

The Battalion

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

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Staff Members

At the end of last semester Jeep Oates, for the second time in two months, announced his finish at the job of Sports Editor. Now for the second time in almost the same time he has picked up the good work and is carrying on again. Eugene Oates has been a member of The Battalion staff since way back in 1935. The past two years he has been Sports Editor—that means lots of copy has been turned out under those ten fingers. So we take out this time and space to hand Jeep this bouquet with our compliments, congratulations, and our thanks for taking over again.

By way of explaining, Hub Johnson, who was announced as second semester Sports Editor, found it more convenient to live at home in Houston and take his work in the University of Houston. Can't say as we blame him because the University is an up and coming school. Anyway Hub'll be around next year.

Earle Shields, one of last year's able Junior Editors and one of next year's Managing Editors, has followed the crowd from Bullis to College Station and will be the Managing Editor for this semester in order to pick up a little extra "technique".

Nothing To Do?

To the new students who enter the gates of this unique and otherwise unusual school and also to the old students who are heard every now and then to complain about "nothing to do here", a word of advice.

Of course the first purpose of all students enrolled should be to devote a sufficient amount of time to their course of study, but even the most persistent bookworm takes off an occasional moment for leisure. Frankly there's so much to do that it is hard to find a place to start.

In the first place, if and when you make a date, get out of the old rut of calling at 7:30, going to a show, and then just sitting or driving (if you are lucky enough to have a car). Vary the diet—make afternoon dates to the swimming pool or the tennis courts. Why not enter a tournament with her as your partner. Show the girl just how much you know and teach her to bowl or maybe she can beat you at your own game. It is no sin for a girl to play an occasional game of billiards. Ping pong is lots of fun or if she loves good music, the library makes night reservations of the music room. Then, too, don't forget the Juke Box Proms every Saturday night, and the softball games to watch. There might be a chance to take her horseback riding. Rent or borrow a couple of bicycles. It is true that there are no night clubs to give College Station a "big city" effect, but the idea is to do the best with what is at hand.

For spare hours between classes, bull sessions are fine, but sometimes when it is running rather stale, there's many a pleasant hour to be spent in the Asbury Browsing Room in the Library. Dr. Mayo or Don Hennessee can make some excellent suggestions. Drop into the Y.M.C.A. lobby once in a while and keep up with the world and the war by means of the daily papers. Too, it might be a good idea to write that letter you should have written ages ago and just never could find time for—the "Y" has stationery and sells stamps.

The best mental relaxation next to sleep is doing something different, and that is the answer to those who get "mentally tired." Never be caught doing "nothing." Life is far too short at best to waste on idleness.

Censuring America's News

Slanders and slurs are heard from every side and from many persons concerning the utter untrustworthiness of newspaper reports as in particular regards the war news. The sad part of the situation is that in main these people speak the truth.

To read the press releases from newspapers on one side would produce quite a different picture than that painted by the other. In fact at times it seems that some big-city papers have ceased to be naught but propaganda organs. For instance it would be of interest to count the number of dead Russians from the Russo-Finnish conflict, as reported by British and American newspapers or the number of Germans reported as dead in the Polish conquest. Straight news reporting seems to have been forgotten for attempts at crusading for its various pet causes.

But let us not be too hasty to condemn the newspapers for being plain liars until the difficulties besetting the newspaper of today are uncovered. Much of the lopsided news reports that

enter this country are cabled from London, where each word sent across must pass a rigid censorship at the hands of the British government. This one fact alone presents a dangerous aspect in view of the fact that England is trying every method at her disposal to draw the United States into war with her against Germany.

Were it not for radio broadcasts from the scene of action to keep a check on news flashes, there is no telling just what kind of bunk the American people would be fed. And for bunk, I refer you to almost any newspaper during the years 1914-1918.

Geographic Notes

Few of us know much about geography, except in a most vague way, and this being the case a little inquiry into the latitude and longitude of various places often reveals facts which are somewhat surprising, as a few examples may illustrate.

We think of "sunny Italy" as a warm, southern country, yet Rome and Chicago are in exactly the same latitude. Other pairs of places of equal latitude are Paris and Quebec; Berlin and Attu Island, Alaska; New York and Istanbul (Constantinople); Florence, Italy and Toronto, Canada. Venice, famed for its canals, is in the same latitude as Montreal.

In the matter of longitude, also, our casual impressions often might be found faulty. A classic example, pretty well known by this time is that the Pacific end of the Panama Canal is father east than the Atlantic end, owing to the peculiar curve of the isthmus.

Due to the eastward sweep of South America's western coast, we find Santiago, Chili, to be 200 miles farther east than New-York. Reno, Nev., is father west than Los Angeles. Washington, D. C. is due north of Nassau, Barama Islands.

A good many persons, when the first heard of it, were surprised to learn that Tokyo, Japan, is some 1,100 miles farther east than Manila, Philippine Islands.

—Clipped.

Summer Reading...

BY DR. T. F. MAYO

Nobody living can spin better yarns than Somerset Maugham ("Of Human Bondage", "Rain", "The Letter", etc.). That gentleman's choice of the best yarns of all countries and all ages is worth looking at. His recent little "Books and You" mentions and comments, conversationally and pointedly, upon about forty books, including a few essays and poems, but consisting largely of novels.

Mr. Maugham sternly refuses to recommend a single "great" book that is not readable and entertaining. Consequently, if you will let "Books and You" guide your casual reading for a year or so, you are in for a good deal of elegant fun.

For one thing, you will make the acquaintance, from the inside, of a lot of people, some entertaining, others disturbing, still others inspiring. The heroic gold-digger, Beeky Sharp, for example, is enough by herself to season highly the pages of "Vanity Fair", even if she were not supported by three or four of the best, and involved in situations ranging from love-nest triangles to the Battle of Waterloo.

The terrific family of "The Brothers Karamazov" just about runs the gamut of human personality, from the bestial father, through the self-torturing intellectualism and the ungovernable impulses of the two elder brothers, to the radiant humanity of young Alyosha. Balzac's heartless monsters in "Old Goriot" make you shudder because their faces are human like ours and are not easily forgotten.

You can trust Mr. Maugham's "Books and You". In the first place, of course, he picks all the juiciest books. But what definitely wins his reader's confidence is the fact that he badly and honestly advocates skipping!

As the World Turns...

BY DR. AL B. NELSON

French Nazi-dominated government has ordered the arrest of former Premier Edouard Deladier, the man who headed the French Government at the time of its declaration of war on Germany. Others were arrested with him.

Andre Giraud, the French news columnist who has written for many years under the name "Pertinax" has arrived in the United States. Giraud, a real French patriot is faced with arrest and death if he goes back to his own country. The degradation of France is complete when her people are arrested, imprisoned, or put to death simply because they were patriotic enough to fight or write for their own country.

The American Nations are in conference at Havana, capital of Cuba, in an attempt to further define their economic and political attitude toward the new political situation in Europe. At the present moment the public discussion centers around the disposition to be made of the European possessions in the Caribbean which are threatened with Nazi domination, such as the French and Dutch islands.

Some very odd persons in the United States Congress are still blocking the proposed fortification of our island of Guam which would be an invaluable naval and air base in the event of war with Japan. Their reason is that it might make the Japanese angry. They overlook the fact that the Japanese are already as angry at us and they can be and that the fortification of this island cannot make them more so. If war does not come the fortifications will be harmless, in the event of war they would be necessary. BUT BY THAT TIME IT WOULD BE TOO LATE TO BUILD FORTIFICATIONS.

F. D. R. came out Tuesday with a blast at "turncoat" Democrats but it is peculiar, if voting for another party is such a terrible offense, that the president should have insisted on having a former Republican nominated by the Democrats for the vice-presidency.

Off the Record



"Mr. Withers, I represent the Acme Shoe Leather Company."

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

The way of things . . . Earl would have made Fred Wolcott Veze become the first Texas Aggie to go navy under the new 30-day cruise plan. He reports in

New York City on August 19, and a month later he'll have an opportunity to take a three-month shore course at the end of which he will be eligible for a reserve commission as an ensign . . . Aggieband Orchestra's maestro Jack Littlejohn will probably not return to A. & M. next long session—which brings up the question of who will be the new leader? He'll be picked by a vote of the orchestra's returning members. Jack's work with the orchestra—which followed that of brother Tommy—was outstanding and it was under the leadership of the Littlejohn brothers that the orchestra reached its peak which many persons hoped would rate the orchestra a place on Fitch's 1940 Summer Bandwagon. Failure of the orchestra to place on the Fitch show isn't a reflection on the orchestra itself—it's just the same old story of Damnyankee interests being little concerned with anything south of the Mason-Dixon line . . . Colonel O. E. Beezley, when asked his opinion on the navy's new 30-day cruise plan mentioned above, "I don't like the water!" . . . Houston Douglas, when an Exchange Store employee asked him whether he wanted a new or second-hand text book, "The old books have more in 'em than I can learn."

Six-two-and-even Varsity letterman Marion Pugh is an Aggie blessed—or cursed, depending on your point of view—with more names than the Dionne quintuplets, and thereby hangs many a tale. Best of the lot, though, is the story behind the nickname "Dumbie."

Marion and another footballer, Finis White, were "highwaying" through East Texas not so long ago and, on passing a flourishing honky-tonk, decided to imbibe therein. Being lads with a sense of humor, the two decided to act deaf and dumb while in the place. Seating themselves at a table, they were approached by a rather thick-in-the-middle brewer who came all too bluntly to the point by asking, "Watta ya want?" Much waving of the hands on the part of the two Aggies finally relayed to the unsuspecting victim that they wanted pencil and paper. . . . And so which Marion scribbled an order for two beers.

The lass stepped back to the kitchen to fill the orders, and yelled to another waitress, "Say honey, how'd ya like a date with Dumbie?" Whereupon Marion came back with, "Any time, babe, any time!" The girl turned, her face taking on all shades of the color red; looked incredulously at Marion; dropped the tray she was carrying; tried to make her feet move—temporarily couldn't; and finally ran out the back door at a rate of speed which

Life's minor tragedies—No. 1 To-wit: The Texas University student—valedictorian of his high school graduating class a year ago—who, by way of showing that his "whole-hog-or-none" route, managed to stumble and falter along the paths of T. U.'s scholastic endeavor to the non-valedictory tune of passing NONE of his Freshman work this past semester. . . . One of A. & M.'s summer school enrollees this semester, he's here to try and recuperate his higher education. Quoth a fellow fraternity-ite, "He's really brilliant, it's just his motto that flips his studies —'pleasure before business!'"

All this and a kitchen stove too A sign on the Y.M.C.A. bulletin board recently made known to all that a woman's purse had been found in the building and that the owner could have same by identifying the thing. Now a great many people probably wondered what was in the purse . . . A few probably let their imagination run riot and imagined that the purse contained everything from a fifty dollar bill to Trojan Horse plans to blitzkrieg A. & M. College and blow up the Administration Building. Desiring to enlighten the public at all times, Backwash made an investigation—and here's the resulting contents: One Xmas greeting card, postmarked December 24, 1938; one Valentine, unused; one pair dice; one compact; one coin purse, contents one cent; one miniature white ivory horse; one fountain pen; one small piece of yellow chalk; two pencils, both broken; one handkerchief, clean; and one small piece of quartz.

College Park Community Center Has Formal Opening The Casey-Burgess Building, the new community center in College Park south of the project houses, had its formal opening on Tuesday, July 23, from 5 to 9. The Lilly Creamery served ice cream in the drug store, and punch was furnished by the Canada Dry concern.

This new building houses the Southside Food Market, the Madley Pharmacy, the Oakwood Realty Company headed by H. E. Burgess, Joe Vincent's general insurance office, the branch office of the Seaboard Life Insurance Company under Sidney J. Loveless, and the office of D. W. Andres, M. D.

WELCOME SUMMER STUDENTS

Stop At The AGGIELAND BARBER AND BEAUTY SHOP

Phone College 54 North Gate Opposite P. O.

NOTICE I have opened my office in the new Casey-Burgess building, West Park addition, south of Kyle Field.

Dwight W. Andres M. D. Physician and Surgeon

Movie Review

By Betty Shelton

Friday and Saturday at The Campus is "Little Old New York" with Alice Faye, Fred MacMurray, Richard Greene, and Brenda Joyce.

It brings back those days "way back when" cows roamed Fifth Avenue, grog was a penny a swig, and the Astors and the Roosevelts were just getting on their way. Although the picture deals basically with the drama of the steamboat, the historical aspects are overshadowed by the story of a barmaid belle of the brawling waterfront who fought the whole town to win the love and share in the glory of such a man as Robert Fulton.

All the flavor and appeal of Booth Tarkington's famous story are retained in the picture "Seventeen," which will be at the Assembly Hall Saturday. Jackie Cooper, as the small town Indiana boy, engaging in his first romance, captures audience sympathy from the start. Betty Field, who played a dramatic role in "Of Mice and Men," demonstrates her versatility as the visiting Chicago glamour girl who makes Jackie's heart beat faster. This picture is an ideal attraction for all types of audiences.

Preview Saturday night, Sunday, and Monday at The Campus is "That's Right—You're Wrong," starring Kay Kyser with his orchestra and Adolph Menjou. The picture breaks sharply away from the conventional boy-meets-girl theme on which most band leader films have been based. Instead, the story deals with the hilarious but futile efforts of a big Hollywood film company to make a picture with the famous orchestra leader. I'll probably see the picture a third time just to laugh at the gondola scene and hear Ginny Simms sing "I'm Fit to be Tied." Not since "Jesse James" has Tyrone Power had a role like that of "Johnny Appolo," which will be at the Assembly Hall Tuesday.

"Johnny Appolo" is the alias of a young college man, a banker's son who turns mobster when the father he idolized is sent to prison and his wealthy friends turn against him. Dorothy Lamour is more alluring than ever as Lucky Dubarry, the hard-boiled night club entertainer who understands and loves the boy, no matter what

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