Aggie Park: A Place For San Antonio Aggies

By Stephanie Jeter '06

There’s a parcel of land in north San Antonio called Aggie Park. Not too big, not too small, Aggie Park is famous for another reason. Aggie Park is the only piece of land known to be owned by an A&M Club.

Purchased in 1946 from a dairy owner named Henry Weir, the 3.3-acre tract is the home of the San Antonio A&M Club.

The price was $1,000, said Richard Kistner ’65. Not overwhelmingly

Below: On Muster day in 1954, the San Antonio A&M Club dedicated Aggie Park (established in 1946) to the memory of those Ags who gave their life to protect America. Club records show, that by 1979, it moved its daily operations and weekly Monday luncheon to Aggie Park.
steep, but definitely more than the Club had on hand. Following some legal counsel, Kistner said, the Club applied for and was granted its original charter by the Texas Secretary of State. And, undismayed at the lack of funds, 10 Aggies signed the guarantee that the San Antonio A&M Club would raise it.


The success of the purchase made the San Antonio A&M Club the first and, to this day, only A&M Club to own property.

The purchase changed the history of the San Antonio A&M Club forever. It changed the future of current and former students, and its value and worth as a point of historical victory, along with its utility as a fundraiser and place to fellowship makes it a dwelling of celebration, Kistner said.

The original plan for the trio of acres neighboring Olmos Creek was to give the San Antonio A&M Club a permanent place to lay its picnic blanket for the annual barbeque, Kistner said. Its function has grown to mean much more.

The A&M Club paid off its note on Aug. 5, 1946. In the 1950s, Aggies pulled an old airplane hangar from Kelly Field to use as a building, Kistner said. It had two walls and was used as a type of “social club,” he said. They used it as a place to spend time with family and friends, talk about their time at A&M and educate others about A&M.

Who can count the conversations had at Aggie Park? “It’s a place for Aggies,” Kistner said. Yet it was quite evident that the San Antonio A&M Club was starting to focus much more on educating the students of Bexar County about Texas A&M. And when that switch flipped, there was no going back.

The Club started talking about offering scholarships, Kistner said. Aggie Park had grown during that time, Kistner said. A barbeque pit was built. The A&M Club constructed a patio. Donations of concrete blocks and bricks came in, windows were salvaged from Beeville Air Force Base, and drill stem pipes from the Victoria oil fields were donated to build the roof trusses. “That was around 1970,” Kistner said. The Club had a building, he said, and it was nice.

So, they started to rent it out to raise more funds for scholarships. The Club founded the San Antonio A&M Club Foundation in 1982, but Club records show that they gave out scholarships starting 20 years earlier.

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