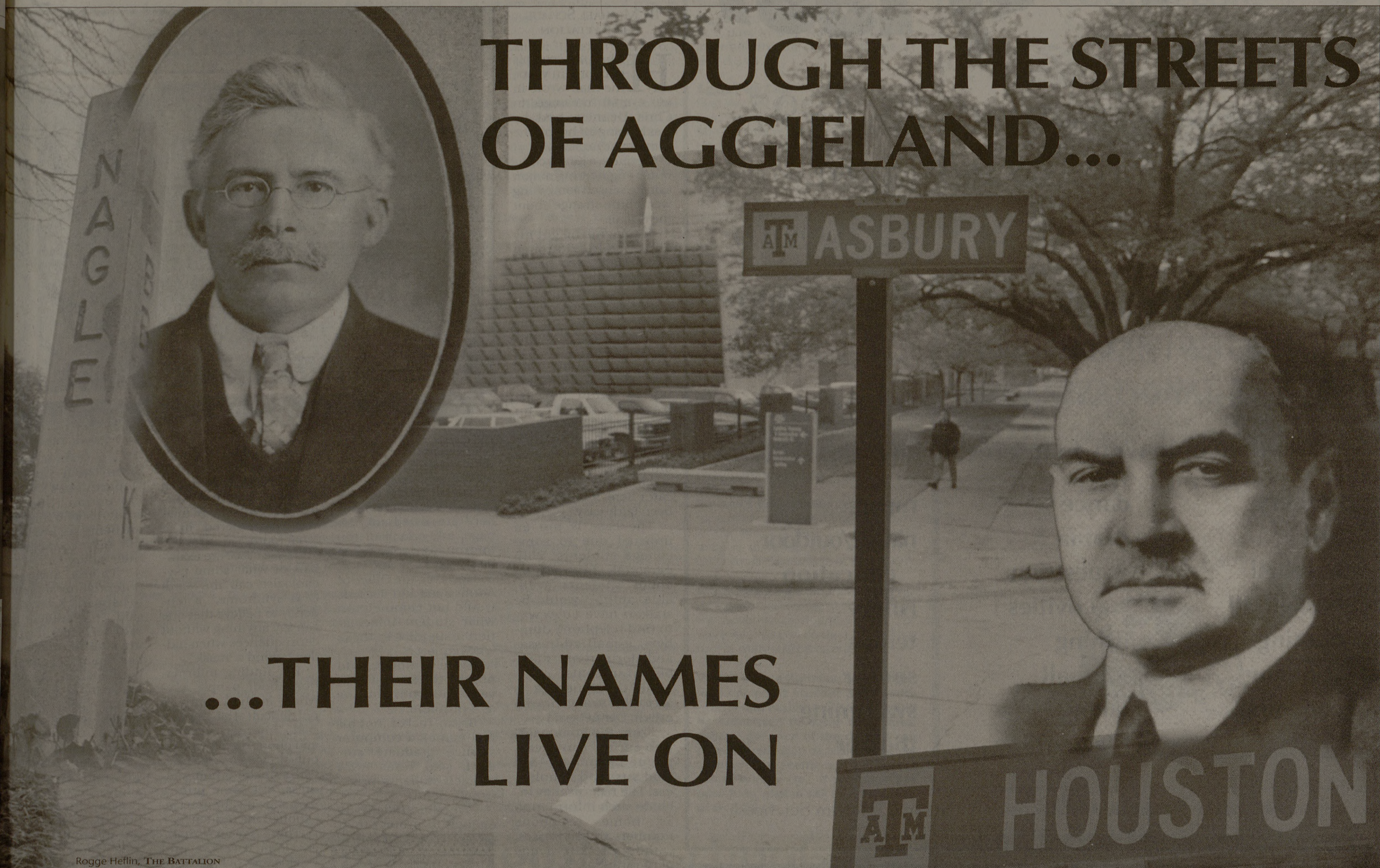


# THROUGH THE STREETS OF AGGIELAND...

## ...THEIR NAMES LIVE ON



Rogge Hefflin, THE BATTALION

*Years after their deaths, the legacies of Dr. Samuel E. Asbury, Dr. David F. Houston and Dr. James C. Nagle are remembered at Texas A&M.*

By **KIMBER HUFF**  
 THE BATTALION

### Asbury Street

Asbury Street, which runs behind Sbisas Dining Hall and the Texas A&M post office, was named after Dr. Samuel E. Asbury. Asbury, known as "Doc" to his students, became a chemistry and botany professor at A&M in 1904.

Cushing Library files describe Asbury as Texas A&M's "Renaissance Man" because of his wide variety of interests.

Asbury considered himself one who experimented in chemistry and botany and was fascinated by new agricultural theories. He was especially interested in the theory of "absolute growth."

Asbury tested this theory on his garden roses by developing a method known as "subirrigation with fertilized water" in which a mixture of water and fertilizer travels directly to the roots of the roses through gravel layer in the soil. The theory seemed to have a valid basis because Asbury's yard

was described as being overgrown with rose bushes as big as trees.

Asbury was extremely interested in Texas history. He published a monthly newsletter titled "The Texas Nativist" and was director of the Texas Historical Society.

Music was incorporated into history using a musical drama Asbury wrote about the Texas Revolution of 1836. He dreamed of creating an annual Texas opera which would combine history and folk music and be produced by several thousand actors.

In his later years, Asbury's home housed a plethora of collections, including rare books and records tracing the origins of jazz and religious paintings — so many that they completely covered the walls and the ceiling, giving Asbury his own Sistine Chapel.

Asbury retired in 1944 after 40 years as a professor at A&M.

He died in 1962 at age 89.

### Houston Street

Houston Street, which runs past the A&M post office toward Fish Pond and be-

tween G. Rollie White Coliseum and Koldus, was named after Dr. David F. Houston.

In 1903, after the death of A&M President L.L. Foster, Houston left the University of Texas at Austin, where he was dean of faculty, to become the new president.

Although he was only a member of the A&M administration for three years and thought to be cold, distant and unsympathetic by those who did not know him well, Houston made an incredible impact on the quality of the University.

John Payne Jr. discussed Houston in his biographical sketch.

"He took charge of an institution that was on the verge of complete failure and within three years had built it up to a position of nationwide recognition and respect," Payne wrote.

Some of Houston's improvements to the college included buying new books, having a library built, increasing the school's faculty and equipment and repairing older buildings.

Houston also raised academic standards

and admission requirements and helped decrease hazing in the Corps of Cadets.

Under Houston's recommendation, Texas decided to increase A&M's state funding.

In 1905, Houston left to become president at the University of Texas at Austin and later the president of Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

After leaving Washington University, Houston became involved in politics. He was secretary of agriculture under Woodrow Wilson from 1913 to 1920 and a member of the Council on National Defense from 1916 to 1920, in addition to being secretary of the treasury for a brief time.

Houston died in 1940 at age 74.

### Nagle Street

Nagle Street, which runs by Heldenfels Hall, was named after Dr. James C. Nagle. Nagle became a civil engineering and physics professor at A&M in 1890.

One of the ways he contributed to the advancement of the school's technology was helping to get the first phone system in-

stalled on campus in 1906.

In 1911, he founded and became the first dean of the school of engineering. Creating this school caused an increase in the curriculum from the two existing majors, civil engineering and mechanical engineering, by adding six new studies: agricultural engineering, architecture, chemical engineering, electrical engineering, industrial education, and textile engineering.

In 1913, prompted by his experience as an expert in irrigation investigations for U.S. Department of Agriculture, Nagle left A&M to become the first chair of the Texas State Board of Water Engineers.

Four years later, Nagle returned as a professor of civil engineering, dean of the engineering school, and director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station.

Known for being close friends with his students and staying in touch with them even after they graduated, Nagle had a yearbook dedicated to him in 1910.

Nagle retired in 1922. He died in 1928 at age 63.

## WHAT'S IT LIKE AT THE PLASMA CENTER?

To the staff of the Plasma Center,

I would like to start by saying thank you to each and every employee for making the past three years enjoyable in a professional, efficient and courteous environment. As a donor since 1993, I have been more than satisfied with every aspect of your operation, which allows myself and others to contribute what we can to community service, all the while being serviced by diligent, but relaxed, workers. Everyone at the Plasma Center, from those behind the front counter to the phlebotomists to the supervisors, have made great efforts to insure that each donor feels hygienically safe, as well as keeping the atmosphere light.

Like most, I started coming to the Plasma Center for monetary reasons, but I soon developed acquaintances that appealed to me almost as much as the original need for money, enabling me to look forward to each donation, not only for my wallet's sake but also to see my

friends. Like I commented to someone recently, talking to people at the Plasma Center was like getting mail from a far-off friend that you don't get to do much with, but who you can talk to as often as you write. For those acquaintances and for your continual services. I would like to thank all of those I've come to know and appreciate over the past three years - Emily, and Tracy, Heath, and Marty, Ada and Josie, etc... more I can't remember or those who have gone on to better things.

So, as I graduate from this great University, I bid you all a fond farewell and strong commendations on such a successful blend of quality medical practice and friendly service. Thank you all and have a great summer. Thanks, C.F.

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