

# The Battalion

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

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## Man, Your Manners

By I. Sherwood

**Table Technique:** Nice table manners cannot be acquired in three easy lessons; they are gained by years of constant practice; they are a matter of knowing how to conduct oneself at the table in a way that will not be offensive to others. Such knowledge will save us many embarrassing moments and make of us pleasant table companions. There are more minute rules on table manners than on any other area of our social behavior, but, if you obey three general rules, the use of table silver will not be too difficult.

(1) Follow the lead of the hostess.  
(2) Use your silver in the order of its arrangement, beginning with the outside place.

(3) Trust your own judgment as to the requirements of the food at hand.  
**Rules on what to do and what not to do** with individual pieces of tableware are too complicated to be handled here, but it can be said that when silver is not in use it should be placed on the plate; the spoon may be put on the saucer—never let the handles or any other part of the silver, that has been used, rest on the table.

The proper use of dishes causes less concern than does the use of silver. There aren't nearly so many things to do with them; in fact, with the exception of the drinking glass and cup, we handle them as little as possible.

Meal-time should be a time for fellowship, a happy time; because meal-time is an important opportunity for improving human relationships, it is necessary that we have a certain skill in the art of eating.

*The true use of speech is not so much to express our wants as to conceal them.*  
—Oliver Goldsmith

## War Interpretations

By Robert L. Freeland

Sweden, with an area of 173,341 square miles and a population of 6,250,700, is the largest of the Scandinavian countries and is in an extremely unfortunate position because of the present war. Although Sweden has 1,400 miles of coastline, it is completely shut off from access to the open sea, with the exception of the Skagerrack and the Kattegat, both passages being controlled by Germany, Norway, Finland and Denmark form a land barrier around this country.

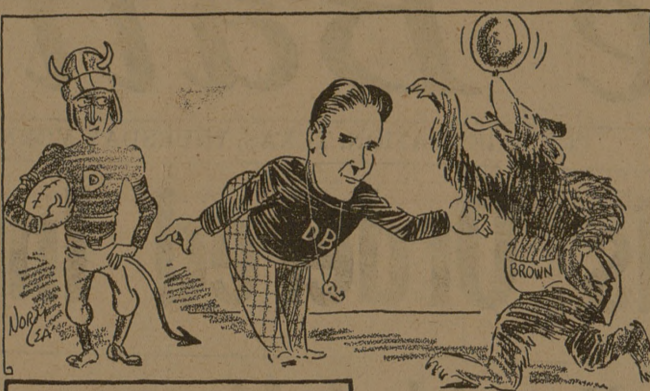
Sweden has long been neutral, and once was in an alliance with the rest of the Scandinavian countries, but this was dissolved in 1909. Since then she has followed her own course, trying to stay clear of any alliances with other nations. She was neutral in the last World War, as she is in this one, and has followed the peaceful pursuits of building up her merchant marine to one of considerable importance, and in exporting her wood products along with iron, copper, lead, and silver. Her iron ore is the finest in the world, matched only by the newly discovered and as yet undeveloped deposits in the interior of Brazil.

Before the German invasion of Norway and Denmark, her shipping plied the seven seas of the world, and much of her trade was with England, although Germany took many of her ores and her catch of fish. Germany received her fine ores with which to build her war machine both from Narvik, the ice-free port of Norway, and through the Swedish port of Lulea, ice-bound for half of the year. But with the invasion by Germany of Norway and Denmark, Sweden was cut off from the rest of the world, and her trade since then has been confined to the Third Reich. Many of her ships are still at large, operating from other ports throughout the world, but much of her bottoms are confined to the North and Baltic seas. Germany naturally won't allow Swedish ships to leave to trade with the rest of the world, and England won't allow them to go to Sweden for fear that their cargoes may reach Germany. She has lost many of her ships and their seamen to German submarines in the Atlantic, both before and after Germany took over Norway and Denmark.

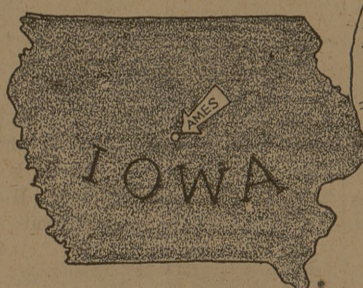
Gustaf V, the aged king of Sweden, has since May, 1940, been building up the armed forces of his nation to resist a possible German invasion. Her navy consists of 13 destroyers, 16 subs and other obsolete vessels. Her army, normally at around 600,000 men, has now been increased to almost one million, and is very well trained and equipped for the defense of their homeland. Norway's terrain is very rugged, and would present a great difficulty to any invader. There are many mountains and lakes, and the Germans no doubt have had enough of cold weather in Russia for a while. Still Sweden must be always on guard, for once she relaxes her vigil, she is subject to attack by the Axis.

American ideal." Pres. James B. Conant of Harvard university cites objective of a casteless society as the duty of every educator. "We do not have to let the imagination run wild to picture the possibility of an airplane equipped with television flying over the battlefields while the troop commander and his general staff gather about the viewing screen at general headquarters and have instantaneous and accurate information as to events on the front line. War or no war, the very best brains of both scientists and engineers are working on the problem of improvement of existing forms and the development of new forms of communication." Dean Joseph W. Barker of the Columbia university school of engineering.

## Kollegiate Kaleidoscope



**ARTHUR KAHLER**  
COACHES FOOTBALL AT DICKINSON COLLEGE AND BASKETBALL AT BROWN UNIVERSITY.



THE INFIRMARY AT REED COLLEGE, PORTLAND, ORE., IS NAMED **QUIETT INFIRMARY** IN MEMORY OF A STUDENT.

## BACKWASH

By Jack Hood

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

### Coming Up

Boys who drop in the "Y" these days hardly recognize the building. In contrast to the old interior, the \$17,000 project will have the most modernistic decorations and furnishings, and will provide a long-awaited need of the Aggies—a really nice place to take the girl friends and parents . . . expected to be finished by Mother's Day.

### Band Rumors

Rumors about bands contracted for dances are, for the most part, false . . . the only one definitely on the dotted line (so far) is Tony DiPardo, for the Cavalry Ball and corps dance . . . in addition to the published schedule of dances, the Coast Ball and corps dance will fall on the same week-end (April 10-11) as the Cattleman's Ball and Hillel Club Dance, the R.V. Ball will be on April 3rd, the Junior Prom, May 8; the Senior Ring Dance, May 14 . . . because of increasing transportation rates, bands are becoming harder to contract—they stick to long engagements instead of one night stands.

### Backwashin' Around

The Chem Warfare boys have discovered a way to take their calisthenics "out of the rut" . . . they play follow the leader . . . single file over benches, in and out among the trees, etc. . . . they say it's better than the side-straddle-hop,—but it's still 7:25 a.m.

For a preview of the Cotton Ball Duchesses, watch the Agronomy bulletin board on the third floor of the Agriculture building. Mrs. Estelle Johnson, agronomy secretary, is displaying the photos of

the girls—she expects many more soon. Someone (lonely) has already "lifted" one of the pictures—a cute brunette's likeness—and Mrs. Johnson requests that he bring it back, if he can live without it until the Cotton Ball. (note: some of the girls don't have dates)

### Odds

Superstition department: One Aggie was on his way to class and happened to glance at the door of room 62 in his hall. The number stuck in his mind—he couldn't understand why. When he got to class, he got back a quiz on which he made (you guessed it) 62. He looks straight ahead now, except when on top floors . . . another Aggie actually dreamed the sentence one of his friends got from Senior Court—before the sentence was passed . . . a soldier was released from the service in November and wrote his former top-kick to let him know "what the score is." He also wrote the cook, telling him about the food (very nastily). Shortly after December 7, he was called back to the service—in his old outfit . . . Steve Williams, HQ Cavalry, is a real Irishman. On St. Patrick's Day, he blossomed out in a bright green tie.

### Punch Card Machine Operators Are Needed

Tabulating punch card machines which will jerk cooks, taxi-drivers, specialists or artisans in any field from the files of the U. S. Army at the rate of 400 per minute will be discussed by A. Lamb, general manager of international business machines corporation with students in Accounting and Statistics this morning.

## COVERING campus distractions

WITH TOM VANNOY

A story must really have some appeal to be made into a motion picture on three separate occasions. First time was in 1922 when Norma Talmadge was the star. Ten years later Norma Shearer appeared in the role. Now Jeannette MacDonald is the star of "SMILING THROUGH" which is to be at Guion Hall today and tomorrow. In real life, Miss MacDonald is married to Gene Raymond, who appears with her in a picture for the first time. She came to the screen in 1929 after becoming a very successful stage star in New York. She has been starred recently in "Bitter Sweet," "Sweet- MacDonald hearts," "New Moon," "Maytime," and a number of other musical successes.

HEART," with Cesar Romero, Carole Landis, and Milton Berle in the cast. The mention of gangsters in a motion picture usually means a couple of reels of shooting and being chased by the policemen. These must be "gentleman" gangsters, if there are such, because there is a minimum of the crime element and a maximum of comedy and romance, with the aforementioned trio figuring in on practically all of it.



Jeannette MacDonald

If you appreciate pure drama with no comedy or suspense to sweeten up the plot, then "Smiling Through" will be an enjoyable show.

Brian Aherne stars in the film as Sir John Carteret. In the beginning of the story, he is a young man about to be married to a beautiful Irish girl, Mooneyan Clare, played by Jeannette MacDonald. Later, Miss MacDonald takes the role of Kathleen, Mooneyan's niece, who lives with Sir John. Gene Raymond also has a double role of Jeremy Wayne, the rival for Mooneyan's hand, and as Kenneth Wayne, his son, who is in love with Kathleen.

"LOST PATROL" is the benefit show at the Campus today under the sponsorship of the Accounting Society. Victor McLaglen and Boris Karloff are the featured players in the story. Gangsters get mixed in with an art gallery and old masterpieces in an entertaining picture at the Campus tomorrow and Saturday. It's "A GENTLEMAN AT HEART"

**RADIO REPAIRS**  
THE  
**STUDENT CO-OP**

**Campus**

Dial 4-1181

**TODAY ONLY**  
**"LOST PATROL"**  
with  
**VICTOR MCLAGLEN**  
**BORIS KARLOFF**  
Also  
Sport - Cartoon - Musical  
**All-Day Benefit Show**  
Accounting Society of A. & M.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

**CESAR ROMERO**  
**CAROLE LANDIS**  
**MILTON BERLE**  
**A GENTLEMAN AT HEART**  
A 100-COUNTRY-BOX PICTURE

Also  
**"WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ARGENTINA"**  
Pluto Cartoon -- Musical with Johnny Messner and Orchestra

### WHAT'S SHOWING

#### AT THE CAMPUS

Thursday — "LOST PATROL", with Victor McLaglen and Boris Karloff. Benefit Accounting Society.  
Friday, Saturday—"GENTLEMEN AT HEART", featuring Cesar Romero and Carol Landis.

#### AT GUION HALL

Thursday, Friday—"SMILING THROUGH", starring Jeannette MacDonald, Brian Aherne, and Gene Raymond.

### SENIORS SEE

**LOUPOT'S UNIFORMS**

**DALACE**  
PHONE 2-8879

**THURSDAY -- FRIDAY**  
**SATURDAY**

**ROBERT TAYLOR**  
**LANA TURNER**  
in

**"JOHNNY EAGER"**

**PREVIEW 11 P. M.**  
**SATURDAY NIGHT**

**CLAUDETTE COLBERT**  
**JOHN PAYNE**  
in

**"REMEMBER THE DAY"**

Shown Sunday and Monday

**LOOK YOUR BEST FOR THE BALL AND CORPS DANCE**

HAVE YOUR CLOTHES CLEANED AND PRESSED AT THE

**CAMPUS CLEANERS**

**Swing!** **Sweet**

Get the Newest in Both Styles on

**VICTOR and BIRDBIRD RECORDS**

HEY ZEKE!—Andrews Sisters  
WINTER WEATHER—Tommy Dorsey  
MUSSOLINI'S LETTER TO HITLER—Carson Robison  
SKYLARK—Dinah Shore  
THE DEVIL SAT DOWN AND CRIED—Harry James

**HASWELL'S**

**MOVIE**

**GUION HALL**

Thursday and Friday  
March 19 and 20

THE MUSICAL TRIUMPH IN TECHNICOLOR  
**JEANETTE MACDONALD**  
**BRIAN AHERNE**  
**"Smiling Through"**  
GENE with IAN  
**RAYMOND HUNTER**  
A FRANK BORZAGE Production

"EYES OF THE NAVY" NEWS

**COMING Saturday**

**"NORTHWEST MOUNTED POLICE"**

## Operational Efficiency

The Military department should be congratulated for the rapid and efficient way in which it handled the organization of the newly established Quartermaster Corps.

It was only day before yesterday that Colonel E. A. Keyes, civilian components officer of the Eighth Corps Area, notified the school that he wanted the new branch to be formed immediately. In the past, on such a large undertaking the word "immediately" has meant a period as long as a month or six weeks. But not on this occasion.

Within 12 hours after the message was received the organization was well under way. Even though a tactical officer of the Quartermaster Corps had not been assigned and only a dozen cadets had been selected as a nucleus, the Military department assigned a tactical officer from another branch as instructor and began the selection of students from other arms. After 24 hours had elapsed the majority of those senior men who will be permitted to transfer were signed up.

It is expected that by this afternoon, less than 48 hours after the first official word was received, the list of selected juniors will be finished and plans completed. From this point it will be an easy step to start training by Monday or at least by the early part of next week.

To do an even more rapid job on the organization of the Ordnance branch when word does come for its formation, the Military department is already mapping out plans. With this foresight no doubt some new record for A. & M. efficiency and rapidity will be set.

## Another Opportunity

In last Tuesday's Battalion an Open Forum letter was run suggesting that the college sponsor weekly talks by outstanding men. These talks were to be on a wide range of topics that would include everything from world problems to marriage relations, topics which will affect every Aggie far more after graduation than they do now.

This suggestion was based on the technicality that the catalogue calls for a bi-monthly assembly of students at which addresses are to be given by outstanding speakers. No matter how true this may be the idea is of much more value than a mere technicality. The student body is in great need of such lectures, and they would offer opportunities which would be hard to obtain otherwise.

If the students are willing to accept the opportunity the College would be willing to offer it. And there is little doubt about the willingness of the student body. In times like these all men realize the need for the right information, no matter what the subject may be.

## Quotable Quotes

"Freedom of the mind, social mobility through education, universal schooling—these are the three fundamentals of the Jeffersonian tradition. They have represented the aspirations and desires of a free people embarked on a new experiment, the perpetuation of a casteless nation. To many of the present college generation the phrase 'equality of opportunity' seems a mockery, a trite collection of idle words. In this I see the major challenge to our educational system, a challenge which can be met only by a radical reconstruction. If the nation wants to bend its efforts to have as free and classless a society as possible, then for those of us concerned with schools and colleges our course is clearly plotted. Is it too late, too late for our schools to revitalize the idea of a classless nation? Can we complete the necessary major re-adjustment in our educational system in time to prevent the extinction of the Jeffersonian tradition? I believe we can, if we make haste. I predict at least another century of vigor for the