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HISTORY

Continued from Page 1

"He was a very important man — in some ways more than (Lawrence Sullivan) Ross," Chapman said. Chapman and Dyal said Cushing "guaranteed notes of credit" for A&M with his own money to give the college time to show its worth. He also rallied influential legislators and Texans with messages over telegraph wires to keep A&M from closing.

The Cushing Library, which opened in 1930 as A&M's first library, was named in his honor.

Dethloff, also the author of *A Pictorial History of Texas A&M University*, said Congress funded a senior ROTC program in September 1917, and supplied A&M cadets with khaki uniforms, instead of the former gray and black uniforms, and campaign hats.

In March 1917, A&M became the first college to offer their facilities to the government for war training, Dethloff said.

On April 16, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson declared war on Germany. By September 1918, A&M had trained 3,648 soldiers in different skills.

According to *We are the Aggies*, World War I also was inspiration for the Aggie War Hymn.

Adams said James Vernon "Pinky Wilson," Class of '20, composed the song while on guard duty on the Rhine River. George Fairleigh, director of the Aggie Band, helped Wilson compose music for the song before the Thanksgiving game

against the University of Texas.

Aggie Bonfire began in 1909 as a pile of trash thrown together for the November and December varsity games. The first Bonfires were made of trash, boxes, tree limbs and debris from around campus. By the 1920s, building and burning Bonfire the night before the football game against the University of Texas became a tradition.

On Jan. 2, 1922, the tradition of the 12th Man began. Texas A&M was playing Centre College in the Dixie Classic football game in Dallas. The Aggie team was plagued with injuries, so Coach Dana X. Bible sent a young leader to get E. King Gill, a basketball player and former football player, to be a substitute for the game. Gill did not play in the game, but his reading to join the game if needed symbolized Aggie Spirit. Since 1922 the student body has stood up during A&M football games showing their readiness to enter the game if needed.

The first A&M mascot, Reveille, was found in 1931.

Edna "E.P." Smith, a Bryan resident said that when her husband, Edward James Smith Sr., Class of '20, attended A&M, Reveille had his full choice of beds.

"Sometimes when he would come back to his room, the dog would be in his bed and he'd have to find another place to sleep," she said.

In September 1933, the question of admitting women to A&M surfaced again. Dethloff said some members of the Bryan-College Station community brought a lawsuit against the Board of Directors for only allowing daughters of faculty to attend A&M and not other women in the community.

In 1934, Judge William C. Davy ruled in Bryan's 85th District Court that the directors had the right to limit enrollment to men.

More than two decades after the college almost closed, the Board of Directors secured an amount of funding from the Permanent University Fund for Texas land-grant schools.

Dethloff said that beginning Sept. 1, 1934, Texas A&M received one-third of the fund's income. The other two-thirds went to the University of Texas.

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CONTACT (PG)	7:00 9:50
WISHMASTER (R)	7:25 10:00
MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING (PG-13)	7:10 9:50
CONSPIRACY THEORY (R)	7:00 9:40
LEAVE IT TO BEAVER (PG)	7:20
NOTHING TO LOSE (R)	10:00
HERCULES (G)	7:30
EVENT HORIZON (R)	9:45

BOX OFFICE OPENS 6:30 PM MONDAY-THURSDAY

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