

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...

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BILL MURRAY Editor-in-Chief, LARRY WEHRLER Advertising Manager, James Oritz Associate Editor...

TUESDAY STAFF: Charlie Wilkinson Managing Editor, Sam Davenport Asst. Advertising Manager, C. A. Montgomery Editorial Assistant...

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...

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.

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 homeward way.

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.

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?

It is no sin to kiss mother a fond hello and 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.

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 afternoon."

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.

In one of his poems, Christopher Morely tells of such an incident—people stopped in front of the window to adjust their watches.

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.

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 the taxi ordinance.

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.

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 as citizens.

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.

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 for rides.

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.

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 campus:

"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.

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.

Psychologist says head waiters know more of human nature than professors. That is because they get tips.

As the World Turns...

The first major naval battle of the new war 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.

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

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.

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

Out of the groove... A new field radio program comes on the air Wednesday evening at 6 o'clock over WFAA.



Fuermann

Ex-students of the college living in or near New York City have been contacted and asked to be on hand at the Vanderbilt Theater where the program will be broadcast. These students will be seated together and their pictures will be made with Fred Waring and the orchestra after the broadcast.

The Vanderbilt Theater will be decorated in the school colors of red and white and will feature a facsimile of the college seal. Last Friday afternoon marked the first in The Battalion's series of Friday afternoon newscasts.

And the first program was off to a flying start with the interviewing—via the air waves—of three of Tulane's representatives on the campus to officially welcome the corps to New Orleans.

Commander J. M. Lewis of Tulane's naval R. O. T. C.; W. J. Reese, vice-president of the Tulane School of Law; and Carolyn Robert, attractive and blond Sophie Newcomb sophomore, were the three on the program.

Following the yell practice, Carolyn—who is a yell leader in her own right—pointed out that "I've never seen anything like the sight I have witnessed tonight.

And here's one from Tess Charlton's T. S. C. W. column, "Nibblings;" it's a letter written by a proper young miss back in 1873: Dear Sir, Your kind invitation to accompany you to the opera tomorrow evening has been received.

So this one winds up the deal for 1939. Backwash takes time out, to wish you all a gay and debauched holiday season, the merriest of Christmases, and the best of luck during the coming year.

Tomorrow night's the night: "Texas Forever" will be Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians!

RECENT RECORD RELEASES

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.

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 selection is an excellent number, and in it may be heard Beiderbecke 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.

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL

1939's GLAMOROUS QUEEN OF THE SCREEN! In a Triumph of Music, Romance, Gayety, Thrills!



Mac DONALD in the Robert Z. Leonard production BROADWAY SERENADE with LEW AYRES, IAN HUNTER, FRANK MORGAN

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 19 & 20 6:30 & 8:30

Movie Review by Bob Nisbet

A last-minute run of letter quizzes has put a crimp in the time available to most of us to go to the movies, but for those who are fortunate enough to have drawn a "bye" on the quiz deal a couple of shows are still left on the calendar to chew on.

"REMEMBER?" is on at the Palace Wednesday night, but as most of us will be long gone by that time, we'll pass over that one and get to one that is on Tuesday night.

"BROADWAY SERENADE," showing at the Assembly Hall is one of Jeanette MacDonald's lesser attempts, but a good one even so. She plays the part of Mary Hale, half of a down-and-out song and dance team in a New York cafe. She makes good with a big-time producer, but loses the affection of her husband when his best efforts fail. At the end, of course, he makes good and the two rejuvenate their misguided affections.

The complete cast includes the following:

- Hary Hale...Jeanette MacDonald, James Seymour...Lew Ayres, Larry Bryant...Ian Hunter, Cornelius Collier Jr...Frank Morgan, Judy Tyrrell...Rita Johnson

The show, that is on at the Queen Tuesday night, "BARRICADE," is an attempt to put Warner Baxter on the comeback trail to class A pictures from the West-erns he has been doing for the past few years, by using Alice Faye's box-office pull to draw the crowd. Personally, I don't think so much of it.

As the story goes, Alice is a singer on an international hotel circuit who witnesses an assassination in northern China. She meets a newspaper man assigned to cover the story, Warner Baxter, and in the midst of a bandit attack and a war, the two fall in love. Thrilling, isn't it? I'll give it just one grade-point.

New York City in the next six years will spend \$5,000,000 improving the buildings of its municipal colleges.

WHAT'S SHOWING

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

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

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...



Remember when you struggled with fractions? Advertisement for the movie Broadway Serenade featuring Jeanette MacDonald and Lew Ayres, with a chalkboard showing fraction calculations.

You'd be surprised how telephone engineers put them to work for you. Advertisement for Bell System explaining how more wires can be put into a telephone cable without increasing its diameter.