

# The Battalion

**STUDENT TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER**  
**TEXAS A. & M. COLLEGE**  
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## OPEN FORUM

DURING THE PAST two or three years the tradition of speaking to other Aggies on and off the campus has practically dropped from the minds of everyone. This tradition was one of the best traditions of the old A. & M. It seems that many of the old traditions of the Aggies have been done away with in the past few years, but let's try to keep this one alive. You Sophomores try to remember this and also remind the Freshman about it at your next meeting.

Mike Florence

Dear Sir:

October 19th was my first trip down to College Station. I was much impressed with the traditions and customs of the Cadets.

I appreciate most of all the fine reception that the T. C. U. students received. If all of the Cadets are as thoughtful as a certain senior mechanical engineer—then A. & M. is fulfilling its purpose of producing fine young gentlemen. Needless to say, you really have a fine ball club.

M. Hopkins

A T.C.U. backer and staunch supporter of A. & M.

## Man, Your Manners

BY I. SHERWOOD

EVERY YOUNG MAN is seeking the perfect girl, the one above reproach, whom he can be proud to introduce to his parents and friends—to this end he continues to have dates until he finds her.

In a man's column it shouldn't be necessary to say what a man desires in a woman, but it might be a good idea to mention some of the things that a woman desires in a man.

**A Woman Likes**—A man who makes her feel that she is the one woman on earth for him. She loves small attentions and courtesies, and having her birthdays and anniversaries remembered. Until engaged, suitable gifts are flowers, candy, or books. No woman wants to be thought of as helpless or fragile, but she does like the idea of being protected.

Most women are more conscious of details than men. They like things done correctly and are apt to be critical about formalities. No matter what she says, she enjoys having men rise in her presence, hold doors open, and pull her chair out for her.

Casualness and poise are intriguing in a man, but conceit and smugness are out.

Every girl likes a man to be polite to her family, respectful to older people, and courteous because it is a pleasure, not a duty.

**Dates**—It is the man's privilege to ask for dates, and no matter how slow he is doing it, no girl should hint or suggest one herself. In asking for a date a man should state what he has in mind. This gives a girl a chance to decide whether she has right dress or not. (That is important to a girl.) A man should never break one date for another. This holds true for the girl, also.

**Blind Dates**—Accept blind dates with your eyes wide open, and through those people whose friends are the same type as yourself. In this way you will avoid people you do not care to know. It is best to be pessimistic about a blind date, and then you may be agreeably surprised. Never for one moment let the young lady know that she doesn't come up to your expectations.

**Double Dates**—Serve their purpose for the one who is having a blind date, thus transforming a difficult situation into a pleasant foursome. Among four people enough ideas should be produced to insure a good time for all.

## As the World Turns...

BY DR. R. W. STEEN

THE TWO TERM tradition was shattered in rather convincing fashion last Tuesday. The Roosevelt popular majority was impressive, while the electoral majority will be overwhelming. However, the results can not be described as a landslide. A great portion of Mr. Roosevelt's majority of 4,500,000 votes was built up in the solid south. The vote in most sections of the country was very close. So close, in fact, that a shift of 500,000 votes properly distributed would have resulted in the election of Mr. Willkie. On the other hand, a shift of 200,000 votes, properly distributed would have given Mr. Roosevelt a unanimous vote in the electoral college. The electoral vote will be: Roosevelt 449; Willkie 82.



R. W. Steen

President Roosevelt has just announced that Britain is to receive fifty per cent of defense items produced in this country. As the industries here swing in production at higher rates American aid to Britain will become constantly more important as an item influencing the outcome of the war. Meanwhile Germany's attempt to blockade England by means of sea and air attacks upon her commerce has reached a high point. There are plenty of ships as yet, but losses have been large and it seems that a new system of defense will have to be instituted to guarantee England against war.

There is some indication that the United States is planning to take over French islands in the Caribbean. The Vichy government has become so thoroughly subservient to Berlin that it takes some imagination to consider it an independent government. There have been many reports of German "inspectors" making their way to the islands, and the United States seems to feel that they are there for no good. Some Washington opinion indicates that American intervention may come before December, while other sources indicate that there will be no intervention unless it is made necessary by an attempt to transfer ownership of the islands.

Armistice Day was celebrated in America, but little attention in Europe. The present condition of the world makes it significant that the day celebrated in relation to the last war was Armistice day—not peace day. Perhaps what the world had was not peace at all, but merely a twenty-one year breathing spell.

**DR. ELPHALET NOTT**  
 SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF UNION COLLEGE FOR 62 YEARS (1804-1866!)  
 DURING THAT TIME HE ALSO WAS PRESIDENT OF RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE FOR 25 YEARS!

**PRESIDENT WM FOSTER PEIRCE**  
 OF KEYMON COLLEGE IS THE ONLY COLLEGE PRESIDENT WHO FLIES HIS OWN PLANE!

**BROTHER-PRESIDENTS**  
 DR. GEORGE M. SMITH IS PREXY AT SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY WHILE HIS BROTHER, CHARLES J. SMITH IS PRESIDENT OF ROANOKE COLLEGE!

**THE SMITH BROS.**  
 IN A NEW ROLE!

## Chemical Industry Ready To Play Its Part In National Defense Program

BY DR. E. B. MIDDLETON  
Associate Professor of Analytical Chemistry

America's problems today are defense. All the terrors of war are loose in the world, and we must be prepared to resist any assaults on our freedom. The personnel of the chemical industries are well equipped to do their part in answering this urgent challenge. The year 1940 has not found the United States in the serious plight that it was twenty-five years ago at the outset of World War I. Conditions now are different, and perhaps the most surprising differences are to be found in fields related to chemistry. It can truly be said that we are living in a chemical age.

A quarter of a century ago chemists were not numerous, and their activities were circumscribed. Chemical processes in industry, which give employment to great numbers of chemists today and provide incentive to great numbers of others, were relatively few; and the chemical industry was yet to begin its phenomenal growth. Membership in the American Chemical Society, which may be taken as a suggestive gauge of the chemical profession, was held by 7170 persons in 1914. By 1940 this number has increased to 25,000. It is not likely that chemically trained personnel will be a serious problem in any reasonable program of preparedness.

It is true that the chemical industry at present has not large installed capacity for the production of purely military explosives such as TNT, picric acid, mustard gas, and other similar materials. However, the production of nitro-cellulose has grown as a result of the constant demand for it in the manufacture of plastics and lacquers. While present producing plants might not be immediately convertible to smokeless manufacture, yet they would be able to furnish highly trained technicians and workmen to form nucleus groups in new plants and to provide modern experience closely related to powder manufacture on which producing units can be based. Similar situations exist with respect to the other chemical weapons of war.

Mercury for fulminate to be used in detonators has been largely imported from Spain, but disturbed conditions there have curtailed this supply. Chemical ingenuity has provided substitutes for this, and the situation in regard to this requirement has been relieved.

Our production of motor fuel is ample to meet any possible need so far as can be foreseen. Aviation fuel, if used in 'blitzkrieg' quantities is amply available, provided special plant capacity is increased. This is reported to be relatively easy to accomplish.

Platinum, vital in 1917-18 for its catalytic action in sulfuric acid manufacture has been largely replaced by anadium oxide catalysts. New deposits, worked by improved methods, are supplementing accumulated stocks of manganese, chromium, tungsten, and antimony.

Tin is classed as a strategic material in that the United States, the major consumer, produces none, while the major producers consume little. About three quarters of all the metal has been obtained from a relatively small geographic area which includes the Federated

Malay states, the Netherland Indies, Siam, Burma, Indo China, and lower China. The United States is more completely dependent on far-away sources of supply of tin than is the case with any other material.

The rubber situation is more complex, largely because the synthetic rubber-like plastics commonly called "synthetic rubbers" are in such active development. While no one possesses all the desirable characteristics of crude rubber, each has some advantage over natural material for special uses. We have neoprene, Thiokol, and Koroseal in experienced production. American made Buna is around the corner. Butyl rubber has been announced by the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, and the B. F. Goodrich Company's synthetic Ameripol is replacing 50 to 100 per cent of natural rubber in some tires. More research and more development are needed. Things would look very gloomy if some catastrophe would cut off our rubber importation and leave us with only a few months' supply on hand. This is an extremely important part of our defense program. It is something that cannot well wait.

Our needs for strategic material such as activated carbon, nitrogen, potash, optical glass, and acetone can be readily satisfied. Our nation is particularly well provided with synthetic drugs, which now represent such a large proportion of medicinal products. An emergency in the supply of drugs and pharmaceuticals does not exist.

## BRAIN TWISTER

We omitted part of one of the Brain Twisters published a week ago. Here is the correct version: Take your age, multiply by 2, add 5, multiply by 50, subtract 365, add the change you have in your pocket (less than a dollar), add 115. Then the units and tens digits give the change you have in your pocket, the hundreds and thousands digits give your age.

Here are two more problems to be solved by setting up and solving sets of simultaneous equations. Each letter represents a different number and each number is represented by a different letter.

- First, a problem in subtraction.
- PAY  
ME  
  
NOW  
  
DO | THIS | ONE  
NT
- EI  
EJ  
  
IS  
IS
- Answer to addition problem.  
 14 | 6398 | 457  
 56  
 79  
 70  
 98  
 98
- Second, a problem in long division.
- Answer to subtraction problem.  
 234  
 56  
 178

## Movie Review

By Tom Gillis

Technicolor is used to enter a new field of "UNTAMED" at the Assembly Hall Wednesday. It is used to invade the north woods of the Arctic and it looks pretty good with the swirling snow of a blizzard and other outdoor shots. Technicolor has previously been used to bring all the colors of the tropics and gaudy scenes of ancient costumes, but nature's colors aren't as much subject to the same color exaggeration by the camera as artificial tones, all of which looks extremely bright and heavy.

"Untamed" concerns a rest cure, which society doctor Ray Milland takes in the north woods and before he gets cured he has stolen his guide's wife. Akim Tamiroff, the guide, very conveniently gets frozen to death in the blizzard. Some other things take place during the show which lend atmosphere to the Arctic setting.

Milland is still a doctor even if on a vacation and he finishes an operation for the local medico after he has collapsed. And then there is considerable dashing around through the blizzard in search of a valuable serum which is finally brought in by guide Tamiroff's dog team with him frozen stiff on his sled.

Just as a point of general information, the correct pronunciation of Akim Tamiroff's name, according to the Paramount Publicity Department, is "ah - KEEM tam - EAR - off" with the accent on the capitalized syllables. It is much easier to just name it and take it because he ends up dead by technicolor. "Untamed" is based on Sinclair Lewis' novel "Mantrap."

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### WHAT'S SHOWING

- AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL  
 Tuesday 3:30 & 7:30—"RHYTHM ON THE RIVER," starring Bing Crosby, Mary Martin, and Basil Rathbone.  
 Wednesday 3:30 & 6:45—"UNTAMED," featuring Ray Milland, Patricia Morrison, Akim Tamiroff, and William Frawley.  
 AT THE CAMPUS  
 Tuesday & Wednesday—"HENRY GOES ARI-ZONA," with Frank Morgan, Virginia Weilder, Guy Kibbee, Slim Summerville, and Douglas Fowley.

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  - "Pumpkin Turnpike" Charlie Barnett
  - "You've Got Me This Way" Tommy Dorsey
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Bryan

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