

Its Way Home

A columnist in the *Victoria Advocate* recently compared efforts to return a lost A&M ring to the story of Bilbo Baggins in J.R.R. Tolkien's book, "The Hobbit." With perseverance and dedication that equaled and, perhaps, surpassed that of Bilbo Baggins, a group from Texas A&M's Class of '59 refused to quit until their quest was complete.

Charles Gossett '59 found classmate Lynn Procter Scott's Aggie ring during a separation process at his Crossroads Recycling Center in Victoria in November 1995 and contacted the Association of Former Student Ring Office. Records showed that Scott died in the mid-1970s, but didn't include current family information.

Gossett then called in classmates Pat Mauritz and John Crews. Mauritz learned that Scott was killed in a plane crash while serving with the Air National Guard and that his wife, Sandra, had remarried. A notice in *Class News* in the April 1996 *Texas Aggie* sought information on Scott's family. The notice produced no results, but the search continued.

After an unsuccessful search of the *Fort Worth Star Telegram* obituaries, Class Agent John Thomas called W.O. Kelly III in Bedford, who had grown up with Scott. Kelly knew his parents were deceased, but didn't know the widow's current name.

Then in November 1996 Kelly attended a reunion of his high school's bi-district playoff football team to see what they could do for a team member suffering from cancer. Kelly mentioned Scott's ring and one of his teammates said his widow had died of cancer two months earlier. The man knew that one daughter lived in South Lake, another in Dallas and a son lived in Austin.

Kelly made contact and arrangements were made to present the ring to Lynn Scott's children. In December, Scott's classmates met them at the Stage Coach Inn in Salado. As Charles Gossett presented them the ring, someone recalling Scott's service to his country cited the

biblical quote at the entrance to Texas A&M's Memorial Student Center, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

His classmates showed their love by making sure Lynn Scott's ring was returned to its rightful place.



John David Scott, who was 6 when his father died, tries on his dad's ring as sisters Kirstan Scott, left, and Shannon Flego smile their approval.



Accepting their father's ring were, seated from left, Kirstan Scott, Shannon Flego, John David Scott and J.D.'s wife, Sheryl. Standing are (l-r) Pat and Mitzi Mauritz, W.O. Kelly's granddaughter Brittaney, Class Agent John Thomas, Charles Gossett, John Crews, Charles Gossett's parents Bobbie and Wayne Gossett, and JoAnn and William O. Kelly.