



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

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Preparation, Practice, Performance . . .

It is a long established precept that any person or group of persons subject to human frailties will make mistakes but it is also true that mistakes can be eliminated by thought before action and by careful practice before action is taken. Any organization or individual which expects to function smoothly must put in long periods of practice.

There can be no expectation that a person completely unfamiliar with a particular job can perform that task without a period of preparation and introduction. It has been the practice in the United States to devote approximately the first twenty years of life to formal education and the remainder to informal learning and the business of making a living.

Any group which represents A. & M. College should be thoroughly trained because it is certain that an institution with the excellent standing of A. & M. does not desire to have its name associated with an individual or group of individuals which cannot do their best because of scanty preparation. These facts are certainly pertinent when consideration is given the right of the corps to practice in those things which represent the student body.

For many seasons the "Twelfth Man" has been recognized as the most perfectly drilled and disciplined student body in the Southwest Conference. The reputation for lusty yelling at football games has largely been gained by the precision timing which is employed. This timing requires practice.

Aggie conduct at games is also praised. The gentlemanly conduct is attributable to responsibility taken by yell leaders and cadet officers. Proper group conduct is best attained by practice of the group itself rather than practice individually.

Yell practices are undoubtedly the only means of attaining group precision and they are also perhaps the best means of obtaining group discipline at football games.

A Job for the Twelfth Man . . .

This fall an unusual situation confronts the corps in that two of the football games are scheduled for the week between the summer and fall semesters. The first game against Bryan Field is scheduled for Saturday, September 23, one day after the summer semester ends and the second game is scheduled for September 30, the Saturday before registration opens on Monday, October 1.

The problem confronting the "Twelfth Man" is the necessity of cutting short the weeks vacation between semesters in order that the corps may be in the stands at both games. The problem is further complicated by the fact that the second game will be in Alamo Stadium in San Antonio against Texas Tech.

Any inconvenience that might arise if the corps attends both of these games is more than offset by the support which they can give the team. The football team needs the spirit of the corps at every game and especially do they need the complete "Twelfth Man" at the first few games. It is the corps job to be on hand at every game possible. The corps is a part of the Fighting Aggie Team and no Aggie would think for a minute about sending an incomplete team on the field. The football team is not complete without the "Twelfth Man."

Every man of the student body who calls himself an Aggie will be on Kyle Field September 23 and also in Alamo Stadium on September 30. The first few games of the season will, in a large measure, determine the possibilities of a victorious season. The "Twelfth Man" must function.

SOMETHING TO READ

Edna B. Woods
Ass't Circulation Librarian

FAIR STOOD THE WIND FOR FRANCE

by H. E. Bates

The attention of the world is focused on France. The French people anxiously await the moment when they will be completely free from the oppression and disgrace of German domination. Practically their only contributions to civilization in the past three years have resulted from their efforts to house and feed allied fighters and secret service personnel, and to smuggle them to channels of safety. The actions of the French Underground were limited by necessity, but its members have worked none the less diligently.

Fair Stood the Wind for France, an adventure novel, is the story of French patriots who worked for the survival of France. More literary than most novels with similar plots, Fair Stood the Wind for France describes the French terrain and the inhabitants of the southern provinces with accuracy and understanding.

A broken airscrew forces a Wellington bomber and its crew of 5 members into a crash-landing. The catastrophe occurred in southern France as the English crew was returning from a bombing mission over Italy. All members except the pilot, whose arm was severely injured, landed safely. Immediately, upon landing, members of the crew, bound together by many common experiences, begin a new experience. This time, they must conceal themselves thoroughly, and at the same time, they must seek assistance which will facilitate their escape from occupied territory. To reveal their identity erroneously is to place themselves in a German prison camp; to involve French citizens is to endanger their lives.

H. E. (Herbert Ernest Bates, the author of Fair Stood the Wind for France, is a R. A. F. Squadron leader. He was one of the creative writers admitted to the Air forces to serve and to write. Mr. Bates, a widely anthologized short story writer, was not known or read by the bulk of the American reading public before the publication of this novel. However, the tone of his writing is largely American. His story is appealing, since all of us are continuously interested in the fate of our airmen who are forced down over enemy territory.

Fair Stood the Wind for France isn't spoiled by the melodrama that has saturated other similar books. Told simply in a straightforward manner typical of the English, it combines a moving love story with the dangerous adventures of an injured pilot and his crew.

Francoise, "the girl" as she is called throughout the book, and her family accept the responsibility of helping the unfortunate crew, but apparently they aren't enthusiastic about it. Their matter-of-fact attitude makes the story more realistic and its sequence more logical. Francoise, according to Henry Seidel Canby, may be intended to symbolize France. Calmness, intelligence, sympathy, and idealism combine themselves in her character. Her enduring faith fulfills not only her own spiritual needs, but (See LIBRARY, Page 4)

BACKWASH

By Renyard W. Canis

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

PLANS ARE UNDERWAY, in fact they are practically complete, for a big weekend for the Aggies in San Antonio after the Aggies win their second Alamo Stadium victory over the Texas Red Raiders on September 30. Dick Smith, president of the San Antonio A. & M. club, reports that the Alamo City Aggies have completed arrangements for the use of the Hotel Gunter Rose Room on that night.

It will be a big weekend. To start things off there will be the customary yell practice in downtown San Antonio which will be climaxed by a victorious sixty minutes of football which will be topped off by an unknown amount of

dancing and merry making. Some few Aggies have expressed the fear that there will not be enough Aggies in the Alamo City to have a yell practice in view of the fact that the game is on the Saturday before school opens for the fall semester. Someone has suggested that the roll be called just before yell practice.

RUMOR HAS IT that the Aggie-land Orchestra will play for the Aggie Gridiron Dance. Sounds good. The Aggie-land made a swell initial showing at their first appearance and since that time they have received arrangements of new pieces and have rehearsed (See BACKWASH, Page 3)



Man, Your Manners

By I. Sherwood

Men are inclined to skip any information on setting a table and serving a meal and yet table service cannot be separated from table manners. A man who is a perfect host is pretty apt to have had a great deal of gracious living, when a boy, that furnished him with a background for his present day living.

Nice table manners just don't happen; they come from proper training when young, and continued practice of proper table technique throughout a lifetime; they are very revealing, and if yours are remiss you had better go to work on them.

Just how valuable they are you will never know but the following

story may serve as an illustration:

A young man of high academic rating had been interviewed by the president of a large manufacturing company, in view of getting a job, only to be turned down. The owner of the company had taken the young man out to lunch and he gave as his excuse for turning him down, that his company could not have a representative, who could not eat properly.

We indulge in the necessary process of eating on an average of three meals a day throughout our lives, and since we are so often judged by the way we eat, we should know how to do it correctly. Such a knowledge will save us embarrassment.

PENNY'S SERENADE

By W. L. Penberthy

Earl Thomson of Dartmouth was one of the best high hurdlers this country has known. He was the Olympic champion in 1920 and the



Penberthy

first man to officially run the event in 14 2/5 seconds. I once heard a man speak who knew Thomson and had watched him work out. He said that Thomson was so diligent in his training that he could place a nickel on top of a hurdle and knock it off without touching the hurdle. To attain this degree of performance, it surely must have taken many hours of practice beyond what would be considered as sufficient to develop a good hurdler.

Our fall football practice started on Monday and we have a fine looking group of young men trying out for the team. These men will practice long and hard and out of the group will emerge those who will represent the college in

our games this season. Most of these boys will practice during the regular practice periods but there will be some who will arrive early and remain after practice each day to improve their kicking, passing or some other skill in which they desire to excel. They will work out whenever they have the time. These men will stand out on our team and many spectators will remark about their unusual ability not knowing that they paid the price to develop themselves into expert performers.

The successful men and women I know have no set number of hours to work. They put in the amount of time necessary to do the job right—they pay the price. Our government is recognizing this in the citations given with awards for bravery. These citations often point out that the honored soldier or sailor performed beyond the call of duty.

If we have average ability, we can usually get by with doing the prescribed amount of work; but if we want to be outstanding we have to work overtime—we have to pay the price.