

... something new for 20th century

By DENISE RICHTER
Battalion Staff

How are the 55 Aggies who died in World War I commemorated? By the 55 flags that fly over Kyle Field during each home football game, the 55 trees that surround the Drill Field and the East Gate memorial.

This is an example of a campusology question — questions (and answers) concerning campus landmarks and history — that freshmen in the Corps of Cadets are required to know.

But, if you were never in the Corps or just want to brush up on campus lore, the following information is for you. It lists some prominent campus landmarks, where they are and when and why they were constructed.

Academic Building

The Academic Building was built on the site of Old Main, the first building constructed on the Texas A&M campus. Old Main was built in 1876 and was destroyed by fire in 1912.

Inside the rotunda of the Academic Building are two campus landmarks. The 12-foot mosaic seal of the University on the first floor of the Academic Building was sponsored by the Class of '75. A replica of the Liberty Bell, also is located in the rotunda of the building.

Drill Field

The oak trees that line the Drill Field (located across the Memorial Student Center) are dedicated to Aggies who died in World War I. Bronze name plaques are attached to the trees with spring-loaded bolts so the trees can grow normally. The trees were planted in 1920.

In addition, the drill field's sprinkler system is dedicated to James E. Sarron, class of '58.

Eagle Statue

This statue, "dedicated to a century of excellence," commemorates the University's 100th anniversary. It was funded by the Class of '76 and is located in the park on the west side of the Corps road.

West Gate Monument

The flag-draped granite memorial at the west entrance to the University was erected "in recognition of the splendid participation of the A&M College of Texas in the World War (World War I)." The monument was given by the classes of '23 through '26.

Fish Pond

Given by the Class of '38 in memory of "those who made the supreme sacrifice in World War II" and was renovated by the Class of '77. Located in front of Sbisá Dining Hall, it is frequently used for readings.

Flagpole

Erected as a memorial by the class of '12. The base and bronze shield were added by the Class of '69. The names of students to be honored by Silver Taps are posted on the base of the flagpole the first



Staff photo by Greg Gammon

Two campus landmarks stand facing the West Gate entrance to the university. The granite memorial (front) is a monument in recognition of the participation of Texas A&M in World War I. Behind it stands the Academic building which is constructed on the site of the first building on campus, Old Main. Old Main was destroyed by fire in 1912.

Tuesday of each month.

Meditation Garden

Located between the east and west wings of Duncan Dining Hall, the meditation garden serves as a memorial to Texas A&M students who died in military service after World War II. The garden was a Corps of Cadets project and was financed by the Classes of '69 through '72.

Memorial Student Center

The MSC is dedicated to Aggies who gave their lives in world wars. Inside the center are the following landmarks:

Regents Quarters — Hidden behind the small brown Board of Regents sign on the west side of the MSC are the most luxurious living accommodations on campus. Their quarters include conference

rooms, a formal dining room, a separate kitchen facility and guest bedrooms upstairs, with Paintings, statues, crystal and china abound.

Memorial Ring Collection — Two collections of Aggie rings are displayed in the Forsyth Alumni Center. The first is the James Bedford "Josh" Sterns collection — one senior ring from each class starting in 1899 and ending in 1964. A collection of rings from 1964 to 2000 is in the process of being compiled. Each ring in this collection has been given by survivors of a deceased member of the graduating class. Also on display are two models of the first official class ring (1898) and the rings of M.T. Harrington and J. Earl Rudder, the two former presidents of Texas A&M who were alumni of the University.

Memorial Wagon Collection — The largest and most complete collection of miniature wagons in the United States. The collection, located by the entrance to the Forsyth Alumni Center, was presented to the University by Paul and Elizabeth Wise, Class of '20, in memory of James "Scotty" Forsyth.

The Metzger Gun Collection — This collection, given to the University by Carl Metzger in 1949, is on display in Room 342 of the Memorial Student Center. Valued at over \$1.5 million, the collection has been called "one of the most complete exhibits of firearms in the world."

The Sanders Collection — A collection of commemorative Colt firearms, is located in 342A MSC and was donated by Dr. Sam Houston Sanders.

Wooden Plaques — These hand-carved plaques are located in the hallway on the west side of the lobby and focus on various aspects of Texas A&M such as traditions, agriculture and engineering.

Carillon — This landmark, given to the University by the Class of '81, makes its presence known every quarter-hour. The chimes can be programmed to play about 80 different songs.

Reveille Graves

The first three University mascots, Reveille I, II and III, are buried directly in front of the entrance to Kyle Field. According to tradition, the mascots are buried here so "they can always see the scoreboard."

Following the death of Reveille I, a granite memorial enshrined with "Reveille" was placed outside the main entrance to Kyle Field.

Rudder Fountain

A popular watering-hole for Texas A&M students. Located in front of Rudder Tower, the fountain is frequently visited by children, dogs and between-class sunbathers.

Spanish-American War Memorial

This memorial, erected in 1953, commemorates the students, officers and faculty members of Texas A&M who served in the Spanish-American War (1898-1902). It is located in the park on the west side of the Corps' quad and was sponsored by the American Memorial Association.

Statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross

This statue, better known as "Sully," is located directly in front of

the Academic Building. Ross served as a brigadier general for the Confederacy, the governor of Texas and the president of Texas A&M. The Ross Volunteers were named in his honor.

Statue of 12th Man

Located behind the Aggie Club offices, this statue commemorates E. King Gill, the original 12th Man. During the Dixie Classic game played against Centre College on Jan. 1, 1922, in Dallas, Gill was called from the stands to suit up as a substitute. Although he

didn't have to enter the game, his willingness to play when called upon started the tradition of the 12th Man. The statue was sponsored by the Class of '80.

Systems Building

When this building was constructed in the 1930s, the orientation of the campus was changed from the west to the east. Noted for the stained glass windows, architecture and tile map of Texas on the floor of the rotunda. The Systems Building houses the chancellor's office.

... but some aren't so obvious

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Battalion Staff

Some campus landmarks are obvious — only a special breed of student could walk the campus for four years and not notice the Academic Building. But some landmarks aren't quite as noticeable.

The following list describes some of these landmarks and, in case you want to see any of them for yourself, tells where they are located.

Band Drill Field and Band Insignias

The drill field and the band insignias on the pavement by (Dorm 12) fall into the "look, but don't touch" category. Both areas are sacred to band members — a sign warns trespassers to stay off the field.

Duncan Intramural Field

The field doesn't really count as a landmark but the log cabin, located across from the Adams Band Building, does. The cabin is used as a command post by the "red-pots," students who oversee the construction of the Aggie bonfire.

English Annex

The red brick one-story building, located across from the Engineering Technology building, may look a bit run-down but it is still used for offices. Because of its ivy-covered walls, it has a certain amount of charm and it's the only campus building that looks like it belongs on an English country estate.

Forestry Building

In case you're ever near the Commons and want to know which way the wind is blowing, check the weather vanes on the roof of the Forestry Building. One is in the shape of a cowboy riding a bull, the other shows a cowboy roping cattle.

"Hidden College of Texas A&M"

One of the landmarks that Corps of Cadets freshmen have to scout out. When Texas A&M was a college, the tall smoke-stack located by the Physical Plant was enshrined with "A&M College." When Texas A&M became a University, the word "college" was

painted over but is still faintly visible.

Mt. Aggie

Called "the world's smallest mountain" by Texas Monthly magazine, the AstroTurf-covered slope is used for physical education courses in snow-skiing. It is located on the east side of Kyle Field.

Natorium

The swimming pool inside the Pinckney L. Downs Natorium

measures 60 feet by 100 feet, 10 feet wider than the average swimming pool.

The additional width was added when Pinckney L. "Pinkie" Downs, a former member of the Board of Regents, learned that the swimming pool at the University of Texas measured 50 feet by 100 feet. He campaigned vigorously for the expansion, saying that it was well worth the extra expense to have anything at Texas A&M 10 feet bigger than it was at UT.

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