

The Battalion

STUDENT TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
TEXAS A. & M. COLLEGE

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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 task 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 take precedence over his party affiliation.

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 more 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.

America Changes

IN THE UNSTREAMEDLINE 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 also was 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 Democrat since the 1860's.

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

In 1940 it's not so easy for a candidate to give a voting citizenry the old party affiliation razz-matazz. 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 one. 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 deal of praise for the fine work which they have

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 Aggieland's seven thousand are voters. Amazingly few of them, considering that Texas has long been a Democratic stronghold, discuss the candidates for States 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 candidate's qualifications.

Book's You Will Enjoy

By DR. T. F. MAYO

As a simple and rapid test of the breadth of your reading, you are offered the following ten words. If you can explain the meaning of each of them, if each of them represents an idea which you use habitually in your thinking, if you can intelligently attack or defend those which name disputed theories or concepts, then it would seem that you are a reasonably well-read person. If, on the other hand, there is even one of these words which means nothing at all to you, or about which your notions are hopelessly vague and cloudy, there is apparently a serious blank spot in your reading.

Now nobody maintains that an understanding of what these ten words stand for will automatically make you wise. It also seems obvious that you may be a fairly wise person in spite of not knowing anything much about several of them. There have always been ignorant philosophers of merit, and everybody knows that there are plenty of well-read fools.

If, however, you agree with most people that to be well-read, beside making life more interesting, it is also at least a help toward wisdom, you may like to measure with this home-made yardstick the breadth of your own reading. In connection with each word, a book is suggested which will at least begin (but only begin) the process of informing you on the subject.

1. Evolution (Biology) Read: "How We Came by Our Bodies", by C. B. Davenport.
2. Socialism (Economics and sociology) Read "Selected Articles on Capitalism and Its Alternatives", edited by J. E. Johnsen.
3. Electron (Physical science) Read: "Man and His Universe", by J. Langdon Davies.
4. Inferiority Complex (Psychology) Read: "Psychology", by E. D. Martin.
5. Conditioned Reflex (Psychology) Read "The Ways of Behaviorism", by J. B. Watson.
6. Instrumentalism (Philosophy) Read: "Human Nature and Conduct", by John Dewey.
7. Realism (The Arts) Read: "The Later Realism", by W. L. Myers.
8. Economic interpretation (of History) Read: "The Devil Theory of War", by C. A. Beard.
9. Hellenism (Culture) Read: "Greek Ideals", by C. D. Burns.
10. Renaissance (Culture History) Read "The Civilization of the Renaissance", by J. W. Thompson.

As the World Turns...

By V. K. SUGAREFF

Total war has not yet confronted the American people, but our national defense program has met opposition from many quarters. Congress, after three months of debate and deliberation, has appropriated billions of dollars and passed the Conscription Act in preparation of our national defense. Now that the Congressional delay has passed, there remains the carrying out of the preparedness program. Here a varied interest clash, such as the cost of plant expansion, profits, and wages. Dictatorial powers are necessary to overcome some of these interests. And Congress has authorized the president to use such powers if he deems it advisable to speed up our national defense activities.

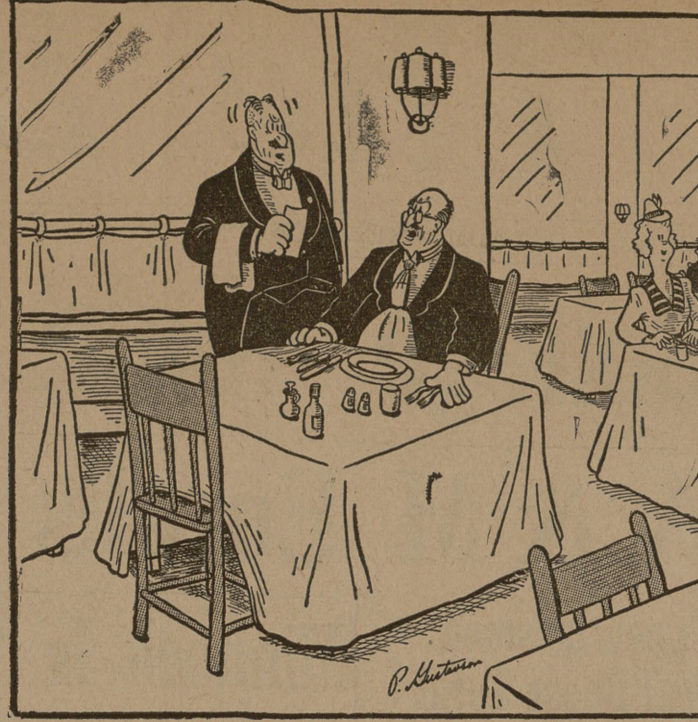
Assistant Secretary of War, Judge Patterson, a Republican, has stated that "the same obligation that takes the soldier into the field for training takes industry into the production of military equipment." The Administration, however, would hardly undertake to draft industry on the same basis as the individual. Plant expansion is a costly undertaking. Nearly a billion dollars would be required for plant expansion to meet our present needs and eventually even go far beyond that amount. The RFC has been given powers to make loans to essential industries for expansion of their plant facilities.

The matter of profits has also been disposed of by two acts—Army and Navy. These acts put limits on profits that can be made from defense orders. If a contract is made between the government and a company by direct negotiation, the ceiling profit is 7 per cent of the estimated cost of the order. Aircraft and naval vessels contracts, which are made by competitive bidding, is limited to 8 per cent profit of cost. Other than aircraft and naval vessels the contracts have not been limited under the competitive bidding. However, Congress is now considering an excess profits bill which will take care of profiteers.

The cost of living is a serious problem to the wage-earner when prices of commodities are rising. Organized labor is advocating a scale of wages to meet the rising cost of living. Besides, the Wage and Hour Act of 1938, Congress has passed the Public Contracts Act (Walsh-Healey Act) empowering the Secretary of Labor to fix the minimum wage and enforce a time and half pay for all time in excess of 40 hours per week.

Under such agreements as these between the government and interested parties, our national defense program should make a speedy progress. In fact, the jam in the defense program is already broken. Last week the defense contracts amounted to nearly \$4,000,000,000.

Total preparedness, however, involves spiritual as well as material elements. To that end about 500 scientists, theologians, and teachers are, at this writing, discussing in New York City the formulation of ideology of the American Democracy. Already text books for the grade schools are appearing in which the merits and the demerits of Totalitarianism and Democracy are explained. "If you want the people to know anything", Napoleon used to say, "put it in the schools." We may have started late in teaching the benefits of Democracy, but we are on the way of total preparedness.



"Would you mind taking this soup back and dip that ox-tail in it once more?"

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

Once Over Lightly . . . Out of the groove of probability was the letter received by the Registrar's Office from a Dallas freshman-to-be who wanted complete information about A. & M.'s home economics department . . .

One of the Sugar Bowl Association officials, recently visiting on the campus, was definitely on the money when he said, "Texas A. & M. is easily the nation's most colorful college where football fans are concerned." . . . An Infantry junior, buying some civilian clothes in a Bryan haberdashery, "Sure I'm still an Aggie—I'm just getting non-regged up!" . . . Believe-it-or-nots of A. & M. roommates last year, where names were concerned, was the ball-bearing combination of the two Houston then-freshmen, David Ball and Conrad Bering Jr. . . . Aggieland Orchestra's ex-maestro, Jack Littlejohn, who turns the reins over to Ed Minnock, will soon be salarizing with a major tobacco firm . . .

The stories that Ed Aldrich—who was an information booth employee throughout freshman registration day—is telling in respect to unique, and sometimes foolish, questions are well worth repeating. There's the case of a freshman's father, for example, who asked—and seriously, too—"Where do I pay my son's radiator fee?" Then there's the one about the freshman who wanted to know where he could apply to be a room orderly. He came back an hour later, and a lit-

WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL

Thursday: "IRENE," starring Anna Neagle, Ray Milland, May Robson, and Roland Young.

Friday: "EARTHBOUND," with Warner Baxter, Andrea Leeds, and Lynn Bari.

AT THE CAMPUS

Thursday: "YOU'RE NOT SO TOUGH," with the Dead End Kids, Nan Grey, Billy Hallop, and the Little Tough Guys.

Friday, Saturday: "DANGER ON WHEELS," with Richard Arlen, Andy Devine, and Peggy Moran.

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FRESHMEN! Here's One Rule Not In The Book

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ARROW SHIRTS



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