

## The Roster “Rebel Rouser” (Issue 5)

**\*11/14/12....Well, did you know this about? ...Bob Burney '64\***  
A starting Lineman in the “Greatest High School Football Game Ever Played”, he went off to play football for 2 years for the Tyler JC Apaches. But, he knew as a young boy that he would eventually arrive in College Station. Now, the “Rebel Rouser” has never ventured into politics or religion, but it might be approaching the latter here. Bob is a member of the little understood BLA, “Blood Line Aggies”. Yep, it’s a Rebel Rouser ID and it’s as significant as it sounds. Like his Grandfather and his Dad, Bob is a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Aggie.

Hold on now. This gets even more into Aggie lore. His Grandfather was Class of 1906 and the 2nd of his 2 Aggie Daughters was a graduate of the Class of 2006. That’s exactly a Century of Burney Aggie Grads, 5 grads in 4 generations in exactly One Hundred Years. Now 4th generation Aggie grads, the daughters are professionals in education and medicine. They just may end up discovering the key to this legendary link of Burney Aggies. But, here is a hint about what some call an “immeasurable”. In the Spring of '67, Bob was in a near fatal car accident. But, Bob’s resolve would not let him take his eye off of his family tradition. He went back to A&M that next Fall and then graduated with a degree in Marketing in 1969. That immeasurable is Determination. The Burney tradition at A&M remained unbroken.

For 20 years after graduation, Bob worked in the Construction Industry. A bit of that tradition weaves back into the story. His Dad was a Home Builder and General Contractor. Do you remember that 1906 Aggie Grad? His Grandfather was also in the Construction Industry. His Company, Walsh and Burney, built the Texas Theatre and the Municipal Auditorium in San Antonio. Get ready Longhorns on the Roster, because he, an Aggie, built the 1<sup>st</sup> stadium at the University of Texas. Hmmm, it’s unlikely that this last point will ever be brought up again.

Bob was involved in commercial construction estimating and project management. During that time he owned a subcontracting business that did parking lot striping and pavement marking for 6 years. Like all people in the construction industry during the late 80's he saw some slow and challenging times. In '87 and '88 he worked 6 different jobs and said, "Enough, I'm taking control of my future."

In 1989, he started his own company in San Antonio, Aggie Chimney Sweep. There is much history and folklore about chimney sweeps. They are written about through Victorian Literature and even poetry. The stories range from hard and cruel work all the way to bringing people good luck. Even Charles Dickens's "Oliver Twist" was saved by the magistrate from the hard times of being a chimney sweep. In "Mary Poppins" they appeared as jovial good luck charms. No, Bob doesn't wear a black suit with gold buttons and a top hat, carrying a sweeping brush over his shoulder. He is proudly in the Fire Prevention Business.....like saving homes, businesses and lives. You might say, "It kind of matters."

Bob doesn't just get into this business. Determined to be a leader in his profession, he served as President of the Texas Chimney Sweep Guild for 2 years. Then he served on the Board of Directors of the National Chimney Sweep Guild for 2 years. He is about professionalism and safety, and safety, and safety. Now in the business for 23 years he might just be retiring before too long.

When he is not out preventing fires, Bob likes competitive skeet shooting and he is a hunter. He can't just be a 'gun guy', so he serves on the Board of Directors of the San Antonio Gun Club. Then he goes and serves as President of the Board for 2 terms.

If you are looking for a Certified Chimney Sweep on anybody else's Roster or even in San Antonio, then you are wasting your time. Our guy is the only one in San Antonio.

**\*ONE OF OUR'S, BOB BURNEY, "BLA" AND DETERMINED\***

