

The Battalion

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

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And Still The War

Four questions:

How long? . . . How long can the United States stay out of the current European conflict? . . . How long until American citizens are taking an active part in the armed combat against Germany and Company? . . . How long until we Americans will cross the Atlantic to fight for the decency that we already have on this side of the ocean?

There's a possible answer on the front page of today's Battalion. The same answer appears in two different places. One article says that President Roosevelt has been offered the entire facilities of the College in the interest of national defense. Another article relates that the University of Texas has taken a similar action. And both articles are based on the same theme—not one that makes for the training of soldiers, but one that makes for the training of skilled labor in the technical and semi-technical fields.

Last week's Battalion editorial quoted France's then-premier Paul Reynaud as saying, "We want U. S. horsepower—not manpower; we need her help—but in the form of motorized equipment, planes, and other products of her tremendous industrial organization; all she can possibly offer us." Mr. Reynaud, not by his own choice, is no longer with us in an official capacity, but his statement still holds water.

At any rate, his statement well expresses the Aggie way of thinking about this situation, and Aggie opinion in this matter is important. Texas A. & M. College is the largest military college in the world. In the last World War the College supplied the armies of the United States with more officers than any other American college or university. In the event that the nation enters another World War, the College will probably be called upon to do again what it did in 1918.

At the present time 463 A. & M. seniors-to-be are attending various R. O. T. C. camps as a part of their advanced military science course. The vast majority of the 22,000 men who have been Texas Aggies have all had at least two years of military science. Many have had the full four-year course and have thus been commissioned as reserve officers in the United States Army. These men are all vitally concerned with the course of events in Europe and, more particularly, with the course of action that the United States has taken in respect to these events.

One thing, however, appears to be off-color in the present setup. Why should C. C. C. enrollees be exempted from military training? A recent act of Congress has made them exempt from military training now, but has provided for their training in non-military, technical work which would exempt them from fighting services in the event of war.

These men have been supported and trained at the expense of the United States government—the tax payers have carried the burden of their support. On the other hand, Texas Aggies—who have worked their way through college at their own expense—will be called upon for actual fighting services.

Why not the C. C. C.?

And so it is . . . "And still the war." On every hand the main topic of conversation is the European conflict. The blow-by-blow description of the events across the ocean are easy to follow via the radio and metropolitan newspapers. Thus far it has been a string of knockouts for Hitler and associates. Britain is his next fight.

The Battalion hopes that the total extent of the United States' participation in the conflict will be purely economic. Aggies are ready and willing to fight if there is no other alternative. What Texas Aggies did in the first World War they can do again—and they will if called upon!

In The Literary Limelight

By Don A. Hennessee

Bang! Bang! Let's go West! It's easy to re-live the days of the old West in TINYTYPES OF GOLD by Joseph Henry Jackson. Four great desperados roam at will through the pages of this vigorous western tale—a story with all the fire of a Zane Grey western story, plus good style and authentic background. Just as the stage coach robbers were the symbol of a period of Western history so the old Palace Hotel—"Bonanza Inn"—was the symbol of all that was glamorous in old San Francisco. Oscar Lewis, who has a reputation for making the West live, has given the reader, in BONANZA INN, a story of a hotel—not only that, but the story of the fabulous persons who visited it during the period

of its supremacy as the finest hotel in the world—the eighties and nineties. You will meet presidents, generals, actresses (yes, Lillian Russell included) and crooks in BONANZA INN.

From San Francisco it is only a three hour airplane ride to the glamour capitol of the world—Hollywood. Have you ever wondered just how it all happened—how Hollywood became the film capitol instead of some other city—how people really live there—how pictures have become the great form of entertainment—try reading William de Mille's HOLLYWOOD SAGA for the answer. As long as you're in Hollywood—where crazy things happen you might just as well get acquainted with the most clever book of the year. Not many months ago the name of Oscar Levant was known only to a few who listened to good music; today he is known to millions for his participation on the radio program "Information Please". At the moment he is fast becoming known to more millions by his witticisms in A SMATTERING OF IGNORANCE in which he tells "all" about composers and musicians as well as explaining music and Harpo Marx to the waiting world.

People never quite catch on to science or scientific facts until a good publicity man discovers that something is the largest or most expensive of its kind—then they are plagued with information of all sorts—much of it contradictory. One of the greatest and most expensive scientific items to receive publicity recently is the new 300 inch telescope to be located on Mt. Palomar in Southern California—everyone knows that it cost many millions, that it will bring the moon right into your bedroom, and that you could read the time on a man's wrist watch as he walked along Broadway, but many do not know the real significance of this new giant of the telescope world. D. O. Woodbury in THE GLASS GIANT OF PALOMAR gives the authentic facts about this new telescope. He traces its background, the developments which made it possible, and does it all in a highly entertaining way. This is a serious book, but one which is as thrilling as a good detective story.

All books mentioned in this column are to be found in the Asbury Browning Room of the college library. If in circulation they may be reserved at the main loan desk on the second floor.

Summer Reading

By Dr. T. F. Mayo

1. Odets: Rocket to the Moon (radical drama) ("For years I sat here, taking things for granted . . . Then just for an hour my life was in a spotlight . . . I saw myself clearly, realized who and what I was. Isn't that a beginning? Isn't it?")
2. Gill: Wasted Manpower ("Although thrift is a virtue for the individual, it is a virtue for the general economy only as the economic system has use for savings. When savings become excessive, this private virtue (thrift) becomes a public vice.")
3. Overstreet: Let Me Think ("We have our lives to live. Through all the ages men and women have been trying to discover how to live them. They have passed on to us some of their wisdom. We are not wholly ignorant of what should make life the way life should be. Nor are we by any means helpless in our effort to shape ourselves according to that knowledge.")
4. Bernheim: Medicine at the Crossroads ("For doctors have developed a curiously fixed habit of mind. They are timid, hesitant, and never like to take a definite stand (i.e., about socialized medicine) lest it affect them harmfully in some way.")

As the World Turns...

By DR. AL B. NELSON

French Ask Peace—The new French Cabinet of Marshall Petain has asked Hitler to give honorable terms of peace. The French army, supposed to be the finest in the world until the present debacle, has been broken into fragments and nearly half of France has already been conquered by the German forces.

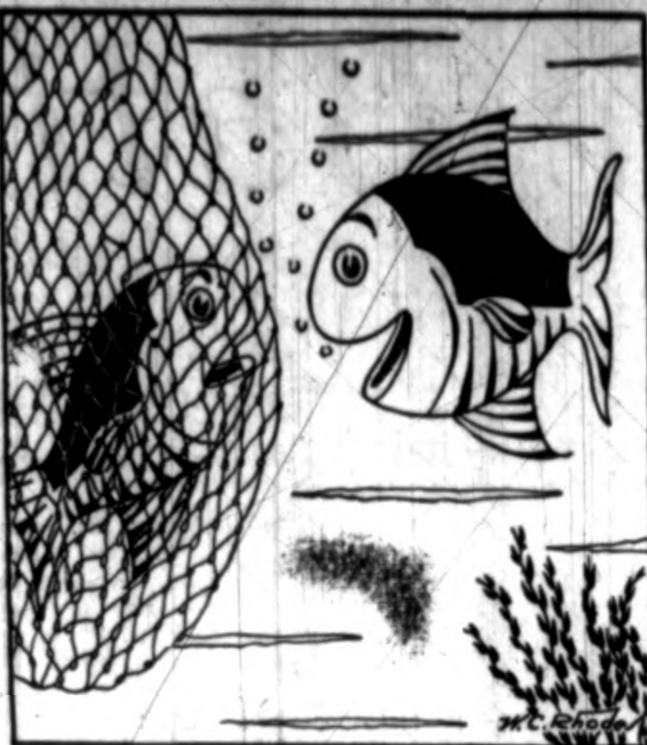
The reasons are twofold—first, the French attempted to fight a completely mechanized modern army with equipment and tactics of the World War type; second, political leaders who placed their own political fortunes above common sense and the good of their country. We have plenty of those in this nation, men who will spend billions of dollars of public funds to buy votes and weep tears over down-trodden humanity; but let men and women of the world be bombed and murdered without acting, simply because those being destroyed cannot vote in U. S. elections.

The fate of the French fleet is of tremendous importance in the present crisis. If the Germans can force the French to surrender their fleet it will mean that the British will no longer be supreme for the French, Italian, and German fleets combined are as large or larger than the English navy. Under those conditions England could no longer maintain a blockade of the enemy. Then, if Japan were to join the combination against them, England's navy would be greatly outnumbered. In fact, under those conditions, the combined fleets of the dictator powers would nearly equal the combined power of the English and American navies.

Admiral Stark, Chief of U. S. Naval Operations, has officially requested an increase of two hundred ships in the U. S. fighting force, and it is very likely that Congress, in its present state of alarm, will authorize the increase, BUT FIVE YEARS OR MORE WOULD ELAPSE BEFORE THE SHIPS COULD BE BUILT.

Roosevelt has intimated he will ask for conscription of man power in order to build up the Army, and the House of Representatives has passed a bill to increase the army to four hundred thousand men.

England has officially announced that they will fight to the end, whatever happens. Winston Churchill pointed out yesterday, in a speech broadcast in the United States, that France made an agreement with England not to make a separate peace with Germany.



Movie Review

By Betty Shelton

Tombstone, Arizona, the wickedest town of the old West, is the setting of "Frontier Marshal", which will be at the Campus Friday and Saturday. Randolph Scott brings in law at the end of his six-gun and stays alive because no one can beat him to the draw. Nancy Kelly is the beautiful, brave, unflinching girl who follows the man she loves, played by Cesar Romero, to this borderland town. Binnie Barnes has the role of the dance hall queen, who violently represents the intrusion of the hometown sweetheart. The rivalry between the two women from altogether different worlds helps motivate the exciting screen play.

"Young Tom Edison" will be at the Assembly Hall Tuesday with Mickey Rooney, the screen's top ranking box office star, as the famous inventor. Tom looks for causes rather than effects, and his experiments get him into many scrapes. Fay Bainter is unusually good as the mother whose staunch faith in her son carries him over many rough times. George Bancroft does convincing work as the stern father who finally relents and becomes proud of the boy. Mickey Rooney shows that he can handle serious, dramatic moments as well as he does his popular comedy roles.

Wednesday and Thursday the Ritz Brothers will cavort at The Campus in "The Gorilla". The action takes place in a house that is a maze of sliding panels. The time is close to midnight in the midst of a raging thunderstorm.

AROUND THE CAMPUS

By Betty Jane Winkler

With "A" quizzes already part of the first semester's history and "B" quizzes in the offing, the main topic of campus conversation is last Saturday night's "Juke Box Prom." Student opinion seems to be well-grounded in respect to the unique dances which have replaced the more conventional long session regimental and corps dances. Definitely on the "okeh side" is the sentiment . . . Plus a demand for more of 'em; which will probably result in the proms becoming a weekly go rather than the originally announced twice a month. So it's congratulations to summer recreation director Luke Harrison and intramural director W. L. Penberthy for inaugurating a fine new feature of A. & M. summer sessions.

In the line of suggestions—from first Juke Box Prom goes—are these: fewer Aggie-typical "bird dogs"; at least one congo; less Star Dust and Schottisch; and a law banning the wearing of coats at these functions. Most oft-asked question at last Saturday night's prom was, "Will there be a barn dance this semester?"

Aggie disappointment of the week's beginning was maestro Hettie Cummins' failure to play an Aggie song on his second Fitch Bandwagon appearance Sunday night. Cummins had previously promised to do "I'd Rather Be A Texas Aggie" or "The Aggie War Hymn" and the reason for the failure is not known. He did, however, predict that A. & M. would win the Southwest Conference football championship, with S.M.U., Texas U., and Baylor offering the most competition in that order.

What's Showing

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL

Saturday—"The Return of Dr. X" with Humphrey Bogart, Wayne Morris, and Rosemary Lane.
Tuesday—"Young Tom Edison" with Mickey Rooney, Fay Bainter, and George Bancroft.
Thursday—"Blondie Takes a Vacation" with Penny Singleton and Arthur Lake.

AT THE CAMPUS

Friday and Saturday—"Frontier Marshal" with Randolph Scott, Nancy Kelly, Cesar Romero, and Binnie Barnes.
Sunday and Monday—"Second Fiddle" with Sonja Henie, Tyrone Power, and Rudy Vallee.

Campus blackout . . .

The blitzkrieg of the three negro shoe-shine boys by officials of the Commandant's Office earlier this week proves definitely that it can happen here! It seems that the three darkeys were plying their trade a little too anxiously and, as a result, a campus "Sarge" purged the Ethiopian delegates to the great American shoe-shining industry.

RECENT RECORD RELEASES

The Brothers Kenny in collaboration with Will Groos seem to have hit the musical jackpot again with MAKE-BELIEVE ISLAND. Here is an exceptionally melodious composition that is earmarked for hitdom. It goes without saying that Mitchell Ayres has created a recording that is in sympathy with this selection as well as complimentary to its character. POOR BALLERINA is a similar number although played at a slightly faster tempo.

Earl Hines' Boogie-Woogie arrangement of the famous ST. LOUIS BLUES has been the hit of his stage shows during the past several months. The novel arrangement is handsomely portrayed with plenty of "atmosphere" from the band as well as exciting piano work from "Father" Hines. The companion piece, NUMBER 19, is a fast swing tune credited to the talented pianist-conductor.

Here are two more tunes from the rich Irving Berlin score for "Louisiana Purchase". The title

On WTA W

3:15 P. M.

Friday, June 21, 1940
11:25 a. m.—Sign-On; Weather, News
11:30 a. m.—Federal Music Program (Works Project Administration)
11:45 a. m.—Texas Farm & Home Program (To WOAI)
L. A. Machemehl, Supervisor, Farm Security Administration
A. D. Jackson, Experimentation
12:00 noon—Signoff
4:30 - 5:30—THE AGGIE CLAM-BAKE

Saturday, June 22, 1940

11:25 a. m.—Sign-On; Weather, News
11:30 a. m.—Morning Musicals
11:45 a. m.—Texas Farm & Home Program (To WOAI)
Mrs. F. L. Thomas, Farm & Home Book Reviewer
Agricultural Education Department Representative Paul Wasler, State Coordinator, Soil Conservation Service
12:00 noon—Signoff

Sunday, June 23, 1940

8:30 a. m.—Sign-On; Musical Moments
8:45 a. m.—Roan's Chapel Singers
9:00 a. m.—Masterworks
9:30 a. m.—Signoff

Monday, June 24, 1940

11:25 a. m.—Sign-On; Weather, News
11:30 a. m.—"Homes On The Land" (Farm Credit Administration)
11:45 a. m.—Texas Farm & Home Program (To WOAI)
Dr. Keshaw Bonham, Assistant Professor of Fisheries, Fish & Game Department
S. B. Apple, Department of Horticulture
12:00 noon—Signoff

Tuesday, June 25, 1940

11:25 a. m.—Sign-On; Weather, News
11:30 a. m.—"The Story of Wool" (Farm Credit Administration)
11:45 a. m.—Texas Farm & Home Program (To WOAI)
County Superintendents' Conference
W. L. Hughes, Head, Education Department
12:00 noon—Signoff

Wednesday, June 26, 1940

11:25 a. m.—Sign-On; Weather, News
11:30 a. m.—George E. Sokolsky, Commentator (National Association of Manufacturers)
11:45 a. m.—Texas Farm & Home Program (To WOAI)
D. H. Reid, Head, Poultry Husbandry Department
R. J. Von Roeder, Animal Husbandry Department
12:00 noon—Signoff

song from the musical production is taken at a medium tempo and sung by Bob Allen. Interesting and clever instrumental effects in the final chorus add an authentic tang to the entire recording. YOU CAN'T BRUSH ME OFF is a rhythmic song taken at a faster clip. Janet Blair graces the microphone while the saxes swirl and the muted brass bites in a final chorus of unique Hal Kemp fare.

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Drive For Stidham Fund Now At \$1,033.43

The Stidham Fund, originated to aid George Stidham whose back was broken in an accident several weeks ago, has reached \$1,033.43 it was announced by committee co-chairman George Fuermann yesterday. Several donations promised have yet to be received and it is hoped that several hundred more dollars may be added before the drive is closed.

The drive has received notice throughout the nation, and donations have been received from friends of the college in various parts of the state as well as A. & M. Mothers Clubs, faculty members, local and Bryan businessmen and the student body.

Fuermann pointed out that donations are still being accepted at the Fiscal Office.

Besides chairman Buster Keeton and Fuermann, committeemen include Bill Murray, E. W. Pannell, Graham Purcell, Allan Ellerbee, faculty representative V. K. Sugareff, and businessman Dr. S. E. Lipscomb.



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