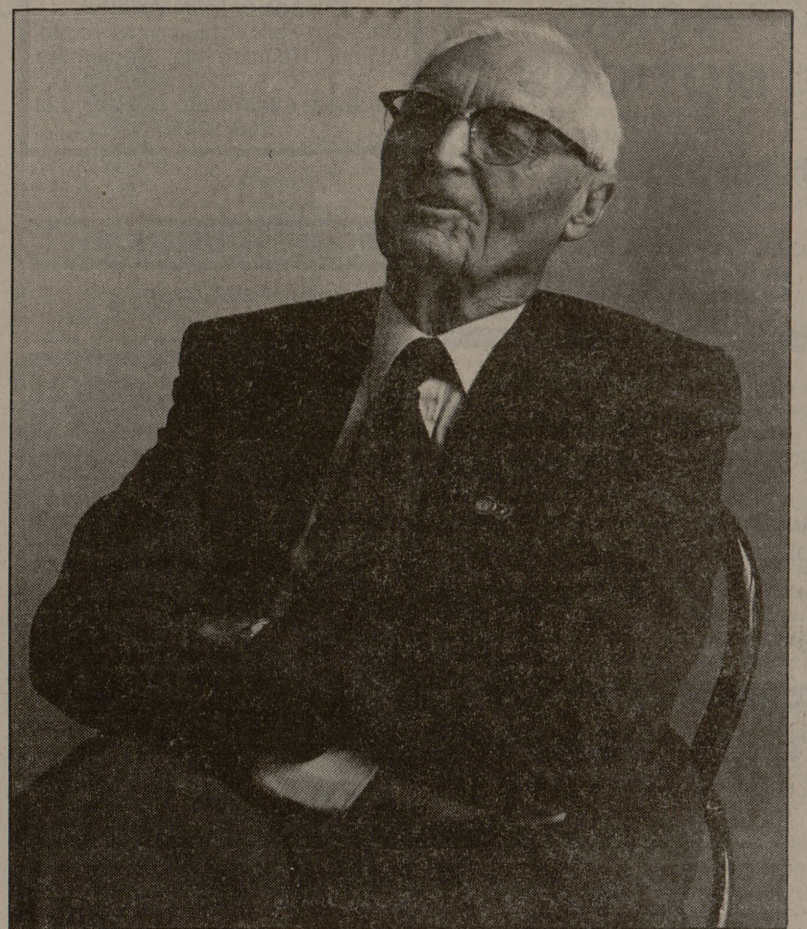


Thursday, September 14, 1989

**"I never dreamed that A&M would ever be its present size. I've seen changes that were unimaginable."**



James Boone, Class of '21, talks about his experiences at Texas A&M. Boone attended A&M with the grandson of Lawrence Sullivan Ross.

Photos by Frederick D. Joe

## Aggie reminisces about A&M history, progress

By James A. Johnson

Of The Battalion Staff

When most Aggies want to learn more about the history of Texas A&M, they can simply check out a copy of "Twelfth Man" or take a quick tour through University Archives.

But one Bryan resident who graduated from A&M in 1921 can give you an eyewitness account of many of the traditions which have fascinated history buffs both young and old.

James Leroy Boone is not your average retired A&M graduate. One of the few living alumni from the Class of '21, Boone, who is 91, is what you might consider an authority figure about the University's history.

Because A&M was strictly a military school when Boone was an undergraduate, he recalled other Southwest Conference schools using their non-female status as an excuse to lure high school graduates away from A&M.

When Boone entered A&M in 1917, he attended school with Lawrence Sullivan Ross Clark, the grandson of Lawrence Sullivan (Sully) Ross.

Then, as now, freshman cadets experienced hazing, and the young Clark was no exception. But Clark's superiors found it appropriate to keep his hazing in the family.

Boone recalled how Clark began to wish he were not the elder Ross' grandson. On rainy days, it was Clark's duty to hold an umbrella over his grandfather's statue (which still stands in front of the Academic Building).

"He (Clark) got to where he dreaded bad weather," Boone recalled, smiling.

Boone also has the rare distinction of being a witness to the birth of the Twelfth Man tradition.

"It was an unusually exciting experience," Boone said enthusiastically. "And even though Coach Bible had to get Gill to play with no experience, we still managed to have a first-rate ball team."

For any football fan, that stood to reason. The Aggies went undefeated during Boone's freshman year. They did not have a single point scored against them in 10 games, and he remembers one game in particular when they mauled another school 100-0.

"We may not have attracted the same crowd as the games do now," Boone said. "But the noise was always there."

Boone, like all other students then, was a member of the Corps of Cadets. He said that he is pleased with the way the Corps has maintained basic traditional values, but he is surprised to hear so many complaints in recent years concerning hazing.

According to Boone, life as a freshman in his day was worse than it is today.

He recalled one cadet being crippled for several months after his superiors gave him a "shoe shine," a term in Corps lingo which referred to applying shoe polish to a freshman's shoe before setting fire to it.

"His foot was so badly burned that he didn't wear a shoe for six months," Boone said. He added that the incident led to the expulsion of the four men responsible.

In comparing past and present students, Boone says he is concerned at the lack of independence he notices on occasion.

"I remember my father sending me off on a midnight train from Houston," he said. "I didn't know a soul and had never been here before. But that was how I learned."

"In the last few years, I've seen many parents accompany students to register or pay fees. They're missing out on a part of growing up."

When A&M considered becoming co-educational, Boone remembers there being a great deal of opposi-

tion, especially from those like himself, who graduated from the University decades before.

"We were just sure the school was going to be killed," he said. "But, of course, that's been proven wrong."

Boone recalled reading newspaper headlines in 1917, declaring the freshmen class enrollment to be a record-breaking 600.

"I never dreamed that A&M would ever be its present size," Boone exclaims. "I've seen changes that were unimaginable."

Indeed, a number of changes have taken place since 1921. When

he first enrolled here in 1917, the original Guion Hall was still standing. He saw the second Guion Hall built across the street from the original one that same year. After more than 70 years, Hart Hall currently stands where the first Guion Hall was built.

"Gosh, I've lived through two Guion Halls," he said with surprise. "Not too many people can say that."

Despite all the changes the school has made since Boone's college days, the valuable lessons which students learn from their experience here are abundant, he said.

"Always, if you went to A&M, you had that great fraternal feeling for other Aggies," he said. "Aggies are taught to be servants to their communities. They don't shirk duties. They have and always will have that can-do attitude."

While he resides comfortably in his apartment at Walden Retirement Community in Bryan, Boone continues to make frequent visits to his alma mater.

"Texas A&M has magnetism," he said. "No matter how long it's been since you've graduated, you always have a desire to return."

## The official partier's guide to Aggieland

By Katsy Pittman

Of The Battalion Staff

What is your party persona?

You know your horoscope, your biorhythms, your "colors" and your marketable job skills. But do you know your potential party type?

There are several categories of party-goers at Texas A&M, ranging from the casual partier to the intense, around-the-clock party maniac.

Read on and perhaps you can figure out what type of party personality you have.

**The Weekend Warrior.**  
(Thursday nights included.)

Though a mild-mannered accounting major by day, these suppressed students become potential party paramours four days into the week.

Scamming is a priority to the Weekend Warrior, so significant preparation with mousse and spray starch often delays these soldiers until the 11th hour. Drink specials and dance floors are secondary draws to the ample presence of the op-

posite sex, and the careful listener can often hear the Weekend Warrior mating call: "I'm so wasted! I'm so wasted!"

Where can they be found? The Mercury Bar and Zephyr's. Both bars offer weekly drink specials, ample dance floors and often feature live bands. The Mercury Bar is located near campus, while Zephyr's is a block away from sorority row. Although Greek membership is not a prerequisite to the latter, it is a predominate factor.

**The Bandito Incognito**

These undercover consumers either are looking for a place where their conversation is audible over the dance tracks or are trying to look inconspicuous in shadowy corners as they desperately hide from psychotic ex-boyfriends/girlfriends. While these students aren't looking for "hole in the wall"-type bars, relative anonymity is welcomed.

Where can they be found (though they may not want to be)? The Ptarmigan Club, Carney's Pub or the Gunns N' Roses Club, all located on South College Avenue in Bryan.

For a unique atmosphere, try the Ptarmigan Club, popular for its multiple dark corners and infamous flaming Dr. Pepper shots.

Carney's Pub has several pool tables and dartboards, and plenty of tables with essential low lighting. The Gunns N' Roses Club (don't let the name scare you) has been open for about six months, and is a great anonymous bar for club escapees who feel like kicking back with a draft, or playing a pool game without ten more impatient players sticking pool cues down their neck.

**The Off-Campus Cowboy**

These wranglers grab their requisite ropers and saddle up for a big night in cow town. Better practice that two-step, partner, 'cause novices need not apply.

Where can they be found? Graham Central

See Party/Page 14



# Live Jazz • No Cover

Thursday: Local Jazz  
Friday & Saturday: Horn Talk

## 9:30-12:30

Happy Hour 11 a.m.-7 p.m.



SEAFOOD & STEAKS  
505 E. University • 846-5388