

Sea Aggies honor long-standing traditions with a little help from a friend.

Reveille, the official mascot of Texas A&M University and the highest ranking member of the Corps of Cadets recently visited the TAMUG campus to honor long-standing Aggie traditions. Presiding over TAMUG Midnight Yell Practice and Aggie Ring Day, Reveille engendered a spirit of Aggieland that binds all Aggies to each other through the generations.

Yell Practice

The tradition of Yell Practice began as a post dinner activity in 1913, when different corps companies would gather together to "learn heartily the old time pep." However, it was not until 1931, that Yell Practice as it is known today was held before the games opposing University of Texas also known as "t.u." The main purpose of Midnight Yell is to pump up the Twelfth Man for the next day's big game.

Twelfth Man tradition

The tradition of the Twelfth Man was born on the second of January 1922, when an underdog Aggie team was playing Centre College, then the nation's top ranked team. As the hard fought game wore on, and the Aggies dug deeply into their limited reserves, Coach Dana X. Bible remembered a squad man who was not in uniform. He had been up in the press box helping reporters identify players. His name was E. King Gill, and was a former football player who was only playing basketball. Gill was called from the stands, suited up, and stood ready throughout the rest of the game, which A&M finally won 22-14. When the game ended, E. King Gill was the only man left standing on the sidelines for the Aggies. Gill later said, "I wish I could say that I went in and ran for the winning touchdown, but I did not. I simply stood by in case my team needed me."

Yell

Leaders

Though the Texas Aggies are nationally known for their spirit, they have no cheerleaders, because they have no school cheers. Instead, there are a variety of school yells used by the 12th Man team (the student body) in support of the team on the field or court.

In the Spring of each year, five students (three juniors and two seniors) are elected by the Galveston student body to serve as Campus Yell Leaders.

Aggie Ring Day

The Aggie Ring is the most visible symbol of the Aggie Network that connects Aggies around the world. Dating back over a hundred years, it is a tradition that is deep in symbolism. Every symbol

represents values every Aggie should hold: Excellence, Integrity, Leadership, Loyalty, Respect and Selfless Service.

Those who have earned the right to wear the Aggie Ring have cleared some of the toughest requirements in the country for a class ring; thus making it one of the most treasured items an Aggie possesses. The requirements were established by the Official Senior Ring Committee of 1933.

Only those who graduate from the main campus in College Station, the Qatar campus and Texas A&M University at Galveston receive the coveted Aggie Ring. Those graduating from other Texas A&M System campuses do not receive this ring.

Aggie Ring Day is one of the most anticipated milestones in a Sea Aggie student's career. This year, 53 TAMUG students received their Aggie Ring. And, Reveille was there as students achieved this great honor.

The first lady of Aggieland

Although Reveille just visited Galveston, she's been the First Lady of Aggieland since 1931 when a group of cadets hit a small black and white dog on their way back from Navasota. They picked up the dog and brought her back to school so they could care for her. The next morning, when "Reveille" was blown by a bugler, she started barking. She was named after this morning wakeup call. The following football season she was named the official mascot when she led the band onto the field during their half-time performance. When Reveille I died on January 18, 1944, she was given a formal military funeral on the gridiron of Kyle Field in College Station. She was then buried at the north entrance to the field as all Reveilles are, facing the scoreboard so that she can always watch the Aggies outscore their opponent.

Before naming Reveille II, there were several other unofficial mascots, such as Tripod, Spot, and Ranger. It was not until a later Reveille that she was a full-blood Collie. The most current Reveille is Reveille VIII who was introduced in August 2008.

Reveille is the most revered dog on campus. Company E-2 has the privilege of taking care of Reveille. If she is sleeping on a cadet's bed, that cadet must sleep on the floor. Cadets address Reveille as "Miss Rev, ma'am." If she is in class and barks while the professor is teaching, the class is to be immediately dismissed. Reveille is a highly cherished mascot and receives only the best.
