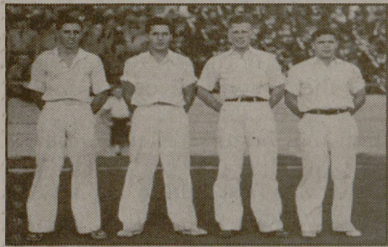


BUILDING A LEGACY

Chronology of Major Events at Texas A&M

1862

Morrill Land Grant College Act provides federal support for establishment of colleges to teach agricultural and mechanical arts, "including military tactics."



Texas Legislature accepts provisions of the Morrill Act.



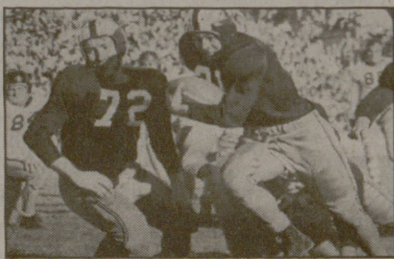
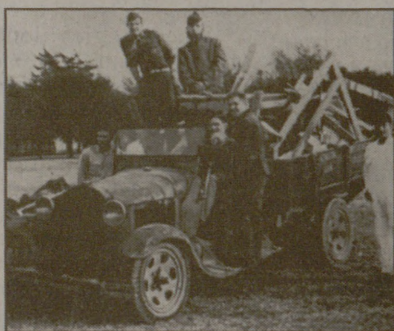
1866

Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas established by act of the legislature.

1871

1876

Texas A&M opens Oct. 2 as a land grant college, and the Corps of Cadets is born. College dedication ceremonies held Oct. 4. School begins with six students, enrolling 106 by year's end. Corps membership is compulsory.



1879

Organizational meeting of the A&M Ex-Cadets Association, forerunner of The Association of Former Students.

The Scott Volunteers, predecessor organization to the Ross Volunteerers, is formed. Now recognized as the oldest student organization in Texas.

1888



First A&M class ring designed by Class of 1889

1889



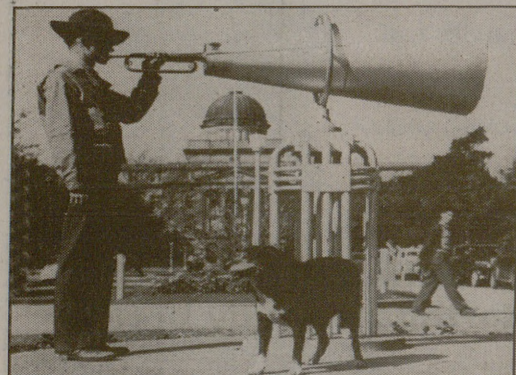
1894

Texas Aggie Band is formed by Joseph Holick, Arthur Jenkins and 13 cadets.

First A&M football game is played against Texas in Austin.

More than 100 Aggies serve in the Spanish-American War.

1898



Death of President Lawrence Sullivan Ross. First use of Silver Taps.

Earliest recognized Aggie Muster held. **1903**



1906

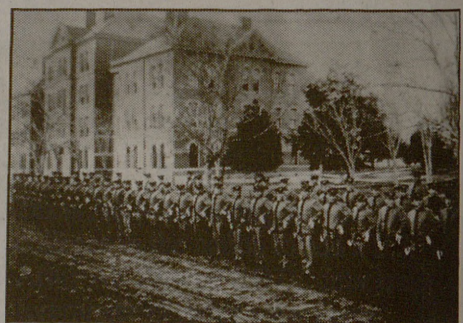
Tent city erected to "temporarily" house overflow students. Remains until after World War I.



1909

America enters World War I. Majority of Class of 1917 is ordered to officer training school, others enlist directly. All juniors of draft age in Class of 1918 are drafted. Class of 1919 completes summer training and is ordered to active duty. Of the 2,217 Aggies who serve, 53 are killed or die in service. Pvt. Norman G. Crocker, Class of 1918, is the first Aggie killed in America's wars.

1917



Traditions spanning generations

Virgil Dabney, born Dec. 1899, Class of 1922



Came to A&M in Sept. 1918 to begin military training for World War I. The armistice was signed Nov. 11, 1918, and Virgil was never sent to war. Instead, he continued at A&M becoming the first member of his family to attend and graduate from college. Virgil took every other year off to work, teaching in Wichita Falls and earning money for the next year at college. Graduated in Virgil compressed four academic years into three-and-a-half, graduating with a degree in industrial arts education in Sept. 1923. Lived in Tent City, that began in 1906 as temporary housing for overflow students. Tents were 12-feet by 12-feet with a wood-burning stove in the center of each for heat and a light strung through the roof. U.S. presidents during his time at A&M were Woodrow Wilson, 1913 to 1921 and Warren G. Harding, 1921 to 1923. University president was Dr. William Bizzell, 1914 to 1925. Major events: Virgil helped to build the wooden bleachers in Kyle Field. In the winter of 1919 to 1920, an influenza outbreak among the Corps left cadets dead, with 'Silver Taps' played in the night as students died. In a prank classmates pulled on Virgil and his roommate, his tent was moved from its location in front of the YMCA Building to what is now O. R. Simpson Drill Field. Aggie Muster was institutionalized in April 1923 by University President Bizzell. The Aggie football team won the National Championship in 1919 and Southwest Conference championship in 1920 and 1921, all under Coach Dana X. Bible. Virgil has been married for 65 years. After college, Virgil taught wood shop and mechanical drawing for 43 years, teaching for 38 years at San Jacinto High School in Houston. He retired to a ranch in Kerrville, where he taught his grandchildren the ethics of hard work through farming. His former students, many now in their 70s and 80s, frequently stop by his residence in Kerrville to thank him for teaching them.



Thomas Dabney, born Sept. 1940, Class of 1962

Came to A&M in Sept. 1958. Women were not admitted until 1963, and it was mandatory for every Aggie to be a member of the Corps unless he had prior military service or an athletic exception. Graduated in May 1962 with a degree in accounting. Lived in Room 412 of Dorm 8 freshman year — Thomas thinks there is still a hole in the wall where upperclassmen punched through. He lived in Dorm 12 for the rest of his time at A&M. U.S. presidents during his time at A&M were Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1953 to 1961 and John F. Kennedy, 1961 to 1963. University president was James Earl Rudder, 1960 to 1970. Major events: Thomas remembers watching events in the Soviet and American space program race from the Memorial Student Center. In April 1961, the Soviet Union sent the first man into space, Yuri Gagarin. The American space program followed May 5, sending Alan Shepard into orbit. Thomas also recalls cadet pranks, like the time his sophomore year, students threw a stink bomb into the showers, and one naked cadet had to be rushed to Buettel. Thomas has been married for 39 years. After college, Thomas spent three years in the Air Force, stationed in New Jersey and at Kelly Air Force base in San Antonio. He left the service in June 1965 to work for Arthur Young in Houston. He currently does financial work for a Houston-based firm.



Travis Dabney, born March 1974, Class of 1996

Came to A&M in August of 1992, after hearing about A&M his whole life. His two older sisters graduated from A&M in the 1980s, and his father brought him to memorable football games in the 80s. Graduated in May 1998 with a degree in history, after taking one year off. Lived in College Station apartments throughout his college career. U.S. president during his time at A&M was George Bush, 1989 to 1992, Bill Clinton, 1993 to 2001. University presidents were William H. Mobley, 1988 to 1993; E. Dean Gage, interim president, 1993 to 1994 Dr. Ray M. Bowen, Class of 1958, 1994 to present. Major events: Travis watched coverage of the 1993 World Trade Center bombings from the Memorial Student Center. The Aggie football team was the Southwest Conference Champion in 1992 and 1993, the Big 12 South Champion in 1997 and Big 12 Champion in 1998, all under coach R.C. Slocum. After college, Travis worked for Dell Corp. as a salesperson until March 2000, when he was hired as a development officer for the 12th Man Foundation. Travis lives in Bryan and works on the A&M campus in the Bernard C. Richardson Zone, a combination, he said, any Aggie should love.

1916

National Defense Act establishes the Reserve Officer Training Corps program. Texas A&M ROTC program established Oct. 19.



Texas A&M is among the first four colleges in the nation to add a U.S. Army Air Service ROTC detachment, forerunner of today's Air Force ROTC program.

1920

Earliest known Aggie Bonfire held.

Completion of 1...
gating hall comp...
as The Quadran...
the Corps of Ca...
America enters W...
14,123 than any...
Altogether, 20,22...
seven Aggies rec...