

# THE BATTALION

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All material for publication should be signed and turned in by Sunday at noon. None will be accepted after 8 o'clock Monday morning.

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College Station, Tex., Nov. 3, 1914.

The president's stand against strapping as a means of initiation and as a friendly celebration in cases where a cadet has been promoted in mid-year, brings under fire an old custom which thoughtful students have long deplored and vainly sought a substitute for. The strongest argument that can be advanced in favor of this custom is the lack of any satisfactory substitute for the strapping, and some allowance must be made for the fact that this is a boys' school, free from the restraining influence of young women, and for the fact that this is merely one way the fellows have of working off their surplus energy.

But after all these things have been granted, it must be admitted that for a crowd of cadets to swoop down on another cadet and belabor him with heavy belts is a queer way of showing their pleasure that an honor has been bestowed upon him. One of our football players of the past year, a husky, broad-shouldered, affable fellow, whom everybody liked, gave expression to pretty much this same idea one night at about 11 after the "T" men had burst into his room with a wild yell, given him a thoro strapping as notice that he had been awarded a "T," and then moved on to the next man. "Now that this is all over," he said as he limped back to his bed rubbing his bruises, "was it worth it?"

Nor is this custom any respecter of age, disposition or rank. We have seen even a colonel of the regiment suffer from this custom, and that for a very minor offense.

The Battalion realizes that well established customs and habits cannot be abolished until substitutes are found for them. Therefore, we want to suggest a substitute which, while

far from ideal itself, is decidedly better than the custom of strapping. This substitute we offer is the practice of "treating" the crowd on such occasions. Louis Powell, who would have been captain of the football team this year had he returned, escaped his strapping by this plan. There are but few cadets not financially able to bear this expense, and in such cases the boys will be aware of this fact and can act accordingly.

The long wait which the corps was forced to endure after entering the fair gates were very tedious and was the cause of much complaint, more especially since the cadets might have been dismissed and allowed to enjoy that hour or more. We had been led to believe that we would be dismissed at 11, but when we finally were dismissed it lacked but a few minutes of 12. Such things as this tend to reduce the number who are willing to go on the corps trips.

We have been repeatedly asked to call attention to the unsanitary condition that the old natatorium has been allowed to get into. The floor is strewn with loose straw which has fallen from birds' nests above, and is thickly covered with wads of wet paper. The lighting is also very unsatisfactory, but a single dirty light globe being provided for this purpose. The authorities in charge will do well to see that this condition is remedied.

If the snake dance which the corps indulged in between the halves of the Dallas game was the cause of the spurt which the team took in the second half, it would pay us to make snake dances a regular feature of our games.

The conduct of the corps while in Dallas this trip was unusually orderly, so much so that street car conductors observed it and made comment on it, the same orderliness prevailed on the train.

The girls of C. I. A. want it understood that the name they have selected for their new college weekly is not Lasso, but Lass O!

#### C. E. MEETING.

A very interesting meeting of the C. E. Society was held last Thursday night in room 28 C. E. Building. Francisco and Cawthon told of their experiences during the summer and spoke of the many problems that come up in actual practice that are not found in our work here at college. Francisco described the work of making a good roads survey and pointed out many new facts about this work. Cawthon gave an interesting talk on railway revaluation work and told of the many hardships that an engineer must undergo in the beginning of his career.

#### THIS WEEK FIVE YEARS AGO.

Interesting Bits of History From the Battalion File for 1909-10.

Band returns from attending the opening of the new Henderson and Timpon Railroad.

A. & M. wins hard game from Baylor at Waco by a score of 9 to 6.

Bricklayers of Texas, with \$50,000 to invest, are offered site for apprentice school at A. & M.

A list of seven yells is published, all but one of which are in use today. It is noticeable, however, that "fifteen rahs" was not then followed by "Whole—Team," but by "Team! Team! Team!"

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