



"Cadet Slouch" —

1953 —
"Cadet Slouch" first appears in
The Battalion. Dr. Jim Earle
earned his undergraduate,
master's and doctorate degree
while drawing the cartoon.



Holder —

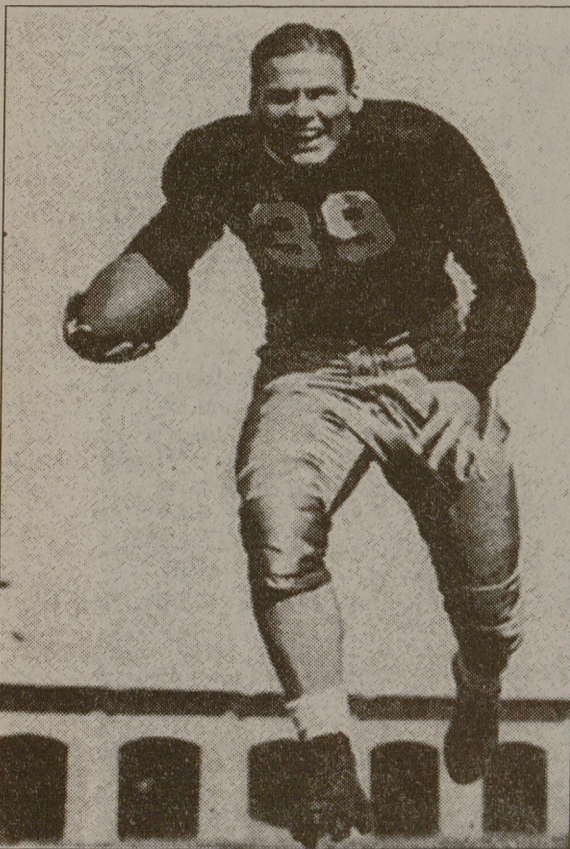
Feb. 23, 1954 —
Co-editors Jerry Bennett and
Ed Holder resign after the
Faculty Student Life Committee
established an editorial board
for The Battalion.



— Bennett

1939 — Aggies win national championship

AMC football rides flawless road to fame, first national title



AMC running back John Kimbrough helped lead the Aggies to its third undefeated season and its first national championship in 1939.

By Michael Plumer
THE BATTALION

There it sits in all its glory, untarnished and unmatched. Nothing could ever top it unless the Texas A&M football team could win another one.

It's the national championship trophy.

The Aggies' 1939 squad, led by head coach Homer H. Norton, stormed to an 11-0 season and became the undisputed kings of college football. In that season, A&M gave up only 31 points while racking up 212 yards on offense.

A&M started off the year with a victory over the Aggies — the Oklahoma A&M version, that is. Texas A&M won 32-0 in Stillwater and prompted this response from the losing coach.

"I would like to buy (running back) John Kimbrough and (quarterback) Marion Pugh," Coach Stidham said. "And the rest of the money, I would spend on (tackle) Marshall Robnett."

Sportswriters for The Battalion picked Notre Dame to win the national championship and excluded A&M from its Top 20 poll. But the Aggies did sneak in at number seven in the

Southwest poll.

Centenary tried to sneak into College Station and gain a win in the second game of the season, but Kimbrough smashed its hopes as he scored the only two touchdowns A&M would need. The Aggies cruised to a 14-0 victory to up their record to 2-0.

What was A&M's reward? A two-day train trip to play Santa Clara in California, a team that had beaten the Aggies in 1938 by a score of 7-0.

Battalion sports editor E.C. "Jeep" Oates traveled with the team and wrote that he was in for a surprise once the Aggies reached their destination.

"The West Coast sportswriters are picking the Aggies number one," Oates wired back to College Station. "They really think the Aggies are the best team and should return the favor of defeat to Santa Clara."

The writers were right. A&M beat Santa Clara, 7-3.

After an off-week, A&M traveled to Tyler, Texas, to play the Villanova Wildcats in the Rose Festival Classic. The Wildcats had not lost since 1936.

A&M scout Harry Falkner watched Villanova play and related his feelings to Oates concerning the Wildcats.

"I am like the farmer who saw a giraffe for the first time,"

Falkner said. "There just ain't no such animal."

Writers around the country, Oates wrote, seemed to agree with Falkner. At that time, Villanova ran a play called the "Notre Dame shift," where the tight end and running backs would shift to one side of the field before the ball is snapped. Writers were predicting that the Notre Dame shift would lead to a Villanova blowout.

They were right about the blowout, but wrong about the team.

A&M smashed the Wildcats, 33-7, but not before a humorous incident that Oates filed with his game report.

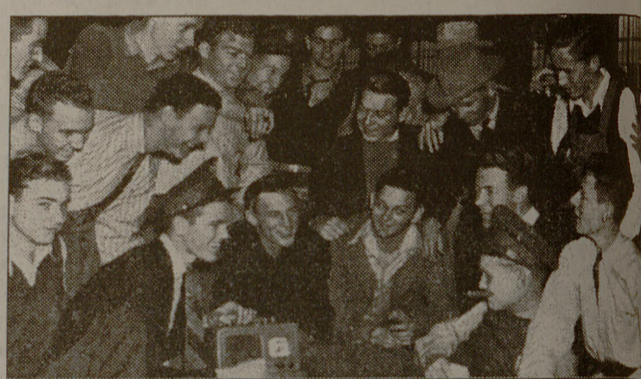
"After (Bill) Dawson kicked an extra point, it landed in a drunk's lap. The drunk took a liking to the ball and would not give it back."

So the Wildcats were not the only ones that were knocked silly during the game.

Also, how about that shift?

"The Yankees came down with the once famous Notre Dame shift, and they looked very good shifting, but after the shift was over it was all A&M," Oates wrote with a touch of sarcasm.

Legendary football coach Pop Warner was impressed with A&M and addressed a letter to The Battalion sports section af-



Aggies gather around a radio to listen to the Aggies beat Villanova, 14-13, in the 1939 Sugar Bowl.

ter he witnessed the Santa Clara game and listened to the Villanova game on the radio.

"I have heard nothing but praise for the A&M team, and Kimbrough was as fine a full-back as we have ever seen out here (in California) ..."

The praises kept piling up as A&M moved to number nine in the national polls. The Aggies prepared to open Southwest Conference play against Texas Christian in Ft. Worth. A&M sought its first win there since 1919.

Horned Frog noseguard Fred Shook provided a little bulletin board material for the Aggies by predicting he would shut down Kimbrough.

To retort, Oates puts his thoughts in the paper.

"If (Shook) tackles (Kimbrough's) knee it is going to blow the sirens, Katy, another poor fool crashed in where the Aggies fear to tread."

It's not Kimbrough's knee that ended up in Shook's mouth, but rather the Horned Frog's foot. A&M rolled, 20-0, to run its record to 5-0 overall.

The Aggies next played host to Baylor and won, 21-0. A&M moved to number five in the nation.

With all their success, the Aggies still had numerous hurdles to clear.

See Champions/ Page 9

1963 — Texas A & M College becomes A&M University

School name change sparks three-year debate, opposition between students, alumni

By Lisa Elliott
THE BATTALION

Thirty years ago, on September 23, Texas A&M gained recognition as a University, but not without heated controversy.

Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College started out as a small school for Agriculture and Engineering but grew at an alarming rate until it reached the "University" level.

According to an article in The Battalion on Aug. 22, 1963, the name change was just a move to make the status of the school official although it was previously considered to be a university.

The article said, "A&M has been a university in fact for many years, since its educational offerings include undergraduate and graduate studies, engineering, arts, science, agriculture, business, architecture, veterinary medicine and teacher education."

The three-year debate over the name change started in March, 1961 when a bill was introduced into the Senate. Sen. William Moore, Class of '41, told The Battalion in March 1961 the current name of the school was misleading and implied a limited range of topics taught.

President Earl Rudder said in the article the name change was a positive step for the University and would not effect the traditions of the school.

However, the student body was split on the idea.

Former student, Charles Elliott, Class of '64, said he favored the

name change from the beginning.

"A few of the hard-core traditionalists were against the change but the majority were in favor of the new name," he said.

Half of the students argued the costs of making a big change such as this would not be worth the benefits. They argued the difficulty of changing all signs, letterheads and official papers.

They also argued the changes would cause problems. A&M would have to change the lyrics of the school songs and yells, redesign the senior rings and Corps uniforms. The students said A&M would lose its identity and cut off the former students and, therefore, affect funding and decrease enrollment.

These students were afraid that, if A&M changed its name, Texas Tech would also want a new name along with other Texas colleges.

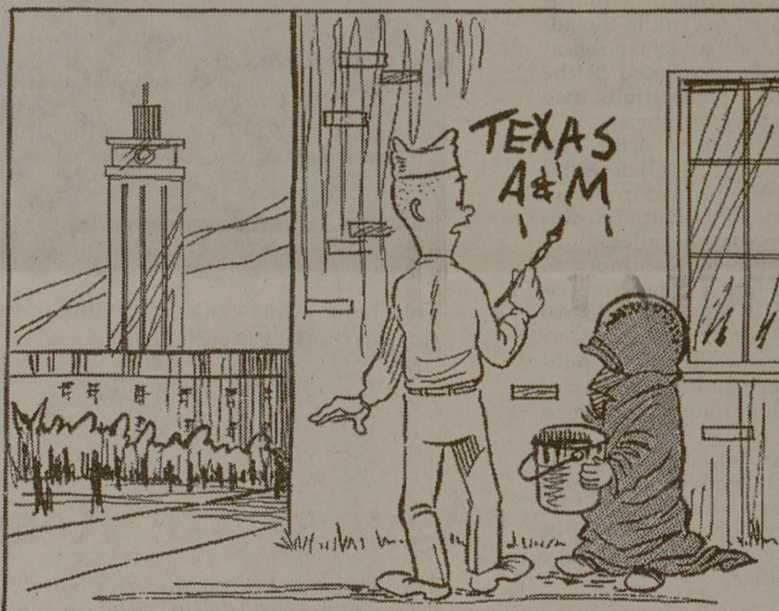
The half of the student body that favored the name change argued the new name would add prestige to the school and attract more and better professors and would allow the school to apply for more grants and associations that are open to universities.

Dr. Michale Keeling, Class of '64, said he remembers feelings of concern about traditions.

"It's difficult to go through change when you're traditionalists," he said.

Keeling said the students did their best to change the new name from changing the yells and school songs.

After months of debate about whether the name should be changed, it was established that A&M had to have its name change



"... IT'S EMBARRASSING TO NOT KNOW WHETHER TO SAY 'COLLEGE' OR 'UNIVERSITY' OR EVEN A&M!"

Slouch is a creation of Jim Earle, a Batt cartoonist in the 1950s and 60s

to include the word "university." The new task set upon by students and former students was debating about what the new name should be.

Among the suggestions were Texas State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College (which The Battalion editorial board officially supported), South Texas University, The University of Texas at College Station and A&M University of Texas.

The two names that finally

made it to the final round were Texas State University and Texas A&M University.

In order to aid the Senate in making a final decision, petitions were circulated around the dormitories to get students' opinion of the name they preferred. Many students wrote letters to the editor of The Battalion pleading with their classmates to write to their senators and voice their opinions.

One senior wrote in saying he

felt the name Texas State University should be adopted because "if we fail to accept this name, Texas Tech may receive it."

Another group of seniors wrote in to tell the students about their own trip to Austin to persuade senators in their favor. They were surprised at the lack of input the senators were receiving for the name change.

"These senators and representatives want you, the student body, to tell them by letter, telegram and telephone what you feel about the name change," the letter said. After input from the students, the final decision was reached to adopt the name Texas A&M University. Gov. John Connally signed the bill into a law on May 14, 1963. The students were told the A&M did not stand for anything but stood alone as a word in itself.

One article in The Battalion said, "In this name 'A&M' stands alone, and does not mean 'Agriculture and Mechanical.' In this sense, 'A&M' is a name by itself and would be used much the same as 'Rice' is used Rice University or 'Baylor' is used in Baylor University."

After the name was officially changed, many students expressed concern about their Aggie Senior Ring.

One former student, Robert W. Baker, wrote a letter to The Battalion as well as President Rudder and Sterling Evans, chairman of the Board of Directors, in which he expressed his concerns about the Aggie ring.

"Those students who entered

Texas A&M College prior to the name change should certainly be granted the option of having Texas A&M College appear on their senior ring," he wrote. "Being a graduate of A&M and being a proud possessor of an Aggie ring with anything on it other than Texas A&M College."

Because of such an outpour of responses, the Ring Committee took steps to satisfy everyone.

One Battalion article said, "Sentimentalists now ordering their clings can still have 'college' inscribed on them, although 'university' is now available for those that prefer the newer name."

In addition to the senior ring, students expressed concern over the school songs and yells.

Shortly after the new name was made official, the last line of the "Spirit of Aggieland" was changed from "The Aggies are we, we are from Texas AMC" to "The Aggies so true, we are from Texas AMU."

The change was approved by Marvin H. Mimms, Class of 1926, the author of the song.

However, today the song is still sung with its original wording.

Although most of the students expressed concern about changing the name, Keeling said, they realized the progress of the University was inevitable.

Keeling said he is proud of the changes made to A&M over the past 30 years and the name change helped A&M.

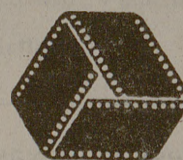
"I wouldn't have wanted to take part in slowing down the progress of A&M," he said.

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