

The Battalion

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It Won't Be Long Now!

Well, it won't be long now, 'till all the work is over and the summer school of 1939 is at an end.

All in all, it's been a pretty good summer school. Perhaps it's seemed pretty dull at times, and maybe the work has seemed pretty hard. But then, we've all had our fun, our new experiences, and have added a few hours and a little knowledge to our record.

A good many precedents were established this summer. The Summer Battalion, A. & M.'s first summer publication, was inaugurated; a successful Twilight League offered diversion during the summer; the Summer Press Club, first of its kind, carried on many social activities and afforded the entire school recreation at a Summer Pasture Prom each semester; a big swimming meet and tennis tournament were held and attracted much interest; corps organization changes and new regulations of a sweeping nature were announced.

The new buildings are progressing rapidly and seem certain to be completed in time for the fast-approaching regular session. New projects of many kinds have been under way. The College Board of Directors meets here tomorrow to consider a large agenda and is expected to settle a number of important questions.

But in just a few short days—some of which may seem pretty long because of those dreaded final exams—the whole campus will be practically deserted, until the regular session begins again.

Those who are departing form three main groups: those who will return soon for the regular session; those who will return next summer; and those who will never return. We bid goodbye to all, and wish you much good luck. We wish you who will be back for the long term a good vacation so that you may all be back alert and ready for what we hope will be the most successful session A. & M. will yet have had.

We hope that you readers have enjoyed our publication, and are glad to have had the opportunity to serve in this way.

—Bill Murray for The Summer Battalion staff

New Registration System

The Registrar's Office and the college authorities are to be congratulated. The Battalion feels, on the new system of registration of old students this coming term, just announced in this issue of the paper.

No longer should there be the lines of a thousand or more waiting wearily and endlessly in line to get through with the ordeal. No longer should there be the crowded conditions, the confusion, the unnecessary delays that have prevailed in the past.

In the registration of old students alphabetically, we feel that the most orderly and efficient system possible has been adopted. Groups of approximately 500 will meet on the hour, according to the letter group they fall in, (determined by the initial of their last name), in the Assembly Hall, where assignment cards and instructions will be issued to all in the group; and another group will start when the former line of registrants is thinned down. The usual "two per cent" will not be able to forge ahead of the rest by pushing and shoving, or by ingenious tricks—and if they did, it wouldn't do them any good, because the assignment cards they will need to register won't be issued them until the scheduled time. The cards won't even be sent to the Assembly Hall until about five minutes before this time. Smaller crowds will be registering simultaneously, as a result, and traffic will be kept more even, noise and congestion reduced. Moving the heads of the agricultural and engineering departments to other buildings will allow more room in the Administration Building where the main crowd is.

We like the uniformity, the method, the efficiency of this system. We believe it is essentially fair and impartial. It's what we've been needing for some time, with the vast increase in enrollment here of late years. We believe it will be practicable, and hope it will succeed as it is planned to.

Of course, there will be "gripes," as there are about almost any change in established custom—even when the old custom has not been nearly as good as the new one. Seniors will not get precedence in registration as heretofore. However, the delay won't be very great, whereas the ease and convenience of registering will be much greater. The plan is the most practicable as well as the most nearly fair the college authorities could devise. There will still be a few complaints, but not nearly so many as during previous registrations when the crowding and shoving and noise and confusion and

delay were enough to drive a would-be enrollee to distraction. And by rotating the order of the groups from year to year, the same groups will not always be either last or first.

The Battalion urges that the old students study the instructions for registration and follow them as closely as possible, to eliminate as far as possible all misunderstanding and inconvenience to themselves and others.

The Battalion has long had a warm spot in its heart for registration by correspondence. Registrar Howell states that this would be possible here, were not the students to make so many course changes after they once sign up. Because of this, such a scheme would not be practical here, as the expense and trouble would be prohibitive.

This being the case, we believe that the best possible plan has been arranged. And once again, we congratulate those responsible for arranging it.

Open Forum

(Editor's note: The letter below is reprinted just as received by President Walton from Fred R. Davies of Charlestown, Indiana, who traveled on the same boat to Europe at the start of the summer with the three graduates of '39 making the annual Cotton Study Tour with Professor J. S. Mogford of the Agronomy Department.)

Charlestown, Indiana August 4, 1939.

The President,

Texas A. & M. College, College Station, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Have just returned from England. The outward-bound voyage was made very pleasant by the association with three of your boys under the guidance of Prof. Mogford.

Your representatives were fine fellows and bespeak well for your school and the fine program which sends such outstanding individuals as the three young men. And I learned a lot from Mr. Mogford, too.

However I have a sad tale to unfold. He-men from Texas—Oh my; Oh Me! "Tell it not in the halls of T. C. U.; whisper it not among the cohorts of S. M. U." (Apologies to the Good Book). The sissies! Fancy stalwart Texans drinking TEA, afterwards. They had some difficulty getting the right curl to their little fingers as they lifted the cup, but I'm afraid to say they did not.

Persiflage apart, I enjoyed them all. With the best of good wishes,

Sincerely, FRED R. DAVIES

NORTH EAST WEST SOUTH

By Dr. R. P. Ludlum

Senator Burke of Nevada, who is opposed to the New Deal, agrees that there should be a new political alignment. He thinks the new division should be, roughly, the "New Dealers" in one party, and the conservative Democrats and Republicans in the other. I think he is right, but what particularly interests me at the moment is the way in which he describes the two proposed parties. Into the party of the New Dealers, he says, "will be gathered all the groups of sincere people who believe that government can bring prosperity and well being to the people, the people who believe in security, in pensions, the right of every man to a job—whether he works at it or not—people in general who believe that government should take charge of everything. On the other side will be those who believe in individual initiative, in free enterprise, who believe that capitalism as we know it can succeed with only reasonable regulation."

I am particularly interested in this statement in the light of the editorial in The Battalion of last week. This listed various propaganda devices, among them the name-calling device and the card-stacking device. Of course, Senator Burke's comparison of the two new parties is so worded as to incline the reader toward the conservative party (or so the Senator hopes). Consider now, the opposite effect to be achieved through wording the comparison in another way, like this:

"Into the one party will be gathered those who think that in a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, the people's government must act affirmatively and courageously for the benefit of all the people; those who think that, especially in an era of technological unemployment which throws industrious men out of work through no fault of their own, the government must see to it that every able-bodied man who wants to work shall have an opportunity to work, in government employ if private enterprise does not offer jobs; and those who think that a fair system of old-age pensions and unemployment insurance, to which the employee contributes, is the most just way of avoiding two fearful hazards of the poorly paid workingman. In the other party will be those self-seekers who care only for their own profits, no matter how much misery and destitution among others is entailed in making them; those who cheer at every scientific and industrial advance, but bridle at every progressive social change; and every blind reactionary who is living in an imaginary world of the past."

Is the second statement any more weighted on the one side than the first statement is on the other? The little moral to be drawn from this is to beware of the cannily drawn contrast which gives one alternative an unfair advantage over the other. Or, as Stuart Chase succinctly puts it in connection with a terser form of propaganda, "When you see a slogan, duck!"

Prof. J. P. Fentzling of Southern California Junior College is going to be healthy for some time to come, if the old proverb has any truth in it. Favor-seeking students just before a recent exam, deposited on his desk no less than 31 apples, four bananas, four oranges, and a cactus apple.



"I think these electric breakfasts are swell, dear, but I don't see you anymore."



Three more shows left in this semester of summer school, and no more until regular session begins anew. "Zaza," "Back Door to Heaven," and "Boy Friend" are all that is left of the summer's entertainment. Picking the best was simple; "Zaza" wins hands down. The other two are just fair.

"Zaza" is Saturday's show. Claudette Colbert and Herbert Marshall have the leading roles. The story: two entertainers at the Alcazar music hall match their talents to see who can first attract the attention of an elegant gentleman of the upper class, Dufresne. Zaza wins, and soon he falls madly in love with her. Forgetting his business and his family, Dufresne stays at St. Mary's instead of returning to Paris. All of which would have been lovely, but Zaza's stage partner tells her that Dufresne is a married man and has a six-year-old daughter. Zaza immediately goes to Paris to find out for herself. She does, and he is. The climax is the decision Zaza has to make—whether she should marry the man she loves and who she knows loves her, or whether she should send him, back to his wife and daughter.

"Back Door to Heaven" is a small-time melodrama, hardly worth the time to review. The story deals with the life of a kid Ellis, and Stuart Erwin. Thursday—"Boy Friend," with Jane Withers and Arleen Whelan. taking the "back door to heaven." His teacher in high school was the only one who understood the fact that he was not really a criminal but a victim of circumstances. He was sentenced to die in the electric chair, but he planned a miraculous escape from death to attend a reunion of his class and a visit with his old teacher. Jane Withers comes forth in another picture. This time it is "Boy Friend." She gets mixed up with the police, because her brother is a rookie cop. Assigned to the task of breaking up a local gang of lawbreakers, her brother joins the gang without telling Jane of his intentions. Jane, heartbroken at the thought of her brother becoming a crook, decides to do something about it, and with the aid of the little brother of another rookie cop, Jane sets out to clear up matters in her own way. This show is just more of the usual Withers' trips, but lots of people like it.

What's Showing

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL Saturday—"Zaza," with Claudette Colbert, Herbert Marshall, Bert Lahr, and Helen Westley. Tuesday—"Back Door to Heaven," with Wallace Ford, Patricia Ellis, and Stuart Erwin. Thursday—"Boy Friend," with Jane Withers and Arleen Whelan.

AROUND THE CAMPUS

With V. A. Yentzen The wedding bells will ring for Wallace Taber, graduate student, on September 12th at which time he will marry Miss Helen Mae Linger. The ceremony will take place in Denver, Colorado, at the home of the bride-elect.

Dr. Walter P. Taylor left Monday for a vacation trip which will include a visit to the Golden Gate Exposition. On September 4th he will attend the convention of the National Federation of Federal Employees which will be held in San Francisco, California. On the trip home he will stop at Tucson, Arizona, to confer with Charles Voorhees.

Dr. R. C. Dunn, of the Veterinary Department, returned last Thursday from Cleveland, Ohio, where he has been attending the World's Poultry Congress.

The museum has received two new table cases and one tall wall case. These new cases will be used for special displays during the coming semester.

Roger Jackson, employee of the College Station Post Office, has returned from a vacation which he spent in the Rio Grande valley and Mexico. Jackson is a graduate of the class of '38.

Dr. F. M. Baumgartner of Oklahoma A. & M. was here this past week to study the organization of the Wildlife Department and its activities.

Gabriel Castell and E. L. Bule are the two candidates for master's degrees in Economics who will take the final oral examinations next week. Castell, who is a graduate assistant in the Economics Department, will leave for Minnesota following his examination where he will do his doctorate work at the University of Minnesota.

Valjean W. Lehmann, field biologist for the Texas Game, Fish and Oyster Commission, arrived on the campus this past week to confer with Dr. W. P. Taylor of the Wildlife department.

Ernest Langford, head of the Architecture Department, left last Saturday for Georgetown where his mother had died suddenly. Mrs. Langford will be buried in Georgetown.

Arthur H. Cook and Herman Henry, field representatives of the Texas Game, Fish, and Oyster Commission, were here last Saturday to confer with the Wildlife Department concerning a colony of beavers which they had liberated in Robertson County, last Friday. Another visitor to the Wildlife Department during the past week was A. S. Jackson of Throckmorton, Texas, who is doing research work on the white-neck raven.

Henry Ross of the Agricultural Education Department left Monday for a two weeks' vacation. Following a few days in Amarillo, he will leave for Colorado where he will spend the remainder of his vacation. He will return to the campus the first of September.

A card was received from the students on the architecture tour to the effect that they had left Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, for Cincinnati, Ohio. While in Pennsylvania they were special visitors on the ship Queen Mary. The students on the tour will return to the campus next Saturday.

W. R. Sherrill of the Agricultural Education Department and L. V. Hallbrooks, Agricultural Education teacher at Bryan, attended a

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

Backwashin' around—for the last time this summer... Many people 'swear off,' but Henry Hertzner's claim that "I've given up cigarettes for lollipops" is a new twist to an old chant... F. D. R.'s proclamation which moves Thanksgiving Day a week ahead of the traditional date is going to cause a lot of Aggies to arrive a week late for grandma's country turkey.

Tom Harris wonders "What do girls talk about in their bull-sessions?"... Another sign of progress is the installation of dial phones throughout the campus. They will probably start being used as such on September 15... From an economics class comes one student's definition of an heir: "An heir is when anybody dies you get what 'a left."... Randolph Peterson claims "My car has more rattles than a nursery!"

But final exams bring another thought to mind because, with them, they bring the realization that 'auf wiedersehen' will soon be in order as far as the 1939 summer session is concerned.

And the current session hasn't been without its unprecedented events... The Summer Battalion came into existence... Two highly successful Pasture Proms were held for the student body... summer sports hit a new high, and summer school activities took on a new meaning with the organization of several campus clubs which gave the usually listless summer school a long session atmosphere.

So 'auf wiedersehen' it is, but most of us will soon be back in the collegiate saddle as the nation's colleges and universities begin their long term next September.

Summer Reading

By T. F. Mayo, Librarian

"The Yearling," by Rawlings. An honest, warm-hearted story of Florida crackers by the author of "South Moon Under," which, by the way, is also good.

"My America," by Adamic. A Czech-Slovak immigrant's frank but affectionate picture of this country as seen through the eyes of a hopeful and intelligent newcomer.

"Thirty-five Thousand Days in Texas," by Acheson. An entertaining history of the Dallas News and its forebears.

"Labor's New Millions," by Vorse. Just what everybody wants to know about the C.I.O., the A.F. of L., and the meaning behind all the headlines about "sit-downs," "yellow dogs," and so on.

by the way, with just enough decency about her to wish occasional "Troilus and Cressida," by William Shakespeare (of all people!) A sorry female, very good-looking, feebly and ineffectually, that she were not such a congenital two-timer. Also contains the finest defense in the world of the aristocratic principle of society—which I don't believe in, but which the Aggies cherish. Shakespeare calls it the principle of "degree." Ulysses speaks the lines.

"The Tyranny of Words," by Stuart Chase. Mr. Chase, who always clarifies and illuminates, shows in this little book how words, which by rights ought to create understanding, are actually more frequently used to obscure the truth.

"The Rise of American Oil," by Fanning. All you need to know about the story of our most sensational industry.

"Red Star Over China," by Snow. An eminent reporter shows what is going on under the surface of the Chinese war. China is apparently developing, in the back country, a new variant of Communism.

"Power: A New Social Analysis," by Bertrand Russell. Three kinds of power make history: naked power, economic power, propaganda power. The holder of any one of these, in an overwhelming degree, will very likely acquire the other two.

"Strange Interlude," by Eugene O'Neill. O'Neill's masterpiece, and as such, the masterpiece of American drama—so one man thinks, anyhow. A woman's love for a man consists of four elements: passion, daughterly love, wifely or partnership feeling, and motherliness. Nina, O'Neill's heroine, loses her true love before marriage. The four elements of her love for him therefore split off from each other, each attaching itself to a different man, with dramatic consequences.

Imagine, if you can, a combination of Baby Snooks, an alley cat, and three alligators harmonizing at the North Pole at 6:35 a. m., and you have a fair parallel of the combined clever efforts of "Spud" Erick, Dan Sharp, and "Dub" Clay.

According to Jim Dinamore (who had to listen to the stuff from Dallas to College Station), the male trio have developed a manner of singing peculiar to themselves—very peculiar indeed, "Din-sy" claims.

The beginning of the end—it's here at last! Even the combined terrors of the plague, the zero hour, the day of reckoning, and kiss-proof lipstick become insignificant in the light of our impending crisis. Backwash is not given to making itself an obituary column, nor yet one of evil and tragic forebodings but, alas and alas, only a few more days hence the heartily undesired and (from a student viewpoint) thoroughly unnecessary final examinations will be ours for the taking—or vice-versa.

Soil Conservation meeting at Madisonville, Texas, last Tuesday.

The students of the Wildlife Expedition will return to the campus next Friday. The geologists will also return from their trip to Colorado.

M. F. Herman of the Agricultural Engineering Department has left for Arkansas for a two weeks' vacation.

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