

The Battalion

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

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Just Ask Any Aggie; They're Still No. 1

TEXAS IS A STATE famed for battle cries, the most famous of which are the immortal "Remember the Alamo" and "Remember Goliad" chants of Sam Houston's men when they won the state's independence at the battle of San Jacinto 104 years ago.

Today, the Texas Aggies have a double-cry of their own; battle cries with just as much "heart" in them as the fiery words of 1836—"Remember 1938 . . . Remember 1940"!!!

On Thanksgiving Day of both years an underdog Texas University football team slapped down a fighting Texas Aggie eleven; both years Texas U.'s victory was clean cut and decisive; both years Texas U. stopped the Cadets fairly and squarely—there wasn't any luck in the deal, they just had a better team for a day.

But 1938's 7 to 6 victory was more nearly "just another football game" where Southwest Conference and post-season honors were concerned. It wasn't so hard to take—the team and the Twelfth Man had seen tough breaks before. That was just one more to add to A. & M.'s collection of tough breaks, the same that every college is cursed with.

Not so in 1940!

When grown men by the hundred cry like babies because their football team loses a game, there's probably a reason. When 6,500 men feel "sick inside" for half a dozen days following their college's gridiron defeat, there's probably more to the situation than a stranger might readily understand. One cadet (married and the father of a two-year-old baby) expressed it thus: "I've been an Aggie for four years and there's no one who loves the college or the sport more than I do, but when I looked at the score board after the final gun sounded last Thursday there was only one thought that came to me from deep down inside—at least, I still had my wife and child."

Sounds a little foolish, doesn't it? But if you think so, you don't know much about Texas A. & M. college.

You see, there's a spirit here—we call it the Aggie Spirit—that's without parallel anywhere else in the world. Not because the Aggies are any different than other collegians and not because they eat more spinach or beans than other collegians. Maybe you'd call it the environment.

Most colleges have a few hundred coeds for the men to escort; many colleges are located in or near large cities where there is entertainment by the haful; but at A. & M. it's different.

The corps doesn't have an opportunity to have many "outside interests." It has its yell practice four times a week. That's when the corps get together and talks things over; that's when the Twelfth Man gets in shape for the next intercollegiate contest. It doesn't make any difference whether the game is football, baseball, water polo or jacks, the Twelfth Man backs its team all the way—that's all it knows how to do; that's the Aggie way of doing things.

So that defeat in Memorial Stadium last Thursday went a little hard with the Aggies. They weren't over confident; they knew that any Southwest Conference game provided a tough row to hoe. They knew, too, that Texas U. is double-tough in its home stadium. But the Aggies weren't prepared for a defeat. Nineteen consecutive victories don't make for a very good defeatism psychology.

It's all over now and, although the heart-ache is severe, remember that the team did its best, that no other Southwest Conference college ever before won 19 consecutive victories, that no other Southwest Conference college ever before as much as even tied for the conference championship after winning it the previous year, and, most important of all, that the Aggies have said since the college was founded in 1876 that their teams were first in their hearts always; win, lose or draw. That's the way it is today . . . As far as the Twelfth Man is concerned, the Aggie gridiron machine is still the nation's No. 1 team

It's a little difficult for the corps to say "Thank you" to the team, because that doesn't express in even a small way the feelings of the Twelfth Man toward a group of men who brought the college untold renown in the sport world for two years. But in particular does the corps want to express its appreciation and admiration to the 17 seniors who never again play in a Southwest Conference game. Coach Homer Hill Norton put it pretty well when he said, "They're the finest group of men I've ever known; not in mere football ability but as real men." That's the way the corps feels about it.

The Aggies will have a chance to even the score another year . . . Just remember that battle cry—"Remember 1938" . . . "Remember 1940"!!!

—By George Fuermann

Compensations

SUPPORTERS of the Texas A. and M. College football team were filled with gloom following the defeat Thursday by the Longhorns of the University of Texas, ending a string of victories that included 19 consecutive games. They saw their hopes of a Southwest Conference championship for two years in succession, of a Rose Bowl invitation and of upsetting the tradition that the Longhorns cannot be defeated by the Aggies in Memorial stadium all dissipated.

Today the most of these supporters are reviewing the game, trying to figure out just why victory was not won and what might have been done that was not, to bring about a different result. On the streets, in offices and in places of business the upset of the Aggies was the predominant topic of conversation.

Yet sight should not be lost of the fact that Texas A. & M. College is the same institution it was before Wednesday or the day the Aggies chased the Rice Owls all over Kyle Field, and it still offers the same opportunities to thousands of young men of Texas and the Southwest. As a matter of fact, looking at the college as an educational institution and not just as the home of the nation's No. 1 football team, one might be able to figure out, without a great deal of difficulty, that advantages will accrue from defeat.

The eleven, its schedule and the possibility of continuing its winning streak has been an absorbing interest in the case of hundreds and thousands of students, as well as of its supporters who are not connected with the institution. It is entirely possible that many students have given so much thought to the eleven that classroom work has dropped to a secondary place.

There is no question that an athletic program has a place in every college or university. But it is a question if too much emphasis has not been placed in many schools, on a winning team and too much worry over the inability of a team to win. Great efforts are made by those in charge of athletics and by alumni to secure first class high or prep school athletes, and coaches doing the best they can have been fired with little ceremony. The fact that no such efforts are made to attract outstanding students in high or preparatory schools—students who might bring honor to an institution in other fields—serves to demonstrate the emphasis that is placed on athletic programs.

And Aggie supporters should not lose sight of the fact that the members of the team who carried through for 19 consecutive victories are the same sterling young men that they were on the eve of the Thanksgiving game, nor that the coaching staff which has piloted the team through this long series of gridiron battles are just as competent today as they were when they were putting the boys in shape for this contest. And all of the members of the student body, including the members of the team, who have been living under a high and steadily increasing pressure all season, now will have an opportunity to relax and, perhaps, give a little more attention to the primary purpose of Texas A. & M. College.

—Bryan Eagle

As the World Turns...

BY "COUNT" V. K. SUGAREFF
HITLER'S RECENT DIPLOMATIC MANEUVERS have proved to be only partially successful. The inclusion of Slovakia, Hungary, and Rumania within the orbit of the Axis awaited only an official announcement. These three countries were already under Hitler's domination. The fanfare which accompanied their joining the Axis powers was meant to blind the German people to a lack of bigger successes. The failure to include Bulgaria, Spain, and Turkey as partners of the Axis powers must be considered a definite, even if temporary, check to Hitler's plans in the Mediterranean basin.

This German diplomatic debacle has heartened the Greeks.

V. K. Sugareff They have driven the Italians from the invaded Greek territory and are now dealing them heavy blows on all fighting sectors. They have occupied strategic positions in Albania. The Greeks, like the Finns, have won the admiration of the world for their fighting. The United States and all other democracies of the world should render all possible aid to the Greeks to enable them to drive the Italians from Albania.

This military fiasco in the East has been aggravated by a series of insubordinations to Nazi rule in the occupied territories. The large scale sabotage in Norway, the rioting of students in Holland, Belgium, and France are mere indications of what might take place if an opposition should gain some momentum.

National Defense Progress—The United States infantry has revised its manual. The new manual takes into account recent changes in warfare and makes provisions for training to meet these changes. Maj. Gen. George A. Lynch describes these changes as "revolutionary". As an example of the changes Gen. Lynch says, "A rifleman can no longer shoot his way forward." He must coordinate his movement with the fire or artillery and aviation.

The continued bombing of industrial centers in England and attacks on British shipping is looked upon by Washington as serious. Every crippled factory limits the production capacity of England and every merchant ship sunk destroys not only the means of transportation, but also some essential materials for the prosecution of the war. If Germany intensified her attacks on English ships and shipbuilding, we shall be confronted with a situation similar to that in 1917—the question of who is to control the seas. We have the facilities to aid England in the building of ships and planes, and we can supply munitions, but sooner or later we must face the question of total war aid to England. It is a question of our national defense.

Labor is an important factor in our national defense. This is no time for government officials to antagonize labor by trying to pass legislation to prohibit strikes. Sidney Hillman, labor member of the national defense council, is trying to settle labor disputes by negotiation and arbitration rather than strikes. Labor's share in the benefits of our defense program should not be disregarded.

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

A Bird's Eye View . . . The lime-light which the college's 1939 and 1940 gridiron teams have received has also resulted in widespread publicity for many other aspects of the college. In particular have the several A. & M. songs received airings via national radio networks.



Fuermann

Since November 1 "The Aggie War Hymn" has been played 23 times that the writer knows of, "The Spirit of Aggie-land" four times and "I'd Rather Be A Texas Aggie" twice; all of these, incidentally, on coast-to-coast networks . . . Grandmother used to think she had a day's work on hand when it came time to cook the Thanksgiving turkey for a family of 14, but she should have tried doing the job for the Aggies.

If she wanted to find a single bird large enough to feed the entire corps, the thing would have to weigh 4,500 pounds because that's the amount of turkey the cadets ate at their annual Thanksgiving Day Supper November 26.

Like the turkey, the rest of the menu came in super-quantities. Seventeen hundred pounds of candied yams went down the collective Aggie gullets at that meal, and it took 138 gallons of green peas to go around.

The combination salad contained 720 heads of lettuce, 448 pounds of green peppers, and 360 stalks of celery. The mixed nuts and fruit ran a little high, too. Thirteen boxes of apples, eight boxes of oranges, 420 pounds of grapes, 700 pounds of bananas and 900 pounds of mixed nuts were necessary to satisfy the Aggies' mass hunger.

Five hundred and sixty loaves of bread and 1,245 pumpkin pies contributed their share toward the cadets' stomachs. Where the beverages were concerned the corps took care of 300 gallons of coffee and 2,012 quarts of milk.

Louisiana Purchase.

You may have heard this story, but either way you'll probably give it first rank among the irony squibs of the year. It concerns the time when the Post Office Department at Washington, searching the titles to post-office sites in Louisiana, was dissatisfied with one because it went back no farther than 1803. To the Department's request for earlier information, the attorney for the owner replied as follows:

Please be advised that the Government of the United States acquired the Territory of Louisiana, including the tract to which your inquiry applies, by purchase from the Government of France, in the year 1803.

The Government of France acquired title by conquest from the Government of Spain.

The Government of Spain acquired title by discovery of Christopher Columbus, explorer, a resident of Genoa, Italy, who, by agreement concerning the acquisition of title to any land he discovered, traveled under the sponsorship and patronage of Her Majesty, the Queen of Spain.

The Queen of Spain had received sanction of her title by consent of the Pope, a resident of Rome, Italy, an ex-officio representative and vicegerent of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ was the son and heir apparent of God.

God made Louisiana. I trust this complies with your request.

Colonel Ike's Letter.

A recent letter from Colonel Ike Ashburn to every member of the great Aggie football team expresses well the sentiments of the entire cadet corps. An excellent letter which was written to the finest group of football players anywhere, any time, here it is in its entirety:

"Over in Havana, Cuba, there is a statue in one of the many plazas and this particular piece of statuary is devoted to the memory of a man who killed himself. He set as the objective of his life the amassing of a fortune of twenty-five millions of dollars. The first twenty he accumulated in due time but further than that he could not go. In great mental stress and embarrassment because he could gain a fortune of only twenty million dollars instead of the coveted twenty-five, he hanged himself.

"Our loss last Thursday, bringing hurt as it did to all of us is not nearly so important as our reaction to that disappointment. Let us not get our viewpoint warped—as for me I am tremendously proud of you boys on the club for the nineteen fine victories you won—giving us a new high in continuous victories for this conference and area. You did a fine job. The college, cadets, officers, faculty, and supporters generally are proud of you and are indebted to you for two successive seasons of most exceptional football. That pride and that gratitude surpasses by great extremes, our disappointment of last Thursday's loss.

"We have been and still are sincerely proud of you. To all of us and to Texans generally you are definitely TOPS in the football world. I hope that on January first, we may have an opportunity for you boys who are completing your competition to round out that competition in a manner which will leave a happy taste in your mouths. It is vitally important for yourselves that you recall your successes, take what lessons you

can from your one defeat, but recognize that from every angle your play in behalf of the Agricultural and Mechanical College has been superlatively superior."

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Cowpunchers in certain areas use electric branding irons. The brands remain at uniform temperature and beef critters can be marked as fast as brought up.



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"We Three" Bob Chester
"I Give You My Word" Mitchell Ayres
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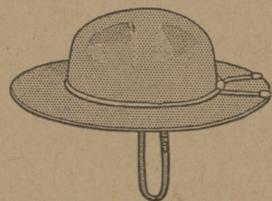
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