freelance writing.

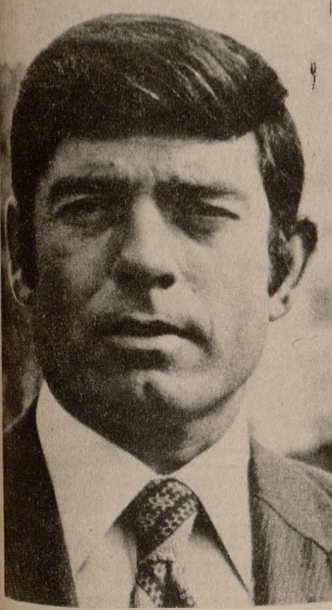
Cohen's research and writing have left him little time for his hobbies — hiking and animals. However, having been a city boy all his life, he finds that he enjoys the isolation of his farmhouse in

the country. He and his wife, Susan, and their two-year-old daughter, Theodora, live with two dogs and two cats in Monticello, New York.

Admission to Cohen's lecture will be 25 cents for students and \$1 for non-students.



MILNER SPIRITS took a turn for the better Saturday as a group of dorm residents matched efforts to put up a two-piece Christmas tree on the Ross St. porch roof, complete with lights and tinsel. Gary Anderson, (on top of ladder) spearheaded the Yuletide adventure.



Dan Rather

University National Bank "On the side of Texas A&M." —Adv.