

The Battalion

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

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National Defense

NOVEMBER 11, 1918—the end of the First World War:

Nine million men had been killed in battle or had died of their wounds — more men than there are people in the State of Texas.

Twenty-two million had been wounded — a number equal to one sixth of the United States' population today.

An unknown number of civilians died as a result of the war — at least enough to populate a great city.

Two hundred million dollars a day was spent to promote the war; a total investment of three hundred and fifty trillion dollars — enough money to build twenty-three thousand, three hundred and thirty-three Texas A. & M. Colleges . . . Enough to build an entire nation, replete with cities, educational institutions, hospitals, parks and other units of our so-called civilized world.

And fifty-seven Texas Aggies died in the war.

July 18, 1940—the Second World War well under way:

The very closeness of the current crisis causes facts and statistics in respect to it to be vague and not altogether reliable, but some of them are credible.

Two and a half million men have already been killed in the second edition of the Great War.

Eight million have been wounded — many of whom will die as a result of their wounds.

Civilians, in far greater number than during the first conflict, are being killed and wounded every minute—despite European-issued statements to the contrary.

Incredible and astounding as it may seem, the cost of the present struggle is even exceeding that of the 1914-18 conflict.

And the Second World War is just getting started.

The world gave nine million men to the first Great War . . . Texas A. & M. College gave fifty-seven. So no matter how you look at it, these wars certainly take care of any over-population problems which may arise.

But moralizing, satirically or otherwise, in respect to the why's of men going to war is not The Battalion's purpose in this editorial. Even the world's great metropolitan dailies haven't been successful in that attempt. Most people, too, are familiar with the facts-in-review stated above.

Twice already this summer The Battalion has made editorial advocations in respect to the current conflict—and from the viewpoint of Texas Aggies. Twice this summer The Battalion's editorial columns have voiced the hope that our nation's participation in World War Number Two would be purely economic. Twice this summer The Battalion has pointed out that should armed combat become inevitable for the United States, Texas A. & M. would repeat its performance of 1918 when the college furnished the Allied armies with more officers than any other American college or university.

And now, in behalf of six thousand Texas Aggies and twenty-two thousand former students, The Battalion asks one thing else—something which is already being done and something which The Battalion believes should be pushed to the limit of reason—adequate national defense.

Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines "adequate" as "Equal to or sufficient for some specific requirement". And in this case the specific requirement is national defense.

Adequate national defense means two things: First of all, it's an insurance—a protection. If the nation is invaded, as certainly it may be, it should be prepared to repel the invasion. This much is obvious.

Secondly, a nation protected is less of a temptation to a prospective invader. A nation unprotected is extending an invitation to possible invaders and would-be-conquerors. Even in times of world peace adequate national defense is important—and in 1940 it has become axiomatic that a nation which has not prepared in peace time ceases to exist as a nation.

America Changes

IN THE UNSTREAMLINED post-bustle era of the early part of the twentieth century—say from 1900 to 1920—American voters, for the most part, were bound by finely drawn political ties. In that twenty-year period, if a voter's father was a Democrat, then the voter was also a Democrat. As a general rule, if a voter lived in the South he was a Democrat, because the South has been near-one hundred percent Democratic since the 1800's.

It was just the thing to do. Political ties dictated that a person do none else. The finely drawn political lines became tradition. Voters didn't cast their ballots for a candidate—they cast their ballots for the banner under which a candidate stood. But that was until 1920.

There's been a change since that time. In 1940 it's not so easy for a candidate to give a voting citizenry the old party affiliation razzmatazz. There's a new creed now—one that's gaining more and more supporters with every new political campaign.

It's a healthy creed, and a simple one. The idea being: A candidate needs more than just party affiliation to win votes, because the voting public is getting to be a curious lot. Especially those voters who have recently graduated from one of the nation's colleges or universities. They're beginning to ask questions. A candidate's qualifications are more important than they used to be. A candidate's past performance—if any—is beginning to take precedence over his party affiliation.

And, as mentioned above, this is a healthy creed—a good sign.

There's evidence by the basket-full that this new creed is fast catching hold throughout the nation. If you want to see it, take a look around you wherever you are.

Here on the campus of the Texas A. & M. College a skeptic would become a believer overnight. Hundreds of Aggie land's six thousand are voters. Amazingly few of them, considering that Texas has long been a Democratic stronghold, discuss the candidates for State and national offices on the basis of party affiliation. The conversations are usually arguments in respect to what a particular candidate has or has not done in the past. Like a thoroughbred race horse, a candidate's past performance is at least partly indicative of what may be expected of him in the future.

So—America changes . . . And for the better. It didn't come overnight; the transition isn't complete yet. Nor can it be said that party affiliation will ever become a thing of the past. It's an important part of our American way of things. The Battalion's point is merely this: Party affiliation has been stressed too much in the past. But America is getting wise—the nation's voting public is striking a balance between party affiliation and candidates' qualifications.

College Station

GIVING BIRTH TO a city is no painless task. The problems, which a newly organized city government is faced with appear to be almost insurmountable. They're a veritable nightmare of financial, utility, public improvement, taxation, sanitation, and a maze of other puzzles.

And, to make the job even tougher, the ever-ready and double-sharp knife of public criticism is constantly cutting a swath of undoing which only serves to make the already difficult tasks even more exacting.

But since that day in October, 1938, when the citizens of College Station almost unanimously voted to incorporate—and later, in November, when they elected their first city officials—the birth and early childhood of the City has been capably managed and competently guided by those men in whose hands the responsibility of administering city government has fallen.

Utilities are being installed in the various surrounding additions as rapidly as possible . . . The key rate of fire insurance has been reduced from one dollar to thirty-two cents . . . Improvements in sanitation facilities are being made as speedily as possible . . . The tax rate of the City is still lower than that of other localities of corresponding size despite the tremendous financial burden of a newly incorporated municipality . . . And so The Battalion says, "the birth and childhood of the City has been capably managed and competently guided by those men in whose hands the responsibility of administering city government has fallen."

The Mayor of the City of College Station and the members of its City Council are deserving of a great deal of praise for the fine work which they have done . . . For the patience and tact which they have used in handling the innumerable problems that have come before them in the past year and a half . . . For devoting a considerable part of their time—and unsalaried, at that—to the performance of their respective civic duties.

The foundation of a successful city government at College Station has now been laid. What's to come is a matter of speculation, but one thing in particular everyone realizes—that the life-struggles of the new city aren't yet at an end; that there are many problems to be faced in the future.

But so long as College Station is blessed with officials such as it now has, a successful future for the city is assured.

The New Editor

BEGINNING WITH THE next issue of The Battalion a new editor takes over until June, 1941. Elected by the cadet corps to head the staff of Texas A. & M.'s student newspaper during the coming 1940-41 long session, he's Bob Nisbet, Field Artillery Band senior from nearby Bryan.

A long-time member of The Battalion staff, his succession to the editorship will probably bring The Battalion to a new high as an A. & M. newspaper. But equally important to the success of any newspaper are the other members of its editorial staff, and Nisbet's immediate assistants are all men who have long served on The Battalion staff and who have become experienced in their respective fields.

Managing editors Bill Clarkson, Earle A. Shields, and A. J. Robinson are men who are thoroughly capable of doing their jobs. Sports editor Hub Johnson has more than two years of service behind him on the sports staff and, as such, is fully qualified to carry on the outstanding work of The Battalion's outgoing sports editor, E. C. Ostes. The present editor of The Battalion will serve as associate editor in the future.

So a new editor begins his work next week, and with him he brings a staff of editors, columnists, reporters, copyreaders, and others who, student publications officials predict, will publish one of the best newspapers in the sixty-four-year history of the college.

Political Merry-Go-Round

1940's Campaign Is No Cinch For Democrats—Even With Roosevelt

By Robert L. Doss

Today the Democrats are scheduled to give Roosevelt the third nod in as many conventions. (At least it seemed so Tuesday when Mr. Fuermann wanted this column.) Since it's a pretty safe bet, however, we'll just assume that Roosevelt is the Democratic candidate.

There's a good reason for that. Jim Farley said the other day that this election is no cinch for the Democrats, and Mr. Farley has been uncanny in his predictions in his predictions in days gone by. The recognition by Mr. Farley of the fact that the Democrats can't merely say "Look at the last eight years" and expect the votes to come rolling in is important.

Too often political parties, after being in power for a time, become satisfied with themselves and lose their vision. Often the greatest asset the opposition has had has been the fact that a party has been in power for such a long period that it has become out-of-touch with the people.

Has the Democratic Party done that? Nobody knows—yet. Since platforms are composed largely of trite nothings, we will be in no position to answer the question until after the campaign has begun in earnest. If the Democrats are unable to offer a constructive program—through their candidate, not their platform—then we may safely assume that the donkey is adrift in wasteland and without knowledge of the location of greas.

If, on the other hand, Roosevelt and his party are able to produce some ideas, to reaffirm their liberal principles, to call for an extension and not a retraction of liberal legislation, then we may know that the party is still in touch with the people.

Above is a parenthetical remark to the effect that ideas must come from the candidates, not the platforms. This is said because platforms aren't worth the paper they are written on.

Remember the Democratic platform of 1932? Well, it doesn't stand alone, for Wendell Willkie served notice on the GOP that he wouldn't follow the convention platform. His words were to the effect that there he stands ready and eager to fight for the dear old GOP—but that he stood before them without a single pledge or promise or political debt. That meant more than the absence of "deals"; it meant that Willkie will say what the people want to hear when they want to hear it, not what a convention tells him to say.

Roosevelt can and probably will defeat Willkie. He has a record of which most people like. He has a wonderful personality, a sense of the dramatic. And he "sounds good."

With Willkie against an ordinary everyday Democrat, November would just be a month with an old-fashioned, unfeeling Thanksgiving for the Demos; with Willkie against Roosevelt, however, the U. S. may be celebrating Thanksgiving a week early this fall.

Along the Mohawk" with Henry Fonda and Claudette Colbert. Prevue Saturday nite, Sunday and Monday—"The Rains Came" with Tyrone Power and Myrna Loy.

Tuesday—"Pacific Liner" with Chester Morris Wednesday and Thursday—"Swanee River" with Don Ameche, Al Jolson, and Andrea Leeds

What's Showing

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL
Saturday—"Reno" with Richard Dix and Gail Patrick.
Monday and Tuesday—"Primrose Path" with Ginger Rogers and Joel McCrea.

Wednesday and Thursday—"Castle on the Hudson" with John Garfield, Ann Sheridan, and Pat O'Brien.

AT THE CAMPUS
Friday and Saturday—"Drums

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THE EXCHANGE STORE

Movie Review

By Betty Shelton

Saturday at the Assembly Hall is "Reno" with Richard Dix, Gail Patrick and Anita Louise. As the title indicates, the setting of the story is in the famous Nevada city, and it is a combination of two interesting stories. In parallel and intertwined fashion, it tells of the progress of Reno from a stormy mining community to a "ghost town" and from that to the bustling city that it is today, and of the career of a young attorney who wants to pile up a fortune first and then enjoy himself.

"Primrose Path", which is at the Assembly Hall Monday and Tuesday with Ginger Rogers and Joel McCrea, is a sympathetic story of a right girl from the wrong part of town. When she falls in love with a young man who operates a hamburger stand, she undoes her pigtailed, changes her tomboy clothes, and pursues him desperately. Not until after he marries her does he learn the ugly truth about her parents and her home from which she had tried to escape.

Wednesday and Thursday at the Assembly Hall is "Castle on the Hudson", a turbulent love story of a young couple who risk death to be together. John Garfield portrays an egotistical young gangster, who is confident that his luck will hold. His one weakness is his love for Ann Sheridan, the queen of the underworld. He comes to her day when she needs him most, and she, in return, murders another man to save his life. Together, Garfield and Miss Sheridan make a dynamic screen team.

As the World Turns...

BY DR. AL B. NELSON

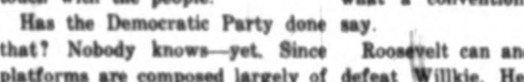
The Duke of Windsor, former King of England, will not be shot for desertion, as would any other man in his position. At the worst of the crisis in France he deserted his post as contact officer between the British and French armies and ran away to Spain to join his wife for a "vacation". Even his most intimate friends and followers are reported to have given him up in disgust and the English government has made him governor of a little group of islands off the American coast to get him out of the way.

England, 128 years ago, was at war with the entire continent of Europe, which had been conquered by Napoleon, and was also at war with the United States, which had jumped on England's back in an attempt to take Canada from her. Napoleon was planning an invasion

of the British Isles, at the time but three years later Napoleon was a defeated prisoner and England was stronger than ever.

The United States has been supporting millions of men in the W.P.A. and C.C.C. organizations the last few years and now is having trouble getting enlistments for the army, cannot even get enough men to fill up the ranks to the very low authorized strength. That is the reason Congress is being forced to consider a compulsory service bill.

The Democratic Convention is now meeting in Chicago and is expected to "draft" Franklin D. Roosevelt for a third term on the theory that the men of the nation have so degenerated that he is the only one with sense enough to be president in a crisis. George Washington refused a third term the



Nelson

JUST IMAGINE YOURSELF HERE...

You've just finished selecting from a menu packed with a tempting variety of good things . . . you've given your order to a waitress who is prompt and courteous . . . and you're smiling happily at the thought that all this delicious food will cost so little . . .

But stop imagining and come in for your next meal. You'll like our food, our service, our prices!

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