

The Battalion

STUDENT TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
 TEXAS A. & M. COLLEGE
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War . . . Why?

TWO MEN walked side by side down the street. The sprightly youthful step of one and the heavy step of the other indicated the possibility of father and son.

As they strolled they approached a bridge. Stopping to gaze into the rushing waters below, the two stared in contemplative silence. Suddenly the younger man spoke:

"Dad," he began, "What is all this talk of war? I hear people every day saying it is inevitable. One prominent man said we would be taking active part in war by April. Why must this country, with every facility for a peaceful existence, enter into a squabble that does not concern us? Congressmen say that the draft bill was passed to prepare us to meet all eventualities. I was heartily in favor of having that bill passed; it is always wise to be prepared. But now, just as I feared, the talk is getting away from being prepared for defense. Our leaders are beginning to mention "going" to war. My question is, why?"

"Answering your question, son, isn't as easy as 1, 2, 3, because it involves many lines of reason and can be approached from many angles. As far back as accurate history goes wars have been going on. Every generation, without exception, has fought a war. That applies to our own country as well. The reason is that the men that make them do not fight them.

You have probably observed that current events are not the cause of war. They only determine the immediate time for it to start. I, too, feel the strong possibility of our entering the European war. Whether we will be in by April or not I do not know. Sometimes I feel that we are already in it.

"But there is only one answer to your question of why there is a war going on. Without a doubt this war is a throwback from the last one, and it has been properly labeled World War II. In reality, it is merely the second act of the same play; it is not two different dramas. The causes of the first war were not settled, and the peace treaty was not satisfactory.

"If you can explain why we entered the last war, then that explanation will suffice now. The cry was "save the world for democracy."

"I don't know just what reason the country's leaders will give this time, but mark my words it will be good."

Texas, Our Texas

SIMILARLY, AS "God Bless America" and "America" are not the National Anthem, neither is "The Eyes of Texas" the state song of Texas. For the benefit of those who do not know, "Texas Our Texas" is the official song of Texas, as established by an act of the legislature a few years ago. Rising when a song other than the state song is played is showing disrespect to the state song. "The Eyes of Texas" is the official song of the University of Texas, and should not be confused with "Texas Our Texas."

Last Saturday when the strains of "The Eyes of Texas" reached their ears, most of the civilians and half of the cadet corps present rose to pay homage to the state of Texas, apparently ignorant of the fact that "The Eyes of Texas" is not the official song of the state.

Here is a copy of the words to "Texas Our Texas" for the benefit of those who are not familiar with the song.

Texas, Our Texas!
 All hail the mighty state!
 Texas, Our Texas!
 So wonderful, so great!
 Largest and grandest,
 Withstanding every test;
 O Empire! Wide and glorious,
 You stand supremely best.

Chorus—
 God bless you, Texas.
 And keep you brave and strong
 That you may grow in power and worth
 Throughout the ages long.

OPEN FORUM

OUR TRAFFIC PROBLEM
 By Walter Sullivan
 OUR CAMPUS TRAFFIC problem has grown in recent years to such an extent that it warrants immediate attention, and the Battalion is to be congratulated for its editorial (October 24) written in recognition of this fact.

At present, Texas A. & M. is enjoying the greatest enrollment in its history, but from this pleasure comes the unpleasant result of extremely crowded conditions of our streets and sidewalks . . . we can't remove this problem, but with the greatest of ease, we can better the existing situation.

It is not because of our being students at A. & M. that we should be allowed to walk with safety across the campus; neither is it because of the

motorists' being a taxpayer, nor because of his being on urgent business, that he should be free of correctable traffic obstacles while employing the use of our city streets. In ours, as in every other problem of its kind, the answer lies in the application of mutual consideration. It is not that our motorists and pedestrians' rights are preemptive, but that we in our Democratic way of life believe in meeting the other fellow half way . . . as in the words of Benjamin Franklin, "each must give a little."

If the motorist will drive carefully and observe the legal speed limit, and if the students will do such things as to face traffic while walking and at the same time realize that he is walking in traffic, we may soon eliminate the trials, tribulations, and danger involved in crossing our campus.

Something To Read

By DR. T. F. MAYO
 The People's Library

THE LIBRARY IS gradually acquiring, as they come out, a collection of little books, edited under the series title of "The People's Library", which the Aggies should find useful and interesting. They are all, so far, clearly and even entertainingly written by sound people. They are pleasantly gotten up as to print, etc., and they are blessedly brief! (none over 125 pages). Each of them constitutes an adequate introduction to some field of interest which you have already vaguely intended to explore, but from which you have shrunk, perhaps, because of the size and grimness of the book which you have seen on the subject.

Here are the titles which we already have. Others are being ordered.

Which Way America?, by Lyman Bryson. The shortest and clearest explanation of the meaning of the bewildering "isms" which confront us in the headlines: Fascism, Communism, Socialism, etc. Incidentally, the author takes a shot at defining "Democracy", which we are likely to overlook in the shuffle!

Here Comes Labor, by Chester Wright. What we want to know about the CIO, the AF of L, strikes, labor politics, and the significance of the Labor Movement to us all.

They Worked for a Better World, by Allan Seager. "This is a book about five people for whom the world was not good enough. Their names were Roger Williams, Thomas Paine, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Elizabeth Stanton, and Edward Bellamy. It would not be a bad thing to hunt out, recognize, and help the men and women like them who are living now."

Who Are These Americans?, by Paul B. Sears. A most enlightening little survey of the racial origins of the American nation, of the raw ingredients which have been thrown into our melting pot.

Let Me Think, by H. A. Overstreet. The best introduction I know to an analysis of oneself and one's world.

The Attractive Home, by Lydia Powel. Why should such matters be left entirely to the women—frequently with ghastly results?

As the World Turns...

By "Count" V. K. Sugareff
 Request

"Please, explain in your column how the president is elected." Rev. Norman Anderson.
 AS ORIGINALLY PROVIDED in the constitution, the president is still elected by the "electoral college", composed of as many electors as there are members in both houses of congress (531). In the first three presidential elections each elector voted independently. Since the rise of well organized political parties, the membership of the electoral college has become purely a party institution. Each state controls the election within its territory and each party designates its specified number of electors, who vote for their party candidate in case the party wins the election.

At present day election proceeds as follows: (1) The president and vice-president are nominated at the party nominating convention. (2) The political parties in each state designate as many electors as that state has members in congress. (Texas has 23 electors in the electoral college, corresponding to our 21 congressmen and two senators. New Mexico has 3 electors, corresponding to her two senators and one congressman at large.) (3) The general election takes place every fourth year on Tuesday after the first Monday in November. If the Democrats win the election in a give state, the electors will be those designated by the Democratic Party, or vice versa. If the Democrats carry enough states to give their candidate a majority of the 531 electoral votes, we know that our next president will be the democratic candidate, and yet the president is not, technically speaking, elected. (4) On Monday after the second Wednesday in December (Dec. 16 this year) the electors meet in their respective state capitols and each casts a separate vote for the president and vice-president of his party. These votes are signed and sealed in duplicate and together with the electors' certificate of election, signed by the governor of the state, are sent to the president of the U. S. Senate. Copies of these votes are also sent to the Department of State. (5) On January 6 (three days after congress convenes) congress holds a joint session and the votes are counted. The candidate receiving a majority of the electoral votes (266) is declared president of the U. S. A similar procedure is followed for the vice-president. (6) In case no president is elected by this procedure, the house of representatives, voting by states, elects a president from the three candidates having the largest number of votes. The senate, voting individually, elects a vice-president from the two candidates having the largest number of votes. (7) The president is inaugurated January 20.

National Defense Progress-Press news from Fort Lewis, Washington, states that the U. S. Army is to have a special Rocky Mountain artillery. The Rocky Mountains form a decisive geographical division of the United States. A specially equipped and trained personnel is being created to guard the Rocky Mountain passes. The organization is designated as the 99th field artillery and it is commanded by Lieut. Col. David Ruffner.

BACKWASH

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

Aggie-gorged Dallas will ring the profit bell till it cracks in a manner that'll make the Liberty Bell blush with shame Saturday when the greatest mass movement in the history of the sixty-four-year-old cadet corps becomes a fact.

And that same corps will leave College Station as deserted as a city plagued with leprosy. Six thousand—and more—Texas Aggies will make the biennial trek to Dallas. Half a thousand professors will do the same thing. And there's a few thousand Brazos County civilians who'll be there, too.

So it's all roads leading to Dallas Saturday as far as the Texas Aggies are concerned. They'll go by every means of transportation yet devised by man—but the important thing is, they'll go!

They'll go in 1941 automobiles and they'll ride in the back of fertilizer trucks, too. They'll go by airplane, truck, bus and train and, if someone'll build a canal, they'll swim or go by boat. Most of them, though, will use the famed Aggie hitch-hiking license and thumb their way to the gate.

And when they arrive and form for the corps trip parade, the area surrounding the Dallas Union Terminal will resemble a super-mob scene in a Hollywood spectacle, or one of Mr. Stalin's mass parades through Red Square.

Saturday, November 9—the No. 1 day in the 1940-41 life of a Texas Aggie where activities are concerned.



That's Tex behind the lady holding the snake's head. She's Mrs. Marie Abrams, carnival owner who had purchased the snake. He's 28 feet long and muzzled. (Marie refused to be pictured with an unmuzzled snake—which is "tact" in red letters!)

Tex Flynn Again.

The item in last Saturday's column concerning Robert (Tex) Flynn and his experiences with Frank Buck has caused no little comment. Most cadets have wanted to hear about the narrow escapes Tex had during his eight-month's employment with the bring-'em-back-alive artist, so here's one in his own words:

"Early one morning as we were entering the lion house we heard an unusual commotion which warned us that something was wrong. We looked inside and could see down one side of the building the dim line of lion cages. The animals were in a turmoil, pacing the floor and roaring as though the world was coming to an end. We weren't long in finding out the trouble. A careless workman who had been working on a nearby panther cage had left the ceiling door in the cage open. It was an easy trick for the black panther to escape and he was playing havoc within the confines of the entire animal house. He had already killed two kangaroos, several African deer, and three water fowls. One of the men in our party had his express rifle handy, and just as the panther leaped at two of us, he fired, a well-aimed shot and saved both our lives."

Then there's the story about the near-tragedy in the snake house. Tex and the snake house manager, Texan Cole Schmidt, were removing a 28-foot Indian python and noticed that the snake was a little more restless and mean than usual. Before they had a chance to leave the enclosure to get more men, the snake struck—quickly winding several coils around Cole's body. Four men were necessary to unwind the deadly snake but after a few hectic minutes Cole was freed with no more damage than a lacerated hand.

This Is Sad.

Meaning the story one of the ranch-living Aggies is telling about modern commercialism. It seems that ranch life was just the thing, but mosquitoes were fast bringing to the country a little problem of personal defense which cried out loud for an answer. In short order

Mrs. Elias Compton, selected as one of the 10 outstanding women of 1939, is the only woman ever to receive an honorary LL.D. degree for motherhood. She is the mother of three famous men.

When in Doubt About Your Eyes or Your Glasses, Consult
 DR. J. W. PAYNE
 Optometrist
 Masonic Bldg. - Bryan

Movie Review

By Tom Gillis

"FLIGHT ANGELS" contains the efforts of four young stars who are not too dry behind the ears yet but at least three of whom have a promising future ahead of them. Jane Wyman is probably the most up and coming of the bunch, and she has a whirlwind role as a saucy blond airline hostess. Wayne Morris is the slow and honest but not too sure co-pilot under Dennis Morgan. Dennis is the temperamental pilot and the player who shows least promise in his acting. Virginia Bruce, although still young, has proved herself several times as a star and now she goes aloft as another airline hostess.

Two parallel and rather run-of-the-mill romances are carried on by the two pilots and the two hostesses until temperamental Dennis Morgan finds his sight has failed. He tries to up stakes and quit the business and gets called a quitter and even wife Virginia Bruce is disgusted with him. He steals a newly built plane and is going to make his final flight testing it. This he does but crashes in landing. Of course he redeems himself and everything is rosy with him as an instructor in the Army.

The antics of Jane Wyman are the best features of this show. She gets hot under the collar several times and nearly blasts the airline company out from under the whole bunch. This show is rather slow and cute Jane Wyman nearly steals it by providing what fast spots there are. Incidentally, Virginia Bruce could never be an airplane hostess in real life because she is too tall.

WHAT'S SHOWING

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL

Thursday 3:30 & 7:30—
 "BOOM TOWN," starring Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy, Claudette Colbert, and Hedy Lamarr.

Friday 7:30 — "FLIGHT ANGELS," featuring Virginia Bruce, Dennis Morgan, Wayne Morris, Jane Wyman, and Ralph Belamy.

Nov. 8 punch on Y card good for this show.

AT THE CAMPUS

Thursday, Friday Saturday — "PUBLIC DEB. NO. 1," with Elsa Maxwell, George Murphy, Brenda Joyce, Mischa Auer, Charlie Ruggles, Ralph Belamy, and Maxie Rosenbloom.

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