

# The Battalion

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

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## Introducing.....

A NEW AND UNUSUAL COLUMN makes its debut with this issue of The Battalion and with it, of course, a new columnist. We refer to W. S. McCulley's contribution entitled "Brain Twisters". Mr. McCulley, who teaches in the Mathematics Department, has made a hobby of collecting such stories and catchy problems, and they number in the hundreds. There is no chance of running out.

The purpose of this column will be to lend variety and a spark of life to the usual run of news and editorial copy. Also the figuring out of the solutions should give the reader a short, but pleasant mental work-out. We hope the readers enjoy the column as much as we did in Mr. McCulley's Algebra class.

## Another Good Thing

WITH AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS turning out books and magazines by the ton it is well nigh impossible for the average busy person to try to read more than just a few. Immediately following the question of how to make a wise choice of reading matter from such a plentiful supply: "How do I distinguish the sheep from the goats?"

For the Aggies and local residents that problem will be solved in the future by a list of wholesome and readable books published monthly by the Cushing Memorial Library in pamphlet form and distributed in the dormitories.

The Battalion welcomes the appearance of this leaflet and prays that this is the only type of leaflet destined to fall upon our side of the ocean.

It by the issuance of these suggestions an interest in reading is created throughout the student body, then they will be worth their weight in gold. It has been said that a university is a collection of books; certainly the whole of civilization is contained in books. By presumption college students are anxious to learn—then there is no better place to spend time than reading books.

So to Dr. Mayo, who originated the idea, we say "We appreciate your efforts to lend us a guiding hand, and we think you have something there."

## Summer Reading..

A TYPICAL GOOD NOVEL of the late 1930's is likely to be of one of two kinds: either a historical novel, full of period dresses, wigs, sailing vessels, pioneers, or what-nots; or else a "proletarian novel", showing up dramatically the weak spots in our present economic set-up, and usually implying that they could be removed by the substitution, in full or in part, of socialism for capitalism. This second type will be discussed later.

If you readers of The Battalion are among the contemporary millions who like the far away and long ago sort of thing, you should try the yarns of Kenneth Roberts, especially "Rabble in Arms" and "Northwest Passage". They do a good deal toward making bits and figures of our own early history come to life and get up and walk about in flesh and blood. Benedict Arnold, for example, ceases in "Rabble in Arms," to be the sort of starchy traitor of old melodrama that he had always been—to one American, at any rate. He emerges as an extremely stout fellow who did wonders with small resources and who got a shady deal from our respected ancestors and from History in general.

By the way, that phrase "rabble in arms" suggests a situation that would seem to have vanished forever: I mean a nation successfully defended by its sturdy citizens armed with the old family rifle and such. Imagine a "rabble in arms", no matter how brave or numerous, facing a brace of tanks and a bevy of planes! Think of Spain! And yet Democracy has been defensible in the past only because of the sheer military manpower of the masses. From now on, apparently, as in the medieval days of expensive knights, manpower will be helpless against the moneypower that can buy gadgets. And if this omnipotent moneypower remains in the hands of a few men....?

If you like to read still further away and longer ago, try the historical novels of Lion Feuchtwanger: "Power" (18th Century German); "The Ugly Duchess" (14th Century Bavaria); "Josephus" (the Roman world just after the time of Christ). There are also two grand tales by Graves: "I Claudius" and "Claudius the God", something entirely new in novel writing.

All these books illustrate one cheering feature of the historical novels of our day: they are hard-boiled and realistic in their manner. Gone with

the Wind" made its extraordinary hit, I think, largely because Scarlett, though dressed in erinolines and framed in the regulation moonlight and roses, was just a Jabb Baby at heart. The "Godsooks" and "Prithee" style of historical fiction is definitely out—and a good thing, too.

## As the World Turns...

BY DR. R. W. STEEN

The results of the primary are about as expected. Governor O'Daniel again proved himself to be a campaigner of considerable merit and obtained a slight majority over all of his opponents. This was to be expected, since it is the custom in Texas to grant second terms. The governor could point to no constructive legislation, but his opponents could point to no wrong doing.



R. W. Steen on record.

The newspaper chatter about the victory being unusual and unprecedented simply indicates that newspapers have short memories. It is the usual thing for a governor to obtain a majority in the first primary when he seeks renomination. As a matter of fact the O'Daniel majority is one of the smallest on record.

In 1908 Governor Campbell, seeking a second term, was given 63% of the vote in the Democratic primary. In 1912 Governor Colquitt, seeking his second term, was given 55% of the primary vote. In 1916 James E. Ferguson, who was at that time less than one year removed from impeachment, was given 57% of the primary vote. In 1922 Pat Neff was given 54% of the primary vote. In 1928 Dan Moody received 60% of the vote in the primary, and in 1936 James V. Allred received 53% of the vote in the primary. Governor O'Daniel received about 54% of the vote this year.

Only on two occasions has a governor failed to receive a majority in the first primary, and on both occasions the governor was defeated in the second primary. Mrs. Ferguson sought a second nomination in 1926, after having served only one term, but was defeated by Dan Moody. Ross Sterling sought a second nomination in 1932, after having served only one term, and was defeated by Mrs. Ferguson.

The campaign did clarify a few issues. It would seem that Mr. O'Daniel's campaign personality and homely philosophy are more important than his band for the very good reason that several of the candidates used hill-billy bands.

Another issue growing out of the election is worthy of note. Mr. O'Daniel's followers jubilantly proclaim that as soon as he gets control of the boards and commissions whose members have overlapping terms there will be a general house cleaning. His opponents charge that when he gets control of these boards and commissions there will be a house cleaning. Due to the agreement of friends and foes on this issue there will doubtless be a great turnover in the employees of these agencies. It should not be assumed, however, that this is unusual. Every governor looks forward to his second term when his friends will constitute a majority of the members on most of the boards and commissions.

It would seem that the difference in amateur and professional politicians does not appear clearly in practice. At best it is a difference in motive.

## OPEN FORUM

WITH THE CONTROVERSY over socialized medicine waxing ever hotter and the present anti-trust proceedings against the American Medical Association, it is interesting to note that we have an example of "cooperative" medicine here on the A. & M. Campus. The question then naturally arises as to what the difference is between the "cooperative" medicine which we have here and socialized medicine. The only answer seems to be that the system which we have here is run for the benefit of the students only, while socialized medicine would be run for everyone.

During the summer session the student pays a medical fee of two dollars when he registers. This entitles him to any medical care he may need while he is enrolled. If he becomes ill, he is treated without additional charge. This system, as operated here, has unquestionably provided splendid medical facilities for the students.

Since cooperative medicine, as it is called here, has worked well, it is hard to understand why the State of Texas could not do the same thing on a larger scale for all its citizens, instead of just the students in its colleges.

—John Sandstedt

BY SURVEY THE AVERAGE college girl is found in a year to imbibe 210 quarts of "coke", eat 20 pounds of candy, and chew 20 feet of gum. Seven and one-half days would be spent in the movies and 55 days devoted to studies to compensate for 99 classes cut. Preparing for 80 days of dates, she would sleep 115 days for beauty, spend three days putting up her hair, and 16 combing it, bathe 80 hours, and zip 1,900 zippers. She would turn down 125 dates, receive five proposals, and be kissed 500 times, which act would require six inches of lipstick. Thirteen days would be spent at a telephone. She would annihilate 50 pairs of stockings, absorb two pounds of cold cream and buy a quart of perfume.

At a recent House hearing on navy department appropriations, Representative C. A. Plumley told the committee: "I can tell you something that you do not know about the R. O. T. C. (Naval) at Harvard and Yale. They are gentlemen's clubs, and they do not get the hard-boiled training that the navy needs."

STUDENTS AT EASTERN NEW Mexico College cramped for room in which to study and hold class, have their own way of seeking help. Under a plan just devised, every legislator in New Mexico will hear from some student in his constituency, respectfully asking that legislator to investigate conditions at the college and to decide for himself whether the conditions are good.

## Brain Twisters

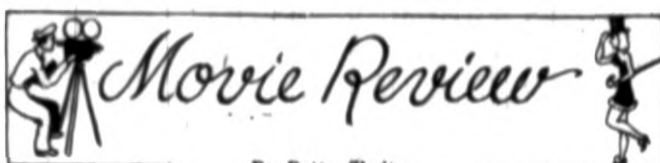
By W. S. McCulley

Once upon a time a certain king the first who can determine from had a prime minister and two men the action of the other two men who wanted to become prime min- the color of his own hat, to lower ister. The king, wishing to be his hand. The man who first low- fair to all—for this was in the days ers his hand and states correctly when kings could still be that the color of his own hat shall way—stated that he would devise be my Prime Minister."

A test problem, and the first man The blindfolds were applied and who could solve it would be prime a hat placed on each man. When the blindfolds were removed, three

The King assembled the three, hands were simultaneously raised and stated the problem thus: "I and remained so for several min- shall blindfold all three of you, utes. At last the present Prime and then I shall place a hat on Minister lowered his hand and each of your heads. Each hat stated that he knew the color of may be either red or blue. When his hat. He gave the king the I remove the blindfolds, each man correct answer, and so remained the other two men but not his Prime Minister.

WHAT COLOR WAS HIS HAT AND HOW DID HE KNOW IT? A red hat to raise his hand, and Answer on page 4



By Betty Shelton

Saturday at the Assembly Hall is "The Farmer's Daughter" with Martha Raye and Charlie Ruggles. Martha has the part of Patience, the farmer's daughter, who has been a jinx ever since she broke the doctor's spectacles at her own farm. Everything down on the farm is as peaceful as possible until a rehearsing Broadway troupe invades the countryside for the purpose of trying out a show. When the leading lady runs away at the last minute, Patience, who has been eavesdropping on rehearsals, steps into the role, stumbles through the show, bringing down the scenery—but, more important, the house along with it. Martha is in rare form in gingham, and you will remember for a long time her rendition of "Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair."

"20 Mule Team," which will be at the Assembly Hall Monday and Tuesday, combines all the action and thrills of the best Westerns with the picturesque background of Death Valley and sterling performance by three veterans. This umbrella story of the pioneers who braved the desert's treacherous heat to wrest a fortune from the borax mines presents Wallace Beery as colorful characterization since Muleskinner Bill Bragg, his most colorful characterization since "Viva Villa." Leo Carrillo is outstanding as his Indian "swampy," and Marjorie Rameau proves a surefire feminine teammate as saloon owner Josie Johnson.

Wednesday and Thursday at the Assembly Hall is Walt Disney's second full-length production, "Pinocchio," an adaptation of the story beloved by grown-ups and children alike. Photographed in the new multiplex of technicolor, this picture is the latest word on what can be done in the field of art in entertainment. The music follows the pattern of the light opera, and all the songs further the plot rather than furnish mere-ly a musical interlude. Like Dopey, Jiminy Cricket steals the show because of his gay personality, his conscientious efforts to be Pinocchio's conscience, and his little red shoes by three veterans. This umbrella

## BACKWASH

By George Fuerrman

Only 122 more shopping days animals of any of the three men- till Christmas. Aggie Allen fed and the generous-hearted Culppepper, referring to the facial unattractiveness of Kay Kyser's trumpeter Ish Kabibble, "He wasn't behind the door when looks were passed out — he wasn't even in the room!"



Fuerrman

It was a tabloid sports columnist, Dan Parker of the New York Mirror, who made his contribution to something or other a few years ago when he defined "Globber's Disease," at that time a relatively little known affliction, as "spots on de vest." T.S.C.W. Ellen Orr, "We girls are at a disadvantage—we have to write to an audience, not to a single person. Everyone in an A. & M. dormitory usually reads our letters, or knows what is in them, and forms an opinion accordingly." The Aggies say "ditto" Ellen... Life's minor tragedies—No. 2: The bizarre but authentic story of the cub reporter who, interviewing a Roman Catholic Bishop on his birthday, inquired solicitously about his wife... Man about town: Jim Riley, who makes the Juke Box Proms via barefeet... Two Aggies the writer knows of are making a nasty racket out of the weekly proms. To-wit: They conduct a contest between themselves at each Juke Box Prom to see who can bum the most chewing gum from friend and foe alike. The usual take is about ten sticks each... Facts in review: During the nine months of the 1939-40 long session, 3,395 students were patients in the College Hospital for at least 24 hours. But during the previous twelve month period of the 1938-39 session and the 1939 summer term, only 2,199 Aggies—a difference of 1,196—trked hospitalward for the overnight stay. The reason—in part, at least: The tremendous increase in enrollment.

On C. E. McNullan: The College Station restauranter has a hobby all his own—one he doesn't tell people much about but one that rates him a "regular fellow" in any corps. Dogs, cats, and boys—that's his hobby. Stray

anything, a shade more scrupulous than before. Today the reporter is supposed to smash all furniture in sight when invited to a home. He prefers to climb the chandelier before beginning an interview with the Chairman of United States Steel. He gets his greatest scoops while sleeping off a drunk in some boozey haven in the red light district. He writes best on twelve Scotch highballs. He insults everybody in earshot and is rewarded handsomely for his bad manners. He is happiest and most heroic when he has been thrown down a flight of stairs. He has one wife whom he rarely sees and always mistreats, an ex-wife in Peoria who has never been able to collect alimony, and a honey in Brooklyn Heights who regards him as a misunderstood Zola." Quite a lad.

### Point of view:

Earlier this summer an editorial appearing in the Summer Texan, student publication of the University of Texas, aroused considerable comment on the basis that it was an un-American expression closely akin to Martin Dies-bearded "subversive activity." Most unique of the many letters received by editor Boyd Sinclair (who, incidentally, is anything but un-American) was the following gem:

Dear Editor:

"A well-known authority remarked to me that there has been submersive activities going on at the Texan. He did not make it clear what they were, but if they are anything like submarines or inboard motorboats, I wish to join said submersive activities at once, as it sounds like fun to me.

"The last time I rode in a submersive was one summer when my favorite Model T ran into Bull Creek. Since that time I have not seen any of my friends that were with me, but that's not the point, since I got to ride in a submersive."

### What about the fourth drink:

L. M. Rice, Dallas attorney and an all-the-way A. & M. supporter, was recently telling some Aggie exes his philosophy in respect to the lush old demon drink. "After the first drink," he said, "a man gets to thinking that any problem can be solved—it might be a little difficult, but it still can be solved. After the second drink a man gets around to thinking that he's just the person to do it, and after the third drink he figures the problem has already been solved and to hell with it."

## RECENT RECORD RELEASES

Tommy Dorsey hits a home run with this double of sweet recordings, DEVIL MAY CARE and FOOLS RUSH IN. Written by two songwriters whose work has become established as a criterion of the best in popular music, these two numbers easily triple their value with the Dorsey arrangements. Frank Sinatra reaches new heights in his singing. The concluding ensembles are rich and full, packing an impelling lift from Bunny Berigan's lead trumpet and the solid rhythm section.

Freddy Martin gives us his interpretation of two of the new Irving Berlin hits. IT'S A LOVELY DAY TOMORROW is a smooth

### WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL  
Saturday—"The Farmer's Daughter" with Martha Raye and Charlie Ruggles.  
Monday and Tuesday—"20 Mule Team" with Wallace Beery, Leo Carrillo and Marjorie Rameau.  
Wednesday and Thursday—Walt Disney's "Pinocchio."

hilled with Clyde Rogers as vocal soloist. YOU CAN'T BRUSH ME OFF is played in medium rhythmic tempo with baritone Glen Hughes at the microphone purveying the clever lyrics. You will find two beautiful numbers on this Bluebird No. B-10695.

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