

The Battalion

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

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To 7,000 Aggie Mothers...

TRIBUTES HAVE BEEN PAID to mothers of all races, in all parts of the world, and in every tongue. In these times where countless millions of mothers have been and are undergoing hardships and trials, witnessing death and destruction of the ones they love and in many cases giving their own lives for a cause they deem right and just, we breathe a prayer for all of motherhood.

But a special tribute to a special group of mothers—seven thousand Aggie mothers—is the order of the day. In the minds of seven thousand cadets the word "mother" is synonymous with all the gentler, finer things of life. To define the word "mother" requires a blend of love, honor, tenderness, faith, kindness, hope, purity and all that is good.

Mother, a refuge of understanding for us when in the midst of troubles and worries and mistakes, a haven of rest from the trials and tribulations of the world. Mother, the first to find the good in our meager efforts, the first to praise our accomplishments.

To seven thousand Aggie mothers—we love you and appreciate all you've done for us. Sometimes we forget the blessing of having a mother and take you too much for granted. Mothers' Day is the day we set aside for catching up on all the opportunities we missed during the last twelve months for telling you how much we love you.

Aggies Are Made---Not Born

IT IS A MISTAKE to send a boy to A. & M. against his will or against his better judgment. This idea is advanced after four years observing A. & M. and those who attend; at first may sound paradoxical, but there's a reason.

As when a man tackles any task unwillingly, he unconsciously and unintentionally looks for the wrongs and mistakes and exaggerates them. In spite of determination, that man will never finish a satisfactory college career. He will not be able to put out his best and will of consequence be no asset to the college and certainly be doing himself no justice.

To make a class A Aggie, a man should really want to enter A. & M.—should have the burning ambition to put out his best in all that he undertakes. A class A Aggie is the happiest man in the world. And the alumni of Texas A. & M. are the most rabid enthusiasts of their college that any school can boast. It has been said, "Once an Aggie, always an Aggie" and the statement is true.

And what makes men want to come to A. & M.? That's a story for a good-sized book, but it can be broken down into about three distinctive parts; academic excellence, school spirit, school traditions.

First consideration for entering any college is academic excellence, and along that line A. & M. stands above the crowd. For Texas A. & M. is the largest military school for men in the world. It has the world's largest school of Agriculture. Its veterinary school is the largest in the nation. And the school of Engineering is the nation's second largest only by a handful.

A. & M.'s school spirit is known as far as is the school itself. It's a spirit that holds more than 20,000 students and ex-students together closer than brothers. It's the spirit of the corps which gives it the most famous band and yelling section in the nation. It's a spirit that makes an Aggie an Aggie—whether he was a million dollar socialite or a grease monkey before entering school, when he puts on that uniform, his former self is forgotten and he is just one among seven thousand Aggies—each with an equal opportunity to excel.

A. & M., more than any other school, is steeped in traditions—traditions that lend it color unmatched anywhere. But a few of these are: freshmen being known as "Fish" This or "Fish" That instead of using the given name; freshmen meeting everyone with whom they come into contact; every Aggie speaking to everyone he passes on the campus; the comic names applied to items of food in the mess hall; standing any yelling throughout the entirety of all football games; and many, many others which make life worth living and which teach valuable lessons for years to come.

Being an Aggie is not hard. All that is needed is the desire to work and the will to win plus an affable spirit and a good sense of humor. Aggies are made—not born.

A&M Must Lead the Way

WITH THE MADMAN of Europe still at large and rampant in Europe and his successes more and greater with the time, there spreads a note of alarm across the continent. This new note is the note of militarism.

Militarism will be the theme of all national actions in the next few years. All things military will be in the national spotlight.

A. & M., as a military school, must become a leader among colleges and universities. It must stand as a guiding beacon for all to follow.

But A. & M. is well prepared and experienced in holding the position of leadership. In the last war A. & M. supplied more officers to the United States Army than any other school in the nation, and in the event of another conflict, she stands prepared to repeat the process.

FRANK LOVING PRESENTS:

I Heard the Preacher Say



Fuermann

THE LETTER TO MOTHER

You may write a thousand letters
To the girl that you adore,
And declare in every letter
That you love her more and more;
You may praise her grace and beauty
In a thousand glowing lines;
And compare her eyes of azure
With the brightest star that shines.
If you had the pen of Shakespeare,
You would use it every day
In composing lines of worship
To the sweetheart far away;
But a letter far more welcome
To an older, gentler breast
Is a letter to a mother
From the boy she loves the best.

Regardless of its diction,
The spelling or its style;
Although its construction
Might provoke a critic's smile,
She will read it very often
When the lights are soft and low
Seated in the same old corner
Where she nursed you long ago.
In her old and trembling fingers
It becomes a work of art,
Stained with tears of gladness
As she breathes "God bless his heart."
Yes, the letter of all letters,
Look wherever you may roam,
Is the letter to your mother
From her son away from home.

—Author Unknown

Quotable Quotes

"COLLEGES CANNOT TALK about democracy and at the same time allow democratic principles and methods to be used on their own campuses. Boards of trustees, faculties as well as student bodies, must see democracy as a way of life effective here and everywhere." Dr. Gould Wickey, Council of Church Boards of Education secretary demands that students and faculty members practice what they preach.

"The American college has demonstrated both its vitality and its usefulness, but to maintain it and to extend that usefulness to the world of today and tomorrow, the college must think harder and think straighter about its job than it has thought up to the present." Dr. F. P. Keppel, president, Carnegie Corporation of New York, poses a straightforward challenge.

—Associated Collegiate Press

As the World Turns...

BY DR. AL B. NELSON

DOES THE LABOR RACKET PAY? The large fees and dues, plus fines, paid by the average union laborer have enabled the A. F. of L. in Detroit to purchase a luxurious building built by fashionable club. The original cost of the building was \$600,000. This calls to mind that the United Mine Workers, a C. I. O. organization of which John L. Lewis is still the head has its headquarters in the former University Club building, a ritzy affair indeed.

The Merit System (civil service) has been extended by executive order to an additional 125,000 federal employees, of course these offices are now filled with that number of more or less deserving "Newdealers".

President Roosevelt has just requested that the machine tool industry be placed on a twenty-four hour a day, seven day a week basis. The only thing difficult to understand is why this has not been done long ago. It is to be hoped that American officials will see that we are prepared for any eventuality in time for national safety.

The British are concentrating on their war effort to such an extent that in a recent month only 176 automobiles were registered in all of Great Britain. Also there is a shortage of tobacco since that item is a non-essential, and worst of all is a shortage of razor blades. If the British leaders had prepared a little earlier England would not be in such danger today. Their situation should teach our leaders a lesson.

Recent reports indicate that Germany is making every preparation for an all out invasion of England in the event a favorable occasion should arise. The Germans have been prepared for every eventuality up to the present.

The total Japanese air force is now estimated at around three thousand planes with a monthly production of about one sixth of our present average.

BACKWASH

By George Fuermann

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

Wherein the history of The Battalion's tri-weekly column, "Backwash," is the subject of another discussion... Born in 1939, the column's name was the suggestion of one Max Durham, a former A. & M. pre-med student. With the collaboration of N. Webster, a dictionary writer of some repute who defined the word as "An agitation resulting from some action or occurrence," Durham's nomination became a fact and, today, the column, or parts of it, appeared in two metropolitan Texas dailies and formerly appeared in one other collegiate publication. Thus has Backwash become of age.

Putting one little word after another and it is seen that Backwash made its modest debut June 6, 1939 in the first issue of the first Summer Battalion, a publication edited by the genius that was William Hauser Murray. The column's appearance throughout the remainder of that summer was somewhat of a nip-and-tuck affair, but with the beginning of the 1939-40 long session September 23 the column bowed in as a regular Battalion organ. During that session the column went to press 105 times; 91 in The Battalion Newspaper, nine in the T.S.C.W. student publication, and five in The Battalion Magazine.

Generally divided into five items, they fall into one of six classes—humor, human interest, feature, news, sidelights or editorial.

The column's success, if any, belongs to the famed A. & M. corps of cadets for whom and about whom it is written. Hundreds of cadets send by mail or bring personally many of the items which have been included in the column since its beginning.

Prime purpose of Backwash is to be a mirror of Aggie thought and activity... A column written according to the Aggie way of things... A column written for and about the great Twelfth Man... A column based on the belief that the Aggie way of doing things is the best way.

For the high school seniors throughout the state, here's a review of some of the past year's best humor items. The present writer, who has written Backwash since its birth, will write "thirty" to the column with the end of the current college year June 7, but the items to follow are a sample of what you can expect when you become Aggies next September. There'll be a new man writing Backwash when you arrive—a man who will vastly improve the column over its present status. Thus—a history of the column, its future and here's a review.

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The twice-each-year registration always brings to mind the true story of the out-of-state freshman who enrolled at A. & M. a couple of years ago.

Digging for a little extra money, the boy wrote his father that he had enlisted in the Cavalry and needed \$125 to buy a horse. The gullible father sent the money and two weeks later received another letter asking for \$10 a week ration money for the animal—which was regularly sent throughout the year.

Our hero was put on his mettle, however, when he received a letter during the last week of the college year in which his father asked how he intended to get the horse home.

The way out was a masterpiece—an obituary explaining that the horse had stuck his foot in a chuck

hole, broke his leg and, as a result, was killed.

The letter contained a postscript which read, "By the way, I'll need \$15 to bury the thing!"

Vanilla

One of the best of the current mirth-control items is being told by Bill Hardin, salesman for the Dallas branch of the National Theater Supply Company.

It seems that one of the exhibitors in the College Station vicinity sent in an order for popcorn seasoning. By mistake, billboard paste was sent instead.

All went well until a few weeks later when the Dallas firm received another order from the Brazos County theater-owner.

The attached letter read, in part, "Please do not send the same brand of popcorn seasoning that you sent last time. Some of the customers were not altogether satisfied."

Hell No

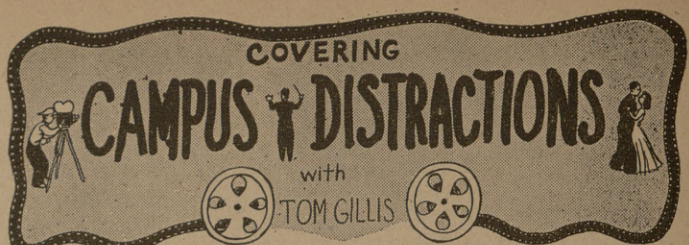
Stories concerning Aggie land's varsity footballers are as many as the Dionne Quintuplets' names, but tops in the field is the one which goes back to a trip made by John R. (Bubba) Reeves and James M. (Cotton) Williams last September.

The two were hitch-hiking out of Bremond as a car veered around a corner and head in their direction—apparently out of control. Cotton saw the car but Bubba, facing the opposite direction, was unaware of the danger.

"Look out!" Cotton yelled, but too late. As the driver slammed on the brakes the skidding car flipped Bubba a double-somersault and, when he returned to earth again, he didn't move a muscle, appearing to be near-dead.

Thinking that every bone in Bubba's body was broken and remembering the primer rule of first aid, Cotton—now thoroughly scared—nervously cautioned his prostrate companion, "Don't move, Bubba; don't move."

"Hell, Bubba came back—now very much alive, 'Whatta you want me to do; stay here and get run over again!'"



There's not much room for talk about Al Donahue's music for the corps dance tonight. If he satisfies most of the seniors for their Ring Dance, "the" dance for them, there won't be much room for anybody else to complain. Donahue hasn't played here before but many Aggies have heard him in night spots in the larger Texas cities, and that great popularizer, the radio, has spread his music everywhere.

Again at 7:30 tonight at the swimming pool is the annual water carnival, a chance to see some excellent swimming and diving, some pretty girls and some aquatic clowning. The show is only put on annually, and our swimmers dog in the picture; and he goes and Baylor's are the principal actors. But besides some graceful girl, but as a farmer's boy with swimming, the carnival has several specialty numbers which are worth seeing, including trick diving and an over-water trapeze act. The show is well worth the money, and so is the cause. Proceeds go to the water polo team.

The Philadelphia Academy of Science recently named a plant show is coming to the Assembly "Azalea Bakerae" in honor of Dr. Hall Monday and Tuesday. The W. B. Baker.



Congratulations and Best Wishes... Mr. SENIOR

In just a few short weeks you will be an "Ex-Aggie" and on your way to seek success and fortune. May we extend to each of you our sincere wishes for your success. Nothing we know of will be more helpful to start you off in the world with a burst of splendor—than a "fine appearance". In this modern day appearance, you know, counts 85%. Come in and let us show you how easy you can attain that right appearance that will get you off to a flying start.

- KUPPENHEIMER and GRIFFON CLOTHES
- STETSON HATS — BOSTONIAN SHOES
- ARROW SHIRTS — ARROW UNDERWEAR
- ARROW TIES — ARROW HANDKERCHIEFS
- INTERWOVEN and PHOENIX SOCKS
- MARLBORO SHIRTS and SPORTSWEAR
- NOR-EAST and BOTANY NECKWEAR
- HICKOK BELTS and JEWELRY
- A. & M. BELTS and COLLEGE JEWELRY
- B.V.D. UNDERWEAR and SPORTSWEAR
- B.V.D. and KNOTHE PAJAMAS
- ALLIGATOR RAINCOATS
- GANTNER SWIM SUITS

ATTENTION, PROSPECTIVE AGGIE FRESHMEN...

If you are planning on coming to A. & M. this fall we cordially invite you to visit our stores... Our Aggie store located at North Gate of Campus, our Bryan Store 108 Main Street in Bryan. We carry a complete stock of quality men's wear and regulation uniforms. Before you purchase any uniform goods write or see us. We can save you money on any regulation uniform goods. Every item guaranteed strictly regulation.

W.S.D. CLOTHIERS

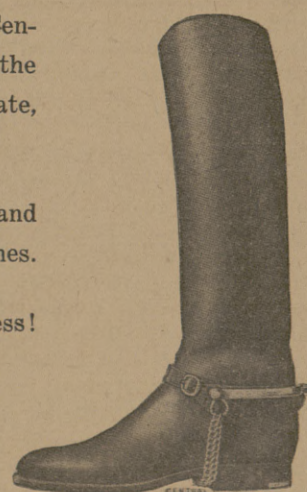
"TWO STORES" COLLEGE and BRYAN

Let Us Demonstrate!

Henry Gines will have Central Boots on display at the Aggie Cleaners, North Gate, May 12-13-14.

Inspect Central Boots and you'll buy from Henry Gines.

Don't be satisfied with less!



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