

# What Do You Think About It? Registers as Number 6,000

Saturday The Battalion published an editorial "At the Crossroads" from The Texas Aggie, newspaper of the Former Students Association which is the voice of 25,000 ex-Aggies. The editorial, written by E. E. McQuillen, secretary of the Association, ex-Aggie of the class of 1920 and lieutenant-colonel of the corps during his senior year, condemns without "pulling any punches" the ruling of the Board of Directors which provided that all the dormitories, old and new, had to be filled before any student could live off the campus, thereby preventing many boys from registering. Though they may now, for most of them it's too late.

The editorial, one dealing with a tremendously important and much debated subject, has been greeted with great approval and high praise from the majority of its readers. It states that the authorities of the college were not consulted for their opinions or advice; that a student housing committee which made a long study, full report and several recommendations on housing last spring, was entirely disregarded; and that it is no secret that the officials were shocked by the passage of the rule.

Chief criticisms made in "At the Crossroads" seem to be that the ruling (1) hurts from 700 to 1,100 boys by preventing them from coming to school at A. & M., and many of them anywhere at all; and (2) hurts the school by creating the possibility of future enrollment decreases, by helping all the small colleges and junior colleges to swell enrollments and gain greater prestige while A. & M. stands still, and by causing a loss of respect for A. & M. all over the state. And Mr. McQuillen presents plenty of substantiating evidence.

It's regrettable that we have not space to comment on all of the facts brought out in Mr. McQuillen's editorial. Suffice it to say that he has consulted with all officials of the college and authorities on the student housing problem; he has learned all the facts of the matter; and he gives a well-considered opinion, the same that has been expressed by many students, many officials, and many teachers of the college. And on this same question The Battalion wishes to dwell a moment—though we do not propose to act as arbiter for the Board of Directors.

The Battalion is glad of our peak enrollment of more than 6,000. We are glad that the dormitories were filled. We believe unquestionably in the value of the dormitory system and dormitory life. But we believe that boys who would sacrifice comfort, convenience, luxuries, recreational opportunities, all for the sake of acquiring a college education, should not be deprived of their opportunity by a ruling which

allows only wealthier boys to attend the school. We are glad boys are not having to live in Navasota and other far-away project houses. But we believe by far the majority of the day-students of the last two or three years have lived as such only because they could not afford to live in the halls—not because they didn't want to. Boys who sacrifice to obtain a college education, degree and diploma, are generally highly worthy of receiving them. A college education usually means the most to boys who have to work hardest for it. And to deprive those boys of their chance of getting one, at this school traditionally known as a democratic, "poor man's" school, is, we think, most unfortunate. It tends to make of A. & M. a "rich man's" school, causing several hundred boys to have to stop entirely their college careers. It has caused much loss of respect for the school over the state, as is pointed out in "At the Crossroads".

Our enrollment cannot forever keep on climbing. The increase in the number of new students is growing smaller each year. The figures show that the great increase here this semester was not in the number of new students, but in the number of old students returning. During the term many students who just barely could rake up the money to come here and who were forced by the last-minute ruling of the board to live in the halls will in all probability have to move out again because of depleted finances. Under the present ruling these students cannot even become day-students.

The new ruling, it seems to us, could have been a compromise measure, eliminating the most undesirable aspects of off-the-campus residence, while at the same time allowing poor boys who could not possibly afford dormitory residence to live in approved quarters as near the campus as possible. As "At the Crossroads" state, we believe the dormitories might have been filled without compulsion.

Of course, our views may not be acceptable to all our readers. We do not presume to be infallibly correct. If we hold views different from yours, we hold no grudge against yours, because every man has a right to his considered opinion; and by that same token, we hope you'll take no offense with ours.

This is a highly debatable question, admittedly very difficult of solution. Maybe the advantages of living in the halls are great enough to outweigh the acquiring of a college education by whatever means may be necessary. But if the facts presented in "At the Crossroads" are generally correct, as we believe they are, then A. & M. is indeed at the crossroads.

Whether you agree or not, we invite your response.

If you have news of interest to report, please report it to us. After all, we can't write the news unless someone tells it to us first.

If you would like to join the staff, please come down to the office and talk to us about it. We welcome new members, and there's no trick at all to joining. But we don't know you want to be a member, unless you come down and tell us about it, and then sign up as one.

If you have notices to get in any issue of the paper, please get them to us before 5 p. m. of the afternoon before the day the paper is distributed. It's impossible for us to see that they get in after that. All advertising should come in before 8 a. m. that day; and all stories must be sent in before 6 p. m. We're sorry that we can't get them into the paper when they come in for use any later than these times; but every newspaper has deadlines that must be observed if the paper is to come out.

Please send in your notices and stories as early as possible, instead of waiting till the last minute. We can't do all the work from 5 to 6.

If you would send in all notices and all stories typewritten, on one side of the paper, double-spaced and as neatly as possible, we'll appreciate still further this note of cooperation. And it'll make things easier for both of us.

Again we assure you, our readers, of as full cooperation as we can give. But we'd greatly appreciate this little bit on your part in return. Don't expect anything superhuman of us—everyone makes mistakes. But we'll do our best at all times; and the cooperation we describe above for your part will help us to do even better.

## As the World Turns

By DR. RALPH W. STEEN

A new Polish government was organized in Paris Saturday. Wladyslaw Raczekiewicz was named president of this government without a country. It is reported that the presidency was offered to Ignace Paderewski, but the famous pianist declined the office because of advanced age and ill health.

The experience of being without a country is not a new one for the Poles, for on several occasions in the past their country has been partitioned by neighboring states. It is possible that a small Poland will be established as a buffer state between Germany and Russia. An Allied victory in the current war would probably result in the re-establishment of a Poland of respectable size.

The cash-and-carry sale of arms to warring nations has been approved by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. The subject was presented to the Senate for debate on Monday, and there it will face a bitter fight. Political observers in Washington are predicting that the bill will pass after three or four weeks of debate.

A. & M. men will be interested in one announcement appearing in the oil news of last week. A new well—the first in some time—was brought in in the Reagan County field. This field is located on land belonging to the endowment fund of the University of Texas, and A. & M. shares in the income from the field. In all probability oil royalties will ultimately solve the classroom problem here. They have already done much to relieve the situation, as most of the new buildings on the campus were financed from the oil fund. This statement does not apply, of course, to the new dormitories.



Clark Harvey, 6,000th student to register at Texas A. & M. is shown above. Harvey is a senior student studying agronomy and transferred here from West Texas State Teachers College at Canyon.

## Movie Review

By Bob Nibbet

Lately the shows reviewed have been good shows as a rule. So as not to get too much in the habit of saying only good things about them, we need a show to knock. Here it is—"The Kid From Kokomo"—with more plain "bull" stuffed into 92 minutes than believably possible.

Now to get at why this conclusion was reached. There are a number of reasons. About the biggest is the story. It might have been "cute" as I heard one girl say, but frankly there have been dozens put out almost exactly like it. After a time such things get boring. Secondly Pat O'Brien can't act, even as a fight promoter, and neither can Wayne Morris. Really the best performance of the whole show was put on by May Robson as Maggie Martin. Incidentally May is 75 years old and still one of Hollywood's best.

The story, such as it is, concerns a two-fisted kid with a one-track mind, who turns down all offers of a contract to fight professionally because he thinks his mother might return to the little town of Kokomo where he was found on a doorstep. Billy Murphy, an eccentric fight promoter, a gyp off the old block—persuades him to sign by producing a mother in the form of Maggie Martin. Inspired by his

"mother" the kid fights his way to the championship bout. Then comes the old line about having to throw the fight to a real bad man to keep him from throwing dear old mother in jail. From there everything runs as per schedule including the thrilling comeback after throwing the fight half way.

One thing good about the show was the dialog. Seems as though Hollywood gag-men know their stuff, because most shows do have some good cracks in them.

Requests were received to review "Dancing Co-ed", but plans and other things didn't pan out. Sorry. However, it might be added that Artie Shaw and Lana Turner, who star in the picture, make an attractive combination.

### WHAT'S SHOWING

#### AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL

Tuesday and Wednesday—"Man About Town", with Jack Benny, Dorothy Lamour, Phil Harris, and Eddie Anderson.

#### AT THE PALACE

Tuesday and Wednesday—"Dancing Co-ed", with Lana Turner, and Artie Shaw with his orchestra.



FRED WARING and his famous Glee Club rehearsing his original Football Song for introduction on "Chesterfield Pleasure Time" over the Coast-to-Coast N. B. C. Network.

## Fred Waring and Pennsylvanians Introduce New Football Song

Fred Waring and his popular Pennsylvanians introduced a new and original football song on the Chesterfield program last Saturday. Waring spent many hours after his programs working out its stirring tune and exciting lyrics which were presented by the orchestra, Glee Club, and other members of the program. The song was written especially to welcome the coming season.

The Waring show, presented five times each week over N. B. C., seems to be quite an attraction with its special theater in the center of New York's show section. The building was rebuilt especially for the show and has been packed since the beginning of this series of broadcasts. Main attendance has been from out-of-town customers.

The Baylor Twin Club, Baylor University's most publicized organization last year, has reorganized with an increase in membership and started making plans for a "bigger and better" doubles convention in the spring.

Ten sets and two odd members of sets were present at the organization meeting.

SAMPLES OF WOOLEN goods which were presented to the Queen of England previous to her visit to the United States are now on display in the A. I. Building. These goods were made from Texas fine wool, with the greater part of it coming from Sonora. Twelve yards of each kind of material represented by the five samples was sent to her majesty by the National Wool Growers Association and the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association, according to G. W. Cunningham, secretary of the latter organization.

L. H. Pulfer of Montrose, Calif., stopped a runaway horse with his car, but when he tried to ride the animal to a nearby stable it threw him and broke his thumb.

Without clearly understanding the meaning of the overworked word "allergic," we are becoming that way to it.

Henry Ford recently passed his seventy-sixth birthday, which indicates he's one of the best Fords ever built.

## BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

"Backwash: An agitation resulting from some action or occurrence."—Webster.

Two down and eight to go . . . Aggies—46, opponents—0 . . . To Margaret Lockwood, Centenary's girl yell-leader, the Aggie campus

was a continual source of amazement. From the great Aggie cheering section to the corps dance Saturday night, the Shreveport Louisiana girl spent a wonderful day at A. & M., by her own admission.

Highlights on the west side of Kyle Stadium last Saturday were the antics of "Bubba" Reeves, Hugh Boyd, and "Mac" Browder. The three were watching the game from the top of a comfortable pile of sweaters and each time an Aggie left the game they got up and greeted the player, thus fulfilling an A. & M. tradition.

The race back to the pile of sweaters was as engrossing to some of the spectators as the game itself and, as one woman pointed out, "It's better than a three-ring circus."

Good news of 1939—at least to Aggie juniors. From T. S. C. W. comes the news that the A. & M. junior class will be guests of T. S. C. W.'s juniors for a pre-corps dance the night of October 20.

Our sister school's committee includes Dorothy LaRoe, dance chairman; Barbara Hucker, Dorothy Proctor, and Edith Thomas heading the date bureau.

The Aggie yell section functioned in a big way last Saturday. Centenary's players were no little perturbed at the fact that the cheering was always at its height when the Gents were calling signals but there was scarcely a murmur when the Aggies were in huddle. The Gent's coach finally asked head yell-leader Bodie Pierce to quiet the boys down a little.

Albert Innocenti is one Aggie who lives in his sweetheart's reflected glory.

The girl is Wanda Natalie from Galveston and she's the National Women's Junior Pool Champion.

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The Seminole Indians of Florida, who still are at war with the United States after 100 years, must be almost as discouraged as the Japanese in the present China "incident."



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