

# Corps trips: first one way back in '78

By DON MIDDLETON  
and  
JOHN ADAMS

Mother Nature isn't admitting it, but fall is here. In Aggieland Fall means football, football means Twelfth Man and twice each year Twelfth Man means Corps Trip.

It was in 1878 that the Corps of Cadets took the first Corps trip — to the Texas State Fair in Houston.

Under the supervision of Commandant R.P.W. Morris and Corps Commander Charles Rogan, the Farmers traveled to the Bayou City not to participate in a gridiron clash, but a reenactment of the Battle of San Jacinto.

After the demonstration, the Corps paraded through Houston and was deemed by those watching as the "best drilled organization on the ground." The interest spurred by the Cadets led to an influx of students which necessitated the construction of two new buildings the next fall.

For the next 20 years the Corps made sporadic trips by train to Houston, Dallas and San Antonio. The break from the rigors of college life at the isolated campus was welcomed by cadets and professors alike.

The 1897 Corps trip to Houston was reported by *The Battalion* this way: "The grand street parade came next and as the battalion . . . passed some prominent part of the city, it was a signal for an outburst of applause from the crowds that had gathered . . . to get a glimpse of the gallant boys in gray, and especially were the fair ladies of Houston . . . loud in their praise of the gentlemanly and soldierly bearing of the A&M cadets."

At the invitation of the San Antonio International Fair of November, 1899, the Cadet Corps boarded a special eight coach train to help the Alamo City celebrate "A&M College Day" at the Fair.

The train left College Station

## The first 100 years

early in the afternoon on Friday, the 3rd of November and was delayed for two hours in Austin as a result of a freight train accident. The cadets stopped in New Braunfels for a barbecue meal provided by local supporters of A&M before resuming their journey.

Arriving in San Antonio at 9 p.m., the Farmers were housed in the city armory while the faculty enjoyed the plush accommodations of the Hotel Menger.

Saturday morning found the cadet Battalion formed on the Alamo Plaza. Led by the A&M cadet Battalion formed on the Alamo Plaza. Led by the A&M fairgrounds. The band was noted as the "best amateur combination in the state."

The parade ended at the Fairgrounds infield, the site of the football game which highlighted the

Fair — the battle between the Farmers of A&M and the Varsity Eleven of Texas.

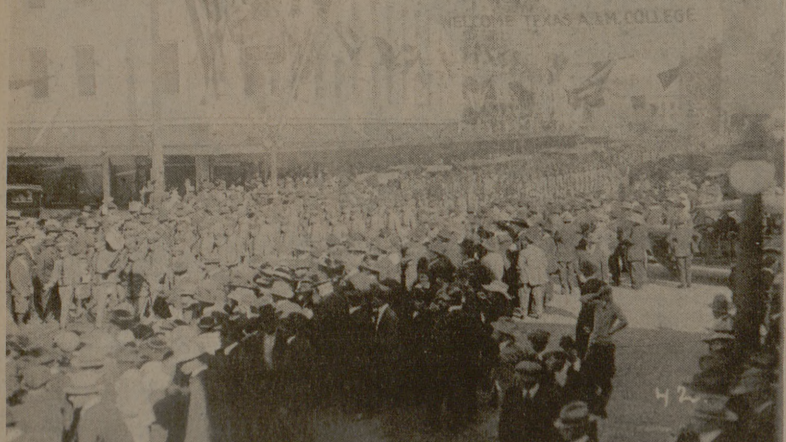
Since that Saturday afternoon in 1899, the Corps of Cadets has travelled to selected road games each season to support the Aggie football team as a whole.

For several years the cadets made the trip to Waco to watch the football game with Baylor University. The Waco Corps trips were discontinued in 1927 as a result of the death of Cadet Charles M. Sessums during a half-time fight at the Cotton Palace field.

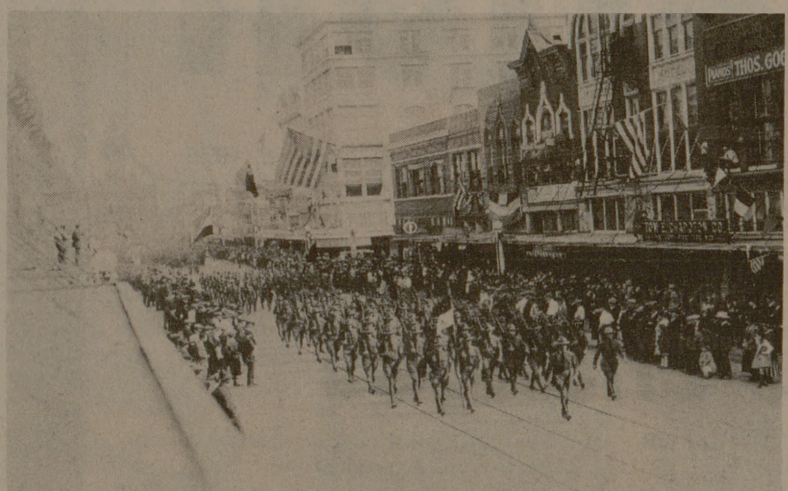
In subtle defiance of the enemy's home territory, the A&M Corps of Cadets has marched in Fort Worth, Dallas, Austin, Waco, San Antonio and Houston. This Saturday the football team travels to Cowtown to face T.C.U. — and once again the Twelfth Man will be there.



The Corps of Cadets parades through Ft. Worth, circa 1930, as the people of Cowtown turn out in numbers to watch the event.



"Marching to the Cotton Palace" in Waco, Nov. 4, 1916. The score of the game that day was A&M 3 — Baylor 0.



"A" Troop passes in review during the Waco corps trip of 1924.

SLOUCH By JIM EARLE



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Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

Mail subscriptions are \$5.00 per semester; \$9.50 per school year; \$10.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: *The Battalion*, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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