Interviews, photos reflect band history

**By Karen Broyles** 

One hundred years of history have finally

been put to paper.
"The Fightin' Texas Aggie Band," an historical account of the Texas Aggie Band, is now on bookstore shelves.

Donald B. Powell, director of Business Services for Texas A&M and president of the Texas Aggie Band Association, co-wrote the book with wife Mary Jo, the associate director of University Relations, to commemorate the band's 100th anniversary.

"This is the first book ever written solely

about the Aggie Band," Powell said. Powell also wanted to record the band's history before the people who were part of the history were gone. Any book written later might be less accurate without the people

he and Mary Jo interviewed, he said.

The Powells started their research two years ago by interviewing dozens of former band members, relatives of members, and former and current directors.

After looking through almost 900 photographs, all donated, they selected 121 for

1899 The Fightin' Texas Aggie Band

the book, Mary Jo Powell said.

"We picked photos that would represent all the eras and the aspects of life in the Aggie Band," she said,"which was almost as hard as compiling the list of band members

since 1894, which had 7,000 names on it," she said.

Records weren't always kept carefully in past years, and people didn't always spell their last names the same way. The Powells had to deter-mine if similar names but different spellings belonged to two people or just one person.

Keeping track of people coming and going during both world wars and the Great Depression made compiling the list harder, because of the research required to verify whether the same people had returned, or if they were different people similar names.

Powell said that the thread of cont between the directors of the Texas He also said Band was the most fascinating discovery made during the research.

"All the band directors since J Holick, the founder of the band, had ded and we he he next director at some point in er said. life," Donald B. Powell said. "Later, person would take over the band whe director retired.'

Mary Jo Powell, a Wisconsin native one was pir learned about Aggie traditions from but during husband, said she's amazed at the shifter someon lifetime friendships that he formed wi

"I learned how true that is for so me the former band members," she said. Powell said he is pleased at the response that advanced orders of

have received. "One man called me and said that h day's work at his office because he st day reading the book," Powell said. "W finished, he ordered two more copies

Proceeds from sales of the book wi the Texas Aggie Band for operation penses, and the Powells will sign of the book on Sept. 10 in the MSC Book



The Fightin' Texas Aggie Band marched to Bryan on Armistice Day Courtesy of Texas A&M University Archives

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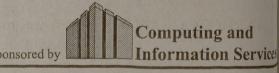
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