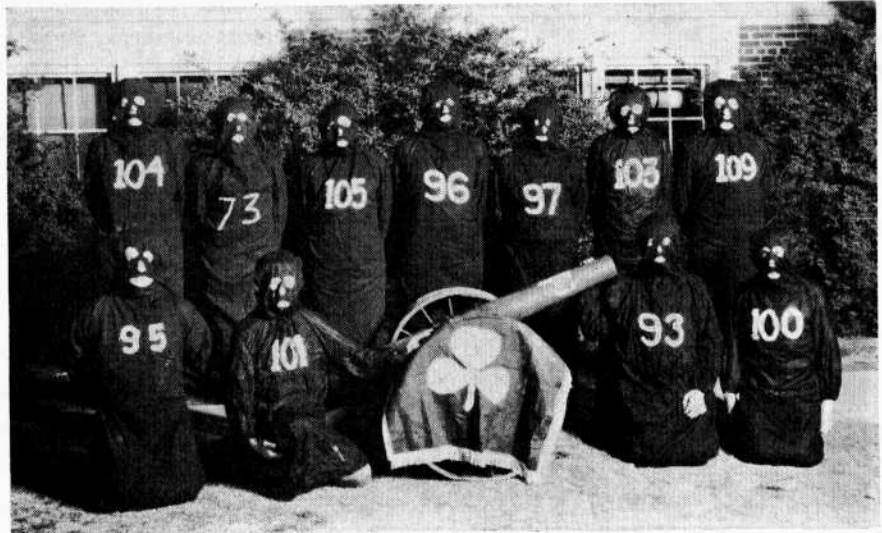


No, you were quite wrong. This is not the D.D.M.C. guarding the stolen St. Pat's cannon. Rather, it is the select body known as the Loyal Knights of Old Trusty, known locally as LKOT, whose duty it is to fire Old Trusty, venerable cannon, heralding the approaching celebration of Saint Patrick's day. Membership is secret and is one of the most desired honors of the engineering college

LKOT



BY NO. 103

A Saint Patrick's day is here again and as part of the time honored celebration for the engineering school, Old Trusty's voice booms out to awaken the sleeping people of the town. Around the cannon may be seen the dark robed figures of the little group of sixteen who are entrusted with the carrying out of the traditions of the engineering school. Just what are the old traditions and how did they come about?

The membership of the ceremonial order is secret and represents the highest honor that may befall an engineer. Much speculation always results as to which of the large body of engineering students are on the rolls. Each man is known, not by name, but by his number assigned at the time he is initiated, and which is worn on the front of the hooded robe. Over one hundred and twenty engineers in the field today are listed as members of LKOT.

One of the duties of the order is to handle the firing of Old Trusty on Saint Patrick's day in the morning. Regardless of what may happen to prevent, the cannon must be fired at the appointed time. In the past the trials of the members have been many; in fact one of the problems early encountered was that of finding a cannon to shoot and then keeping it from falling into the hands of those whose intentions were not of the highest.

The first cannon used by the engineers as a part of the annual activities was an ancient field piece that had long graced

the campus as a gift of the war department. The weight and unwieldy nature of the original Old Trusty was to contribute materially to an early end at the hands of the university officials. At the conclusion of the first year's use in accordance with the rules of the order, the cannon was disassembled and buried in a secret hiding place the location of which was known only to one of the group. However, the eyes of one of the university employes were a bit too sharp and the old cannon was dug from beneath the brick floor of the engineering laboratory and turned over to President Stratton D. Brooks. Only rumors remain as to the final disposition of the remains. It is known that many clues and tips were proved false after the president's basement had been ransacked, the old cistern in the yard had been opened and found empty, and the entire coal pile at the county jail turned over carefully in the search. It is thought that the quicksand of the South Canadian river has erased the last trace of the old cannon but no one knows for certain.

It was then that the students turned to the construction of a new Trusty that lasted only long enough for two test shots before showing signs of weakening under the strain. Older members of the order no longer in school then gave their assistance and the present Old Trusty resulted. Small in size but mighty is the present cannon with a barrel of the finest steel found only in the oil field drilling bits. An advantage as

to the size was early apparent when attempts of the officials to capture the gun were frustrated because of the ease with which it might be loaded on a truck and carried away.

Older members of the order will recall with smiles one particular night when the hooded gun crew was chased up and down the streets of the town by irate faculty members, firing the gun in motion from the position on the truck until the chase ended far to the west of Norman. A particularly bad mud hole was the cause of the pursuer's hard luck and it was some time before the faculty car could pull itself from the sticky mud.

Since that time the cannon has been an accepted part of the celebration on Saint Patrick's day, with the little group remaining unmolested with their traditions. Promptly at one minute past twelve Saint Patrick fires the first shot to start the fireworks of the early morning. Number two is touched off by the engineer's queen and the succeeding shots are taken by the members in the order of their numbers. Following the fireworks the old cannon is again buried and hid from sight by one of the members until the following year.

Though the firing of the cannon is of the utmost importance, underlying all is the loyalty of the engineer to his school and the determination that the Saint Patrick's celebration will be carried out as planned and scheduled. Such are the traditions connected with Old Trusty and the order of LKOT.