

09/02/2007 -- The following information was sent to me by another Aggie Mom. This information was written by Martha Tucker, a member of the Dallas Area Aggie Moms. Martha's newsletters are packed with information, and I thought many of our newly recruited moms and returning members might like to read and review.

#### BOUTIQUE

Aggie Moms are always making Aggie crafts—that's absolutely any item that can be made in maroon and white. We sell them at our meetings, at the Winter Craft Sale at the MSC (November 29 and 30), and on campus at Parents' Weekend April 11-13. And this year our Boutique chairman has opted to participate in Market in the Meadow at Forest Meadow Junior High School and the Pacesetter Holiday Bazaar at J J Pearce High School. All the profits from the sales go back to A&M—either in scholarships or as donations to student organizations. Some of these items are made at craft workshops at the home of Martha Tucker, 2100 W. Shady Grove, Irving. The next one will be Monday, August 27, at 7 PM, and the rest will be on alternate Monday nights. Watch the Email Connection for dates and reminders.

#### CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Another longstanding tradition for our club is selling real live Christmas trees. We do this every year on the 1st Saturday of December at the Extension Center. So if you normally have a live tree, please mark this date, and consider buying yours from our club. Again, all the profits go back to A&M. And this is a fun activity that our dads love to get involved in—a great way to meet other Aggie parents.

#### PARENTS' WEEKEND

In case your Aggie forgets to tell you, Parents' Weekend is April 11-13. And in Aggieland, this is a BIG DEAL! You will probably want to attend. If you went to a new student conference, you might have been told that you need to make your hotel reservations early. And if you've tried to do that (one would think that August is EARLY), you've probably found that most (if not all) motels/hotels are already full. In Aggieland, "early" means a year in advance! But don't give up! Check out the parents' weekend website (<http://parentsweekend.tamu.edu/hotels.html>) for a list of motels in the Bryan/College Station area. Get your name on a waiting list. Make a reservation in one of the outlying towns (Hearne, Madisonville, Caldwell, Navasota, etc.). There may be a few motels that won't accept reservations until January 1 (and that means 12:01 a.m.). Plus a lot of people make reservations and then cancel as the date approaches. Our Email Connection is a great way to find someone to take your hotel room after you discover you won't be able to use it. PLEASE, PLEASE don't ever cancel a room without asking if another Aggie family can use it. And once you find that room for Parents' Weekend, be sure and reserve it for 2009 when you check in in April of 2008 (2009 dates are April 17-19)! Be sure to do it when you check in, NOT when you check out!

And the above information holds true for football weekends and graduation weekends, too!

#### INSURANCE RATES

If your Aggie has taken a car to A&M, be sure to check with your insurance agent about insuring him/her at Brazos County rates. It's a LOT cheaper than anywhere in the Metroplex.

#### SPEED TRAPS

You may have already discovered this, but Highway 6 is a good place to get speeding tickets—especially in Hearne and Calvert. I think they make a good part of their city budget by issuing tickets to Aggies. Realize that their city limits extend way out, and you'd best SLOW DOWN to the speed limit or below if you don't want to get caught. And please warn your student. College costs enough—you don't want to add the expense of speeding tickets!

#### Q-DROPS

Your Aggie may be calling home and telling you that they plan to Q-drop a class. If you have questions, read below. A Q-drop means that they are dropping the class with NO penalty. However, they are limited to 3 Q-drops during their years at A&M, and there is a Q-drop deadline. Also, they must realize that they may no longer be considered a full-time student if their enrolled hours drop below the minimum required. Dropping below full-time status may also adversely impact financial aid, eligibility as a dependent for insurance coverage, veteran's benefits, athletic eligibility, scholastic probation, eligibility for extracurricular activities and some types of employment, etc.

Q: What classes count toward the limit of 3 Q-drops?

A: All classes count as a Q-drop except for one-hour classes (i.e. KINE 199, BIMS 101). There is one exception to this rule: if a science lab is Q-dropped and the lecture section is not, it will be considered a Q-drop in and of itself. If, however, the lab is Q-dropped at the same time, AND ONLY AT THE SAME TIME, as the lecture part of the course, then it will be considered one Q-drop

Stress that Q-drops are precious (3 total). There is a strict 50th day deadline to Q-drop a class. Q-drops are not counted before fall of 1991.

For more information on Q-drops, go to <http://id.tamu.edu/undergrad/academics/qdropsmore.htm>.

#### ARE YOU PLANNING ON GETTING YOUR AGGIE'S GRADES?

Grades will not be mailed to parents or students. Parents or legal guardians may be granted access to their students' grade reports. The student must provide instructions and the necessary password to parents/guardians. Passwords are established by the student and are not available from the Office of the Registrar.

#### MAROON OUT HISTORY

On October 10, 1998, a #2 ranked Nebraska Cornhuskers football team came to Texas A&M for the first time in school history. Some Texas A&M students had noticed how united Nebraska fans seemed, dressed in solid red for their home games. So the Class Councils suggested having Texas A&M fans wear all maroon to support their team and beat Nebraska and their fans. The effort to get everyone to wear maroon, titled "Maroon Out," was developed as a way for students and former students who did not already have a maroon shirt to get one. In the week before the game, 31,000 "Maroon Out" shirts were sold at low cost to ensure that tens of thousands of Aggies attending the game would create a sea of maroon spirit throughout the stands. Texas A&M defeated Nebraska 28-21, and another Texas A&M tradition was born.

While a majority of Aggie fans wear maroon to all football games, one game each season is specifically designated "Maroon Out." In the first five years of the Maroon Out tradition, the Fightin' Texas Aggies beat all five opponents, including four teams in the national top 10 at the time, one of the most memorable being when the unranked Texas Aggies beat the #1 ranked Oklahoma Sooners in 2002.

DID YOU KNOW: Rumor has it that A&M Athletics has received phone calls from other schools asking to not be the opposing team for the Maroon Out game.

Perhaps the most memorable Maroon Out moment was not a Maroon Out at all. After the events of September 11, 2001, five resourceful Aggies decided that Texas A&M needed to do something special to honor America. So, within a five-day period, they had shirts printed up in red, white, and blue with the text "Standing for America" and the date. The shirts were sold by deck: the upper deck in red, the second deck in white, and the lower deck in blue. On September 22, 2001, "Red, White, and Blue Out" was born. Kyle Field became a patriotic symbol of American ingenuity and support. Over \$200,000 was donated to the relief effort from the sale of the shirts. Maroon Out 2007 is already underway. The shirts are being printed and the game has been set—November 23, at Kyle Field. We're going to Maroon Out and Beat the Hell Outta t.u.! Maroon Out shirts will be sold before every home football game. You can also buy shirts online

at <http://www.maroonouttshirts.com/p-13-2007-maroon-out-tshirt.aspx>. Watch the Email Connection for more information about where and how to purchase shirts.

#### FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

September 1, Montana State, 6 PM  
September 8, Fresno State, FOX Sports Net, 2:30 PM  
September 15, Louisiana-Monroe, 6 PM  
September 20, @ Miami (Fla.), ESPN, 6:45 PM  
September 29, Baylor, 6 PM  
October 6, Oklahoma State, 1 PM  
October 13, @ Texas Tech, 6 PM  
October 20, @ Nebraska, TBA  
October 27, Kansas, 1 PM  
November 3, @ Oklahoma, TBA  
November 10, @ Missouri, TBA  
November 23, Texas, ABC, 2:30 PM  
December 1, Big 12 Championship @ the Alamodome, ABC, 7 PM

Please note that times are not set until TV decides the games they want to cover—usually at the beginning of the week, so check the newspaper for time changes. For tickets: 1-888-99-AGGIE. There are still tickets available for some games.

And if you go down on the night before the game, be sure to go to Midnight Yell (the biggest 'pep rally' you've ever seen!). That's a real experience! And don't sit down!! (I made that mistake the first time I went!)

Another way to get tickets might be through the Alpha Phi Omega Ticketmart. Ticketmart has been a fundraiser for the Xi Delta chapter of Alpha Phi Omega for many football seasons and helps Alpha Phi Omega help others through community service. Ticketmart is a legal ticket exchange where tickets are donated and then re-sold to the public at face value, in an effort to eliminate the illegal scalping of tickets.

Ticketmart is located in the entrance to the Flag Room of the Memorial Student Center of Texas A&M. People receive a ticket based on their arrival time, and when their number is up, they may select which tickets they would like to purchase. Alpha Phi Omega likes to make this process as easy as possible, so a visual grid system of Kyle Field is available for optimum ticket selection. You may also find tickets on [www.texags.com](http://www.texags.com) or at [www.stubhub.com](http://www.stubhub.com). StubHub is the official secondary ticket marketplace of Texas A&M athletics, and where fans can buy tickets for all Aggie games. They actually have a connection with the Athletic Dept. But be aware that tickets may not be sold at face value.

#### MSC OPEN HOUSE

Encourage your Aggie to attend the MSC Open House. This year it will be Sunday, September 2, from 1-6 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center, G. Rollie White Coliseum, and Rudder Exhibit Hall.

MSC Open House provides students with the opportunity to learn more about student involvement on campus. With over 400 student organizations on display, students can choose which organization they would like to be a part of, as well as pick up applications, and find out about informational meetings. All they have to do is show up! They may pick up a map from one of the many map tables (located throughout the first floor of the MSC). Then they just find which organization they want to learn more about, and go check out their table. Or just browse around all the tables and discover which group they would like to be a member of. Entertainment will be going on all afternoon in the MSC Flag Room and over at G. Rollie White Coliseum, so they can also check out some of the best entertainment groups at Texas A&M. This is a wonderful opportunity for your student to see what organizations are on campus, so he/she can get involved! A&M is a huge campus, and becoming a part of a smaller group is the key to a successful transition to college life.

#### WEBSITES OF INTEREST

[www.dallasaggiemoms.org](http://www.dallasaggiemoms.org) (our local club site)  
[www.aggiemoms.org](http://www.aggiemoms.org) (the Federation of Aggie Moms)  
[www.thebatt.com](http://www.thebatt.com) (The Battalion, campus newspaper)  
[www.tamu.edu](http://www.tamu.edu) (Texas A&M University)  
[www.texags.com](http://www.texags.com) (site contains message boards with ticket exchanges, football info, etc.)  
<http://parentsweekend.tamu.edu> (information about Parents' Weekend, with a link to hotel accommodations)  
<http://maroonout.tamu.edu> (information on Maroon Out game)  
<http://www.aggienetwork.com> (Association of Former Students)  
<http://www.tamu.edu/home/sitemap/index.html> (Site Map for Texas A&M)  
<http://dallas.aggies.net/> (Dallas A&M Club)  
<http://aggietraditions.tamu.edu/> (Aggie traditions)  
<http://www.aggieathletics.com/> (Anything you need to know about Aggie sports)

#### BOOKSTORES

[www.tamu.bkstore.com](http://www.tamu.bkstore.com)  
[www.loupots.com](http://www.loupots.com)  
[www.rothers.com](http://www.rothers.com)  
[www.traditionsbookstore.com](http://www.traditionsbookstore.com)

#### AGGIE PARAPHERNALIA

[www.aggieland-depot.com](http://www.aggieland-depot.com) (Aggie x-stitch patterns; Aggie prints by Tammie Bissett and Tim Vanya, and lots of other stuff)  
[www.benjaminknox.com](http://www.benjaminknox.com) (Aggie prints, altho' he also has some for other schools)  
<http://www.jjjwaterglobes.com/index.html> (really neat A&M waterglobe that plays the War Hymn)  
[http://www.oldworldtraditions.net/catalog.php?action=110&cat\\_id=194](http://www.oldworldtraditions.net/catalog.php?action=110&cat_id=194) (lots of Aggie shopping)  
[www.footballfanatics.com](http://www.footballfanatics.com) (more Aggie shopping)  
[www.heartsofaggieland.com](http://www.heartsofaggieland.com) (Aggie gifts)  
<http://www.danburymintsports.com/xq/asp/sport.College/team.Texas+A%26M/qx/team.htm>  
(Danbury Mint Aggie collectibles)  
<http://www.europevillage.com/> (More Aggie shopping)  
<http://www.stylishstencils.com/> (A&M stencils)  
[www.planetaggie.com](http://www.planetaggie.com) (links to hundreds of sites selling Aggie items; you can find them all on Google, but this is a lot easier)

If any of you have favorite Aggie websites, please let me know—I'll pass the word along.

#### TRADITIONS 101

They are unique, timeless and have been a part of the University since its inception in 1876. Traditions are a key facet in the rich heritage of Texas A&M as they pass along the Aggie Spirit.

Here are just a few of the dozens of traditions you should be familiar with as a member of the Aggie Family.

#### MIDNIGHT YELL PRACTICE

Midnight Yell is held in Kyle Field the night before a home football game to pump up Aggie fans. It is held at the Arches at the Quad on Thursday nights before away games, and also held at a site in the city of the away game. For example, for the 2006 A&M-UT game, Midnight Yell was held at the Texas Capitol in Austin. During Midnight Yell, yell leaders lead the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band and fans into the stadium. The yell leaders lead the crowd in yells, the school's songs and tell fables of how the Aggies are going to beat the "ever livin' hell" out of their opponent. Later the stadium lights are turned off, and Aggies kiss their dates. If they don't have a date, they "flick their Bic" or hold up a lighter. As the story goes, the flames make it easier for two dateless people to find a kiss. Yell Practice began in the early 1900s when different Corps companies would gather after dinner to "learn heartily the old time pep." The first documented yell leader was T.A. Adams in 1907. By 1913, Yell Practice had become a regular event. It was not until 1931, however, that Midnight Yell began. The first Midnight Yell was held before the A&M-UT game when a group of cadets gathered in Yell Leader Peanut Owens' dorm room in Puryear Hall. The cadets decided to

get all freshmen to meet on the steps of the YMCA building to practice yells at midnight. The cadets asked the two senior yell leaders - Horsefly Berryhill and Two Gun Herman from Sherman - for permission. The yell leaders said they couldn't authorize it, but they might show up. Word spread quickly and everyone fell out of their dorms that night. Railroad flares and torpedoes were stuck into flowerpots around the YMCA Building to light the area. The first Midnight Yell had begun. Until 1945, there were four yell leaders. After World War II, a fifth veteran yell leader was elected. In 1999, the tradition of First Yell was started. First Yell is the first Midnight Yell of the school year, and it is celebrated Friday and Saturday with concerts, a barbecue and a Former Yell Leaders Reunion.

**DID YOU KNOW:** The practice of yell leaders walking back and forth began at the first Midnight Yell. Peanut Owens' feet were too large to fit on the steps of the YMCA building, so he walked back and forth to keep his balance and other yell leaders joined in.

## REVEILLE

Reveille is the official mascot of Texas A&M and the first lady of Aggieland. She is the highest-ranking member of the Corps of Cadets and became a five-star general after World War II - an honorary title given to Reveille by the U.S. Army to thank Texas A&M for its assistance in the war.

According to Aggie legend, the first Reveille was adopted in January 1931 when a group of cadets hit a small white and black dog on their way back from a party in Navasota. They took her back to school to care for her and smuggled her into their dorm - Leggett Hall - because pets were not allowed. The next morning when "Reveille" was blown by a bugler to wake the cadets, the dog started barking. She was named after the morning wakeup call. The following football season, Reveille was named the official mascot of A&M when she led the band onto the field during their halftime performance. She would stand at the sidelines of football games wearing A&M colors. Reveille died on Jan. 18, 1944 after 13 years of being A&M's mascot. She was given a formal military funeral on the gridiron of Kyle Field and was buried at the north entrance to the field. Reveilles II through IV were buried near Reveille I with their noses and paws pointed so that they could look through the north tunnel and see the stadium scoreboard to watch the Aggies outscore their opponents. Between Reveille I and III, there were several unofficial mascots, such as Tripod (a three-legged dog), Spot and Ranger. Reveille II - a German shepherd donated by Arthur Weinert, class of 1900 - was mascot from 1952-1966. Reveille II was cared for by the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band and later by student Sam Netterville. Netterville was the first escort of A&M's mascot and took Reveille with him everywhere, including classes, and she marched with the Aggie Band at football games. Reveille III was mascot from 1966-75 and was the first purebred American collie. Since then, all Reveilles have been collies. Reveille IV was mascot from 1975-1984. More than 10,000 people attended Reveille IV's funeral. Reveille V became mascot in 1983 and retired in 1993. Following retirement, she lived for six years with Dr. Joe West, a local veterinarian and A&M graduate. Reveille VI was mascot from 1993-2001. She was mascot when the Aggie football team won its first Big 12 Championship in 1998 and attended the inaugural ball of President George W. Bush in 2000. Reveille VI retired and lived in College Station with veterinarian Dr. Hall until her death on Oct. 18, 2003. Current mascot Reveille VII took over duties from Reveille VI on May 12, 2001. The mascot corporal - a sophomore in Company E-2 - cares for Reveille, who is the highest-ranking member of the Corps. She lives with the mascot corporal for a year and goes to class with him, goes out on dates with him and goes home with him.

The cadets address Reveille as "Miss Rev, m'am." If Reveille wants to sleep on a cadet's bed, that cadet must sleep on the floor. It's also a tradition that if Reveille is in class and barks while the professor is teaching, class is to be dismissed because Reveille is bored.

**DID YOU KNOW:** Reveille VI was stolen by Neil Andrew Sheffield, a University of Texas at Austin student, shortly after she became mascot. Reveille was staying in Dallas at the home of her handler, Jim Lively, over winter break. Sheffield found Reveille alone in the backyard and lured her to him. About a week after she was taken, A&M acknowledged that Reveille was missing, and Sheffield tied her leash to a signpost near Lake Travis and called the police. Reveille was returned unharmed.

## MUSTER

Muster is a yearly remembrance ceremony for any fallen Aggie on April 21. The campus Muster is coordinated by a student-run committee and is dedicated to the 50-year-reunion class. The ceremony begins at night with an address from a keynote speaker, the reading of poems and a "Roll Call for the Absent." As the names are read, family members and friends of the fallen Aggie answer "here," and a candle is lit to symbolize that the Aggie will always be a part of the Aggie Spirit. Muster began in 1883, when members of the Association of Ex-Cadets attended "Roll Call" to honor their fallen comrades. By April 21, 1903, the gathering became a celebration of Texas independence on San Jacinto Day. In 1922, April 21 became the official day of events for all Aggies to celebrate and remember the Ags who had passed away during the year. Muster was born. The yearly meeting grew and was soon spread worldwide by 1929. Muster gained international recognition in 1942 when 25 men led by General George Moore, class of 1908, mustered during the Japanese siege of the Philippine island of Corregidor. During World War II, Aggies mustered in trenches in Europe and military posts in America, but no campus ceremony was held. Muster is now celebrated in more than 400 places in the world, with the largest ceremony being held on campus in Reed Arena.

**DID YOU KNOW:** The Corps of Cadets were invited to help recreate the Battle of San Jacinto in the 1890s. The Corps were the Mexican Army, and the Texas State Guard were the Texans. However, since Aggies cannot stand to lose, the cadets rewrote Texas history by winning the battle. They were never invited back.

## GIG'EM

Gig'em is the universal sign of approval for Aggies. P.L. "Pinkie" Downs - class of 1906 and a member of the Board of Regents from 1923-1933 - is credited with first using the sign. During a Yell Practice before the 1930 TCU football game, Downs asked, "What are we going to do to those horned frogs?" He answered his own question with, "Gig'em Aggies!" For emphasis Downs made a fist with his thumb extended up. A "gig" is a spear-like tool used for hunting frogs, and "gigging" is the practice of frog hunting with a gig. The sign is now used by Aggies to encourage and motivate each other.

**DID YOU KNOW:** Gig'em was the first hand sign of the Southwest Conference, and the only hand sign for 25 years until the University of Texas (t.u.) created its Hook 'em Horns.

## ELEPHANT WALK

Elephant Walk was started in 1922 by freshmen in the Class of 1926. The cadets wanted to end the "jinx" of an unsuccessful football season, so on a Friday before a football game, two freshmen playing a funeral march on a piccolo and a bass horn slowly walked around campus. Other freshmen joined them forming a single line. This ritual occurred several times during their freshman year, whether or not the football team lost. As seniors, the Class of 1926 recreated their walk around campus before the A&M-UT game to show their spirit. The underclassmen had never seen this ceremony and noted the seniors looked like old elephants searching for a place to die, thus the tradition of Elephant Walk was born. Today, Elephant Walk occurs the week before A&M's last home game. Seniors meet at Kyle Field for a yell practice and presentations, and then are led by yell leaders through campus. They hold yell practices at many places on campus. In the 1980s, the juniors tried to interrupt Elephant Walk, so E-Walk was created. During E-Walk, juniors walk the same path as the seniors - only backwards, keeping the two classes apart. The juniors end at Kyle Field where they hear a motivational speech about how to lead the campus as seniors.

**DID YOU KNOW:** During Elephant Walk, Aggies used to shake hands with professors and touch their old buildings.

## SILVER TAPS

Silver Taps is a ceremony held for an undergraduate or a graduate who passes away while enrolled at A&M. The ceremony is held the first Tuesday of every month at 10:30 p.m. if a student died the previous month. On the day designated for Silver Taps, tables are placed around campus where students can write notes of sympathy and support to the fallen Aggies' families; flags on campus are flown at half-staff. All lights on campus are turned off at 10:15p.m., and as hymns are played from Albritton Tower, students gather on the Academic Plaza. The Ross Volunteer Firing Squad begins marching to the plaza at 10:30 p.m., where they fire a 21-gun salute. Buglers then play a special version of Taps three times from the dome of the Academic Building. Taps is played from the north, south and west, but not from the east since the sun will never rise on the fallen Aggie again. After Taps has been played, students return to their homes in silence as a final tribute to the lost Aggie.

**DID YOU KNOW:** The first Silver Taps was held in 1898 to honor Lawrence Sullivan Ross, the former Texas governor and president of A&M College. Today, Silver Taps takes place in front of a statue of Ross in the Academic Plaza.

### MAROON OUT

Maroon Out is one of A&M's newest traditions. It began in 1998 when student Kyle Valentine, inspired by the Nebraska Cornhuskers' red-clad fans, proposed that Aggies dress in maroon for football games.

Valentine and others began selling maroon T-shirts for \$5. More than 31,000 Maroon Out T-shirts were sold before the Oct. 16, 1998, A&M-Nebraska football game. This led to a national shortage of maroon T-shirts.

There is one designated Maroon Out game each season, but most Aggies wear maroon to all games. In the first five years of the tradition, the Aggies beat all of their opponents on Maroon Out games, including four teams that were ranked higher and in the national top 10 at the time.

### WHOO PSTOCK

Whoopstock started in April of 1993, when the Ku Klux Klan held a rally in College Station, believing the climate at A&M and in Bryan-College Station to be receptive to its message. The Department of Multicultural Services realized that a protest would only draw attention to the KKK event so instead Aggies held a unity rally - Whoopstock. Whoopstock was put together in just two weeks with the support of A&M administrators, Texas Governor Ann Richards and more than 48 campus organizations. The Bryan-College Station community also joined in support of the event, and three local radio stations, two television stations, as well as The Battalion and The Bryan College Station Eagle. Today, Whoopstock is held the same weekend as Parent's Weekend and is a time for Aggies to learn more about each other. It has evolved into a celebration of diversity as well as unity. The celebration includes bands, entertainment, food and giveaways.

### BIG EVENT

Big Event is a one-day service project when Aggie students give back to the community of Bryan-College Station. It began in 1982 when six students cleaned a local cemetery. Since then, Big Event has become the largest, single-day student-run service project in the nation, and many other universities have followed A&M's example, starting service projects of their own. Such projects include painting homes, repairing homes, cleaning yards, washing windows, gardening, building a structure or just about any other need imaginable. Students run the Big Event, and there are three levels for students who are through the organization: serving on a committee, assisting members or volunteering in the actual project. Each year, Big Event has included about 9,000 students who completed more than 500 jobs. The Big Event committee works year-round coordinating workers and jobs. Big Event takes place during the spring semester.

### THE HISTORY OF THE A&M MOTHERS' CLUBS

Mothers who are affiliated with the Texas A&M University Mothers' Clubs are members of a unique group. As far as is known, Texas A&M is the only university in the United States where mothers are organized for the purpose of supporting their students and aiding in the promotion of the University. I would like to share with you a brief history of the Mothers' Clubs, the Federation, and the development of both over the last 80 years.

In September 1921, Harold Peoples was a freshman at Texas A&M, an all male college with an enrollment of 1800 students. Strict regulations restricted students to the campus and students were forbidden to have cars at school or to drive cars belonging to someone else. The young men depended primarily on trains for transportation between campus and their homes, and if they needed to go to Bryan, they either rode the trolley or walked. For long periods of time, the average student saw and communicated with no one other than his professors and fellow students. Mrs. H. L. Peoples, mother of Harold, became concerned with the poor quality of life on the campus-no entertainment, no culture, and a complete lack of women's influence.

While particularly active in the parent-teacher association, she represented her hometown of Dallas, Texas, at the state convention in San Antonio. Here, she was inspired by a personal conversation with Governor Pat Neff. They discussed the need for parental guidance to avoid the trend of students dropping out of school. She was of the firm belief that individual security and stability were products of strong ties with the home and that these traits extended into a student's activities at work, play, or at school.

Immediately following the convention, Mrs. Peoples decided to visit her son at College Station on her way back to Dallas. When she arrived on campus, Harold was on a field trip. However, she met a senior from Dallas who was impressed with her interest. He told her that parents should not wait until graduation to visit their sons, but should become familiar with A&M during their student's freshman year. While on campus, Mrs. Peoples also inspected dorm rooms and talked with other students. She was quite concerned with the barren rooms, the stark masculine life, and the decaying moral conditions on the A&M Campus. She returned to Dallas with her mind firmly fixed on the coordinated effort of herself and other Dallas A&M Mothers to bring some of the nicer parts of home life to the school.

In February 1922, eleven interested mothers met in Dallas and the first Texas A&M Mothers' Club was organized with Mrs. Ada Brooks Allen Peoples as its president. The club's objective was "to contribute in every way to the comfort and welfare of the boys and to cooperate with the faculty of the college in maintaining a high standard of moral conduct and intellectual attainment". The objective remains the same today.

To determine the best steps to take, the eleven mothers decided to visit the campus. Traveling in a caravan of Model T's over dusty roads, they presented themselves and their ideas to A&M; they were practically laughed off campus. With no loss of enthusiasm, the 11 mothers returned to Dallas and officially organized (Oct. 1922) the Dallas A&M Mothers' Club as an auxiliary branch of the A&M Club. Undaunted, they organized a second Model T caravan, and being wise mothers and knowing the way to a man's heart, they took with them fixings for what they called "a spread" (this is actually what they called it in newspapers). This consisted of fried chicken, sandwiches, pies, cookies, and other homemade goodies. The mothers "spread" their rich and bounteous food in a private section of the mess hall, and with President and Mrs. W. B. Bizzell participating as honored guests, the feast was served to more than 100 members of the Dallas A&M Club of which Cadet Chaplain A. E. Flowers was president. This "spread" was made an annual affair and extended to the entire student body.

Ada Peoples realized that the tender little things the mothers did for their students did not go far enough; many students in the state of Texas had the ambition of an education, but not the money. With this in mind that first mothers' club in Dallas originated a student loan fund with a total of \$500. One of the historical strong points of the Mothers' Clubs has always been in the scholarship department. The first scholarship fund was begun in 1922. By 1929, the scholarship fund had grown to the amount of \$1602.90. In those days, when a dollar would last a while, this fund was a means of staying in school for many students. Today, many of the clubs consider scholarships their most important contribution to the students.

The A&M Mothers began sending luxury items to the boys and soon set up a library of "Victrola records" and magazines in the YMCA Building. Students could check-out these items on the honor system for a period of one week. Dr. Bizzell mentioned to the mothers the need for an

organ in Guion Hall. Immediately, the fund-raising projects began. Teas, socials, bridge parties, musicals, bake sales, benefits, and various other money-making enterprises were arranged until the beautiful organ was purchased.

From 1922 through 1925, Mrs. Peoples worked on plans for Parents Day. She and Mrs. Kirk Hall, in February of 1925, took their well-organized plans to Dr. Bizzell, who was delighted with the idea. On May 10 of that year, the first "Mother and Dad's Day" was originated.

Another project involving massive home-cooked food was a party for the A&M foreign students. This time the Model T caravan provided enough food for 1000 students. This became a much-appreciated annual affair. At this party, a minister, Dr. H.B. Stout, who was president of Texas Women's College in Fort Worth, became aware of the effects the mothers were having on the upgrading of moral conditions at College Station. He had a personal interest in the project, as his son, Stephen, was an A&M student. Dr. Stout placed the following ad in the Fort Worth Star Telegram in October 1922: "All mothers of boys who are attending A&M College will meet at a luncheon Wednesday noon. The A&M Mothers' Club will be formed." Consequently, in late 1922, the Fort Worth Mothers' Club was organized. The mothers' club idea spread rapidly, and eight clubs became a Federation in 1928.

The clubs did not hesitate to lobby in the Texas Legislature. In 1929, the clubs collectively and individually exerted all the influence they could muster to persuade the senators and representatives to appropriate money to A&M for new dorms and salaries for instructors. The Legislature gave A&M \$150,000 per year.

The Federation of Mothers' Clubs since its beginnings has worked as a coordinated group of clubs on a central basis and as individual clubs on local levels to provide the personal, unfunded necessities and luxuries which are overlooked or forgotten by the administration. During the war years, the clubs were invaluable in contributing time, money, home-cooking, and personal encouragement to Aggies at school and in service. The Austin Club received a personal commendation from the President of the United States for their massive fund-raising drive.

The Federation Board of today consists of fourteen elected women and several appointed positions that serve as a coordinating board for the 122 clubs. There are now clubs in Texas, five in Louisiana, and one each in Colorado, Georgia, Missouri/Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Virginia and Washington, D.C. with a paid membership of over 8,000 mothers. Mothers who live out-of-state or more than 25 miles from a mothers' club may apply to the 8th Vice President of the Federation to become "adopted" by an existing club. These mothers may also seek to start a new club by contacting the 1st Vice President.

In spite of the expansion, the objective of the Mothers' Clubs remains the same today. From the largest membership of over 500 to the smallest, all clubs have the same goal - that of banding together for the benefit of the A&M student body. The mothers also experience a companionship they cannot experience elsewhere. A club meeting is a place to share joys and sadness, success and setbacks. The mother of a student who has failed a course is sure to have her worries eased when another mother tells her, "Yes, that happened to my student as well, but in a few months he will graduate."

Dollars are carefully placed in the most wanted and most deserving areas. These dollars are collected one-by-one from bake-sales, hand-crafted items (usually with Aggie motifs), bazaars, donations, rummage sales, sponsoring concerts by the Singing Cadets or other performing A&M organizations, or from personal funds. The hours of personal time donated by A&M Mothers on the local level and the Federation level is astronomical.

The mothers are continually looking for ways to serve Texas A&M University. The list of their accomplishments is long, varied, and impressive. The Aggie Band, the Corps of Cadets, the Endowment Fund for the Sterling C. Evans Library, Fish and Transfer Camps, Peer Orientation Conferences, and 650 plus campus organizations have benefited from their support. During the 1999-2000 year, the individual Mothers' Clubs sent \$339,379.00 to Texas A&M University, including nearly \$236,000.00 for scholarships. The mothers' clubs have a close working relationship with the President of Texas A&M as well as other administrators.

The Federation of Texas A&M University Mothers' Clubs has become a powerful, well-organized and sophisticated delegation. Student groups, at the beginning of each year, do not hesitate to come before the board of the Federation to present their individual needs for funds.

Every effort is made by the federation to accept these needs as their yearly challenge, and to jointly direct massive support to worthy causes.

The Federation of A&M Mothers' Clubs has three meetings on campus each year; a meeting the Saturday before the Fall semester begins, one the Saturday before the start of Spring classes, and the final meeting of the year during Parents' Weekend held in April. During this meeting, the election and installation of Federation officers is held. It is also the time and site of the World's largest Aggie Mom Boutique (more than 230 tables of craft items). This is a major fund raising event for the clubs.

The Texas A&M Mothers' Clubs are proud organizations -- proud of Texas A&M, proud of the daughters and sons they send to A&M and proud of making a contribution to the education of their students and to the future of A&M and the state of Texas.

#### A LITTLE EXTRA

##### WHAT IS AN AGGIE MOM?

An Aggie Mom is a special person. She has to suffer through countless Aggie jokes when she tells her friends where her child is going to college. She has to drive the endless road to College Station—for there is no short cut. She prays silently when her child leaves to make the long trip to school each time after a visit home. An Aggie Mom has to endure the comment, "That's just like an Aggie," every time her child does something less than perfect—sometimes a lot less than perfect.

But the Spirit of Aggieland is alive and well in the heart of each Aggie Mom. She cheers the athletic teams even when she knows none of the rules and none of the players. Her heart swells with pride when the scholarly accomplishments of faculty and students are related in the media—even when she has never heard of the individuals or of what they have studied.

Sounds of the "Aggie War Hymn," "Silver Taps," Reveille barking—sights of the Twelfth Man towels, the Aggie Senior Ring: All these things make an Aggie Mom proud. But nothing can compete with the pride shining in her eyes as her Aggie crosses the state with diploma in hand—and looks up into the crowd searching for Mom's face. Being an Aggie Mom does not end at graduation, because once an Aggie Mom, always an Aggie Mom!

(Composed by Binnie Dierschke, mother of Patrick Dierschke '91, and past president of the San Angelo A&M Mothers' Club)