

The Battalion

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

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196,000 to 1 Forgive a Slip

When you pick up your copy of The Battalion did it ever occur to you that there were over 196,000 chances to make a mistake in it?

Those concerned with writing, editing, and setting in type the stories of The Battalion strive earnestly to avoid error in fact and expression. However, odds are against the reporter in many cases and it is not always possible to play a perfect game without a single slip.

When creative work is done under pressure by reporters the chance of error is multiplied and in many cases a time schedule prevents correction. A reporter must have a thorough knowledge of words and must know in what sequence they will be most effective.

Copy-readers on The Battalion are the reporter's protection. These readers should have a very thorough knowledge of the stylebook. These readers edit the copy, correct any mistakes, and make the story conform to style and policy.

The story then has a fifty-fifty chance of getting into the pages free of errors if the copy-readers do their work perfectly.

From there the story is sent to the linotype operator who sets it in type. If you think there is no excuse for this operator making an error just sit down at a typewriter some day and try to type quickly a lengthy manuscript without making a mistake.

The proof of type is then sent to the proof-reader and, when he finishes with it, it should be free from error. This, though, requires the cooperation of the makeup printer whose job it is to insert the corrected line in place of the old one.

Several years ago the Pacific Printer published a list of requirements for the perfect proofreader. The list is as follows:

"He must have some knowledge of current literature, and for the purposes of quotation he must be a student of the Bible, of Shakespeare and of Cervantes.

"He must be up to the minute on the current German, French, Spanish, Hebrew, and Scandinavian tongues; of physics, astronomy, geology, mathematics, law, geography, mythology, music, art, drama; of the occult, of heraldry, of metaphysics, and of the folklore, fashions and fads; also the fourth dimension, the differential calculus, and the effect of the aurora borealis on stewed prunes.

"He must be up to the minute on the current events of the day—political gossip from Washington, what the college of cardinals is doing, and the relative value of peanuts in Posey County, Indiana, and in Timbuctoo."

So, when you see a handful of errors in The Battalion don't charge it to incompetence. Consider a four-page paper, 28 columns, 1,000 words to the column, seven letters to the word—196,000 chances to make a mistake, and many more than that, when we have a paper of six or more pages! So if you see an error, you will know that the mistakes were reduced to a minimum, but the odds were against us.

Socialists vs. The President

The Socialist Party's national convention has charged that the President's administrative policies are leading us straight into war.

The Socialists scored the military preparedness activities of our government and the economic aid made available to the allies by the repeal of the embargo act.

H. G. Wells once said that the time would come and, "possibly in the lifetime of Senator Borah," when the United States would not be secure from invasion by her isolation. It did not come in the lifetime of the "Senator from Idaho," but it may not be far away. In the meantime let's look at the extent of our preparedness.

When the President's Army Expansion Program is completed in 1941, the United States will have an army one-half the size of the Czechoslovakian forces and one third the size of the Polish army, both of which were easy prey for Hitler's troops. Our army will be about the same size as the brave little band that defended Finland, an area of about the same size as our state of California.

Does it appear we are preparing to enter the war on the side of the allies, or does this along with the repeal of the embargo act look like wise legislation to safeguard our country?

Just a Suggestion

Students here will recall that it was well into the school year this session before many telephones had been ordered installed in the dormitories, and much longer still before they were installed.

The Battalion suggests that some plan be worked out before the end of this term by the class leaders and administrative officials of the college with the telephone company so that telephones may be ordered and installed immediately at the start of the next session and all future sessions.

We think it can and should be arranged. The student body in the future should not have to wait so long for their phones.

PENMANSHIP

A convention of penmanship teachers and supervisors recently at Atlantic City was told by one of its members that poor handwriting costs American business \$80,000,000 a year. She cited the average sales slip as a good—or bad—example.

Horace Greeley, the speaker said, was a great man, but he would have been greater had he been able to read his own handwriting. The composers who set Greeley's editorials into type probably would have agreed that life would have been much happier for them if the old master hadn't been such a poor penman.

A good, legible handwriting is something it is nice to have, but few people have it. The invention of the typewriter destroyed many potential penmen. People used to say of a man that he was "plenty smart," because he wrote such an elegant hand. Intelligence, of course, has nothing to do with it; it's purely a mechanical accomplishment. Edgar Allen Poe's handwriting was small and perfect, resembling a copper-plate engraving, while Horace Greeley's looked like the work of a moron—but each was a genius in his particular line. One had the knack for it, with the possible addition of a bit of training, and the other didn't. But both got their ideas across just the same.

BOOKS YOU'LL ENJOY

NEW BOOKS AT THE COLLEGE LIBRARY

MARXISM: AN AUTOPSY, by Henry B. Parkes Macleish

THE NOVELS OF JOHN STEINBECK, by Harry T. Moore.

THE TREE OF LIBERTY, by Elizabeth Page

MARXISM: AN AUTOPSY, by Henry B. Parkes

PROMISE OF LOVE, by Mary Renault

GOVERNMENT AT YOUR SERVICE, by Archie Robertson

ABRAHAM LINCOLN: THE WAR YEARS by Carl Sandburg

THE WAY FORWARD, by F. B. Sayre

F.O.B. DETROIT, by Wessel Smither

LONG VALLEY, by John Steinbeck

HORSES AND AMERICANS, by Philip D. Stong

THE MARCH OF MIND, by F. S. Taylor

CHINA AT WAR, by Freda Uteley

GROWING PLANTS IN NUTRIENT SOLUTIONS, by Wayne I. Turner

THE FATE OF MAN, by H. G. Wells

MAN'S COURAGE, by Joseph Vogel

THE TRAMPLING HERD, by Paul L. Wellman

As the World Turns...

By DR. R. W. STEEN

The number of independent states in this world was reduced by one last week. Denmark, a progressive, well-governed country with a long and honorable history, was placed under the "protective custody" of German arms. This can have only one meaning. Denmark has become, at least for the time being, a part of Hitler's Germany, and will doubtless be looted as systematically as other areas won by German arms, though perhaps with less cruelty.

The independence of Norway is threatened, and depends upon the outcome of naval and land battles now raging. Latest reports indicate that the British fleet definitely has the upper hand, but German troops still control most of southern Norway. Germany will doubtless find it very difficult to supply them by sea, and it seems improbable that men and supplies for really serious fighting could be brought in by air. British troops are said to be landing in Norway, and with the sea routes open there should be little restriction on the number of men or the amount of supplies that the allies can send.

The German occupation of Norway met with little opposition. This was due in part to the element of surprise, and in part to assistance from within Norway. The Nazis in Norway seem to have given valuable assistance to the German troops. If a Norway remains after all this is over, there should be ample evidence for a few hundred charges of treason.

The German navy has been reduced by about half since the fighting began last week. Their losses may have been even greater than this, with the result that the German fleet can no longer be considered a matter of great importance. British losses seem to have been light when the extent of the naval fighting is considered. Incidentally, the Germans will doubtless be accusing the British of unfair tactics, as the warship which led the British destroyers at Narvik is one which the Germans claim to have sunk at the battle of Jutland in the first World War. It seems that the Warspite, like the Ark Royal, is practically immune to German propaganda.

The predicted entrance of the Fergusons into the race for the governorship has come to pass. This campaign should rank second to none in color and interest. It seems that the Ferguson candidacy will cut into the O'Daniel following to a considerable extent. It will probably mean a runoff primary between either O'Daniel or Ferguson and the leader of the other group of candidates. However, a runoff primary between O'Daniel and Mrs. Ferguson is easily within the bounds of possibility.

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

Down Military Walk . . . The Senior Ring Dance's Russ Morgan and his 18 partners in music-making can be heard nightly via New Orleans' station WWL from 11:30 until midnight.



Fuermann

Russ, who is rhythmically from the Roosevelt Hotel, has a style not unlike Anson Weeks but has four more brasses than Anson and uses five, rather than three, fiddles. He attends to a great deal of the singing chores personally and "Music in the Morgan manner" may be the order of things at T.S.C.W.'s annual Senior Formal . . . The Singing Cadets, who will serenade our Denton sister school on April 25, will be feted with a "girls tag" dance while there. Glee club membership will probably jump tremendously in the next ten days . . . 1940's social season is seeing some records set for long distance travelling to regimental balls. Escorted by Mick Williams, Bonnie Jean Tittle airplane from Missouri's Stephens College to attend the Cavalry hop, and coeds from Louisiana, Mississippi, and other southern states haven't even been unusual this year . . . AggieLand's best jam sessions are those that take place after Friday afternoons WTAW Clambakes go off the air. Last week it was Harry Springfield at the piano, Jack Rudy at the organ, John Stephens on a sax, and Lloyd Jenkins trumpeting. Incidentally, the session in discussion resulted in the "discovery" of a mystery number which will be played on this week's Clambake . . . Molly O'Daniel, without benefit of biscuits, attended Saturday night's corps dance. Continually cut-in on, cadets averaging two and a half measures dancing time each.

There's a new "number one" orchestra:

Backwash's weekly orchestra poll shows the "Ambassador of Rhythm," Anson Weeks, taking over the top spot in Aggie opinion as far as bands on the campus this year are concerned. Seventy-five questionnaires were given cadets who customarily attend all the corps dances, and the results show Anson in first place, Bernie Cummins slightly behind, Shep Fields third, and Lawrence Welk, Del Courtney, and Al Kavelin neck-and-

neck for fourth place spot. "Tuxedo Junction" is still tops on the Aggie hit parade for the eighth consecutive week. "Put Your Little Foot" went out entirely and "All The Things You Are" moved up from third to second place with Russ Morgan's theme song, "Does Your Heart Beat For Me" third. These facts are based on the number of requests received by band leaders at the preceding weeks' regimental ball and corps dance.

Anson Weeks and company: Definitely one of the finest personalities to visit the campus this year, Anson's entire band was made up of unusually excellent musicians. His "sweet-swing" style is a new experiment with him and, as he pointed out, "We're still learning things about it ourselves." The idea of so-called sweet swing is that more stress is placed on strings and woodwinds rather than brasses. A few months ago Anson let four of his brasses go and added three fiddles who were formerly with Wayne King. Incidentally, probably one reason that Anson's rhythms made such a hit with the corps was the fact that he is the first sweet swing band on the campus this year. Greatly impressed with the college, he decided that he wanted to play the "Aggie War Hymn" at the corps dance and spent all Saturday afternoon working up the best arrangement of the song that the writer has heard played by a popular dance band.

Still more: Songstress Eunice Clark was the most popular yet. Only twenty years old, demure, very proper, quiet, and lovely, she can't have dates while on the road. Nevertheless and notwithstanding, she had 57 requests for the same on Friday night and tied Claire Nunn's record with 93 requests Saturday night. Her favorite songs are "Darn That Dream" and I Thought About You" and her only comment on the college after a tour of the campus was—breathlessly—"Ooo-o-ohhh . . . I LIKE this place." Most interesting and amazing of all, to Eunice, was the tremendous size of the mixer in the kitchen of the new dining hall. In Aggie terms, Eunice was a "swell gal."

Quoting Anson: "In the past six months we've had countless requests to play the Texas A. & M. school song from dancers in every hotel, night club,

and college that we have played at. It'll be a pleasure to fulfill that request in the future." More than that, Anson now has copies of all the Aggie songs, and Jack Littlejohn will send a special arrangement of "Td Rather Be A Texas Aggie."

Pres. Mildred H. McAfee of Wellesley College this spring will be the first woman ever to give a baccalaureate address at Purdue University.

FLYING CADET EXAM BOARD IS LOCATED IN BASEMENT OF HOSPITAL

The Flying Cadet Examining Board for the 8th Corps Area is at present examining candidates for appointment as flying cadets in Ward 7, in the basement of the College Hospital. Anyone interested in taking the examination who has not already done so should make application with the president of the Board at his first vacant period. The Board will be here until Wednesday afternoon.

HAVE YOU SEEN BOB DALTON'S NEW SPRING and SUMMER SAMPLES?

He will be taking orders for Hamilton Clothes until Friday noon, April 19th.
Room 207 - AggieLand Inn



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Movie Reviews

by Bob Nisbet

By D. C. Thurman

In "FULL CONFESSION," Victor McLaglen assumes the same type of role which won him the Academy Award in "THE INFORMER." He portrays Pat McGinnis, brutish murderer, who kills a policeman and manages by a trick to throw the guilt onto Michael O'Keefe, a night watchman.

This is a story from real life, people with flesh and blood characters. Stirring elements in the picture are Pat's love for Molly, a waitress; Michael O'Keefe's daughter's marriage at the time when O'Keefe is accused of the murder of the policeman; the battle of wills between Father Loma and McGinnis, the real murderer, who

could save O'Keefe from punishment if he would confess.

McGinnis becomes indebted to Father Loma for his life, for Father Loma gives his blood in a transfusion to McGinnis who is near death as a result of a fight with his fellow convicts.

Upon his recovery McGinnis is paroled and the story becomes rather involved when McGinnis seriously wounds Father Loma while trying to force the Father to perform a marriage ceremony for Molly and himself. Repentant, McGinnis offers his blood to save the priest's life, but the priest refuses to accept. McGinnis understands what he wants, and . . .



APRIL 16 . . .

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