

TIGER TALES

The Black and Gold heritage keeps the RAH! in Mizzou

Tiger mascot earns its stripes

Mizzou's athletic nickname dates back to the Civil War.

When guerrilla raids by the outlaw Bloody Bill Anderson were expected, a home guard squadron, called the Missouri Tigers, was organized to combat the raids. Alarmed citizens formed an armed guard, built a blockhouse in downtown Columbia and fortified the courthouse. Word of their preparedness spread, and the raid never took place.

The name Tigers became synonymous with good luck and was adopted in recognition of the Civil War defenders.

Students in the mood for 'Old Missouri' tune

Academic Hall's burning kindled a sense of tradition at Mizzou. Students rallied to preserve the Columns and the Glee Club decided the University needed an alma mater. So one spring night in 1895, George Armstrong Wauchope, assistant professor of English, dashed off the lyrics to "Old Missouri."

"After we received the words from Professor Wauchope, it became necessary to select an appropriate tune," recalled Glee Club member Guy Thompson. "George English and I enlisted the assistance of Mrs. J.C. Jones, wife of Dr. J.C. Jones, president emeritus of the University. She had a thick book of old familiar tunes and, with Mrs. Jones at the piano and George English and me standing by, we spent all one Sunday afternoon trying out these tunes, and finally the three of us agreed that 'Annie Lisle' was the most suitable."

The tune was so suitable, in fact, that Mizzou was not the only school to make it

the melody of its alma mater. The tune brings a tear to the eyes of alumni of a dozen other universities, including Kansas, Cornell and Alabama, as well as a score of high schools.

Old Missouri fair Missouri!
Dear Old Varsity,
Ours are hearts that fondly love thee,
Here's a health to thee!

Chorus:
Proud art thou in classic beauty,
Of the noble past.

With the watch words, honor, duty
Thy high fame shall last.

Every student, man and maiden,
Swells the glad refrain,
'Till the breezes laden
Wait it back again.



Six proud pillars form foundation for legion of legends

When Academic Hall was destroyed by fire in 1892, its six Ionic Columns survived, becoming a traditional symbol of Mizzou. In the center of Francis Quadrangle, the Columns, five with ivy and one without, support a wealth of legends.

Some believe the Columns represent the first six presidents who may be buried beneath them and the Column without ivy represents the atheist in the bunch.

During the Civil War, when federal troops were barracksed in Academic Hall, a Union soldier and a Confederate sympathizer fought a duel over a local belle. One man, mortally wounded, fell against a Column, spattering it with blood. (Which one was killed depends on the sentiments of the teller.) Today, no ivy grows on that Column.

There are other duel legends. Some say that a student shot a professor. (The students like that one.) Others say that a professor shot a student. And still others say a student shot a fellow student.

It is rumored, too, that two columns are placed farther apart than the others simply to please the architect.

The Big M: you can make a mountain out of an 'ah'

What's 90 feet wide, 95 feet high, more than 50 years old and hasn't missed a home football game since 1927? It's the big M perched on the north end of Faurot Field.

Here's how the 1928 Savitar reviewed its debut Oct. 1, 1927, when the Tigers defeated Kansas, 13-6:

"Five hundred freshmen joined hands and encircled the cinder track in a single line while the band played 'Old Missouri' in the center of the field. The pennants of all the Missouri Valley fluttered and danced above the stadium on the long line at the open end of the gridiron...A huge stone M—the work of the Frosh the night before—loomed up white and threateningly against the embankment."

Only a couple of incidents have threatened the M's existence. On a Friday night in the '50s before a Missouri-Nebraska game, a group of pranksters changed the M to an N. The Mizzou groundskeeper and a group of young boys whom he promised free admission to the game that afternoon worked feverishly Saturday morning to restore the M before game time. Few fans ever knew of the near catastrophe.

Years later, in 1976, the big M almost became a memory when the Curators approved the addition of seats at the north end of the stadium. Alumni stood behind their favorite landmark and protested the north expansion openly. The Curators reversed their decision, opting for seating expansion on the south end instead.

Fight song revs up sagging school spirit

Sagging school spirit at Ol' Mizzou was a lively topic in 1946. "Some say that it was irrevocably lost when so many left to grow three and four years older in uniform," reported the Campus humor magazine, Showme, in a rare, serious moment. One veteran put it this way, "We spent our 'rah-rah' days in chow lines, and if it hadn't been for the war, we would be out of school and in our professions."

But members of Alpha Delta Sigma, a national advertising fraternity, decided school spirit could be revived with a new and original fight song and launched a contest to prove it.

"Fight, Tiger" was chosen from 52 entries. Robert F. Karsch, a doctoral candidate (now



professor of public administration and political science) composed the winning music, and Donald M. McKay, an undergraduate, wrote the words. Of course, the real winner was school spirit.

Fight, Tiger, fight for old Mizzou.
Right behind you ev'ryone is with you;
Break the line and follow down the field,
And you'll be, on the top, upon the top!
On, Tiger, you will always win;
Proudly keep the colors flying skyward.
In the end we'll win the victory,
So, Tiger fight for old Mizzou.

Mizzou victory snares drum from Jayhawks

The intense rivalry between the Tigers and the Jayhawks is rooted in the Civil War era when Wild Bill Quantrill's raiders invaded and looted areas of Kansas near the Missouri border.

In 1891, the new Tiger football team began the most spirited of Missouri's athletic feuds and the oldest collegiate rivalry west of the Mississippi with the University of Kansas.

Rivalry in this annual gridiron conflict is symbolized by a tom-tom, which becomes the property of the winner.

Victory over the Jayhawks is savored with gusto. To many Tiger fans, the Kansas game is, and always will be, The Big One. The following "I'm a Son" song captures the spirit:

Oh when I was a Freshman I was
as green as I could be,
And all the Sophs they pulled my leg,
and made a mark of me.
But now I've learned to wield the club
as every Soph should do,
And I've joined the rollicking chorus,

"To hell with old K.U."

Chorus:

For I'm a son, a son, a son,
A son of Old Mizzou;
For I'm a son, a son, a son,
A son of Old Mizzou;
We'll drink to the health of the Gold
and the Black,
So glorious and so true,
And we'll join the rollicking chorus,
"To hell with old K.U."

And if I had an ocean of rum
And sugar a billion pound,
A big enough Quad to mix it in,
And a Column to stir it around,
We'd drink to the health of the Gold
and Black,

So glorious and so true,
And we'll join the rollicking chorus
"To hell with old K.U."

Engineers invent Irish link to worm out of classes

Junior and senior engineering students in 1903 stretched their fertile minds to come up with an elaborate scheme, all in the name of skipping classes, en masse, for a day.

Mizzou students discovered that St. Patrick was an engineer. They reasoned that since St. Patrick drove the snakes out



of Ireland and that a snake is nothing but a large "worm" (a term for a gear that changes the direction of motion), St. Pat certainly was the patron saint of engineers.

As the students milled about Francis Quadrangle enjoying the fresh spring-time air and sunshine, President Richard Jesse appealed, "If you are gentlemen, you will go back to your studies." The students promptly headed downtown to drink beer and shoot pool.

Years later, the St. Patrick's Day celebration developed into Engineering Week, an event that combines educational and just-for-fun activities.

Lions: mum's the word



A pair of stone lions, a 1931 gift to the world's first School of Journalism from the Chinese national government, used to guard the west entrance of Neff Hall, but they were moved to a more protective place (under the arch between Walter Williams and Neff Halls) several years ago. Some students think the move was made to elongate the lions' usefulness of roaring if a virgin walks by.

Mizzou kicks off homecoming with football

Mizzou was the first university to couple homecoming activities with a major sports event.

Billed by University officials as "Come Back Home," Mizzou's first homecoming featured a Missouri-Kansas football game on Rollins Field (now Stankowski Field) in 1911. The game ended in a 3-3 tie.

The event also marked the first Tiger-Jayhawk game in Columbia. Previous games had been held in Kansas City.

This RAH poster about Mizzou traditions and legends has been prepared for you by the Alumni Association, an independent, nonprofit corporation of graduates and former students banded together in the best interests of O' Mizzou.

More than 50 alumni serve on the board of directors, which oversees a wide variety of programs that emanate from the Association's headquarters in the Alumni Center. Alumni Activities involves thousands of alumni in hundreds of activities—from Tourin' Tiger trips to Homecoming celebrations. The Publications and Alumni Communication department produces *Missouri Alumnus*, a quarterly magazine that tells alumni what's going on at Mizzou as well as reports news about alumni.

Students can get involved in the Alumni Association, too. Members of the Alumni Association Student Board are selected through a petition and interview process. The AASB helps to plan and sponsor homecoming festivities, class reunions and special projects.