The Battalion

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

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Asst. Advertising Manager
Editorial Assistant Charlie Wilkinson Senior Sports Assistants Jimmie Cokinos Junior Advertising Solicitors Reportorial Staff

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Christmas, 1939

Big guns are drowning out carols in war-torn Europe today, and December 25 "over there" will find homes broken by strife.

Today in a land of holly and mistletoe, toys and warm clothes, we have only to feel a generous impulse and spend a few dollars to bring the Christmas spirit by giving to the needy; but Europe's money, like freedom, is so "red-taped" that any burst of generosity falls on barren soil.

Europeans today are thankful to be alive-Americans are thankful not to be Europeans.

However, in this much-gifted country of ours we too often forget others. Too often we think only of receiving, not of giving. In Europe Santa Claus will soon be bringing happiness to thousands of children—but hundreds may be passed up.

Let's enjoy a merry American Christmas. Make it a birthday for all the unfortunate on the most famous birthday of the year!

Better Play Safe

As "going home" time draws near, it is well to give the annual warning to 'Be careful,' while on the road home.

Crowded automobiles, steamed windows, and wet roads are hazards to driving while on the

Parents naturally want their children to come home for the holidays. They want to see them happy after the close of the term, free from anxiety and suspense of the past hectic weeks. But they want their sons and daughters to come home healthy and happy.

So, be careful while going home. Your parents would rather have you stay in College Station for the holidays than have you injured or worse on the way home.

Homegoing Time

Wednesday is not Homecoming time to the Alma Mater but rather homegoing time to the Mater. Or is it?

to give dad a brisk handshake. Even the little members of the family would enjoy some recognition when you arrive in all your Yuletide splendor. It might not be bad at all to spend at least a couple of evenings at home, just talking to the family. They are greatly interested in you, interested enough to spend plenty of money to keep you in school and bring you home at vacation time-so you may breeze around in the family car, sport your newest "college slang," and talk about the football team A. & M. has this year.

Why not be just a little bit different when you are home this time, and show your folks you really appreciate and love them? Don't let them be among the parents of returning collegians who say, "I think son must be back from college; the car hasn't been in the garage since Wednesday after-

-The T. C. U. Skiff.

Has Your Watch Stopped?

"At the sound of the next musical note it will be exactly one o'clock."

How often we have heard that sentence broadcast, and quite as often we have glanced at our watches to see if they were set correctly. Then, too, when we are passing a jeweler's guaranteed correct time, we check our watches with the jeweler's

In one of his poems, Christopher Morely tells of such an incident—people stopped in front of the window to adjust their watches. He wonders if, instead of clocks, some great poem telling perfect truth or beauty were displayed, how many people would pause to adjust their minds.

What better time is there to set our "mental watches" than this month preceding the New Year? This is the time to set our thoughts in tune with those high ideals and aspirations that we have lost sight of in the hurry and din of modern living. It is the time to set our life to ticking for the things that count. Set the alarm to ring on New Year's Day with love, faith, courage, hope, and joy!

There is no better time than now to wind up our minds again and set them in harmony with those principles that we knew will fill every minute of the New Year with noble, victorious living.

-The H.-S. U. Brand.

Taxi Ordinance

The Battalion congratulates the City Council of College Station on its decision to enforce in full

Main provision of this ordinance, and the one that has been most often evaded, is that limiting the total passenger load for each taxi to six people besides the driver. Other provisions include payment of insurance, mechanical inspection of vehicles, and obedience of all traffic laws of the city.

The whole intent and purpose of the ordinance is to insure the safety, comfort and convenience of all passengers of College Station students as well

The student of A. & M. can do a great deal to assure its complete and successful operation. In the past it has been customary for taxis to be crowded with passengers above the maximum capacity for safety and comfort. In the past it has been common at the same time for students to "gripe" about the

People inquire, "Well, if the Aggies don't like to ride in a crowded cab, why do they do it?" If you've been waiting on a corner a quarter or a half hour or so for a taxi to come by, aren't you willing to accept—reluctantly, but anyhow, accept—a ride in the first taxi that comes along, crowded through it may be? Well yes. It's human nature.

But if we want to eliminate crowding, we must all cooperate to do so. And it's up to the taxi companies to see that enough cabs are sent out here to take care of the crowds when people are waiting

Aggies can do their part by refusing rides in crowded cabs and by reporting to the city government any violation of the ordinance. If a driver in following the terms of the law refuses to admit more than the legal number of riders, don't blame him. He and his company will have to pay the penalty if caught violating the ordinance. Aggies should cooperate to see that the ordinance is respected, for the drivers and students themselves are the ones ultimately responsible for maintaining safety and comfort in the cabs.

It's to our own good that we respect this ordinance. Let's do our part.

Aggies, Ask Yourselves—

An excerpt from a letter lately received by The Battalion from an ex-Aggie now on the cam-

"I've a real complaint, one that demands strong action. It concerns the study periods allowed freshmen at A. & M., especially in the new group of dormitories.

"When I went to this school, not so very long ago, freshmen were required to study from Retreat until Taps, whether they wanted to or not. This year I've had freshmen from the new dorms swear that they have been run on detail at all times of the day, from before breakfast until Taps. I heard one freshman offer to prove that he had been sent to the North Gate five times, from the new dorms, between six p. m. and eight p. m. Is that sort of thing in the Aggie tradition?"

Underclassmen, what do you think about this? Such cases certainly are not in the Aggie tradition; they are a gross violation of college regulations; and they form a chief cause for the large

number of freshmen deficiencies.

Are such practices to be allowed to continue? Psychologist says head waiters know more of

human nature than professors. That is because they

As the World Turns...

By DR. R. W. STEEN

The first major naval battle of the new war It is no sin to kiss mother a fond hello and took place last week, well within the neutrality zone designated by the American nations. This zone, designed to protect shipping in American waters from the war vessels of the belligerent nations, extends three hundred miles to sea.

The battle between the Graf Spee and the three British cruisers began about two hundred miles at sea and lasted for fourteen hours—or until the Spee could gain the protection of a neutral port. Uruguay is contending that the fighting did not come to an end until the Spee was within the three-

mile limit. It is probable that a protest will be made, but it is difficult to see what effect this can have. The Brit-

ish are now searching for the Spee's two sister ships, the Sheer and the Deutschland. When they are found, the fighting will begin immediately, regardless of the 300-mile zone proclaimed by the American states.

The German press is proclaiming the battle as a German victory. It is difficult to follow this reasoning. The Germans lost fewer men than the British, but on the other hand the Germans lost one of their three ships, while the British lost none of their many ships. It would seem that properly handled the Spee with the great range advantage of its eleven-inch guns should have been able to destroy all three of the British attackers.

After being ordered to leave port the Germans had three possible courses open to them: They could have interned the vessel; they could have made a run for it-which would probably have been a concentrated form of suicide; or they could have destroyed the Spee and interned the crew. They

chose the latter course. This raises an interesting question. Has Hitler come to the conclusion that Germany will lose the war? If the ship had been interned she could have been reclaimed by Germany at the end of the struggle-provided Germany won. If Germany hopes to win, it would seem that internment would have been a far wiser course. As it is she can certainly hope to gain nothing. There is one other possibility: it may be that the move was psychological. The German navy was scuttled at Scapa Flow following the World War. This act was hailed as a victory in Germany. The scuttling of the Spee may have been an appeal to remember Scapa Flow. If this was the idea, and if it works, it was worth the \$20,000,000 Spee.

George Fuermann

special distinctions for themselves over WFAA.



John R. Brinkley as company phy- facsimile of the college seal. sician, "Count" V. K. Sugareff as company chaplain, M. L. Cashion tainment committee, J. C. Hotard of Friday afternoon newscasts. as the Wizzard of Ooze.

erals with the exception of corporal come the corps to New Orleans. Charles Hamner and second lieu-lane's naval R. O. T. C.; W. J. ray. Included among the organization's group of major generals are Buster Keeton, "Foots" Bland, Rolan Dunkerly, George Noyes, Fred Nichols, John Ball, W. A. Ball, Mack Duncan, Bill Conatser, Carolyn—who is a yell leader in rison, and Ernie Stephens.

Each member, by the way, has Buster Keeton: Executive Directorin-Chief and Supreme Commander of the Foreign Legion-Mack Duncan; American Boy—Joe Snow; ton's T. S. C. W. column, "Niband Blackout-George Noyes.

From the classroom:

the formula for sea water?"

"In my career as a politician I to consider our intimacy ended. have made speeches under every imaginable circumstance, but this

Tomorrow night's the night: Waring and his Pennsylvanians' new year.

Out of the groove . . . A new salute to TSCW when the Chesterhigh in campus organizations, the field radio program comes on the

> itary Drill Unit where the program will be broad- the calendar to chew on. of the Texas Ath- cast. These students will be seatletic and Military ed together and their pictures will Palace Wednesday night, but as College," the be made with Fred Waring and the most of us will be long gone by Wool shirts have orchestra after the broadcast.

> an imposing ar- The Vanderbilt Theater will be and get to one that is on Tuesday ray of sponsors decorated in the school colors of night. including Dr. red and white and will feature a "BROADWAY SERENADE,"

Last Friday afternoon marked She plays the part of Mary Hale, the first in The Battalion's series She plays the part of Mary Hale,

as chairman of the refreshment to a flying start with the inter
She makes good with a big-time to a flying start with the inter
producer but loses the affection of

Commander J. M. Lewis of Tu-Reese, vice-president of the Tulane following: School of Law; and Carolyn Robbert, attractive and blond Sophie Newcomb sophomore, were the three on the program.

Following the yell practice, Bill Dawson, "Bubba" Reeves, Joe her own right—pointed out that, Slicker, Paul Haines, Al Innocenti, "I've never seen anything like Bodie Pierce, Bert Burns, Gat Garthe sight I have witnessed tonight. If that bunch of boys comes to Queen Tuesday night, "BARRI-New Orleans the city will be treat- CADE," is an attempt to put Wara title, samples of which are ed to a sight which it will long ner Baxter on the comeback trail

> And here's one from Tess Charlblings;" it's a letter written by so much of it. a proper young miss back in 1873: Dear Sir.

add, however, that I have undoubt- it just one grade-point. And a story that Dr. J. H. ed evidence of the fact that you Quisenberry recently told one of are becoming addicted to the use paign speeches, Bryan addressed a young man who is growing the colleges. gathering of farmers from the rear habit of intemperance. With an of a wagon containing fertilizer, earnest prayer for your reforma-'Well, gentlemen," Bryan began, tion, ere it is too late, I beg you

-Helen Sanford.

is the first time that I have ever So this one winds up the deal spoken from a Republican plat- for 1939. Backwash takes time out, to wish you all a gay and debauched holiday season, the merriest of Christmases, and the "Texas Forever" will be Fred best of luck during the coming

ECENT **ECORD** ELEASES

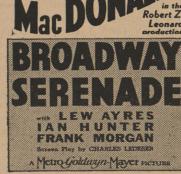
Billy Hill and Peter De Rose combined their distinguished talents in writing ON A LITTLE STREET IN SINGAPORE. The melody like the title is flavored with the East, and Zurke's presentation, delightfully scored by Fud Livingston, is pleasant to the ears as well as provocative to the feet. Claire Martin sings the lyrics in this medium slow recording. CUBAN BOOGIE WOOGIE, in contrast, is a medium swing composition depending mainly on ensemble phrases and two superlative piano solos for its appeal. Bob Zurke demonstrates his pianistic capabilities in admirable fashion.

The various Victor records containing examples of the late Beiderbecke' cornet playing currently available have continued to sell extremely well over a period of several years. I'LL BE A FRIEND WITH PLEASURE was recorded by a pick-up band under the direction of the famous cornetist. The exact personnel of the group, with the exception of the pianist and the bass player who are unknown, appears on the label. The tune was a sweet composition but this did not handicap Bix who recorded a 16-bar solo of thrilling proportions. The companion piece, MARY, was recorded by the famous Paul Whiteman Orchestra in 1927-1928 vintage. The selection is an excellent number. becke leading the ensemble in extensive passages as well as playing an eight bar solo. Bing Crosby is vocalist and Henry Busse the trumpet soloist in the first chorus. -



1939's GLAMOROUS





and in it may be heard Beider- TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY **DECEMBER 19 & 20**

6:30 & 8:30

Movie Pericer by Bob Nisbet

A last-minute run of letter A. & M. Wool Shirts, claim some air Wednesday evening at 6 o'clock quizzes has put a crimp in the time available to most of us to go -and in no small Ex-students of the college liv- to the movies, but for those who ing in or near New York City have are fortunate enough to have Self-styled as been contacted and asked to be on drawn a "bye" on the quiz deal "The Cracked Mil- hand at the Vanderbilt Theater a couple of shows are still left on

> "REMEMBER?" is on at the that time, we'll pass over that one

showing at the Assembly Hall is one of Jeanette MacDonald's lesser Last Friday afternoon marked attempts, but a good one even so. half of a down-and-out song and And the first program was off dance team in a New York cafe. viewing-via the air waves-of producer, but loses the affection of three of Tulane's representatives her husband when his best efforts tion hold the rank of major genmakes good and the two rejuvenate their misguided affections.

The complete cast includes the

Hary Hale...Jeanette MacDonald James Seymour.....Lew Ayres Larry Bryant.....Ian Hunter Cornelius Collier Jr...

Frank Morgan Judy TyrrellRita Johnson

The show that is on at the to class A pictures from the Westerns he has been doing for the past few years, by using Alice

As the story goes, Alice is a singer on an international hotel Chem prof W. G. Huey is telling Your kind invitation to accomthe one about a freshman student pany you to the opera tomorrow nation in northern China. She who came across, for the first evening has been received. Under meets a newspaper man assigned to the chemical formula ordinary circumstances, I would be cover the story, Warner Baxter, CH2O—the simplest of carbohy- delighted to go with you, believing and in the midst of a bandit atdrates. Momentarily puzzled, the you, at heart, to be really a most tack and a war, the two fall in freshman finally asked, "Is this excellent gentleman. I regret to love. Thrilling, isn't it? I'll give

his classes concerns the great ora- of the wine-cup. I regard it en- New York City in the next six tor William Jennings Bryan. In tirely unsafe for any young lady years will spend \$5,000,000 improvone of his many presidential cam- to continue an intimacy with a ing the buildings of its municipal

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL Tuesday and Wednesday-"BROADWAY SERENADE" with Jeanette MacDonald and Lew Ayres.

WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE PALACE Tuesday — "ON DRESS PARADE," with the Dead END KIDS, Frankie Thomas, and John Litel.

AT THE QUEEN Tuesday and Wednesday-"BARRICADE," with Alice Faye and Warner Baxter.



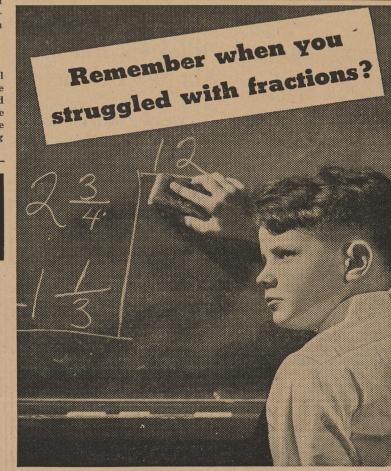
Merry Christmas

and

Happy New Year AGGIES!!

We wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous patronage during the past season and to wish you everyone a most pleasant holiday vacation





You'd be surprised how telephone engineers put them to work for you

How to put more and more wires into a telephone cable without increasing its diameter is an ever present problem at Western Electric-manufacturing unit of the Bell System. Existing ducts beneath city streets limit both the number and the diameter of cables-but demand for telephone service continues to grow.

Until recently, the largest cable contained 3636 wires in a diameter of 2% inches. Years of study led to an entirely new insulating process that saved 3/1000 of an inch per wire. Multiply this tiny fraction of an inch by 3636, and you provide enough space to place 606 more wires in the same size cable!—a total of 4242.

With such resourcefulness, Bell System engineers meet countless problems. Result: you can talk to almost anyone, anywhere—quickly, at low cost.

A telephone call home would be appreciated. Rates to most points are lowest any time after 7 P. M. and all day Sunday.

