

# The Battalion

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

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station, is published three times weekly from September to June, twice Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings; and is published weekly from June through August.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Subscription rate, \$50 the summer season. Advertising rates upon request.

Represented nationally by National Advertising Service, Inc., at New York City, Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

Office, Room 122, Administration Building. Telephone 4-2444.

1939 Member 1940 Associated Collegiate Press

**Editor-in-Chief**  
W. R. Lonsberry  
**Business Manager**  
Earle A. Shields Jr.  
**Managing Editor**  
E. C. Chas.  
**Sports Editor**  
Margaret Hollingshead  
**Sports Assistant**  
C. B. Campbell Jr.  
**Circulation Manager**  
William G. Hauger  
**Staff Photographer**  
Philly Coleman  
**Amusements Editor**  
J. F. Clark  
**Movie Editor**  
Betty Shelton  
**Editorial Assistant**  
Laurie Thornton  
**Editorial Assistant**  
Kale Stone  
**Short Course Editor**  
James Ashby

### REPORTERS

W. O. Brinsberry, Pezzy Campbell, Tommy Collins, Jack Decker, William D. C. Jovan, John Sandstedt, D. C. Thurman, Margaret Ann Williams.

### COLUMNISTS

George Fuermann, Dr. T. F. Mayo, Dr. Al B. Nelson, E. C. Ostap, Betty Shelton.

## Defending Old Glory

The City of Dallas has enacted an ordinance providing a penalty for desecrating the United States flag. Recently a man distributing literature urging people to refuse to salute the United States flag, termed the flag as an idol and saluting the flag as worshipping an idol. The man was found guilty and fined \$100 and 30 days in jail. The municipal judge told the defendant that while he had the right to his opinion, this did not give him the right to spread such literature which desecrated the flag. This is the only instance of which we have read in which the defendants were charged with more than disturbing the peace. The defendant has appealed the case to a higher court, and the outcome will be watched with more than ordinary interest.

—Borrowed.

## Off the Record



"They must know we're still up—they're still talking about the weather!"

## BOOKS YOU'LL ENJOY

By DR. T. F. MAYO

Week before last, we glanced at the recent return of the taste for historic novels—buckskins, covered wagons, crinolines, and what have you. The other ruling fashion in the fiction of the 1930's was the novel of protest against the injustices of capitalist society, the so-called "proletarian" novel.

Personally, I like "The Grapes of Wrath" best of all this class. For one thing, the set of victims with whom it deals is close to us down here. We can see some of them almost any day on the road from Bryan to College (we are not referring, of course, to hitch-hiking Aggies.). In the second place, "The Grapes of Wrath" creates one really memorable person, Ma Joad. Ma is a great tragic character, one of the few in American literature, precisely because her greatness is really the result of her tragedy. In the third place, "The Grapes of Wrath" is mellowed by broad, rich, "folk" humor. Finally, Steinbeck knows how to write. If you liked "The Grapes of Wrath", go back and read his other books, "Tortilla Flats", "In Dubious Battle", "Of Mice and Men", and his volume of excellent short stories, "The Long Valley".

Another good "protest" novelist is Albert Halper. His best books, "The Foundry" and "The Chute" contain no heroes and no villains. Or, perhaps, the villain in both is capitalism; the hero is the unquenchable human spirit in poor people whose gentleness, courage, humor, and general decency cannot be altogether crushed out, even by poverty, overwork, and social frustration. In both of Halper's books, it is to be noted, the wealthy as well as the poor, the owners as well as the workers, are depicted as suffering from the system in which they are all equally entangled.

In the "Studs Lonigan" trio of novels, James Farrell writes about the corner poolroom boys in a lower middle class section of Chicago. What shocks you in these grim and absorbing stories is the realization that somehow America is failing to give to thousands of its potentially decent youngsters anything decent to live for, to get excited about. The natural consequence is that their excitement has to be sought through not too decent channels.

Along with these "protest" novelists should perhaps be named John Dos Passos ("1919", "The Big Money"), Robert Cantwell ("The Land of Plenty"), and Erskine Caldwell ("Tobacco Road", "Southwinds", "Trouble in July"). Altogether, the so-called "proletarian" writers, more than anything, I think, give a man something that he can get his teeth into. They shock you. They startle you. They make you mad. But (or therefore?) they are good for you. They are all, I believe, social radicals. They nearly all imply, if they don't say so, that only a clean sweep of capitalism and all its works can remedy the ills that they depict. But even if you don't agree to their remedial measures, you need to know the conditions and the people that they have so honestly and convincingly depicted. If, like the writer, you are averse, both rationally and emotionally, to revolutionary methods, the best way for us all to avert revolution is to get worked up about the conditions which, if left unheeded, might bring revolution down upon us. Every frustrated, underprivileged American is a potential henchman for the American Hitler, if and when he turns up.

Whether or not Director Paul Baker of Baylor University intends his play "Androcles and the Lion" by Bernard Shaw to be interpreted as a prophecy of an exaggerated possibility is not certain, but at least it is unusual. The summer theater's presentation is dated 1980 and the Caesar persecuting the Christians is Hitler II. Sons of Stalin, Mussolini, Goering, and Goebbels also have roles. Hitler will make his appearance on the stage by a parachute landing—the parachute being an umbrella given Hitler I in 1939 by one Neville Chamberlain.

Engineering students are famous for their mathematical approach to all phases of life—and University of Minnesota engineers are no exception. They've started a move to publish a list of all jokes used by their professors, a list that will classify and number all wise-cracks and favorite stories of the pedagogues. Chief reason for the project is that it will be a time-saver for all concerned, for in the future professors will merely give the number of their joke when they feel the moment has arrived to spice their lectures with a touch of levity.

Times-have-changed note: Back in 1799 rules of Hampden-Sydney College, we find "the students of the college prohibited from attending, or by any means being seen at any fires, battery or any other place where sporting or games are carried on."

Wonder if Chicago's President Hutchins has the same idea?

W.P.A. is causing confusion in collegeland as well as in the halls of Congress. Recently a W.P.A. worker at the University of Oregon cut a telephone cable when he thought he was removing an old water pipe, thereby forcing professors and secretaries to deliver written or verbal messages by messenger for some days.

## Saving Texas Lives

Beginning next September a long step will be taken toward eliminating one of the greatest dangers in American life, the automobile accident. Driver training courses will be inaugurated in 1,214 Texas high schools, the course being designed for students approximating the legal driving age of 16. The students will receive one-half credit for the course and will also receive a driver's license on its completion.

This step is without question one of the most forward ever taken in Texas education. With one hundred people meeting their deaths each day on American highways and countless more sustaining injuries, the automobile, which has revolutionized the United States, has also become a scourge of destruction. In recent years notice of that fact has been taken, and countless safety campaigns of one sort or another have been inaugurated. While these campaigns have unquestionably had some beneficial effect, the real problem, the quality of American drivers, has yet to be solved. The education of the drivers of the future in Texas schools is a step toward solving this fundamental problem.

It must be pointed out, however, that this is only a beginning. Although graduation credit will be allowed for the course in accredited high schools, it will be necessary for the boards of those schools to approve inauguration of the program in each school. The Texas Safety Association, through affiliated safety councils and cooperating organizations such as the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers will seek early approval of the school boards. It is to be hoped that cooperation will be forthcoming.

Meanwhile, death takes no holiday.

## Out of the Laboratory

Chemurgy in Texas begins to move out of the chamber of commerce convention hall and the college laboratory into the actual economic processes of the state. As reported by Victor H. Schoffelmayer, agricultural editor of The News, a \$500,000 corporation has been set up to begin transmitting the old-fashioned East Texas yam into a series of valuable products ranging from stock feed to mullage, starch, baker's flour and other by-products. This company expects to have the first of seven or eight sweet potato dehydration plants in operation this fall and other chemurgic raw materials will be tackled later in additional plants.

Not that the convention hall and the laboratory have not afforded an indispensable prelude to actual production. Without the educational work of the East Texas Chamber of Commerce and indomitable research and experimentation by Prof. Gilbert C. Wilson of North Texas State Teachers College at Denton, chemurgy in this particular crop in Texas might continue as a pleasant pipe dream for years to come. Now East Texas yam growers may soon begin to realize gross returns of \$30 an acre, or three times the income from the average acre of cotton as present prices. The first dehydration plant planned for Texas will be the third in the United States. There is no reason why it should not be as successful as those already in operation in Mississippi and Louisiana.—Dallas News.

## Mr. Cashion Is A Prince

When M. L. Cashion of the Y. M. C. A. announced that any possible admission tax that might be levied upon the Assembly Hall would not affect the total admission charge, but would be absorbed by the "Y", he proved again something that we already knew. He is one prince of a fellow.

The way of most concerns when a sales tax or a tax of similar nature is passed, they sluff this assessment on the consumer-public to pay. There are some who might even go so far as to call Mr. Cashion a "chump" for not doing the same thing. After all why should he suffer losses when no one else does?

We believe that when all is said and done, Mr. Cashion's psychology will prove to work out best. Cast your bread upon the waters and it will return two-fold.

That we appreciate his effort to be a help to us Aggies is voiced by one cadet who said, "I think that was darn white of him, and he won't lose lose money on that deal, either."

It has been found at the University of Michigan that there is as much correlation between the marks of the father and his son as there is between the marks a student makes in high school and college.

## Brain Twisters

By W. S. McCulley

In a certain geographical region there live two tribes of Indians, the Blackfeet and the Whitefeet. The former have the somewhat monotonous characteristic that they always tell the truth, while the latter have the same monotonous but more interesting characteristic that they never tell the truth. More briefly, a statement made by a Blackfoot is a true statement, while a statement made by a Whitefoot is a false statement.

A traveler in this region comes upon a group of three Indians, but is unable to tell, from their appearance, to which of the two tribes they belong. His curiosity is aroused by the stories he has heard about them, so he inquires. In answering the traveler, the first Indian indistinctly mumbles something that the traveler cannot hear. The second Indian sticks in his ear at this point and reports, "H esaid, 'I am a Blackfoot.'" Not to be outdone in this extended conversation, the third Indian joined in with, "The second Indian is a Whitefoot."

## As the World Turns...

India will have self-government after the war is over, according to a promise which has just been made. This will probably open a tremendous reserve of man-power to the British, and will be of great importance in holding the Far East against Japan and in holding Egypt against Italy. Of course it will be several months before the men can be enlisted, trained and armed for service.



The Democratic Party has turned to one of the big city political bosses to succeed Jim Farley as chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Edward J. Flynn has built up a powerful political machine in the Bronx, one of the

counties of New York City, and in common with the Kelly-Nash machine in Chicago, the Crump machine in Memphis, the political machine of Boss Hague in New Jersey, and others of lesser prominence throughout the country, has been a great supporter of Roosevelt and the New Deal, for the W.P.A. and other New Deal organizations have given the political bosses their greatest opportunity in the history of the nation to build up their organizations at the expense of the national treasury.

## Smaller Farms Encouraged By State Committee

Encouragement of smaller farms to provide more homes on the land for farmers who are now being displaced by the trend to large acreage has been postponed by the State Land Use Planning Committee. Chairman of this committee is H. H. Williamson, Director of the Extension Service. This state committee supervises the organization of local land use planning committees, which have been established in practically every county in the state.

The completed plan will be presented at a meeting of the state committee to be held in Temple this month. The state committee is composed of 24 farmers representing the various farming areas of Texas and of 18 representatives of federal and state agencies concerned with land use.

The plan proposed is exploratory, for the purpose of discovering farmers who are making a good living on a comparatively small acreage and of publicizing their methods. Chambers of Commerce, newspapers, and other institutions are called upon to cooperate.

The cause for this action is obvious, in view of farmers being forced off the land at the same time that the cities are ceasing to absorb the surplus. 1,500,000 heads of farm families are wholly or partially unemployed today, and the Department of Agriculture estimates 400,000 who now have jobs will lose them within the next ten

years, due to increased mechanization and other changes in farm methods. While these are being displaced, the farm population will be increased two million in excess of births over deaths.

A meeting of a sub-committee, held last week in Dallas, worked out details of county campaigns which shall be known as "Bigger Acres Campaigns". Since farming more acres per man is causing the displacement, the committee proposes to produce more wealth on the same, or fewer acres, therefore making "Bigger Acres".

More acres per farm is not necessary; the fault is not in the size of the farms, but in the method of working them. The committee proposes a system such as would "not sell oats in the raw but would convert oats into milk and milk into butter and cheese and to do it on the farm or where the farmer will get the profit". The committee says it does not assume to know the details by which this shall be accomplished, but that it is known that in every county of Texas a few farmers are making a good living on a comparatively small acreage. We propose to discover who they are and how they are doing it and to hold up their example for others to follow.

Reports of the current census have shown that Oklahoma lost 25,000 farms during the past ten years, and the indications are that Texas, for which the figures have not been announced, lost also, though not so heavily. The loss in farms was heaviest in the western counties. Many of the eastern counties actually show small gains. The eastern counties still offer an opportunity for small

## Movie Review

By Betty Shelton

Saturday at the Assembly Hall is "The Biscuit Eater," a Saturday Evening Post Story, with Bill Lee and Cordell Hickman. It is a true-to-life story of a spunky little Georgia boy who adopts the runt of a thoroughbred litter and sets out to make him a champion. The boy and his darky pal succeed far better than anyone expected, and before long the despised dog is a serious contender for first place in the thrilling final run-off of a field trial. The picture was "filmed on the spot" in the Georgia hunting country, and colorful local characters were used in the supporting roles. If you love kids and if you love dogs, you'll surely like "The Biscuit Eater".

"Waterloo Bridge." Vivien Leigh's second American film, starring her with Robert Taylor, will be at the Assembly Hall Wednesday and Thursday. Miss Leigh and Taylor are perfectly teamed as the romantic lovers in this tender story against a powerfully dramatic war background. As Myra Lester, a petite ballet dancer, Miss Leigh displays a more charming and more sympathetic side of her personality than she did in her Academy Award performance of Scarlet O'Hara. Taylor makes the most of his role as a young British officer who meets the little dancer on historic Waterloo Bridge during an air raid and loves her almost at first sight. He wins her heart in twenty-four happy hours, but before they can be married he is called back to the front. Their almost miraculous reunion at Waterloo Station, when he returns after being held in a prison camp, brings their romance dramatically to a climax.

Monday and Tuesday at the Assembly Hall is "Buck Benny Rides Again" with Jack Benny, Ellen

Drew, Andy Devine, Phil Harris, and Rochester. Not only Benny but most of his radio troupe forsake the microphone to don ten-gallon hats and head for the wide open spaces, where they have the time of their life. The result is lively entertainment when the buckaroo mounts a horse and rides the herd, and Rochester steals the show as usual with an inimitable imitation of Fred Astair. Its a "saga of the sagebrush thats more wacky than wild."

### WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL  
Saturday—"THE BISCUIT EATER" will Billy Lee, Cordell Hickman, and Helen Millard.

Monday and Tuesday—"BUCK BENNY RIDES AGAIN" with Jack Benny, Ellen Drew, Andy Devine, Phil Harris, and Rochester.

Wednesday and Thursday—"WATERLOO BRIDGE" with Vivien Leigh and Robert Taylor.

## Large Proportion Of A. & M. Students Will Become Army Officers

Approximately one-sixth of the enrollment of Texas A. & M. College this year will be boys who are preparing themselves as commissioned officers for either the regular United States army or the Officer's Reserve Corps.

The remainder of the 6,000 students will be made up of those taking the basic military science course in preparation for the advanced course later, or those who have completed or will complete the basic course and be ready to serve as non-commissioned officers in a national emergency.

This Texas institution furnished approximately 2,200 men, most of them commissioned officers, for World War I. Since that time the college has trained some 4,000 who have been commissioned by the federal government. Those 4,600, in addition to many of the ones who served in the last conflict, are in the age limits as prescribed by Congress and are prepared to take up arms and lead the army groups in case of another national emergency.

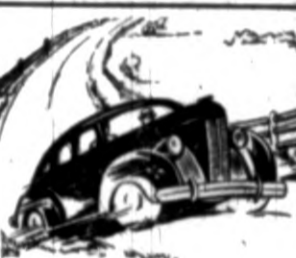
It is believed by some of the ranking officers that many of these Texas boys, trained by A. & M. College, will be called into service to train the youth of the country under the compulsory training program as a further contribution of the Texas institution to the national defense program.

### If You Require Glasses— You Need Them Now—

To postpone the wearing of glasses because of groundless prejudice is to take risks with your eyes. Isn't the matter worth your investigation?

Consult

DR. J. W. PAYNE  
Optometrist  
Masonic Bldg. - Ph. Br. 35  
Next to Palace Theatre



USE

Mobilgas  
FOR  
FULL POWER-  
LONG MILEAGE

Drive in at our sign of the Flying Red Horse for a tankful of Mobilgas. You'll like the quick response . . . smooth acceleration . . . full power and long mileage that Mobilgas gives. In traffic, or on the highway, Mobilgas delivers Balanced Performance. Let us fill 'er up with Mobilgas, today!

AGGIELAND  
Service Station  
East Gate - Ph. 41188  
24 Hour Service

FOOD  
Worth

SHOUTING  
ABOUT!

Really enjoyable meals served piping hot as the cook intended them to be at—

CHEF JOHN'S  
STEAKHOUSE  
On Highway No. 6