

MIDLANDER

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE COLLEGE

Presenting

THE 1956



MIDLANDER

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Nathan Bedford Forrest

Nathan Bedford Forrest's spirit symbolizes the spirit of Middle Tennessee State College, the school of individual opportunity. He came from a poor home and from there he rode into the annals of American history.

Born in Chapel Hill, Bedford County, Tennessee, on July 13, 1821, he received little education; but was successful as a planter and real estate operator.

Always ready to defend a cause, young Nathan enlisted as a private in the Confederate Army in June, 1861; but shortly afterward won the rank of lieutenant colonel to command a battalion of cavalry, which he outfitted at his own expense.

By the time he was a full colonel, Forrest had joined forces with General A. S. Johnston's army at Shiloh, where he received his first wounds in the north-south combat. As a cavalry leader in 1862, he captured the entire Federal garrison at Murfreesboro in one of the most brilliant operations of the Tennessee campaigns.

Following the Battle of Chickamauga, in which he participated, he was transferred to Mississippi and appointed major general. In November of 1864 Forrest was placed in command of the cavalry with the Army of Tennessee. A year later he was made commander of the cavalry in Alabama, Mississippi, and eastern Louisiana.

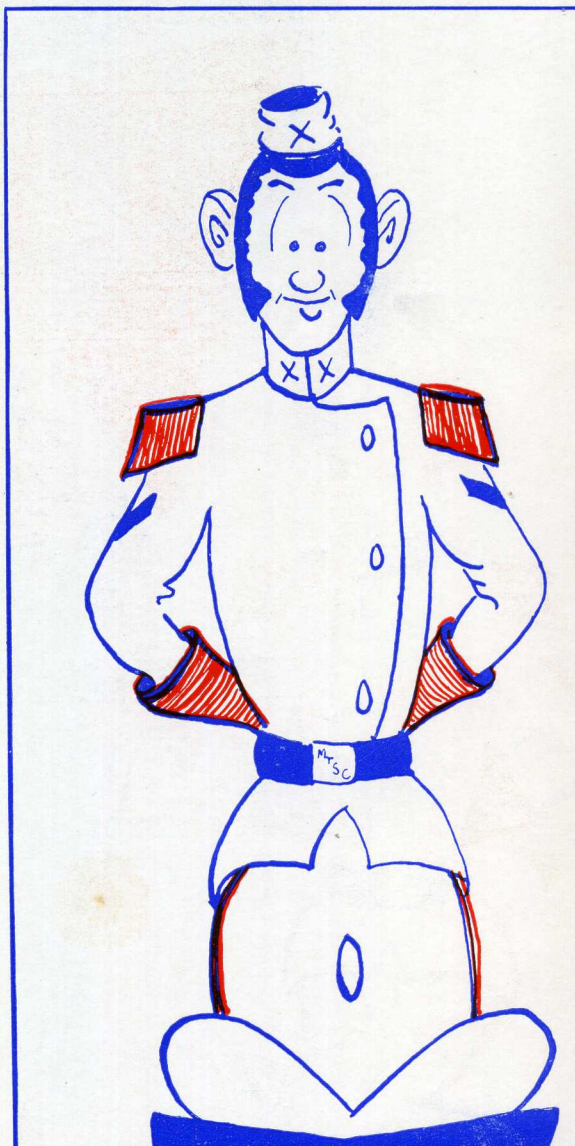
He died October 29, 1877, in Memphis. Forrest was known for his fairness in battle and his hard-charging cavalry.



"I rode with General Forrest back in 1863 under this banner. I remember we bivouacked in this area, but times sure have changed—as you can tell from the sketch that my buddy, Bob, drew showing some of our maneuvers back in '63. I can still remember General Forrest saying, 'Let's get there the fustest with the mostest'."



"This is where my buddies and I, who fought and died in the War between the States, stay at Stones River National Cemetery. For years, since 1911, I had been hearing strange sounds and much commotion coming from our old bivouac area that sounded like the War had started all over again. Several of my buddies had taken a short furlough from here, so when my turn came up, I decided to make a reconnaissance of the situation. On my first visit, I thought it would be easy to find my way around, since I had encamped there, but it was more difficult because the terrain features had changed. Instead of a level field surrounded by a wooded area with blue-coated Yankees peeking out from behind every tree, all I could see was a big group of buildings surrounded by new-fangled things called automobiles. At the entrance was a sign which said 'Middle Tennessee State College.' I wandered around, and all at once bells out of no where started ringing. From my post in the top branch of the nearest tree, I could see people of all kinds running from building to building with books under their arms and pencils sticking out from behind their ears. After ten minutes of this confusion, everything was quiet again. I carefully climbed out of my shelter and resumed my reconnaissance. I know you'll be as interested in this campus, its people, their classes and activities as much as I was, so I'll tell you just what I have learned in my few short visits here."





You have just finished the introduction to the 1956 MIDLANDER. My staff and I hope you will enjoy the rest of the book. We have done our best to present Middle Tennessee State as we all know and love it.

It was once said by Webster, "Ours, Sir, is a small school, but there are those who love it." To those of us who have made MTSC our home for the past four years a truer statement was never made. We have seen buildings erected and roads removed, and we have seen students and teachers come and go. . . .

I would like for you to reminisce with me over the past four years, and the many and varied memories they hold. REMEMBER . . . Freshman week 1952, Freshman girls in Jones Hall, Your first college dance, Homecomings, Plays on the MTSC stage, Football and Basketball games, The old wrestling team, ASB elections, The first MISS MIDLANDER from our class, Fun nights in the old gym, Stunt nights, The drive in front of the Ad building, The gallons of rain during winter quarters, the ROTC in their new building, Monahan Hall erected, Pep rallies, Bull sessions, Receptions, Banquets, Religious emphasis weeks, Parties. . . . and we can't forget those Classes, Exams, Lectures, Term papers, Grades, Registration, and the same thing all over again.

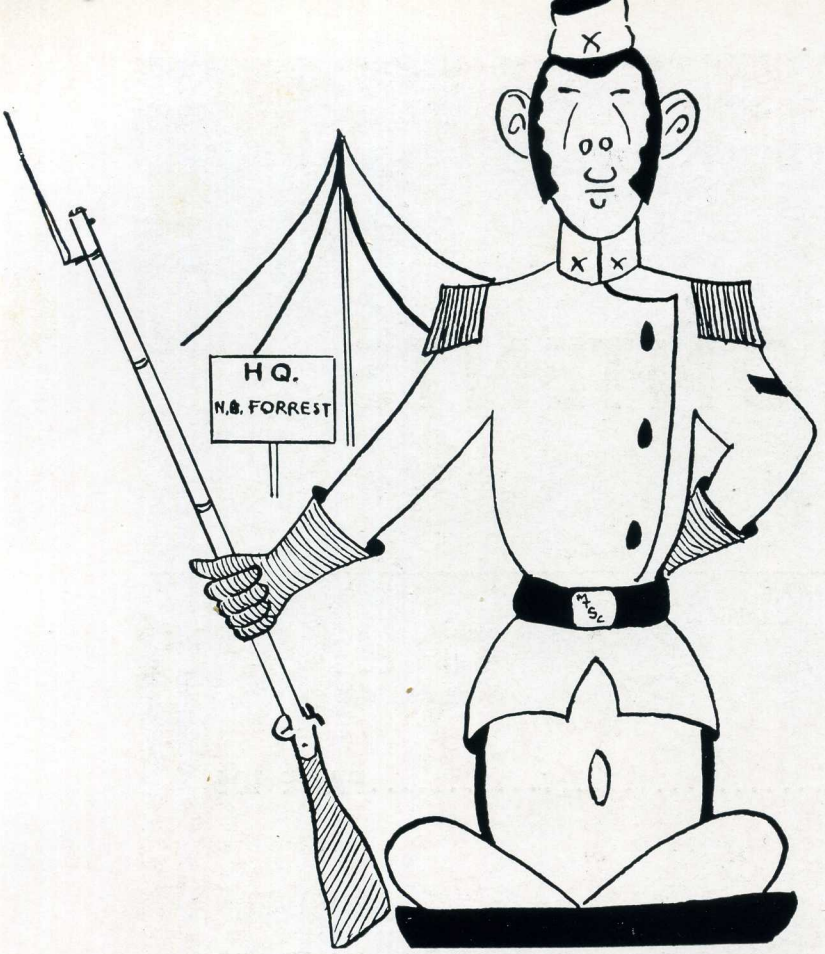
I have rambled around enough. I hope I didn't bore you and that I brought back some pleasant memories.

To publish a book such as the 1956 MIDLANDER takes a lot of words, pictures, ink, considerable planning, loss of a little sleep, sweat, work and a lot of co-operation. I have had a great deal of co-operation from a lot of people. First I would like to thank my staff, their names and the work they did appear on page 152. A special thanks to Lois Stedman my associate editor who prepared all the copy, to George Gardner who headed the business staff, and to Peggy McQuiddy who headed the class sections.

For the cover, we are indebted to Cartoonist Jack Knox of the *Nashville Banner* in permitting us to use one of his drawings. The remainder of the art work was done by Bob Mingle, a member of our staff.

Our photographers were Wink Bennett, Jimmy Carnahan, Ed Delbridge, and Dr. Bealer Smotherman. Our thanks to Dr. Guy Battle and Mr. William Beasley, who proofread all our copy. Mr. Ruben Gulbenk and Charles and the entire staff of Gulbenk Engraving Co., also Mr. Ben Shields and his staff at Ambrose Printing Co. Our last vote of appreciation goes to one of the busiest men on the campus. His help and assistance in preparing the 1956 MIDLANDER is surpassed by none. I refer to Mr. Gene Sloan, the Director of Publications, at Middle Tennessee State College.

In closing, I sincerely hope that the 1956 MIDLANDER brings to you our reader the spirit of MTSC, and that you enjoy the book as much as I have enjoyed working on it.



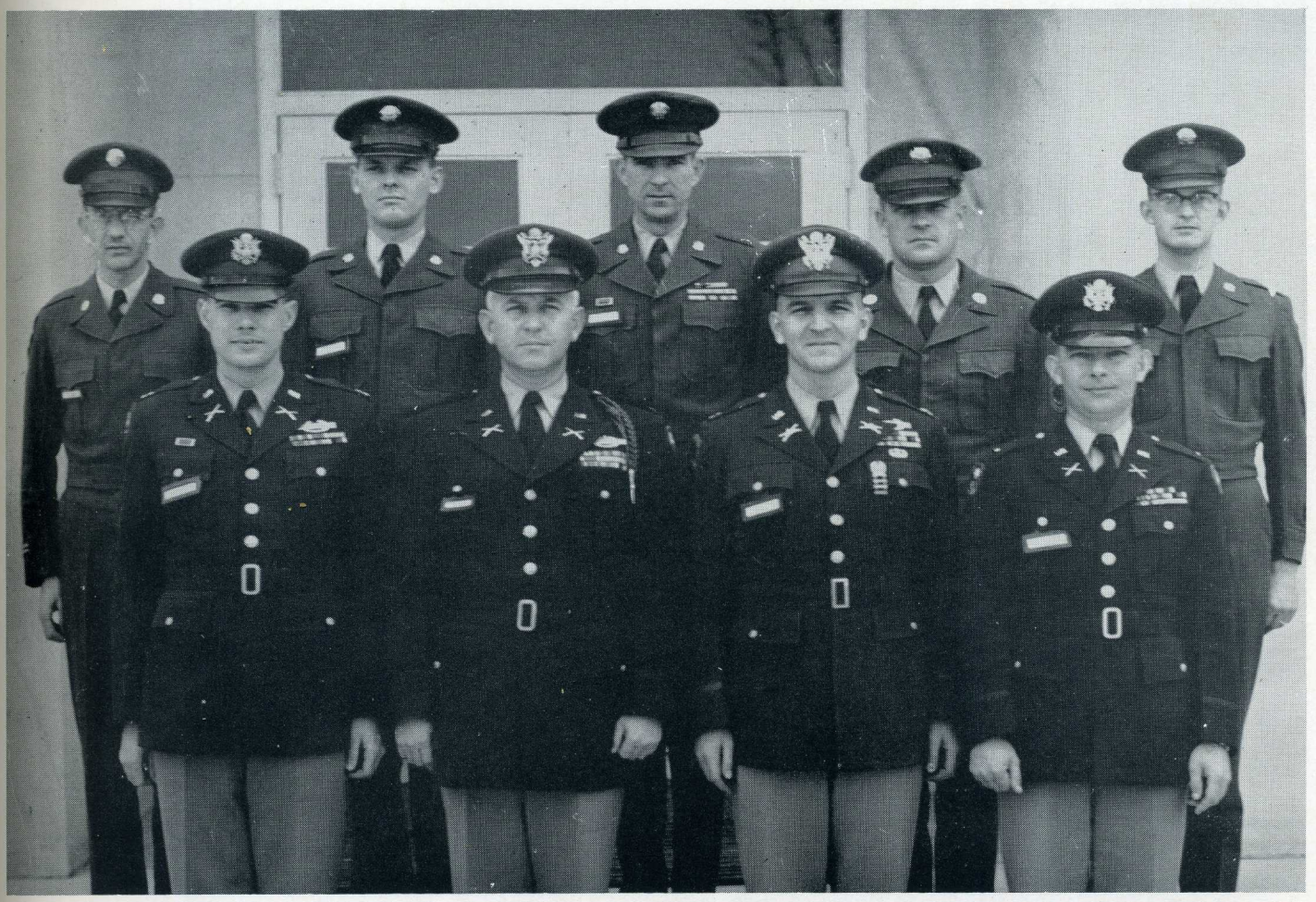
"From what they tell me, Middle Tennessee State College is one of the five state colleges in Tennessee; and even though it is not the largest, it's the best. And I can tell you, it really has changed since I rode through here on my horse.

"Founded in 1911, the college had only three buildings at the time. One was the Administration Building. In 1925 the General Assembly authorized the maintenance of a state teachers college in each Grand Division of the State. Thus, the college became known as Middle Tennessee State Teachers College. Since then, the actual acreage of the school has increased from 125 acres to 375, and the name has been changed to Middle Tennessee State College.

"As I said before, when I came through here, there was nothing but acres and acres of plowed fields. Now there are 27 permanent brick buildings, an agricultural unit, football stadium, baseball field, and tennis courts. The 'Ad' Building is still the main center of the campus.

"I was really interested in the newest additions this year and the plans for future improvement. The administration has added the Family-Centered Home Management Education House, a new football scoreboard, and a new parking area. They also paved new sidewalks and widened some of the old ones. This has really changed the looks of this place for me because they didn't have many sidewalks and roads here when I rode through with Forrest. The college's future plans include the recently authorized library which will be completely modern throughout.

"Now I'll introduce you to the members of the faculty and tell you something about them and their departments."



FIRST ROW: Capt. Wray R. Thomas, Major Quentin L. McNary, Capt. William H. Vail, 1st Lt. Robert L. Sanders; SECOND ROW: M/Sgt. Donald L. Licht, Sgt. William F. Nichols, M/Sgt. Charles W. O'Gwinn, S F C James R. Kent, S F C Donald Meredith.

For the Nation's Safety

MILITARY SCIENCE

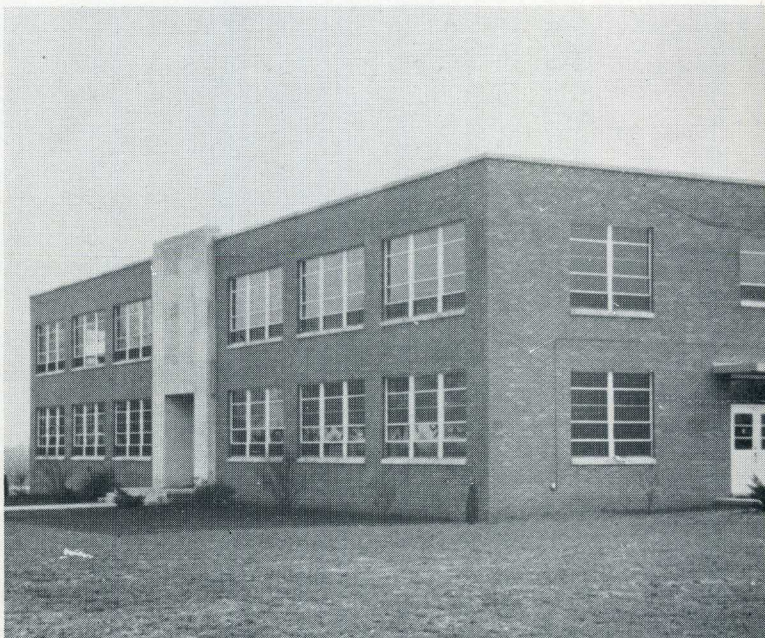
" 'Hup, two, three, four! Your left, your right! It's just like walking, put one foot in front of the other and step off smartly. Hup, hite, your left, your . . . And now this is your rifle. It's the best friend you'll ever have. Take care of it, or you won't live long.'

"Yep, it's the same old stuff they fed me for sure. But there have been a lot of improvement over our cap and ball rifle, to say nothing of our sidearms and vehicles. But the same old Volunteer rebel spirit is there. Their Corps rates among the top outfits in the South and is housed in a modern plant.

"MTSC's is a Branch General unit of the ROTC. They turn out second lieutenants by the dozen for everything for which the Army needs a shavetail. Now and then some of their glory hungry boys decide to transfer to the Marines and others go into the Navy or become knights of the wild blue. But after all, they're on the same team and the basic here is good for boots.

"If you really want to enjoy life join the ROTC. In the summer after the junior year there is a six weeks camp. Man, you haven't lived unless you've been to ROTC Camp."

NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST HALL



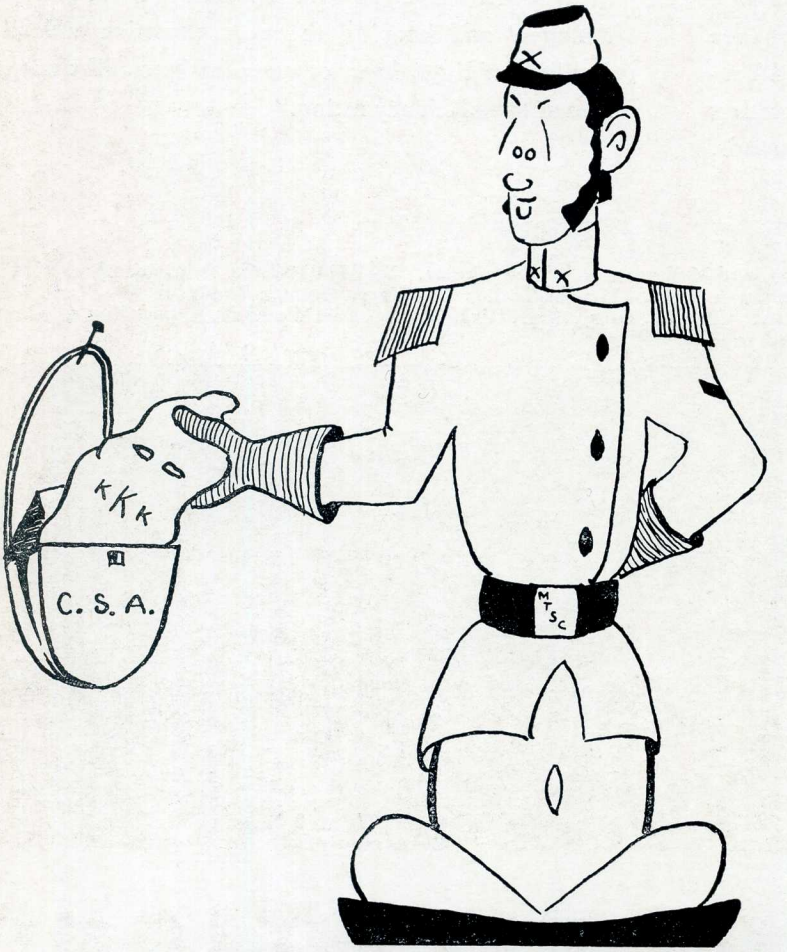
"Talk about fun! I can see that everybody on this campus has many opportunities to take part in organizations and extra-curricular activities. They tell me that you can learn as much about life outside the classroom as inside it.

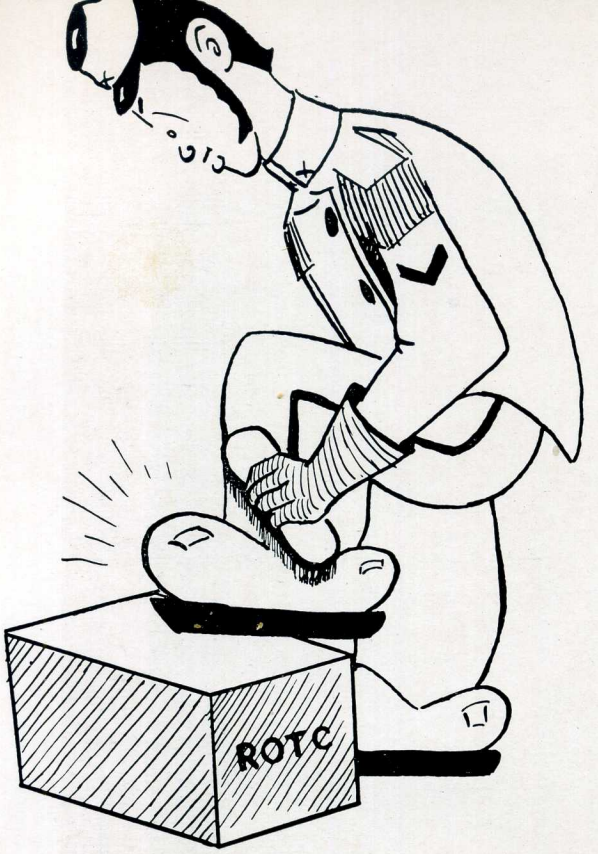
"One of my old army buddies visited here not too long ago and he said that he noticed many students who would go without food and sleep to publish the paper, work on a float, decorate for a dance, or learn lines for a play. I don't see how they can do it!

"Practically every department on the campus has a club which furthers the interest in that particular section. From the time a student is a 'green freshman' he is urged to join a club and he gradually works toward becoming a member of one of the numerous honor societies on the campus. Of course, classes rank first in the day's activities.

"Authorities say that there are about 40 different organizations on the campus. These clubs provide opportunities for leadership and fellowship to all students.

"My general said to me once that I would get out of anything exactly what I put into it. I've found out that even in the army this advice was pretty good. From watching the students around here, it seems that they have applied it to both studies and outside activities. Let's see what these MTSC organizations have to offer."





"One day, not long ago, I heard some military style music from over behind that place they call a football field. So, I trotted over and I saw about 350 soldiers in sharp uniforms with their shoes shined and their flags a-waving, marching around a big drill field. They were marching in front of a little stand and the company commanders were yelling 'eyes right.' I would have sworn I heard their eyeballs click.

"That very day I found out about the ROTC and its program. The ROTC began as a department in the Fall of '50 with 93 cadets and 11 cadet officers on a completely voluntary basis. In six short years it has grown to a strength of 322 cadets and 38 officers. The Fall of 1955 saw the program become compulsory for two years.

"No other department on the campus has such 'esprit de corps'; neither can they offer a six-week, all-expense paid summer vacation at a nearby camp.

"The new ROTC building which was occupied in the Fall of 1954 is considered to be one of the finest of its kind in the South. If its name has anything to do with it—the Nathan Bedford Forrest Hall—it IS the finest. We never had any places like that when I was in training.

"The unit here has added much to the school's spirit and it has also given numerous reserve officers to the ranks of the U. S. Army. The graduate of the four-year ROTC program enters the army as a commissioned officer with the rank of second lieutenant."



FIRST ROW: Stroud, W. T.; Cranford, R. H.; Bass, J.; Akin, T. L.; Sneed, B. H. *SECOND ROW:* Henry, J. H.; Massey, J. P.; Lowe, N. C.; Nicholas, J. W.; Ozier, L. G. *THIRD ROW:* Haynes, G.; Gleaves, M. L.; Gobble, L. T.; Saunders, S. R.; Grigger, R. M.; Prince, J. G. *FOURTH ROW:* Waite, K.; Harris, J. P.; Brunson, H. H.; Harris, R. G.; Sullivan, L. R.

NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST CLUB

They Get There 'Fustest with the Mostest.'

"Now this is one club which I really think has good ideas and mottoes. For instance, look at the name—the Nathan Bedford Forrest Club. It is unusual in that its active membership is limited to one year. The club is composed of outstanding master sergeants of the Junior class only. High scholastic standing and excellent military bearing are among the other prerequisites of membership.

"The purpose of the club is to further the welfare and recreation of its members and to endorse all activities which this organization benefits the ROTC at the college. Its motto is 'Primo Cum Ilpiu'—'the fustest with the mostest.' Each Spring its members select from the incoming Junior class the candidates for membership for the following year.

"The main effort of the club this year is to secure a badge for its members to wear. The end result is to be a silver sword on a blue background with the words of the club motto inscribed above. This year's officers are Johnny Bass, president; Travis Akin, vice-president; Thomas Stroud, secretary; Bobby Cranford, treasurer; and Bobby Sneed, sergeant-at-arms."