

Tradition bites dust — abandoned cap saved

By STANTON RAY
Battalion Reporter

Some days you simply can't start a good tradition at Texas A&M University, no matter how hard you try — even if you do something not just twice, but four times. But some members of Company D-2, the Dog Company, sure gave it an Old Army try some years back.

It seems that in 1973, Will Anderson and nine of his cronies from D-2 decided to start a tradition called the "Flying Biters."

They commenced by signing the lining of a fish-year biter (the Corps' name for one of its kinds of caps), sealing it in a brown jar, and sending the bravest member of that group up the 165-foot light pole at the south end of the east side of Kyle Field. He secured it with black electrical tape and came down.

Not satisfied with doing it once, the men retrieved the cap each year until they graduated. Each time, the hat was re-

moved and replaced with a new one, and the old biter moved to the top of the next light pole to the north.

The group planned to retrieve the jar at its five-year reunion, but the renovation of Kyle Field forced a change in plans.

When Anderson, a journalism graduate, heard what was happening at the stadium, he sent a letter to the Department of Communications explaining about the jar and the hat. He asked that, if recovered, it be turned over to the department's former secretary, Pat Cote, who now works in the educational information services department.

In the meantime, the stadium lights were taken down and put on the ground behind the soccer fields across Wellborn Road. One afternoon a workman discovered a curious brown object taped to a stadium lamp. He took his find to his boss, asking, "What the hell is this thing I found?"

John Holloway, his boss, said it was the

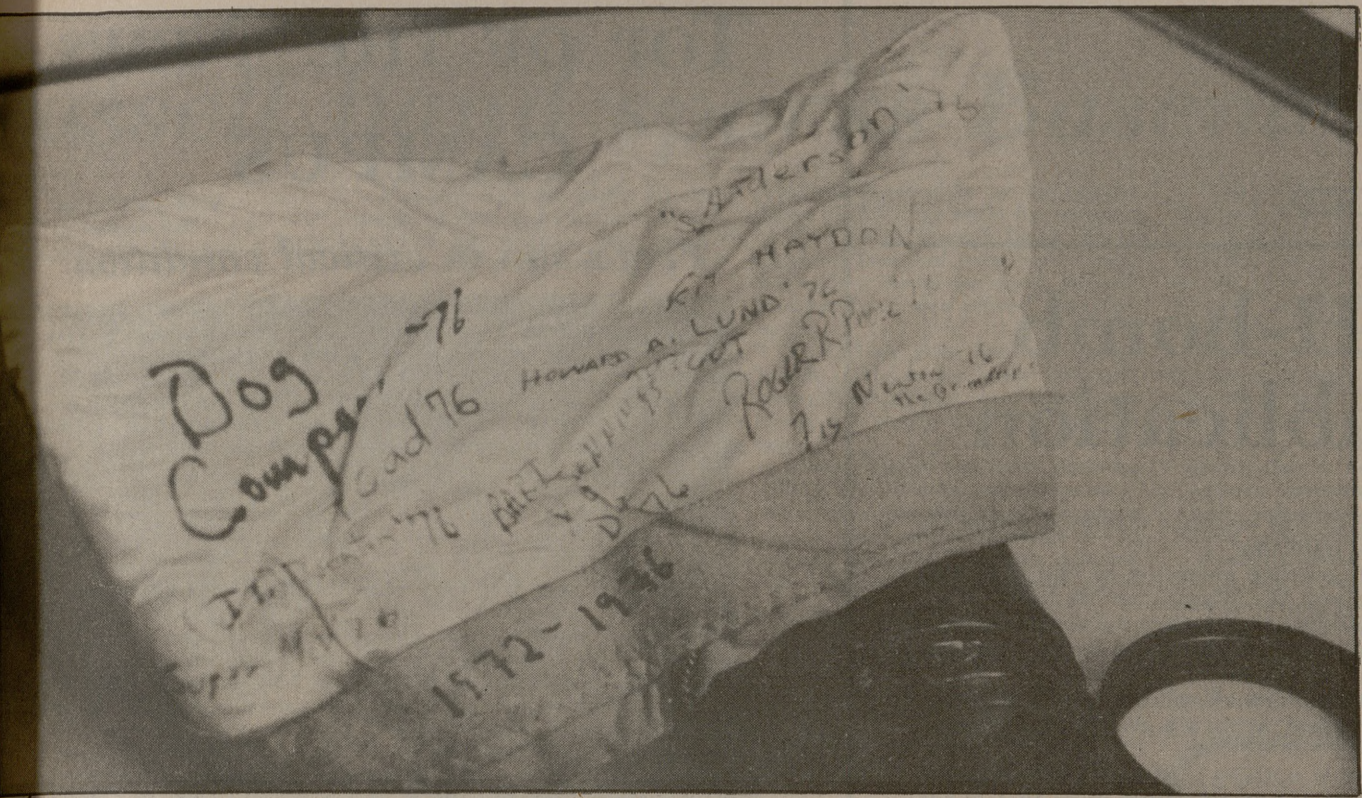
"damndest thing" he ever saw.

Knowing that it had something to do with the Corps, he handed it over to Sam Martin, chief of inspection in the facilities-construction division at Texas A&M, who handed it over to The Battalion, who handed it over to Pat Cote.

Company D-2 now on campus was notified of the recovery, but it has little knowledge or interest in the matter.

Attempts were made to contact Will Anderson and his chums, but they were all in Germany, or in parts unknown, or on ships headed for Pago Pago or some such places.

Anyway, when Will "Spaceman" Anderson, Kit Haydon, Bart Jennings, Howard "Rotgut" Lund, Phil "Fig" Newton, Roger Poole, J.T. Thornton, Kerry "Big K" Wright, Super Mev and Toad return to Texas A&M in 1981 to retrieve their jar they'll still have some climbing to do. But the single flight of stairs to Cote's office does have a handrail.



The owners of these names would never have seen this hat again if workers at the Kyle Field expansion hadn't retrieved it. All members of the 1976 class of the Corps of Cadets' D-2 outfit put it at the top of one of the field's 165-foot high lightposts in 1973. Battalion photo by Kayce Glasse

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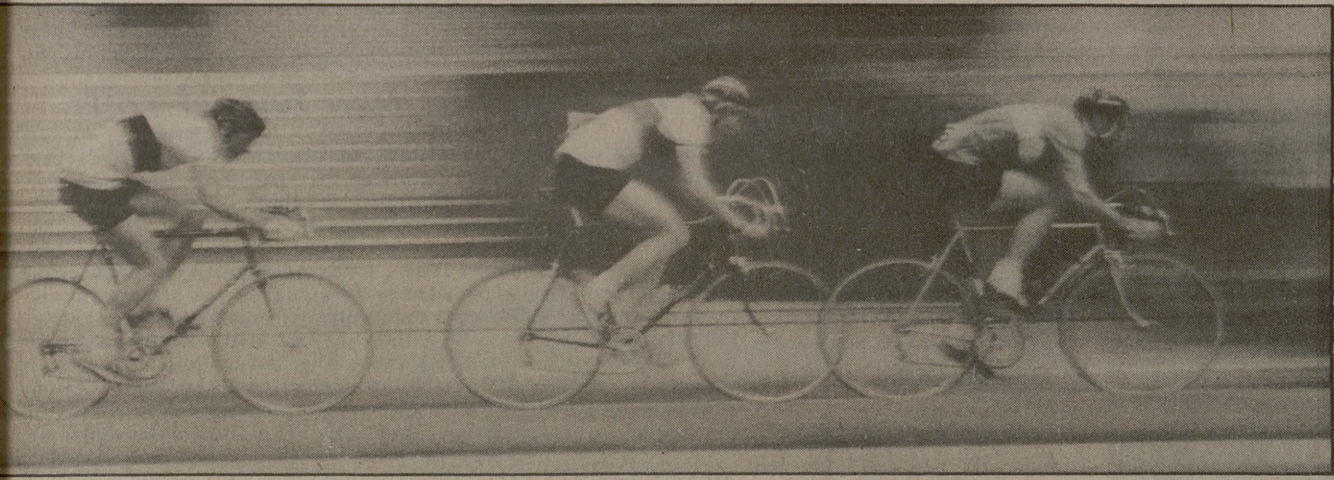
Monday, April 9, 1979
College Station, Texas

News Dept. 845-2611
Business Dept. 845-2611



Emergency!

College Station erupted in disaster Sunday — but people were trained, not maimed. See page 6.



Round and round they go

The Texas A&M Cycling Team hosted the Aggie-Land Stage Race this weekend, and it attracted 55 racers, including five women, from around the country. These fellows were in one of the races Sunday around the main drill field. The "Criterion," which is defined as a closed course

race, included 25- and 50-mile races for cash. The 25-mile race took about 45 laps, and the 50-mile race about 75. Steve Tilford from an Ames, Iowa, bicycle club won. Local businesses sponsored prizes totaling about \$1,000.

Battalion photo by Clay Cockrill

Effect of Bryan Civil Service vote debated

By DOUG GRAHAM
Battalion Staff

The new Civil Service Act status the Bryan Police and Firemen won during Saturday's elections will not be all good, said Bryan's city manager, Ernest Clark.

He said the act can mean higher taxes and loss of local control over the two departments.

The reason it will escalate costs is because of Sec. 26 of the law which states employees will receive 15 days of paid sick leave a year, and will get paid for all their accumulated sick leave if they quit.

"We're saying rather than being an incentive to stay, it (The Civil Service Act) is an incentive to leave: we are paying people to leave. In 1978 13 firemen left their department and 11 officers left the police department. Under the act, their leaving would have cost us \$13,500."

Yet, he said the Bryan City Council will abide by the 57-vote margin of victory. The won 1,495 to 1,438.

Police Det. Wentreck, however, said

the net effect of the vote will be to increase the number of career police officers in Bryan.

The reason, he said, is that police officers in Bryan will have a greater sense of job security.

Before the election he said, "Right now the only notice they have to give us is a three weeks' notice, by law. With the Act, we'll have a grievance process for hiring and firing."

The grievance process is important because of a clause in the civil service act which says no policeman or fireman can be fired except for reasons relating to dereliction of duty, criminal behavior, behavior unbecoming a police officer, or poor job performance.

Indefinite suspension without pay, the equivalent of being fired, said Wentreck, is no longer possible under the new law.

Wentreck added that officers were afraid to speak out on issues because of possible retribution.

Clark said he did not know why the

police felt they were afraid to speak out, but stated that the both the city and its fire and police departments may lose some freedom under the act.

Under the act, which can be adopted by any city in Texas with a population of 20,000 or more, certain seniority systems are set up. To be eligible for promotion, employees must be of certain rank and pass an examination. Clark said that recently a driver in the fire department had been promoted to a training officer, but that under the civil service act, the department could only promote from one of the three available fire captains.

"I don't want to make Civil Service seem that bad, but I see pitfalls and restrictions. We'll make it work. The officers, I think, are going to be surprised at what will have to take place."

Wentreck said that the seniority systems, vacation (15 paid days each year), and the appeal process in discipline, will contribute to more career police officers in Bryan.

Pair receives highest honor at annual MSC awards banquet

Ronald Woessner, a senior forestry major, and Paul Haensly, a senior double major in math and physics, are co-recipients of the Thomas H. Roundtree Award, the highest award given to members of the Memorial Student Center Council and Directorate who have shown outstanding leadership abilities.

The awards were given at the organization's 28th annual awards banquet Saturday evening at the MSC. About 400 people attended, including students, parents and school officials, who heard a keynote address by Dave Maddox, a former student and a 1969 Roundtree Award recipient.

Woessner has served the organization as vice president of administration and Haensly as vice president of finance.

Twelve students were awarded Distinguished Service Awards for work beyond what their positions called for. They include: Teresa Beshara, director of projects; Gina Casas, Aggie Cinema chairman; Ray Daniels, MSC Council and Directorate president; Corey Gaskill, chairman of travel; Brooks Herring, chairman of Town Hall; Steve Hageman, director of funds; Steve Horn, chairman of Great Issues; Patrice Jones, OPAS chairman; Lynn Knaupp, vice president of programs; Ann Marie Landis, director of public relations; Jane McGregor, chairman of Political Forum; and Daryl Taraba, chairman of the Student Conference on National Affairs (SCONA).

Distinguished Service awards were also given to non-students who made contributions to the organization. Dr. Larry McCullough, an adviser for the Arts Committee and Great Issues, and Robert Wimbish, a representative of former students, were given the awards.

The J. Wayne Stark Award for special projects was given to Rhonda Reger for work as chairman of the summer dinner theater.

Awards for outstanding work for a first year member went to Dorothy DuBois, Brian Gross and Roger Messersmith; second year, Dan Ayre, Wayne Helton and Sara Morse; and third year Rebecca Taulman and Cindy Williams. Additional awards were also given to outstanding committee members, including outstanding service and meritorious service for each committee.

Campus voting to decide 134 positions, one issue

Polls will be open from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. today and Tuesday for Texas A&M University's Student Government elections.

Voting will be held in the Memorial Student Center, the Commons dormitories, the Corps Guard Room, Kleberg Center, Sbisla dining hall, and at the three bus stops (east of the MSC, south of the Oceanography and Meteorology Building, and by the Reed McDonald Building).

Students must show their activity cards and ID cards to vote.

The races include those for student body president, five executive vice presidents, three senior and two junior yell leader spots, class officers, and others.

There are 134 positions open, though not all of the races have candidates. The ballot will also include a referendum concerning graduation with honors.

Voters will say whether they prefer the current standards, which require grade point ratios of 3.9 for summa cum laude honors, 3.7 for magna cum laude, and 3.5 for cum laude, or lower ones of 3.75, 3.5 and 3.25 respectively.

Voting this year will be done with pencils in booklets similar to achievement test forms. Officials hope this will make the process quicker than last year, when students used voting machines.

A sample election ballot appears on page 8 of today's Battalion.

Austin to keep share of nuclear plant

AUSTIN — Despite a barrage of adverse news from the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident, Austin voters decided to stay in a similar project in South Texas, and a spokesman for the victorious campaign Sunday said it was probably a bellwether for most American cities.

About 55,415 voters, or 34 percent of those registered, turned out in the state capital Saturday to approve Proposition 1 of a complicated ballot, which would authorize issuance of an additional \$216 million in bonds to keep the city's 16 percent share in the South Texas Project, under construction 160 miles south at Bay City. The vote was 28,430, or 53 percent, for

and 25,037, 47 percent, against.

"If the anti-nukes could not win in Austin, with its past voting record, there are very few cities I think they could win in," said John Rogers Jr., who managed the winning campaign in the college town.

"This community has 40,000 students and a very sophisticated voting electorate which keeps up with the issues very well."

Speaking for the losing side, Richard Duncan, chairman of the Austin Citizens for Economical Energy, said the vote was not a clear referendum on the issues of nuclear energy because of a misleading series of four propositions on the ballot. One of the propositions offered a coal power plant as a more expensive alternative, if the nuclear proposition failed.

"Frankly," said Duncan, "we feel it was a political move to make the nuclear plant look cheaper by comparison. It was just another confusing election. We have been asking the city council for a straight vote on nuclear energy, and have never gotten it."

Austin owns a 16 percent share in the STP nuclear plant which is under construction in Bay City, Houston, San Antonio and Corpus Christi also own shares in the plant, which is similar in design to the Three Mile Island plant. The first unit in the nuclear project is scheduled to begin production in 1982.

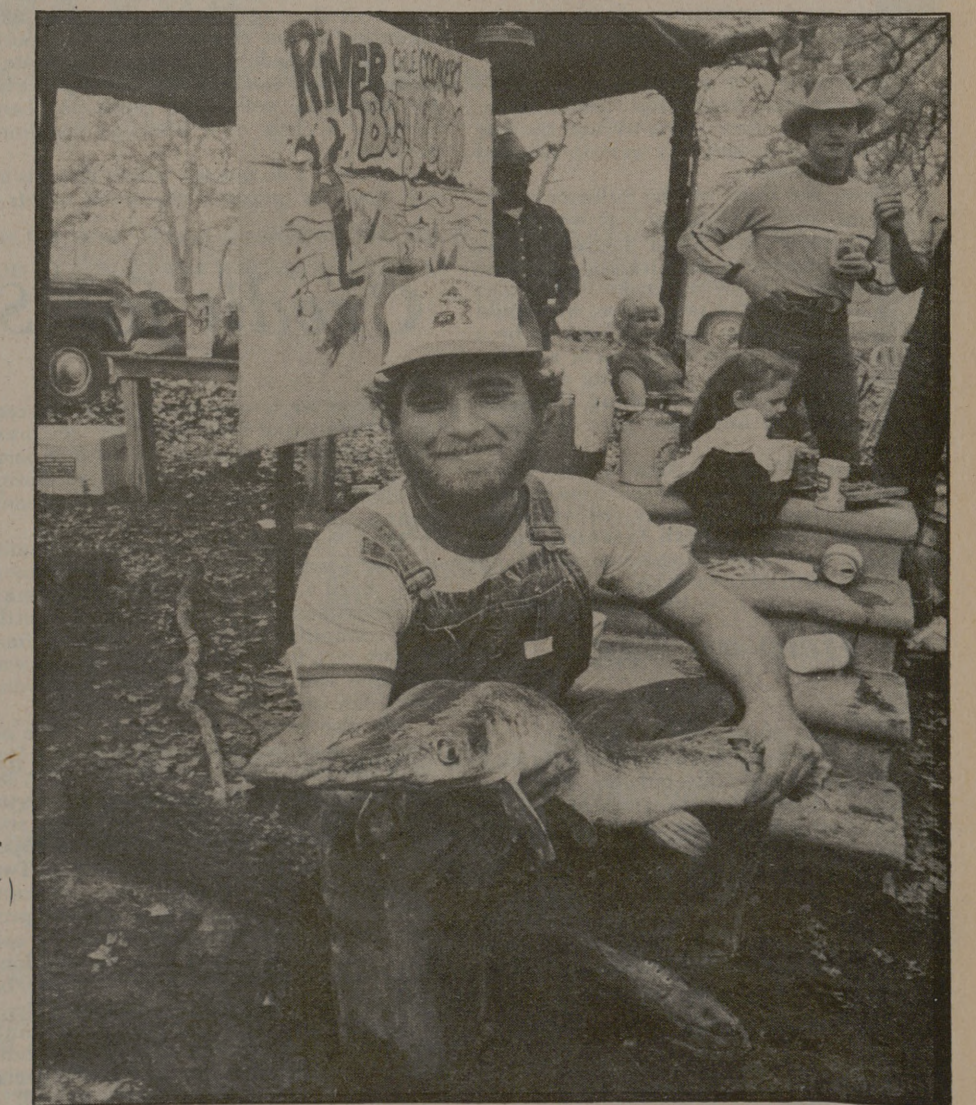
The city paid \$160 million for its original share. Cost overruns and additional expenses, however, had forced citizens to

decide if they wanted to spend an additional \$216 million to issue revenue bonds to maintain their proportionate share in the nuclear plant.

Four propositions were offered on the ballot — the first called for the issuing of \$216 million more in bonds to stay in the project, the second called for selling out.

Proposition 3 and Proposition 4 were offered as contingency plans should Proposition 1 fail. They would have authorized selling of \$593.9 million in bonds for construction of a new lignite coal generating plant in Fayette County.

The vote on Proposition 2, to sell all of Austin's share, was 25,500, or 49.1 percent for, and 26,437, or 50.9 percent, against.



Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper

Secret ingredient?

The big alligator gar Larry Zweifel is showing off didn't go into Zweifel's "River Bottom Chili," although at least one armadillo sweetened his chili pot. Zweifel and cooking partners Mike and Shawn Riley were competing in the Bryan-College Station Jaycees Chili Olympics Saturday.