

# The Battalion

STUDENT TRI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER  
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, issued Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings; also it 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 8, 1879.

Subscription rate, \$3 a school year. 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 4-6444.

1940 Member 1941  
Associated Collegiate Press

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## A Decision Is Made

SUCH IS THE decree of the officials of the college—the president, commandant and the executive committee. The move was one of careful and sincere consideration and on that was not hastily enacted. The college officials have good and honest reasons to back their decisions.

It was recognized that there were good qualities in the "Fish Day" and this fact was not overlooked in the consideration. It was also recognized that there were extremely objectionable qualities to the custom, qualities that brought discredit and a bad name to the college and which gave it a "black eye" in the minds of the public of the state of Texas. A. & M. is an institution supported by the taxpayers of the state; public opinion is the guide that the college must follow.

As was the original purpose and idea behind "Fish Day," it was the day that marked the turning point in the life of the freshman at A. & M.; it was the day in which he dropped his title of "Fish" and became "one of the boys." The practice was to throw an all day party in which the whole battery, troop or company more or less "let its hair down." It was the day in the year when the upperclassmen got a chance to really know the freshmen as men. These qualities were recognized as worthy of all the tradition attached.

If this had been as far as the custom had been carried, there would have been issued no complaint. But as is the nature of unthinking youth the bad qualities of the practice grew with each year. Drinking became excessive at the parties; fighting and water-throwing in the halls increased past the danger point; kidnapping on nights before disturbed boys other than those concerned. These were the practices deemed objectionable.

With time the objectionable practices increased until the original purpose was lost in the chaos.

At such times the public is disturbed and extremely sensitive to events; they will no longer tolerate such outrages in a public institution; the same attitude can be observed with reference to strikes as can be observed in pending legislation.

A. & M. at present is very much "on the spot" in the present set-up of national defense. It cannot afford adverse publicity, and the executives of the college have definitely decided that all steps will be taken to prevent such adverse publicity.

Student executives were called upon, in the interest of fairness, to suggest an alternative move or substitute for the plan adopted. There were no ideas available. Organization commanders declined to accept responsibility for the actions of their organization. They left the college officials no other choice.

## Worth the Praise

AN ORGANIZATION well worth all the praise and attention it can be given is Aggieworld's own musical group, the Singing Cadets. They come into their own Monday night with a Town Hall appearance. This appearance is the formal recognition of their talent and effort that is long past overdue.

The Singing Cadets make no claim to being a polished musical group nor does it intend itself to be classed as a collection of trained concert voices. As per purpose the Singing Cadets are a group of boys who sing because they enjoy singing, who work for the love of working, and who mix pleasure with their work as no other organization can do.

For spirit, pep, zip, zest and snap there is no musical organization in the country that can hold a candle to them. For precision and punch they cannot be touched. The club is a success because they can make the audience live and breathe the music they sing. Such is the test of true music.

To J. J. Woolket who has inspired and promoted the organization since its beginning, The Battalion proposes a toast to a job well done.

Town Hall's program Monday night reproduces the old legend of the search for the "Holy Grail." Town Hall, as did the knights of old, found its talent at home.

In the 10-year period 1931-40, graduate students in American colleges and universities produced nearly 27,000 theses as candidates for doctorate degrees.

William E. Jackson, son of the attorney general, recently won a \$100 award at Yale university for "superiority in English composition and declamation."

## OPEN FORUM

AS AGGIES we have a great many privileges and traditions that are shared by no other school in the Nation or the world.

One of these great privileges, that is truly democratic, is one that few of us ever think of; though we see it every day, I have in mind the public bulletin board in the east entrance of the Academic Building. On this board we place our notices, of what we have lost or found, what we wish to buy or sell, that we want a place for our date to stay, that we have space to carry someone to Denton, or we want a ride to Dallas. It is truly a great privilege but it comes to my notice that some don't consider the rest of the corps.

A few days ago I placed a notice on the board to the effect that I want a ride to Davenport or vicinity. I came back the next day to see if anyone had left their name on it. I looked all over the board but I couldn't find my notice anywhere. After long searching I found it on the back of one of the notices. I can't complain too much for it was a notice to the effect that someone had found an article that I am sure was very dear to someone. But I just wondered as I made a new notice if that fellow thought as he did that, that he was removing my only chance to make a trip over Easter that I can only make once during the long session, because the trip is too long to hitch-hike except at Christmas and too expensive otherwise.

Yes, fellows let's take advantage of our every opportunity. Let's use the bulletin board but let's not misuse it. Don't sell out someone's chance to sell a text book, to make some extra money typing, to buy a pair of boots cheap, or a fellow's chance to see his mother over Easter. Aggies let's not sell all that for half a half sheet of paper. LET'S BE CONSIDERATE OF OUR AGGIE BROTHERS.  
Martin Hughes, '43

## Quotable Quotes

"ALL OVER THE LAND professors and other old women are talking about the present generation of the young as soft and lazy, mediocre and fat. Maybe the young are soft. It is also true that all generations of the young have in their times been described as degenerate by the elders about them. In the history of the world there has not been a generation in which the old were prepared to admit that the young were as strong as they were when they were young. It is the eternal excuse for stiff joints in the presence of the supple. It is the ancient vanity of memory over manpower. The young certainly have their faults. They may not be as smart, brave, energetic, strong as their elders who want to be defended by them would have them be. But the old folks were young once also and, being young, not free from faults. The young have always, as the old folks reported it, been soft and the old folks, as the young folks hoped the young would believe, have always been wise. That's the rule, but America need not be frightened now if our orled people will be as wise as our young will be strong. We have better reason to count on young strength than old wisdom." The Raleigh, N. C., News and Observer thumps the critics of youth.

"The highest tribute society pays to colleges is the tribute of expecting a positive contribution from the beneficiaries of the college responsibility. Of him to whom much is given, much is expected, and society expects college women to accept responsibility." Miss Mildred McAfee, president of Wellesley College, reminds graduate women of their duties to the community.  
—Associated Collegiate Press

## As the World Turns...

BY DR. AL B. NELSON  
MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES have signed a treaty for the reciprocal use of air fields by the military planes of the two nations. With the agreements already made between Canada and the United States planes of the three nations may now move freely between the north pole and the Canal Zone in the interest of continental defense. This particular agreement is of tremendous importance to the proper defense of the Panama Canal and also as evidence of understanding and cooperation between the two nations.

There is growing indication that many of the present strikes are being engineered and timed with the deliberate purpose to sabotage the defense effort of the government. The tactics follow closely the pattern followed in Russia, Italy, Germany and France previous to the overthrow of the constituted governments in those nations.

Workers who refuse to strike are being beaten, intimidated and threatened in violation of the law. Armed resistance is made to officers of the law who attempt to protect laborers in their right to work, the property of employers and of their employees who desire to continue working, is destroyed by mobs of men engaged in what they call peaceful picketing.

In contrast with this selfish or treasonable activity (all depending upon the motive) a million or more young men are giving up their business or employment and accepting the draft at twenty-one dollars per month. It might be a good idea to draft every striker and put him to work for the same sum, board and room plus twenty-one dollars per month.

In Texas, violence and intimidation is now prohibited by law in all labor disputes. This is the only reasonable attitude to take and should result in orderly progress of defense work in this state.

A collection of some 500 land and marine shells from all parts of the world is the latest gift to Harvard University's museum of comparative zoology.

Janitors at the University of New Mexico are campaigning to stop students from throwing pinon shells on the classroom floors.

## BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

The Kyser Deal . . . Behind the scenes on the recent attempt to bring Kay Kyser and his nationally famed orchestra to the campus is a situation which took root in College Station, Dallas and Los Angeles. . . . Pushed from the start by officials in the student activities office, the original hope was to bring Kay and company to Guion Hall Wednesday night, April 23 for his once-a-week, hour-long broadcast via a national radio network. . . . In addition to this, plans called for a Town Hall program Tuesday night, to be followed by a corps dance. . . . First, officials in the Dallas branch of the Music Corporation of America—Kay's booking agent—were sounded out on the deal. They were all-the-way for it. Then came Kay, and he, too, added his blessing to the proposition. Last in order was Kay's sponsor, the American Tobacco Company, and there the answer was the same—okeh. . . . The monkey wrench came in the form of a telegram received Wednesday afternoon. Signed by MCA's Norman Stepp, it read, "Kyser out completely. Sorry." . . . Although there is no confirmation as yet, the belief here is that Randolph Field at San Antonio received the broadcast. . . . No. 1 regret of the student activities office is the fact that the state press gave considerable publicity to Kay's alleged engagement here. The publicity, however, was released by MCA's Dallas office and was readily picked up by Dallas, Houston and San Antonio papers.



Fuermann network.

Final payments of club pictures in the 1941 Longhorn must be made by noon today or the space will be forfeited. Club presidents should come by the Student Publication Office today if they are unable to make the payments and explain their reason for non-payment.

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## Aggie Miniature

He's taking 15 semester hours of classroom work; he's a liberal arts student, and last semester he made a 'B' average.

He's blind, too. The next time the going gets a little tough and you start wondering how you'll pass a quiz tomorrow morning, start thinking about James K. Martin from nearby Bryan.

His daily lessons are read to him and he takes exam questions in Braille before typing the answers.

Like many blind people, he's more versatile than lots of his friends who have normal vision. He swims expertly; rides horseback; plays the piano, saxophone and clarinet; occasionally goes to picture shows—to listen, and is an ardent radio fan—Glenn Miller being his favorite orchestra leader. He has a sweetheart, too, but "I'm strictly a one-woman fellow," he says with emphasis. The girl concerned is an attractive, brown-

It's Here At Last!  
MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL  
Our Regular \$2.50  
5 x 10 for \$1.50  
AGGIELAND STUDIO  
Joe Sosolik North Gate

At Last!!  
Dancing on a Terrace  
Frank Simon is proud to announce the opening of his dancing terrace on Friday night. No cover charge before six o'clock and no cover charge before eight if you dine.  
Come Out Tonight  
FRANKLIN'S  
1 Mile West on Airport Road -- Dial 4-1146

## COVERING CAMPUS DISTRACTIONS

Bandleader Eddie Fitzpatrick had one strike on him before he ever set foot on an A. & M. band stand. He did not bring any girl vocalist with him to sit demurely on the stand tapping her foot while the Aggies ogled at her. Some vocalists are given the leader's permission to dance with the boys (the requests for dances are usually many) and they always get a fine swirl around the floor when they do. So without a vocalist to gaze at, Aggies just had to dance with the other fellows' girls or do without. Anyone interested enough in good music never noticed that she was missing however.

If more people than just the "INVISIBLE WOMAN" in that show possessed the same quality the show might get along a little better. Outside influences keep cluttering up the plot and confuse a situation that has to struggle pretty hard anyhow to make a decent dent for itself in the dramatic world.

John Barrymore works at being a scientific genius who playfully invents a machine to make people invisible. He works on Virginia Bruce, who goes around like Topper's friend, making embarrassing situations. The process for making people invisible gets into the hands of a gangster who attempts to use it for an ulterior motive. The show is poorly directed and the story is hackneyed. The better Topper pictures have stolen all this kind of stuff.

A show of a type which is becoming increasingly more familiar

College Station  
15¢ to 5 p.m. — 20¢ After  
LAST DAY  
ZANE GREY'S WESTERN UNION  
IN TECHNICOLOR  
Preview Tonight  
Sunday - Monday  
THE INVISIBLE WOMAN  
with Virginia Bruce  
John Barrymore

Assembly Hall  
"World in Flames"  
SATURDAY  
12:45 Only — Selected Shorts

Happy-Go-Laughing Musical Romance  
The glamorous star of "Irene"—Vincent Youmans' music—in the famous "Tea For Two" music comedy  
Anna NEAGLE  
in  
No, No, Nanette  
with RICHARD CARLSON VICTOR MATURE ROLAND YOUNG  
HELEN BRODERICK ZASU PITTS EVE ARDEN TAMARA BILLY GILBERT STUART ROBERTSON  
Produced and directed by HERBERT WILCOX  
Screen Play by Ken Englund  
6:45 and 8:30  
SATURDAY  
Shorts  
Ray Whitley's Orchestra - "Prairie Spooners"  
Donald Duck in "Donald's Betterself"  
MONDAY & TUESDAY  
"KEEPING COMPANY"  
with Frank Morgan