The Williston BULLETIN

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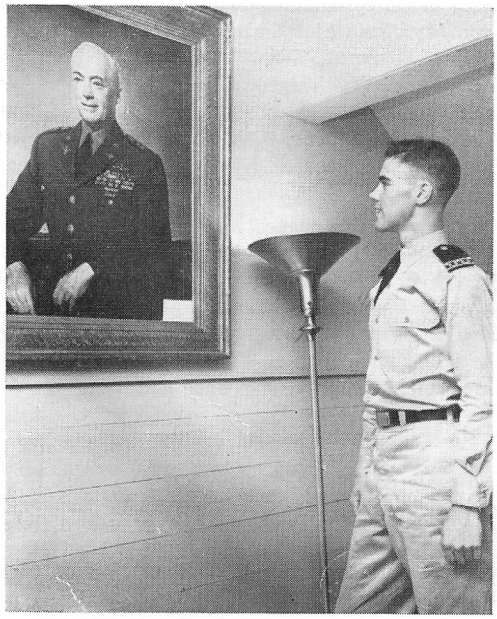
Williston Boy First to Register at New U. S. Air Academy

A Williston alumnus, Valmore W. Bourque, was the first air cadet to register at the new Air Force Academy. According to TIME, which followed Val through the formalities of the first day, July 11, "At 4:45 one morning last week, Valmore W. Bourque, 20, of South Hadley Falls, Mass., lugged a suitcase up to Patrick Hall on Denver's Lowry Air Force Base and reported to a sleepy master sergeant. Said Bourque; 'I figure it would be something to tell my kids I was the first air cadet in the U. S.' Sixteen hours and 45 minutes later, Bourque and 305 other members of the first class at the U. S. Air Force Academy were sound asleep after a double-timed day that included drill, a dedication ceremony, physical examinations (one cadet had measles), lectures, assignments, hazing, uniform issue and an allowance ($3 for the rest of July)."

Val was aided in his desire to be first by an old neighbor, Master Sergeant Earl Lynes of Holyoke, personnel sergeant of the new academy, who met him on his arrival, and who went to processing headquarters with him at 4:00 A.M. to assure his being first in line.

Among Bourque's activities during his first week was the posing before the portrait of the late General H. H. (Hap) Arnold as he appears in Arnold Hall, the Cadets' own club. According to information from the Academy's information services officer, Val seems quite happy at the Academy and is active in religious activities, being a member of both the Acolyte Guild and the Catholic Choir.

At Williston Bourque had a fine record in scholarship, was a star member of the baseball team, and was elected to membership on the Student Council, school governing body. A graduate of the South Hadley high school, he was a member of the Middler class at Williston, but speedily accepted the appointment as air cadet when it was offered. Captain Harold E. Swinney of the Academy writes: "I have talked with him several times during the past month and from reports I have received from other sources, the Academy will be happy if you can supply additional young men of Mr. Bourque's character."



VALMORE W. BOURQUE, '55

He writes:—"This summer was really tough. It seems that they opened up our 'dull Knobs' and poured in drill and manual, and best of all, sitting up straight at meals . . . For upperclassmen, we have Air Training Officers, some of whom are pilots and observers. They love to grab us and make us do things just short of hazing. It's not too bad now because we are used to it, and they realize that, so they help us . . ."