

The Battalion Something to Read

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 4-5444.

1940 Member 1941
Associated Collegiate Press

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Our '41 Longhorn

THE 1941 LONGHORN IS READY FOR DISTRIBUTION.

After participating in Aggie events all year, it is only natural that cadets anticipate with pleasure the recording of such events in our school's annual. For here is found the only tangible evidence of our school year's work. We all have our memories and now-vivid recollections, but years will dim those memories until they fade beyond recognition. And now familiar faces will lose their features like a microscope out of focus. But in our 1941 Longhorn where the story is written and pictured in detail, our reminiscences can be corrected and entirely forgotten faces brightened by looking backward.

The theme of the Longhorn this year is one which is most pertinent in view of the foreign situation and the status of the college. It is National Defense. National defense has been the building influence of A. & M. since its foundation. And its training in military science and the instruction of its students in what are now branded defense industries has helped our nation in times of peace and war. The dedication of our yearbook to this purpose calls it more vividly to mind at a time when the subject has assumed the greatest importance to all our people.

The excellence of this year's Longhorn speaks well for the efforts of Editor Morton Robinson and Managing Editor Lovelle Kilpatrick. Since the publication is issued only once yearly, many cadets do not realize the hours of effort which have been spent in planning, designing, and compiling the book. To cover the events of the full year and at this institution is a man's size job, and the Longhorn staff completed it after surmounting obstacles which took away two previous editors. The beauty and completeness of the book speak for them in demonstrating the efficiency and excellence of their efforts. To the staff are due hearty congratulations.

But as beautiful and useful as the Longhorn of '41 is now, it is not in its position of greatest usefulness nor greatest meaning. At the present time our recollections of this year are clear and strong, our classmates names and faces clear. But time will soon begin to erase those memories until they are restored by a glance through the '41 Longhorn. It will become more valuable through the years, and the efforts of the staff will become still more appreciated.

Easterwood Airport

A. & M. IS GETTING AN AIRPORT TODAY, in a manner of speaking. It has been in existence and efficient service for two years, but it is today being dedicated to a former Aggie who proved his usefulness to his country. Jesse L. Easterwood, the Aggie being honored by having his name placed on the airfield, was one of this institution's most outstanding men who served during the World War.

During his military air service, Easterwood saw service in three foreign countries and participated in numerous successful air raids against the enemy. He received a citation for bravery, and was killed in an airplane accident in the Panama Canal Zone in May, 1919. His name is emblazoned on the granite War Memorial at the western entrance to the campus, and one of the gold stars in the huge flag in the rotunda of the Academic Building commemorates the service which he gave.

It is entirely proper that our A. & M. airport be dedicated to such a man. He brought credit to himself, his institution, and his country through his actions. And an airport named for him will be of service to other Aggies and perhaps to future air-men of the United States if the occasion again rises.

With the proposed enlargement of the airport's facilities, this service will be proportionately increased. The airport is now being used not only by Aggies in their Civilian Pilot Training courses but as a stopping point for cross country flights of military planes. The selection of A. & M. as the place for an airport was a strategic choice. With the wealth of young manpower enrolled in school here, the situation is ideal. Further the men here are trained as engineers and have all the facilities available for technical training in related fields.

The dedication of the airport today makes another step in the progress of this school toward keeping in tune with modern education. If Jesse Easterwood could look back to see the number of Aggie pilots who will receive their training here and perhaps bring credit to the military air service as he did, he would be proud that the field should bear his name.

BY DR. T. F. MAYO Social Consciousness Hits Broadway

No longer can the serious dramatist, aware of current major issues in life, utilize his art as an escape into some sphere of abstract romanticism. He cannot run away from reality and its problems to seek comfort in optimistic daydreams.

This is part of a ringing introduction to a new book of "The Best Short Plays of the Social Theatre." It is in harmony with what people are saying about the novel and the short story: That nowadays nothing in literature is worthy the attention of an adult mind which fails to show that its author is aware of the pressing importance of questions of social and economic organization.

The collection contains a good deal that is worth reading. Clifford Odets' Waiting for Lefty was the first "radical" play to win much attention. Bury the Dream, by Irwin Shaw, is an anti-war play which has disturbed many a college campus. Paul Green, author of Hymn to the Rising Sun, is undoubtedly the best Southern dramatist. The Dog Beneath the Skin, by the Englishmen, Auden and Isherwood, contains an extraordinary scene in a lunatic asylum.

Most of the plays are definitely radical. I suppose that is only natural, since the first thing we do when we become strongly conscious of anything is to criticize it. The plays are all sincere and earnest, not to say violent. Their authors are desperately anxious not to turn aside from any bit of truth about human nature, no matter how unpalatable it may be. (In fact, there are occasional faint indications that the more unpalatable a bit of fact happens to be, the more indubitably true it seems to these authors.)

And yet, this reviewer must confess that to him there is an air of unreality about the people in most plays of "social consciousness." I think that fiddling while Rome burns is a contemptible thing to do. I think, too, that in the long run, what these socially conscious writers are doing for the drama will turn out to have been good for it. But it seems to me that they are forerunners of good drama rather than producers of it. Their heads are all so full of theories about human nature and the social forces which influence it that they don't seem to be able to "realize" individual people vividly.

On the other hand, however, I must admit that after reading red-hot, earnest stuff like this, I find the mere story-teller rather trivial. Perhaps the finest literature just doesn't appear in times of crisis like our own. Maybe all literature, like poetry in Wordsworth's definition, should be "the spontaneous tranquillity." Meanwhile, these social consciousness overflow of powerful emotion recollected in fellows are honest, intelligent, and useful. On the whole, they are the best we've got in the 1940's.

As the World Turns..

BY "COUNT" V. K. SUGAREFF

Nazi threat to Latin America is a challenge to the United States. The French-German collaboration has focused the interest of our experts on several strategic points which might prove dangerous to us. The extent of this collaboration has not been announced. If it is limited to Syria and the eastern Mediterranean Sea, it might be of small consequence. But our experts figure that the French-German Collaboration will ultimately include Dakar, the southwestern port in Africa. Dakar, as a Nazi naval and air base, constitutes a real danger for the democracies. Nazi sea raiders, submarines, and planes can operate and prey effectively on English and American shipping. Should the Nazi control Dakar, the Atlantic shipping lanes, from Greenland to Natal, Brazil, would be within range of Nazi sea raiding crafts. From Dakar to Natal, Brazil is only 1,860 miles. The Germans can easily establish contact with that port and support revolutionary movements in the South American countries without great losses to themselves. A German controlled Brazil, Columbia, Chile, and Argentina is not an impossible accomplishment. Our naval and military experts anticipated such German inroads in South America when they suggested that we occupy Azores, Canary and Cape Verde Islands. While we are in the talking stage of occupying these islands, the Germans might make it a reality.

The Germans then would be in a position to strike either from Dakar or Cape Verde Islands at Latin America. A hemisphere defense thus becomes a vital problem for us. We are confronted with several disadvantages in the defense of Latin America: These countries are not prepared to make war. The United States must aid them to maintain their independence and keep Nazism from controlling Latin America. Distance is another handicap for us. There are large blocks of Germans, Italians, Spaniards and Japanese in the Latin American countries. Many of these colonies have been organized into Bunds or other types of group action for such purposes as they were used in the European countries which the Germans have occupied; and there is the possibility of Nazi controlled governments in Latin America. The United States is, though, preparing to meet such an emergency in several ways: Goodwill plans are now aggressively carried out. We are negotiating for air and naval bases in the South American countries and their governments have expressed willingness to cooperate with us. German controlled air lines are being liquidated and replaced by American lines. Many of the Latin American countries are cooperating on joint defense plans; and as long as Britain holds out, there is slight chance for an invasion of this hemisphere.

The Saturday Evening Post changes its policy of isolation. Mr. Walter D. Fuller, the president of the National Association of Manufacturers, and of the Curtis Publishing company said on the 16th of this month—"I have been consistently an isolationist. So has the Saturday Evening Post. Although that policy will change next week. But we are in war now. We are like a man who has just jumped off a springboard and has not yet touched the water. He isn't wet, but he hasn't a chance of getting back on the springboard again."



BACKWASH

By Charles Babcock

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

Here Are the Highlights... With the rest of the men. Hats off to you, Darrel Brady, you will always be welcome at Aggie land.

Looking Back
Way back to year of 1907-09... when John Warden was cadet captain and George F. Moore was cadet first lieutenant of Company B, Infantry at A. & M. Today both men are Brigadier Generals.

Then there was another senior in that company, A. B. Whittet, who is now the Chief Ordnance Designer of the army. However, today we honor a junior of that organization, Jesse Easterwood, who was the second United States naval aviator to volunteer for service in the first world war. Easterwood was killed in action.

To his memory will go a corps review and the airport dedication this afternoon.

Early Bird
The early bird got the Longhorn... mean that senior Jack M. Simpson of Fort Worth was the first Aggie to receive the 1941 Texas A. & M. annual. And waiting in line for that book was worth the trouble. Generally recognized as the finest Longhorn yet, many were impressed by the color plates preceding each division, depicting the various phases of A. & M. military life.

True American

"Sure I like Texas," stated Darrel L. Brady. And it's a good thing, for he will probably be back here at San Antonio within a month to serve in Uncle Sam's air corps. Brady said that he would like to have attended Texas A. & M. for at least one year. Why? Because in the few hours that he was on the campus he had recognized a sort of hospitality and vigorous activity that represented everything in which he believed... Americanism.

And after answering several questions relative to the present world crisis, he was off to Galveston with an attractive belle from the port city and thence to New York to enter the service... and he is a volunteer. The Rotary organization suggested that Brady be exempt from armed service so that he might continue his lecture tour, but he chose to serve with

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COVERING CAMPUS DISTRACTIONS

with TOM GILLIS

By Tom Vannoy

Joe E. Brown is in another one of those hilariously funny things known as motion pictures. This one is titled "SO YOU WON'T TALK?" and is being shown at the Campus for the last time today. The mere mention of Joe E. Brown in connection with a picture is enough to insure its laughability, but not its dramatic achievements.

"LITTLE MEN" is showing for the last time today at the Assembly Hall. Starring Kay Francis and Jack Oakie, it is an adapted version of Louisa May Alcott's famed novel. There is not much of the original Alcott idea left after the script writers have done their job. They must have been trying to do it like Glenn Miller has done the "Anvil Chorus." But they did not have as good luck.

Judging from the popularity of the novel, it should be one of the best pictures of the month, but it is only mediocre.

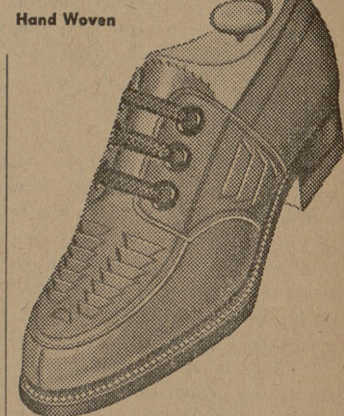
Kay Francis is "Aunt Jo" who runs the boarding school to which Jimmy Lyndon, the adopted son of George Bancroft, is sent after living a rather carefree life wandering from town to town. Jack Oakie is the recipient of the most of the laughs in the film. He is cast as a crook with reward on his head. There is no benefit show at the

Assembly Hall for Friday. An error occurred in the bookings, and the one originally scheduled had to be cancelled.

Rosalind Russell and Melvyn Douglas come forth in "THIS THING CALLED LOVE" as the Campus Friday and Saturday. Binnie Barnes, Melvyn's secretary, makes up the eternal triangle. For something to pass away a couple of otherwise good hours, this makes an excellent excuse. It's funny. It's ecstatic. It's sexy.

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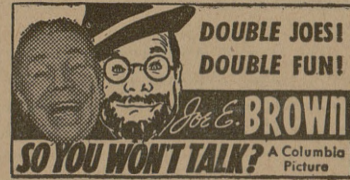
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