

To the High School Seniors

This issue of The Battalion is dedicated to the boys now graduating from the high schools of Texas.

To these seniors we will state frankly why we dedicate this issue to them—we hope they'll come to A. & M.

We hope so for very good reasons, we believe.

A. & M. is the only men's senior college in Texas.

It is the largest military college in the world.

It has the largest Agriculture School in the world.

It has the largest Veterinary School in North America.

It has the second largest Engineering School in the United States—with but a handful of students less than the largest.

It has the reputation of being a school which builds men capable of doing their work well after graduation.

It has traditions which make life here interesting during school years and worth remembering forever.

It has a "school spirit" which is renowned.

It has the most famous band and yelling section in the Southwest.

It is utterly democratic except for the distinction in classes which all colleges have.

The REAL College Student

At last a movie has been filmed that, as we saw it, is giving the real story of today's college student.

A March of Time film, entitled "America's Youth—1940" is now being released to movie houses throughout the country. Its purpose is to give a true picture of the twenty million young people who fall into one of the following classes: upper income, "white collar", college, semi-skilled, farm, and unemployed. It describes the 1,200,000 college youths as the "luckiest" in America. But, unlike the typical Hollywood college flickers, which have insisted on picturing college youth with a raccoon coat and a banner in his hand, this film shows that the American student does not regard his schooling as a luxury, but as a necessary equipment in the highly competitive business of finding a job.

It shows furthermore that most college students must earn all or part of their expenses, and that an indispensable adjunct of today's educational system is the college employment bureau which serves as a clearing house for part-time jobs on and off the campus. Our own college is typical in this respect. Our Student Labor Office reports that more than one-third of A. & M.'s students are earning all or part of their way.

We are glad that the general public is at last being shown a film where college students are being presented as they are, not as some scenario writer imagines they shall be. Such movies as "Dancing Coed" and "Pigskin Parade" give such a distorted picture of present-day college life that the older generation thinks of us as smartly-clad collegiates whooping it up on a continual house party.

Then an antagonistic press gives the older generation another distorted picture of college youth by its treatment of the American Youth Congress in Washington, this time a picture so far removed from the typical movie portrait that a puzzled public throws up its hands in dismay. They cannot understand why students should think far enough ahead to be worried about getting jobs and keeping the nation at peace. And whatever else may be said about those Washington crusaders, they showed without a doubt that they were serious about a serious situation.

We hope that Hollywood producers will look twice at this film, and when they start their fall crop of college movies, remember that the typical college student spends more time with a textbook than with a pennant, and more time working at a part-time job than trotting to a prom.

It offers a list of student activities—run by students alone in most cases—which would be hard to equal anywhere.

It has more dormitories than any other college in the Southwest, capable of handling nearly every prospective student.

It has the greatest cooperative project house system in the nation, enabling hundreds of boys to attend A. & M. who could not otherwise afford college.

It has the world's two largest dining halls, and a mess hall system which is remarkable in its efficiency and economy.

We could extend the list for columns without stepping outside the bounds of truth. For these reasons, we think the fact that we would like to have high school seniors come here next year is pretty soundly based.

We hope the 10,000 seniors who receive this issue will enjoy learning about what we consider Texas' greatest educational institution—Texas A. & M.

A Service Institution

A recent article in Time magazine referred to Ohio State University as a "service station" institution dedicated to the service of people in the state of Ohio rather than to any particular cultural pursuits.

It is almost certain that alumni of Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College would not object if this institution were to be called a "service station". Organized in the beginning as a college which would prepare its students to earn a living, the institution has always maintained this objective.

The Schools of Agriculture, Engineering, Arts and Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine and the Graduate School are turning more well-educated men into the world every year. We might say that A. & M. is this state's college for the masses. The college historically leans strongly toward the vocational training ideas.

A. & M. is a "service station" for the state of Texas, and the School of Arts and Sciences is a "service station" for Texas A. & M. No student graduates without taking some course in arts and sciences.

But A. & M. has not lost sight of the fact that cultural training is necessary in a happy, well-rounded life. Cultural training, it is believed, can be of definite economic value.

Work of the Arts and Sciences School is carried on by a large number of departments, embracing nearly every field of both the liberal arts and the sciences. One of its two major aims is the equipping of students of the other schools with the knowledge needed by every graduate regardless of his field.

But at the same time, our Schools of Arts and Sciences has always tried to maintain a happy medium, instilling a considerable measure of cultural and of general education.

That Arts and Sciences is not entirely a service school is shown by the fact that a number of students are enrolled as arts and sciences majors.

A strong arts and sciences school is an invaluable aid to a campus devoted to vocational education because it furnishes training that is needed by every man. Any association with students preparing for an agricultural or mechanical profession is good for arts and sciences students who may tend to get too far from the actualities of life. At least it seems that way to us.

The Evils of Faulty Diction

We were fortunate enough to be given the privilege of talking with an executive of a large corporation a few days ago. During the course of the conversation we were impressed by several of his remarks in regard to what business expects from the college men of today, the gist of which we pass on to the corps now.

The chief thing which interested us was the fact that the corporations want men who not only have a college education, but who also possess the ability to write, and, more important, speak the English language well. The mere possession of a college diploma is not evidence of that ability, as we ourselves are well aware. The engineer, the chemist, in fact any professional man, must be able to put his ideas across in language simple enough for anyone to understand, and yet polished enough to show his education.

It is surprising how little emphasis is placed on that ability at some institutions. Here at A. & M. considerable stress is laid on the matter, but it seems that even more is desirable.

Especially is this true in the matter of written communications and reports. According to this executive, very few of the college men he has had dealings with—and they are a legion in number—possess enough knowledge of the language to write a really satisfactory report. It is not a mere question of spelling or punctuation, but rather one of composition and form.

Perhaps it would be a good idea if each college boy would try his hand at this sort of composition and compare it with some of the papers written by leaders in the different fields.

Another matter of major importance is that of good letter writing. It seems that the majority of us, even after four years of college, do not know what constitutes a good business letter. Since men in industry have to write interdepartmental letters, and other types of communications, this point assumes great importance.

Finally, he stated that industry wants men who can take orders, who have initiative, and who have a broad knowledge of their field. He warned especially against that to which we are all open, over-specialization.

The Nazis are surprised that the Norwegians won't accept them as friends. But would Berliners regard as friends an invading army that sprang up in their midst overnight and proceeded to run things its own way without regard to the feelings of the inhabitants?

Collegiate Kaleidoscope



1939-40 Cadet Colonel Has Set Enviably Record in Many Fields

Durward B. "Woody" Varner, of Cottonwood, has commanded the Texas A. & M. College Cadet Corps during the 1939-40 school year as Cadet Colonel.

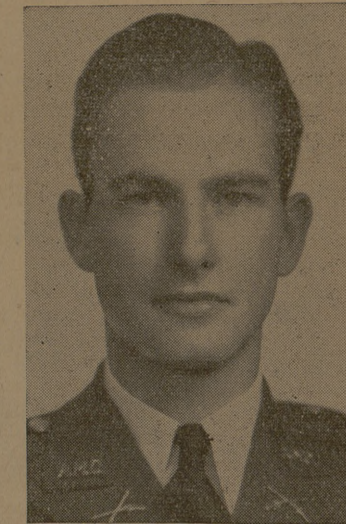
Varner has been an outstanding student ever since he enrolled at Texas A. & M. in the fall of 1936, and has never failed to be on the Distinguished Student List. For most of the time he has been a

straight "A" student. He is valedictorian of his class this year.

He held the presidency of his class in his sophomore and junior years. In addition, he has won the Danforth Foundation Fellowship twice; served this year as agricultural editor of the Scientific Review, a student publication; has held offices in the Economics and Marketing Finance Clubs, serving as president of the latter club this year.

He won a freshman numeral in basketball in 1937 and a varsity letter this past year and was elected captain of the cage team for the past season.

He is majoring in marketing and finance and will graduate May 31, 1940.



Widely-Known Folk Plays by Weldon Stone Feature Picturesque 'Whittler'

Thrice winner in playwriting of the annual Midwestern folk drama tournament at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, is Weldon Stone, instructor of English at Texas A. & M.

His plays feature one of the most picturesque folk characters in the country, the whittler, especially the expert shavings maker of the Ozark Mountains in Arkansas.

Broadway play producers have considered several of his plays worthy of production, and it is probable that one of these days Stone may reach his goal of having a number of his works presented on the "Great White Way".

First of Stone's "whittler" series and sixth of his plays to be published was "Devil Take a Whittler". Several other plays of this series, including "Mammon and the Whittler" and "That Son of a Whittler" have also been published.

Stone has been at work for some time compiling all his whittler characters into a full-length book entitled "Tall Tales of a Whittler", which he expects to publish very soon.

Stone first won the playwriting contest at Cape Girardeau in 1936 with "Quarrytown". He repeated in '38 with "Sweet Charity", a play involving a little Italian news vendor who is going to start free soup distribution.

Other plays by Stone which have been published include "A Dark-some Furriner", "All Through the House", and "When the Stars Fall".

No slouch with a knife himself, Stone spent months tramping through the Ozarks to collect his store of whittler characters. He also spent some time in New York's lower East Side, where he saw the little Italian news vendor of "Sweet Charity" in real life.

"Devil Take a Whittler" was first published in "The Best One-Act Plays of 1937", edited by Margaret Mayorga, and drew the following praise from Sidney B. Whipple, dramatic critic for the New York World-Telegram: "This play . . . is unquestionably as fine



Weldon Stone

as the best of the folk drama that have been produced in Ireland. It has imagination and humor. It is, furthermore, if you make exceptions for the extravagance and fantasy which is a part of its legend, a faithful picture of a group of our most colorful citizens."

Born in Holland, Bell County, Texas, in 1902, Stone attended Holland and Waco high schools. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Baylor University at Waco and his master of arts degree from Southern Methodist University at Dallas. He also studied at the University of Texas in Austin. He is married and has one daughter.

Enthusiastic as he is about his playwriting endeavors, Stone is no less enthusiastic over the baseball playing of his first cousin, Bob Stone, senior third baseman and captain of the Aggie baseball team this year and considered by many as a great major league possibility.

GREETINGS TO ALL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

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VARSITY BARBER SHOP New "Y"

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\$2.00 Pen & Pencil Set—Only 98c

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Prescription Druggist

A. and M. College and College Station are nearly synonymous terms. The community was incorporated in 1939, in order that the needs of its members could be better served. Its growth depends upon the growth of A. and M. College. To those who are now in A. and M. or who have made their decision to come to A. and M. the Administration pledges its cooperation and the cooperation of its citizens in any enterprise which will make this community a better place in which to live.

CITY OF COLLEGE STATION

Incorporated in 1939

The Battalion

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