

The Battalion

STUDENT TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF
TEXAS A. & M. COLLEGE

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the city of College Station, is published three times weekly from September to June, issued Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings; and is published weekly from June through August.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Subscription rate, \$3 a school year. Advertising rates upon request.

Represented nationally by National Advertising Service, Inc., at New York City, Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

Office, Room 122, Administration Building. Telephone 4-5444.

1939 Member 1940
Associated Collegiate Press

STAFF

BILL MURRAY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
LARRY WEHRLE ADVERTISING MANAGER
James Crits Associate Editor
E. C. (Jeep) Oates Sports Editor
H. G. Howard Circulation Manager
"Hub" Johnson Intramural Editor
Philip Goldman Staff Photographer
John J. Moseley Staff Artist

TUESDAY STAFF

Charlie Wilkinson Managing Editor
Sam Davenport Asst. Advertising Manager
C. A. Montgomery Editorial Assistant
George Fuermann Junior Editors
Earle Shields
Jimmy James
Jimmie Colkins Reporterial Staff
D. E. Andrews, Alfred Fischer, E. S. Hutchins, W. D. C. Jones, J. C. Rominger, Sidney Smith, E. A. Sterling, W. P. Walker, R. J. Warren, L. B. Williams, G. W. Williams, Bill Fitch, Jerry Rolnick, J. L. Morgan, Joe Leach

Thanksgiving Mix-Up

Although not a matter of great importance, the decision of President Roosevelt to proclaim November 23 as Thanksgiving Day, instead of the traditional last Thursday in the month, has created considerable confusion, especially with respect to football schedules and calendar printers.

The reason given for the change is to allow a longer interval to elapse between Thanksgiving and Christmas, in the President's action without giving sufficient notice that has caused the confusion.

Such confusion could be avoided in future by designating the date of Thanksgiving by statute, instead of leaving it to the discretion of the President. President Washington proclaimed the first Thanksgiving since the adoption of the Constitution, and designated November 26, 1789, which was the fourth and also the last Thursday in November of that year. Lincoln designated November 24, 1864, which was also the fourth and last Thursday. His successor, President Johnson, designated November 30, 1865, which was the fifth and last Thursday, and the last Thursday has been designated as the national Thanksgiving day ever since, until this year.

President Roosevelt himself designated the fifth Thursday, November 30, in 1933, his first year in office. Governors of the several states are not bound by the proclamation of the President, but in recent years have conformed to it. In some states the last Thursday is designated by statute.

A recent check-up is said to show that this year 23 governors will stick to the last Thursday, November 30; 22 will follow the President in designating November 23; while in three states—Colorado, Texas and Mississippi—both dates will be observed.

This Telephone Situation

Why the seemingly interminable delay in the installation of telephones on the campus. Why such poor service as College Station gets?

We can't understand it. Nor can some 4,000 other Aggies living in the dormitories on the campus, who at the beginning of the present session applied for telephones in their halls.

We have accepted for some time the phone company's excuses that it was impossible to install the phones any sooner because of the time it took to get new parts—and that the remaining applications would be filled "in the near future". So far only a very few dormitory applications have been filled; and many more remain unanswered.

We don't see why any self-respecting phone company should give such slow service. Nor do we understand why the quality of service rendered by operators should be so poor. As remarked at the Student Welfare Committee meeting the other night, where the telephone situation was one of the chief topics of discussion, the slowness of the service here is deplorable and is due either to inefficiency of the operators or to the fact that the telephone company expects them to do more than a limited number of employees are able to handle.

It is one of the most frequent and open complaints—not only among the thousands of Aggies, but also among several thousand citizens and telephone-users of the city of College Station—that the telephone company serving us, with district headquarters in Bryan, gives us such lamentably poor service. The Battalion has refrained for two months from criticizing the slowness of installing phones in the halls during the time it seemed an excuse should hold good—but we think more than enough time has elapsed now, and in this criticism we are only expressing what every Aggie and every resident of College Station feels about the local telephone situation.

We ask in the strongest terms possible that the dormitory telephones be speedily put in; and at the same time, we think a more satisfactory arrangement should be had than last year for handling long-distance calls made by students.

Since the idea of having phones in the halls was first brought up last year in The Battalion, this publication has been highly interested in the question, and in fact was a leader in the move to secure them. The Battalion thereby did the phone company a service; and they have done their part to cooperate by ordering their phones as early as possible.

And now, why no cooperation from the phone company? Must we wait half the term to get the phones we applied for long ago?

Failures, Exemptions

Forty-six percent of the students of A. & M. were failing one subject or more, and twenty-two two or more, according to the November 1 reports.

Though this percentage of failure is significantly lower than last year's, as Registrar Howell has stated, still it is much higher than it should be.

Time to start studying!

Remember that if your grades are sufficiently high, you stand a good chance of earning exemptions in your final examinations. The final exemption plan was adopted last spring, and according to most reports has functioned very satisfactorily. By it, the twenty-five percent of the students making the highest grades in each class (a class in this case meaning all of a teacher's sections in a particular course), provided their grade is A or B, do not have to take the final in the course unless they so elect.

This plan allows a good number of students to earn exemption—through working for them, of course. And while there are not nearly enough exemptions to go around to all those who'd like to have them, still you can earn one or more if you work for them.

Observance of Silver Taps Improving

Sunday night "Silver Taps" was played again—the third time this semester for an Aggie who has died.

The first two times, circumstances made it impossible to hold this ceremony with the full beauty and impressiveness it has always held for all who have heard it. For such a tradition to have fallen into disregard would indeed have been unfortunate.

But the third time that Silver Taps was played, it was amplified over all the campus and College Station, so that all might hear it. And for the first time this year, it was heard by all the students on the campus.

And too, the corps observed it better. Apparently more students left their rooms to stand outside the halls as Silver Taps was played. Fewer lights were left on, fewer radios kept playing, than before.

Aggies, that's the way we want the observance of Silver Taps to be—silent, lightless, impressive. But we have one suggestion to make, that we believe will restore the last remnant of its old dignity—that is, that all organization commanders on the campus have every member of their respective organizations fall out in formation outside the halls and stand at perfect attention as Silver Taps is played.

Can't this be done hereafter?

As the World Turns...

The building in which all of President Roosevelt's papers will be placed was dedicated Sunday.

The building, erected with funds raised by popular subscription, and located on land given by the President, is of no particular interest in itself. The occasion is of interest chiefly in that it gave rise to new speculations on the third-term issue. The papers are to be made available to the public on July 1, 1942. Since all other presidents have waited some time after retiring from office before making their papers available it is easy to assume that Mr. Roosevelt is not interested in a third term.



On the other hand, men close to him continue to imply that he does wish a third term, and the President has never taken the trouble to deny the statements.

In view of the interest in third terms it might be of value to state that the theory that no president should serve more than two terms is based solely on tradition, as nothing in the Constitution or any law places any limit on the number of terms. President Washington declined a third term for reasons of his own, and his immediate successors followed his example.

General Grant was the first president to make a definite effort to break the tradition, and fortunately for the country he did not succeed. There was little to praise and much to condemn in the Grant administration, and his desire for a third term doubtless strengthened the idea that two terms should be the limit. Theodore Roosevelt, a far more popular man than Grant, next sought to break the tradition. He, too, was unsuccessful. In the minds of many people the famous "I do not choose to run" statement of Calvin Coolidge plan, it went astray as the 1928 convention nominated that "great engineer"—Herbert Hoover.

Mr. Roosevelt's plans are yet to be revealed if he seeks a third term he will be inviting defeat if history can be taken as a guide to the future.

Many Texas political leaders seem convinced that Governor O'Daniel is less popular than he was in the summer of 1938. This is evidenced by the fact that a number of well-known men are planning to seek the governorship next year. As a general rule a man has little opposition when he seeks a second term in the governor's office. Since 1876 only two governors have been denied an immediate second term. One of these was Mrs. Ferguson, who received a belated second term in 1932, and the other was Ross Sterling who was defeated by Mrs. Ferguson in 1932, and who has since sought no public office.

A new interpretation of the neutrality law and earlier acts relating to it states that war planes sold to foreign countries cannot be flown from the United States. It seems that the purchasing nation must take title to the plane before it leaves the United States, while no plane belonging to a foreign power may be flown over American territory without special permission from the State Department. As a result, assembled planes will be flown to an airport on the Canadian boundary, delivered to Canadians, and then pushed across the line. This ruling means that the Allies can receive assembled planes by way of Canada, while Germany will find it impossible to obtain planes by any such strategem.

Movie Review

by Bob Nisbet

Before we begin on the shows for the day, there's a crack I heard that is worth mentioning. Friday night after the show "Union Pacific" was over someone near me remarked that the railroads were a great thing indeed. "Why if it weren't for the railroads, where would Texas University have found a school song?"

Tonight the Bryan Amusement Company opens the new Queen Theater with one of the best pictures that has been here in months. It is Ginger Rogers' new show, "FIFTH AVENUE GIRL," and again she shows the public that she can act as well as she can display her pretty legs in a dancing picture.

As the story goes, Ginger, out of work and hungry, finds Walter Connolly on a bench in the park, hiding from his social-climbing family who have let a few million dollars go to their head. Ginger's happy outlook on life impresses the millionaire so that he takes her home with him as an example for his family. Of course he has a good-looking son, and the rest follows the formula.

At the Assembly Hall for Tuesday and Wednesday—"THESE GLAMOUR GIRLS." Lana Turner, who made such a hit in "Dancing Coed" returns in one still better. One Aggie threatened violence if this show didn't rate three

WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL

Tuesday and Wednesday—"THESE GLAMOUR GIRLS," with Lew Ayres and Lana Turner.

AT THE PALACE

Tuesday—"ETERNALLY YOURS," with Loretta Young and David Niven.

AT THE QUEEN

Tuesday night at opening—"FIFTH AVENUE GIRL," with Ginger Rogers and Walter Connolly.



Roads in the Laboratory

Catching up with the highways was only a matter of time for researchers. In a new laboratory on the outskirts of Washington they are testing the durability of every known material that can go into the making of a road.

Specially designed apparatus, from tiny chemical vials to ponderous crushing machines, are revealing how to produce the most durable bitumen mixes. Subsoils from every state in which highways are being built or replaced are analyzed to determine their suitability for highway foundations.

One of the most ingenious devices in the laboratory identifies the angle of incline at which a soil may slip and cause landslides. Soil science already has been developed to the point where it is possible to determine the exact rate at which soil will settle over a period of years. The current question is: What is the "life expectancy" of rocks used for road repair?

Devices have been developed to record traffic, differentiating between vehicles and pedestrians. Some not only classify traffic, as passenger cars, busses or trucks, but subdivide the trucks into light, medium, heavy, truck, and full trailer, or truck and semi-trailer.

This adds up to good news for motorist taxpayers, who pay for roads chiefly through billion-dollar-a-year gasoline taxes, and whose money will go farther as roads are built better and cheaper.

Old Stuff to Malays

Centuries ago, a tribesman on one of the Malay Islands discovered the principle of the Diesel

New Clues to Oil

Increasing interest in the value of surface clues in locating underground oil pools is revealed in a patent granted recently for the use of infra-red or heat rays to locate petroleum.

Gases extracted from the soil

"MADE BY MENDEL & HORNAK"

... insures you of expert workmanship and dependable quality

DROP BY AND SEE OUR COMPLETE LINE OF

UNIFORMS

UNIFORM TAILOR SHOP

MENDL & HORNAK

North Gate

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

Ruminations. . . . One of the math profs, in reply to a student's query in respect to why he received D plus instead of C, came back with "Your only interpretation of a plus is that you were gypped out of the next higher grade." . . . A sign which should go a long way toward eliminating cocktail shakers is one noticed in a Houston "dine-beer-and-dance" shop this past week-end. In bold red letters the first line read "Dancing" and rather demurely placed below was "Cocktail Bar." . . . On his first play in Saturday's Rice-Aggie fracas, Harold Cowley made a nice catch of Price's pass and went over the goal line to score our second touchdown. . . . And speaking of Price, two of them played opposite each other last Saturday. Rice's Joe Price is a cousin of the Aggies' arial artist, Walemon Price.



Fuermann

Going vari-colored diets one better: Johnny Beville and "Pete" Schott recently tried to outdo each other in the matter of sandwiches. They finally ended up with a piece of steak, half an onion, ketchup, and apple sauce between two slices of bread. Then they ate the thing. They weren't paying off a bet either; they do that sort of thing every night on the janitor table and eat the sandwiches with apparent relish.

One of the few interesting people which your columnist has heard about lately comes from Pepper-Swallower Opens Collegiate Gulping Season

We knew it would happen—but we'd hoped it wouldn't. The gulping season has been officially and dramatically opened for another college year—and watch out for your laurels, you "winners" of last year!

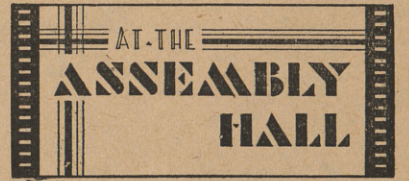
First entry in the 1939-40 derby is Franklin and Marshall College's Jimmy Addy, a frosh from Pittsburgh. For a mere 50-cent piece (they were getting ten-dollar bills for stunts last year), he calmly swallowed a shaker-full of pepper—and then not quite so calmly sneezed a mighty sneeze.

are decarbonated and burned. Infra-red rays are passed through the combustion products which remain—carbon dioxide and water. The amount of energy absorbed by the carbon dioxide from the rays is measured electrically and from this measurement, scientists can determine whether ethane, propane, or other hydrocarbon gases are present in the soil and in what amount. These gases, it is believed, are evidence of oil sands at lower depths.

Plastic From Lignin Significant development in the use of lignin, the non-fibrous part of trees, as a basic chemical raw material is seen in the recent manufacture of lignin sulphonic acid from pulp mill liquors at a cost of only a few dollars a ton.

The acid is cooked with wood chips and treated to make a plastic pulp which is run over a paper machine to produce a molding sheet. The sheets may be pressed to produce an extremely strong light board.

Experiments are being made with the new plastic as a material for refrigerator doors, parts of motor car bodies, and other products where weight is important.



MEET THE GIRLS WHO HAVE EVERYTHING!

Secrets of platinum-plated society playgirls! The stars of "Calling Dr. Kildare" in a daring story of youth on a spree!



LEW AYRES * LANA TURNER
TOM BROWN * RICHARD CARLSON
JANE BRIAN * ANITA LOUISE
MARSHA HUNT * ANN RUTHERFORD
MARY BETH HUGHES * OWEN DAVIS Jr.
Directed by S. Sylvan Simon
Produced by Sam Zimbalist

November 21-22

LOUIS' MARKET



Dressed

On Order

Louis Mouro

324 N. Main

Bryan 107