

Kyle Knox, a junior cadet, does pushups on the quad by the Corps of Cadets living area. He and 71 other juniors partici-

pated in "black belt day" initiation drill for the Ross Volunteers last Thursday.

Oldest student organization

## Volunteers' duties varied

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Most students at Texas A&M University know that the men who fire the guns at Silver Taps are members of the Ross Volunteer Company. But many do not know that this the oldest student organization on campus; nor do they know the functions of the company.

The year 1887 marked the beginning of the Ross Volunteers. They were first called the Scott Volunteers in honor of Col. T.M. Scott, then the business manager of the College and an agent of the board of directors. This name was used until the administration of Lawrence Sullivan Ross which began in 1890. The name was changed to the Ross Volunteers in 1891.

The name of the company changed twice more to honor each

trial on capital murder charges and

then entering a bargained guilty

ance murder of her father.

State District Judge Neil
Caldwell sentenced Mary Lou Anderson, 35, of Lake Charles, La., to

50 years in prison for ordinary mur-der in the shooting of Steve Ander-

It was an apparent reward for her testimony — after her capital mur-

der conviction Aug. 29 and subquent death sentence -

triggerman Feryl Granger, 29, of

Acting on prosecutors' recom-mendations, Caldwell granted a mo-

tion for new trial, accepted her plea

of guilty to ordinary murder and sentenced her in one brief hearing. Caldwell also dropped a pending charge against her in the death of her step-mother, Margie Anderson,

in the same execution-style shooting at the couple's home Jan. 3.

son of Sugar Land.

plea to a lesser charge in the insur-

President M.T. Harrington, Ross' son-in-law, requested that the company be given the permanent name of Ross Volunteers.

The Ross Volunteers serve as the honor guard for the governor of Texas. They are present at all inauguration ceremonies with their color guard and a saber arch for the governor. Similar duties are performed at the Governor for the Day serv-

The company also participates in the annual Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans.

Each spring, prior to Aggie Muster, a firing squad composed of 21 juniors is named. It is commanded by the company executive officer. This squad serves as the firing squad for Muster and Silver Taps services.

Woman gets self off death row,

Defense lawyer Charles Cate said

he opposed Anderson's guilty plea.
"She did this over my objection,"
Cate said. "I felt there was reversi-

ble error in the case. They had convicted her already, They used that

WHARTON, Texas — The only woman on Texas's death row saved herself Tuesday, first winning a new Oct. 22.

spect the Ross Volunteers and be-lieve it is an honor to be in the company. But others believe it is more like a fraternity.

This attitude may stem from statements such as the one made recently by a Ross Volunteer, "We are the elite of the elite. Bryan Couch, another member of

the company, commenting on that statement, said he believes that those who have completed two years in the corps are elite in their own way and when the Ross Volunteers choose only 72 from a large junior class it comes down to choosing the "elite of the elite.

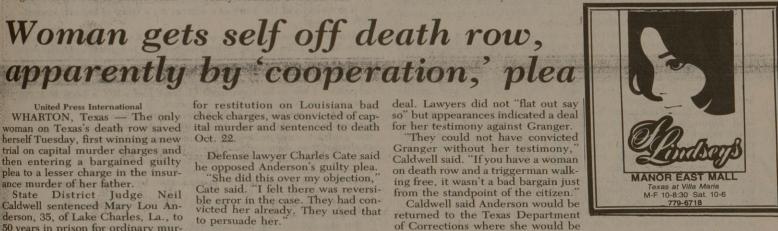
Executive Officer John Bonn said the company is elite because it is a military organization but that does not mean those who belong are the

Granger without her testimony,











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