If you read the Texas A&M Foundation’s Spirit Magazine, you might have read this summer’s “Time Capsule” about the heist of Bevo in 1963. As Paul Harvey would say........in a moment you are going to know the rest of the story.

It was an unnamed relative of a member of Co B-2 that first discovered where Bevo resided. With mascot thefts in the SWC at an all time high, the hot lead was too good to pass up. An elaborate and fool-proof plan was concocted and set in motion. A black Ford pickup truck was stripped of its identifying marks (except for one.....more on that later) and the cattle rustlin’ party was in no time on the west side of Austin on a Monday night. As a proper cattle trailer was not available, a UHaul trailer was rented from a single pump gas station. To properly conceal their intentions, a rehearsed conversation about a sick horse and an emergency transport was carried out in earshot of the proprietor. Careful wardrobe selection was also made, so our Aggie legend, Les Hatcher ‘66, was wearing a Sam Houston sweatshirt. Using the top secret map (pictured), the contingent arrived and found things just as they’d been described. Bevo was about 60-70 yards back in the pasture in a small shed. Les and his Ol’ Lady made a simple lasso and prepared for a rodeo. To their delight, Bevo was a willing participant and accepted the lasso and then docilely followed his lead right onto the trailer! With the trailer loaded, our merry gang headed north. Because Bevo’s horns stuck out far enough to draw attention (though it was the dead of night), the idea was to be seen headed leaving town towards Fort Worth as TCU was set to play t.u. that coming weekend. Surely blame would then rest on the purple and white and no one would suspect an Aggie (Aggie logic). After going far enough north, they would swing back East to Orange and leave Bevo stashed in the family pasture of one of the gang, awaiting retrieval on Thanksgiving for the big game.

(Continued next page)
BEVO RUSTLED (continued)

Things were going smoothly, but solid execution and avoiding detection takes time................too much time. The plan was quickly becoming unraveled. Daylight was approaching and Orange was officially ruled out as a destination. Somebody knew (or thought they knew) of a landowner local to College Station with a substitute pasture. A stop through campus on the Quad made for quite some fanfare, and at some point this picture was taken.

The directions to the local pasture obtained, Bevo was whisked to his new home. After a careful check of the perimeter fence, the Aggie gang left their prize and tried to begin their day as if nothing had happened. Les found himself in his 9 am Tuesday Accounting class, taking his scheduled quiz. Suddenly, the prof appeared at his desk to say someone was there to see him. “Someone” turned out to be Texas Ranger O.L. Luther (If the name sounds familiar, it may be because the state prison in Navasota is named for him). Ranger O.L. carried a big Colt 45 and simply said “Come with me”. Les came. They got into the Ranger’s car. The Ranger said “We are pretty sure you are one of the ones that stole the Texas mascot.” Les was in shock considering the sun had barely appeared in the east and his time on the lam was already in jeopardy. He asked O.L. where they were going, to which O.L. replied they were headed to the county courthouse. Showing his experience, O.L. didn’t ask if Les was guilty, but rather “Did you hurt this thing [Bevo]?” Les quickly incriminated himself in replying that they had not. The core of the gang was quickly assembled, and though it was officially cattle rustling, instead of arrests they were taken back to the dorm and taken before the Commandant.

Les Hatcher ’66 in his Sam Houston sweatshirt (though the rest of those piling on were simply on campus and happy to hop onto the celebratory truck.)

O.L. Luther (continued)
BEVO RUSTLED (continued)
The gang quickly spilled their guts before the Commandant. The Commandant called
Dean Hannigan and a spirited conversation unfolded. Les could quickly tell the Dean
was out for blood. For minutes that felt like years, the Commandant steadfastly
refused to agree to the Dean’s plans for Les and his comrades. Miraculously, they
were returned to the dorms after giving up the crucial piece of information: the
location of Bevo. But when the authorities made it to the site....Bevo was nowhere to
be found. It seems that another group of cadets had stolen the animal a second time
(and that’s where the Spirit article comes in) but he was recovered. Bevo remained
unharmed throughout, which thankfully meant a lack of criminal record for Les.

It turned out that an
observant service station
owner and an A&M parking
sticker on the truck had led
to a quick resolution for the
Texas Rangers.

At left is a copy of the
memorandum from the
Dean of Students which
reads: “The following
named students are placed
on conduct probation for the
balance of the current
semester for involvement in
the theft of the mascots
indicated from the
campuses or places where
the mascots belonged.”

Below is Les Hatcher ‘66

And now you know the rest
of the story!
Get to know Les Hatcher, Class of 1966:

Les has three degrees from Texas A&M (‘66 Management, ’68 Industrial Technology & ’69 MBA Construction Engineering & Management) and he joined us for some Q&A!

Q: What was your favorite class at A&M?
A: An Eco class. GREAT prof. Funny and good. One time gave us a 100 T/F test and all the answers were True. Drove us crazy.

Q: What is the best Aggie connection experienced in your career?
A: My company classmates....started with 36 and 8 of us graduated. 5 on time. Two were killed in Vietnam.

Q: What was the best Aggie sporting event or game you've attended?
A: This is going to sound bad, but the TU basketball games. There was ALWAYS a fight afterward .. whether at CS or Austin. Different companies were actually assigned exits to go to in order to participate in the melee. Have an article from the Statesman saying “go for the game but stay for the fight”.

Q: What is your favorite A&M tradition?
A: Silver Taps .. I’m old and memories are important.

Q: If you were President of Texas A&M, what would be the first thing you would do?
A: Encourage Conservative teaching/policies. I’m a big fan of “Aggies do not steal, cheat or lie, or tolerate those who do”....and I’m definitely NOT a fan of participation trophies.

Q: What is your favorite A&M memory?
A: One of my strongest is being in the back of Duncan Mess Hall after the Thanksgiving meal, looking for a spare pumpkin pie, (this was during Bonfire construction which was being built on the field behind Duncan), learning of Kennedy’s assassination, walking back to the dorm knowing bonfire was going to be cancelled and just trying to absorb it all.

Q: What is the last book you read?

Q: What is your favorite Aggie joke?

Q: Where is your favorite place to eat in College Station?
A: Probably Olive Garden because I like the food. There used to be an old stone building on University that had great fried chicken and strawberry shortcake. Not sure it’s still there. The owner gave 3 of us one of those strawberry shortcakes one evening when he learned we didn’t have enough money between us to each get one and were going to split one 3 ways.

Q: What advice would you give someone who just graduated from A&M?
A: Live your life with honor and be proactive. No matter what you’re doing, be professional and do it to the best of your ability. A lot has changed but I think that will still work well.
Football Pick’em Interview: Gary Stroech ‘76 (Agricultural Economics)

Q: You have a reputation as one of the savviest sports minds in the area. How do you explain your last place finish in last year’s Pick’em contest?
A: Knowing how much value Jim Kruse places upon finishing first, I cleverly disguised my picks so as to wind up with the correct overall record of wins and losses but with the incorrect games won and lost. Thus, I allowed Jim to be the winner again and still saved face on my part by having the correct record.

Q: What are your expectations for the Maroon and White in 2017?
A: The schedule will be difficult and with question marks at the quarterback position and once again with the defense as a whole, we may have a long season. My guess record wise? Of course, I refuse to answer that as I plan on repeating having the correct record again!

Q: What player do you think will be the biggest surprise in 2017?
A: The quarterback that wins and stays the starter for the whole year. Is this possible?

Q: If you were the athletic director, would there be a threshold for wins this year in order for Coach Sumlin to keep his job?
A: Yes – 9 wins overall and a winning record against SEC West opponents. No excuses please Coach Sumlin!

Q: If you were head coach and A&M scored a TD with no time on the clock against Alabama, extra point ties it............do you go for 2 or overtime?
A: Go for 2. You just do not get many chances to get a win against them.

Q: Who starts at QB for A&M against LSU?
A: Hopefully, the same guy that starts against UCLA.

Q: What is your favorite A&M football game of all time?
A: Saturday, November 10, 2012 – Johnny Manziel leads us to victory at Alabama! I was there!

(L-R Mark Patranella, Gary Stroech, James Henkhaus)

Q: Do you have a prediction for how well you will do this year?
A: That’s an easy answer – BETTER THAN LAST YEAR!

Q: Who has more losses this year, the A&M basketball team or football team?
A: That’s a tough question. The men’s basketball team should be very good. We do play several preseason top 10 teams and winning on the road is always difficult. The football team most likely will have several losses. The basketball team plays at least twice as many games so I will say the basketball team has more losses than the football team but I hope I am incorrect and the basketball team has a great year!
2017 Aggie Football Contest—Pick’em and Win!

Aggie Football is only a month away, and we are ready to find out which WCAC member is the football expert. The rules are simple. Simply pick the final score of each game during the season. Lucky winners will receive a prize at season’s end. You can’t win if you don’t play! Print and fill in this page and send it in to washingtonaggieclub@gmail.com.

Name: ________________________________
Aggie Family Fun Night
Fireman’s Park
Wednesday, August 23rd
6 - 8:30 pm
Dinner 6:45 pm
All ages welcome!