

Former Battalion editor dies at 82

By BRADY CREEL

The Battalion
James S. Critz, a 1940 graduate of Texas A&M and former managing editor of *The Battalion*, died Jan. 20.

Critz was born Aug. 28, 1918, in Teague, Texas. After graduating from high school, he entered A&M, majoring in geology. He turned 16 just two days before beginning his freshman year.



CRITZ IN 1940

"A lot of East Texas kids in those days went to A&M," said Critz's son, Ward, recalling the stereotypical socioeconomic disparity between men who attended A&M and the students at the University of Texas.

The 1940 A&M yearbook, *Longhorn*, lists Critz's involvement at A&M, which included the geology club and petroleum geology club.

At that time A&M did not have a journalism program, but the younger

Critz said his father "just had an affinity for it," which drew him to work at the school newspaper.

"Some people do (love to write)," he said.

Kimberly Critz, Critz's granddaughter, is a senior information and operations management major at A&M. She remembers her grandfather talking about working at the newspaper.

"It was one of his fondest memories, being editor," she said.

Besides her grandfather, she is the only person in her family to attend A&M, and she said the University provided a special connection between them. Kimberly Critz ordered her own Aggie ring, one of the only tangible manifestations of that bond, Wednesday.

"Everything I have done and been through he remembers, and talking about it was the only thing that would light up his face," she said. "I told him two weeks ago that I'm getting to order my ring."

The 1940 *Longhorn* listed Critz's nickname as "Hymie." Kimberly Critz said she remem-

bered some of her grandfather's Corps friends still calling him that at reunions, decades after he had graduated.

"He had hell in Spanish class," Kimberly Critz said. "He could not pass Spanish class for anything, so they called him 'Hymie.'"

When Critz graduated, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army field artillery, just before the dawn of U.S. involvement in World War II.

"The whole generation went off and served in the service because the country was threatened," Ward Critz said. "It's a fascinating group that was basically just a bunch of kids, then the country was attacked."

Ward Critz remembered his father's stories of meeting Aggies during his military service, which took him to Australia with Gen. Douglas MacArthur during the war.

"He used to tell a story of meeting an Aggie in a liquor store in Australia," he said.

Critz's World War II military service included five amphibious landings. He fought in New Guinea,

Noemfoor and the Philippine Islands and was discharged from the Army in 1946, after the war.

Ward Critz said his father never forgot his tie to A&M. After he left the service, Critz maintained contact with former members of his old Corps outfit.

"His best friend was an Aggie and was killed in Normandy," he said. "He always told a story about getting a letter."

Critz is eligible to be on the roll call of this year's April 21 annual campus Muster ceremony, said Julie Weber, Muster Committee subchairwoman for the roll call and a senior agricultural business major.

Ward Critz said his father was proud of being an Aggie, and his family still has his Class of '40 Aggie ring, which they have considered adding to the collection on display at the Clayton Williams Jr. Alumni Center.

"Old Aggies have a lot of interesting stories about those times," Ward Critz said. "It's hard for people like us to think about that."

"They are a fascinating group," he said. "He was one of the last."

MENTOR

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them to students as a mentor," Milburn said.

Milburn said the mentor program was established in 1979 by a group of faculty members who were concerned that students were be-

coming lost in a fast-expanding campus.

"During that time, a lot of change was occurring," Milburn said. "This group of faculty was afraid that the students would get lost in the bureaucracy. They wanted to create a place where students could go and not have to stand in line to talk to someone."

While the mentors fluctuate in number from year to year, between 350 and 400 faculty and staff members have extra office hours to help.

"Mentors are volunteers who volunteer office hours to be available to any student who needs to talk," Milburn said. "They will

listen non-judgmentally, and if they have expertise in the subject, they will help the student. If not, they are familiar with services on campus and can direct the student to someone who can help them."

Mentors attend a meeting each semester and are kept up to date on student services

through a newsletter.

Southerland said the AT-Mentor program was chosen to receive the endowment based on the services it provides to students.

"As a volunteer organization, the faculty and staff members do a great service to Texas A&M University students," he said

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