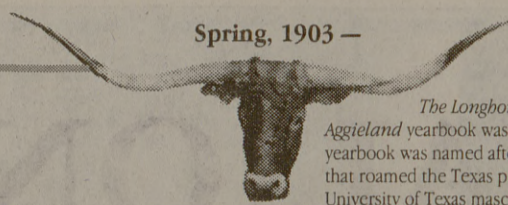
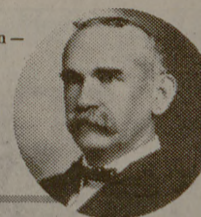




— President Grover Cleveland,
22nd & 24th President
(1885-89, 1893-97)



The Longhorn, predecessor to The AggieLand yearbook was first published. The yearbook was named after the species of cattle that roamed the Texas prairie — not after the University of Texas mascot.



A&M College trouble of 1908 —
Seven members of The Battalion editorial board were suspended on May 20th after running an article on page 22 disputing a published statement by President Henry Harrington. Harrington said the time had been forgotten and everything was returning to normal. The president had disallowed the Corps trip to the U.T. game in Dallas on Oct. 12, 1907.

1893 — A look back at A&M College

A&M evolves from humble beginnings

By Margaret Claughton
THE BATTALION

Just 17 years after A&M began, a group of students got together and began printing a newspaper specifically for the college's students and faculty. They decided to call it The Battalion. But the A&M College these students were writing about was much different from the A&M of today.

In 1893, the entire college consisted of nine buildings. Only a few of them had electricity, and none had running water. The main sources of communication between the students and the outside world were letters and occasional telegraphs. The automobile had not yet been invented, so students and faculty used bicycles, horses and wagons to get around.

Old Main Drive was nothing but a wide grassless strip of dirt deeply grooved by many wagon wheel trenches. Any student heading east along this road would eventually encounter Old Main, a building considered the heart and soul of A&M in 1893. The Academic Building now stands on the former site of Old Main, which burned in 1912.

Old Main encompassed everything from the drawing department, the horticulture and botany department, and the chemical private laboratory to the museum, the bookstore, and the laboratory of Veterinary Science. Ornate in its design and massive in its size, Old Main could be seen for miles around and was revered as a fine structure by many of the architects of its time.

The road that stretched in front of Old Main led to the Texas Central Depot. The Houston and Texas Central railroad was the only means of mass transportation to College Station in 1893. Most A&M students arrived by train and left campus only twice a year.

Much of the A&M campus consisted of beautiful Texas countryside. Large stretches of prairie dotted with clumps of trees, and beds of flowers made up most of the 2,416 acres of land allotted to the college.

College Lake sat on the southwest side of the campus surrounded by cattails and willows. It was



One hundred years ago, the campus of the A&M College stood in stark contrast to the bustling University that exists today. The old dirt road leads to Old Main, the original centerpiece of the Texas A&M campus.

known as a quiet place where students went to think and be close to nature. Behind the lake's dam was a hideaway known as Lovers' Retreat. Lovers' Retreat was a small concealed, cavern-like passage carpeted with Bermuda grass and hidden by branches and vines. This was the place where young lovers went to escape the drills of early college life or to just have a little privacy.

A row of five, two-story brick houses, known to most of the early cadets as "Down the Line," ran behind College Lake. All of the homes along "Down the Line" were occupied by faculty members. Each house had a well-kept grassy lawn with blooming flowers and large trees. The houses were arranged in military fashion, exactly in line with one another and all facing the same direction. Some people described them as "a line of well-drilled cadets standing at attention."

Looking "Down the Line," a cadet could see Pfeuffer Hall and Assembly Hall. Pfeuffer Hall was a two-story dormitory with the capacity to accommodate 75 students.

Assembly Hall, two stories as well, stood surrounded by wild shrubs and roses and served as the facility used for presentations and other ceremonies.

To the right of Old Main and across from "Down the Line" were the Ice factory, Austin Hall, Ross Hall, the Mess Hall and the President's residence. Austin Hall dormitory was two stories tall and could hold 75 students. Ross Hall, the newest and largest of the dormitories, was three stories tall with 41 rooms and could accommodate up to 82 students.

Behind Old Main were the farm buildings, stables, growing crops, the creamery, and the herds. The farm buildings consisted of two large barns, a milking shed and a piggery. The creamery was a large building outfitted with the latest equipment for making butter and cheese. The herds, a mixture of pigs, Jerseys and Holsteins sporadically dotted the pasture land behind the main building.

Despite its limited transportation and obscure location, students came

from as far away as New York to attend the Texas A&M College.

In order to be eligible for admission in 1893, applicants needed to be at least 15 years old and have no infectious diseases or deformities. The younger applicants were required to pass satisfactory examinations in mathematics and English.

Upon arriving at A&M, each student was expected to report to the president of the college and state on honor that he had no firearms or deadly weapons. If he had them, he was to deposit them with the president.

Not many students meet the University president face to face anymore, and A&M definitely has more than nine buildings. But the students of A&M in 1893 had one thing in common with the Aggies of today — the same appreciation, loyalty and outright college spirit.

"How familiar to our view and how dear to our hearts are these scenes of our youth. Heaven prosper our Alma Mater, the dear old A. and M. C.!"

— the graduating class of 1894

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Acknowledgments . . .

There have been so many people who have donated their time and resources to making this issue look top-notch. Thanks definitely go to the University Archives, whose staff has had to deal with the onslaught of Battalion staffers for the last three weeks. A special thanks to head archivist Dr. Charles Schulz and assistant archivist Dr. David Chapman.

Thanks also go to Dr. Henry Dethloff for his wealth of historical knowledge and 99-year-old Amber May Threlkeld for graciously letting us into her home to talk to her about A&M life at the turn of the century. Also, thank you to John Robinson and his late uncle John Ehrhardt whose 1900 Corps uniform proudly is displayed on the cover.

Special thanks go to the Corps of Cadets Center and curator Joe Fenton for bending over backwards to help us. Their library and old artifacts were beautiful elements to our cover. Abe and Pat Messarra from ABE Office Supply provided the L.C. Smith typewriter from approximately 1910. Juanita Galindo from Campus Photo lent us the old camera.

Also, thanks goes to Robert Wegener, George Englebretson, Donna Roth and Darrin Hill.

Finally, and most importantly, thanks goes to the Fall 1993 staff of The Battalion. The people who worked on this issue pushed themselves to incredible lengths to see this come to fruition, and they succeeded. Special thanks go to Mark Evans for his devotion and his organization, to Mary Kujawa for giving up the last month of her life to write some incredible pieces for this issue, and to Kyle Burnett for his incredible cover photo.

To all of the above, thanks for everything.

From the Editor . . .

It started with only a handful of cadets, just a small group of people who wanted to publish a newspaper. Little did they know that the publication they called *The Battalion* would evolve into a Texas A&M tradition.

On Oct. 1, 1893, these men published the first edition of Texas A&M's newspaper. It was a crude publication, to say the least.

It was small, about half the size of a piece of notebook paper. Its major stories were the decline of the A&M baseball team and the soon-to-be built electric light and power house.

Yet at the top of the page in their salutatory, these cadets profoundly commented on their new creation.

"Boys, this paper is yours," the section read. "Make it something. Lend all your assistance possible. It is your duty, and should be your pleasure to write something for every issue."

Also in the salutatory, E.L. Bruce, *The Battalion's* first editor in chief, was given instructions that he and all succeeding editors would follow.

"He shall do everything in his power to make these pages lively, interesting and instructive."

One hundred years later, the students are no longer all cadets, the electric light and power house has been torn down, and *The Battalion* looks far different from the form used by its founders.

Yet this newspaper has endeavored throughout the last century to provide the people of Texas A&M with information that is lively, interesting and instructive. That is the unfailing mission of *The Battalion* every time it hits the stands.

It is in the spirit of E.L. Bruce and his small group of cadets that we present this most special issue.

Our goal has been to provide a glimpse of what *The Battalion* has seen over the last 100 years. From victory to tragedy, through change and tradition, Texas A&M has grown with *The Battalion* since 1893.

Those cadets might never have imagined that their crude publication would eventually become one of the largest and most recognized college newspapers in the nation. Still, their original vision of informing Texas A&M has endured for 100 years, and no doubt will endure for 100 more.

— Chris Whitley

WISHING THE BATTALION A Happy 100th Anniversary

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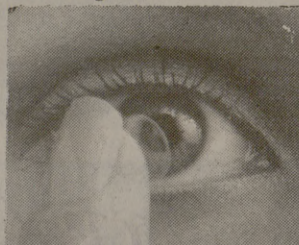
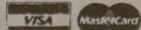
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