

The Battalion

STUDENT WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Office, Room 5, Administration Building, Telephone 4-5444
Texas A. & M. College

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station is published weekly, and circulated on Thursday afternoon.

Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Subscription rate \$3.00 per school year. Advertising rates upon request.

Represented nationally by National Advertising Service, Inc., at New York City, Chicago, Boston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

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Welcome Home, Coach . . .

Coach Homer Norton's recent return to our midst has been felt by each and every Aggie, and to him the entire corps of cadets has extended its heartiest welcome. Scarcely had Coach Norton's touching and inspiring note of thanks for the flowers reached the campus, but what he had rejoined us in Aggieland. His very presence caused a sudden increase in football temperatures around A. & M., and immediately spirits and fond hopes for the forthcoming football season rose.

The whole of the corps is looking forward with the greatest anticipation to seeing its coach "back in the saddle" once more. The Aggies' chief interest is that he return to his position in the prime of health to lead us on to a victorious season of football. The Twelfth Man will be here as always to do its share of the fighting, and the corps wants everyone, especially Coach Norton, to know that it will be ever ready to spur the team on to victory.

So, in behalf of the entire corps, it's WELCOME HOME COACH NORTON!!!

A Criticism of the Aggies . . .

From time to time, A. & M.'s shortcomings, some of which are petty and others of which are not so trivial, are brought forth to the attention of the corps and the public in an onrush of criticism. Usually, the source of the criticism is appeased by the alleviation or the complete extermination when possible, of the contention. Sometimes, the process of elimination of shortcomings is somewhat difficult to achieve; and other times, the process progresses unadvisedly and expeditiously.

Current among the criticism of the Aggie corps is the overwhelming prevalence of profanity and obscene language among the cadets of A. & M. Elaboration on the fact that this habit has flourished here for years is unnecessary, for we are all conscious of its existence. Fortunately for the Aggies, very few ladies mingle with us during the week; and therefore, we escape much criticism on that account. A different situation presents itself on week-ends, however, for that is the time when we encounter women, both here at Aggieland and off the campus. The greatest criticism registered so far by friend and foe alike regards the language of the Aggies when away from the campus. Aggies riding the bus to Bryan, Aggies en route to Dallas and Houston via trains, Aggies in group conversation in various cities—all of these occur off the campus and present a vile and appalling situation to outsiders who form their opinions of A. & M. not from our virtues, but from our shortcomings. Not only has the situation off the campus served as a basis of complaint, for the semi-public places around the campus such as the mess hall, the post office, and the eating establishments, which are a continual host to women, have brought a deluge of bad reports.

Being Aggies, our uniform serves as a target of attention. Seldom do we receive credit for the good things we do, and always do we attract criticism for the few shortcomings we possess. There is always someone waiting to pounce upon us and rip us wide open with malicious attacks. When we allow our profane language to fall upon their ears, they have been invited by us to commence their attack. If we want those attacks and criticisms to cease, it is up to every one of us as individuals to curtail our obscene language. Then there will be no basis for their criticisms. For each of those who do not know A. & M. and its many fine virtues, we will have an opportunity to win one more friend by our conduct.

Since we are forever in the limelight, we can allow our conduct to create a wonderful impression upon the public if only we strive to eliminate a few undesirable habits such as cursing at the wrong place and time.

BACKWASH

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

By The Collaborators

During the hot summer months, which are very uncomfortable in College Station and vicinity, almost everyone tries to "beat the heat" in some manner. A good way to do this, especially when it comes to eating, is to eat cool and appetizing looking food. Perhaps the effect is more psychological than real, but just the same it helps. "Backwash" wishes to express the opinion of certain people that the food in the messhall is a bit unappetizing and a little flat.

Possibly this is due to the fact that the food is prepared in large quantities and then again it might be because the menu is not changed enough to embrace the summer season. The salad, which is commonly known as "rabbit", is not fresh and looks definitely wilted by the time it is to be eaten. The "bullneck", which started out as perfectly good meat is cut and prepared so as to be very greasy and slightly tough. Yes, we know that the menu is made out so that everyone gets a balanced diet, and the correct number of vitamins and such, but that doesn't mean we like to eat it. Maybe some influential person will read this and eat a few meals in the mess hall. They won't be able to appreciate this unless they eat in the mess hall over a period of time. Let it not be said that we are not mindful of the fact that we do get plenty to eat, while other people go hungry, but it seems a shame for good food not to be presented at its best.

Five hundred beautiful women—soft, dreamy music—a starry summer sky—and five hundred soft, flowing evening gowns to show off their occupants to the very best advantage—an Aggie dream come true. By name it is the Freshman Ball and the first formal of the summer. And to top it off there will be also a dance Saturday night—with orchestra. Maybe an estimate of five hundred is too conservative, for what Aggie could resist this chance to have a date down, unless it might be some of the seniors and—but why go into that? After all it is the Freshman Ball.

Five years ago one Pat Perry, a T. C. U. coed, wrote the following letter to BACKWASH. "Being a thing of many words and few brains I couldn't resist telling you that there's a lot about an Aggie that gets a girl. I could write volumes on the subject of manhood on the Brazos, but I'm afraid the cadets would be thrown into the last stage of epileptics trying to figure out the point. When an Aggie gazes at a girl in the sex-starved way and slings a powerful 'line' of bull—guaranteed to be sure-fire stuff by a brother freshman—a girl knows that anything in a skirt would bring forth the same exultations of delight. You fellows can't fool us." Speak for yourself, Miss Perry.

Oh, The injustice of it all! For two hours now we, the Collaborators, have been sitting here trying to figure out something to write about. Why don't people do odd and amusing things any more? What is the world coming to? Don't crazy things happen to Aggies just the same as always? If they do we certainly haven't heard of them. You got us beat if you know where all the good "bull" has escaped to.

The mis-adventures that can happen in one week-end. It seems that Bill Ray went to Huntsville this weekend. To start off with, it took him four hours to get there, and when he finally did, he was put out no end to find that his girl friend was out of town. Then he went out to the college only to find it was between semesters and not a female was in sight. After sweating the personnel of the local hashery all to no avail he rented a hotel room and got a nice restful sleep. The next day he came back to school and rushed to the Post Office only to find a card, mind you not a letter but a measly postcard, from his lady love in Fort Worth to the effect that she was leaving almost immediately for Washington to go to work for the Navy. At the last report Ray was in a vile and nasty mood and would speak to no one. Oh well, Ray, things are tough all over.

Good Neighbors

Venezuela Land of Oil

By Ruben R. Caro-Costas

Venezuela lies in the northern extreme of the continent of South America. It is bounded on the north and northeast by the Caribbean Sea along a coast that extends some 1,750 miles, on the east by British Guiana, on the southeast by Brazil and on the west and southwest by Colombia.

Geographically, Venezuela can be divided into four regions; the Guayana highlands, the central plains or llanos, the mountainous region of the Andean and Coastal ranges, and the Maracaibo lowlands. The Guayana highlands, the largest region, comprises the southern half of the country. They are rich in wood and minerals. The llanos are very low and make up the principal grazing section of the country. This region covers approximately 100,000 square miles. The mountainous region comprises the principal agricultural section, where most of the population is concentrated. The fourth and last of Venezuela's region is the coastal region, which produces most of Venezuela's large petroleum production.

The Orinoco River is the only true river system in the country. In common with other tropical countries, Venezuela knows but two seasons—the rainy and the dry. The rainy season, May through November, is the time of torrential rains, when many parts of the llanos are inundated. The atmosphere is often hot and humid. The dry season, which last from December through April is more comfortable. The wind, which blows from the north, is dry and refreshing.

Little Venice
The Spanish Conquistadores, by the sight of native villages built on piles along the swampy shores of Lake Maracaibo, were reminded of Venice; so they called that region "Venezuela" or Little Venice.

Birthplace of Bolivar
Venezuela was the scene of one of the earliest revolts against Spain. They started their separatist movement around 1749, and until 1813 met with failure after fail-

ure. Then came the man who some years later was to be known as the "Great Liberator"—Simon Bolivar, who was destined to be the great leader of the independence movement not only of Venezuela but of all of South America. For twelve years this man who had dreamed of a free and independent western world fought against the Spanish crown in his determination to free not only Venezuela but all South America from the yoke of absentee rule. In 1823 he entered Puerto Cabello, driving out the last remnants of the Spanish forces, and the country at long last was assured of its freedom. Before liberating his homeland, Bolivar freed Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Panama. All these countries were at that time a big state under the name of "Greater Colombia", but a few years later they separated into different countries. Simon Bolivar gave his fortune for independence and died in poverty after liberating South America; he is considered the greatest man ever given by an Latin American people. Bolivar called for the first inter-American conference held at Panama in 1826 in which he called for unity among the American countries, but his vision of a united free New World never came a reality.

Venezuelan Industry
Venezuela is an agricultural country with about 20% of the total population engaged in agriculture. Coffee is the major agricultural export, and is second only to petroleum in total export. Cocoa is another important crop grown as well as corn and sugar. These last crops are the most extensively raised, and are consumed domestically practically in their entirety. Among the many other products are included: cotton, wheat, tobacco, bananas, fruits, oats, potatoes and plantains.

Minerals—especially precious minerals—have played a leading part in Venezuela since its beginning. A wide variety, scattered over most of the country, can be found, although relatively few are under active development. Gold, apart from petroleum, is the most

BETWEEN THE BOOK-ENDS

By Edna B. Woods

Things, like people, can be extremely conspicuous by their absence. When the record player and loud speaker were taken from the Music Room for complete overhauling several weeks ago, we hardly anticipated the volley of inquiries about where it was and when it would be back and playable. Since the record player (in fine condition, with several new tone controls) has been returned to the library, it is played almost every hour during the day and evening.

Almost 1200 classical and semi-classical records are played in the Music Room, where a collection of books about music and composers occupies a special shelf. There are scores, biographies of composers, stories of operas and operettas, histories and evaluations of music in its various forms.

FROM MADRIGAL TO MODERN MUSIC; a guide to musical styles, by Douglas Moore is a very readable book which interprets the great periods of music—Renaissance, Baroque, Classic, Romantic, and Modern. Not a history of music, this book introduces each period, lists the principal composers, and gives examples of the import-

ant types of compositions characteristic of the period. FROM MADRIGAL TO MODERN MUSIC is designed to be read with the recordings at hand, providing a background of musical understanding. At the same time, it is general enough to be usable and specific enough to furnish read information.

David Ewen, who has written many good reference books on music and musicians, published MEN OF POPULAR MUSIC in 1944, which "traces the evolution of our popular music during the last forty years . . . That evolution is told through the careers, achievements, aspirations and personalities of a dozen or so men who gave our popular music its shape and form." Heretofore, Mr. Ewen's contributions to the literature of music have been concerned with serious music; however, he approaches this study without condescension, "but with an evaluation of popular expressions in music as a different, but not a lower form of art." Such persons as Irving Berlin, W. C. Handy, Paul Whiteman, Ferde Grofe, George Gershwin, and Benny Goodman fill the pages of MEN OF POPULAR MUSIC.

Not at all new, but quite important, is Carl Sandburg's AMER-

ICAN SONGBAG, an outstanding collection of 280 songs, ballads, and ditties, brought together from all the regions of America. The music includes not merely the airs and melodies for each song but complete piano accompaniments. THE AMERICAN SONGBAG comes from the hearts and voices of thousands of men and women. They made new songs, they changed old songs, they carried songs from place to place, they resurrected and kept alive dying and forgotten songs. "A big bandana bundle of bully ballads for big boys and their best girls," was the comment of one who read its table of contents.

Many of the books in the Music Room contain the lives and works of the great composers. MANUEL DE FALLA AND SPANISH MUSIC, by J. B. Trend is the story of a composer who wrote music which was intended to be felt. Maurice Dumesnil's life of CLAUDE DEBUSSY, master of dreams, is an enjoyable story of an exceptional artist, exceptional also since he became famous and received at least partial recognition for his art before he died. MOZART; the man and his works, by W. J. Turner is an attempt by the author to "present a sufficiently full and accurate account of the man revealed as far as possible in his own words." This book is carefully done and contains a complete catalog of Mozart's works.

Your City

BY W. L. HUGHES
Seventh of a Series

HISTORY OF A. & M. CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL: PART II.

It must be kept in mind that for many years after its organization, the school was not consolidated legally. The districts pooled their finances and children but it was only by a gentlemen's agreement. Rural people were reluctant to cut loose entirely from their old school districts.

During the first year of the school, 304 pupils were enrolled with an average daily attendance of 74%. Actual enrollment was in excess of the census tabulation. During its second year the school enrolled 342 pupils with an average daily attendance of 80%.

The greatest problem to be solved was retardation. More than 57% of the children from the rural schools were retarded due to the character of the schools they had attended. After a year or two, however, this situation was eased, and at the end of the second year the school was put on the accredited list with 13½ units of affiliation.

Health Program Emphasized
Primary duty of any school is to make good animals of its pupils. This should be the duty of the homes in any community but is often neglected, particularly in the rural homes. A health survey was made by the Red Cross nurse for Brazos county. Of the 240 children studied, 90% were found defective. This did not include such diseases as malaria. During the first year of the school it became necessary to provide a bed in the principle's office for malaria patients, and it was used almost daily. The school carried on a vigorous health campaign and by the end of the second year malaria was almost stamped out. The children were taught the relation between the mosquito and the disease, and this knowledge was carried home with the result that greater use was made of mosquito nets.

Progress was made in overcoming such defects as bad tonsils, poor teeth, and malnutrition. Each teacher made it a part of her

regular work to instruct her pupils in the importance of clean teeth, clean bodies, and proper diet. By the end of the second year the results were very noticeable. Attendance improved and much better progress in school was made.

Extra-Curricular Activities
The school was large enough to set up a program of athletics. Many matched games with other schools were played and good school spirit was created. A dramatic club was organized and much interest was aroused in amateur performances. These home talent plays were given in different parts of the county, creating a very favorable impression and showing what a rural school could do. Incidentally, these performances brought in sufficient money to aid in starting a good library. Although the school was the youngest in the county, by the end of two years it had more library books than all the rest of the rural schools of the county combined.

A parent-teachers club was organized and served to bring the parents into closer touch with the organization and work of the school. The mothers aided in securing library books and in securing for the school many needed improvements.

During the first years of its able existence the school made remarkable progress. It showed signs of becoming the type of school that will meet the needs of the community. The high school course of study was shaped to conform to both college entrance requirements and to vocational life work.

During the first years, the high school department was called the "Hayes High School". There was no graduating class the first year, but at the end of the second year, May, 1922, a class of six was granted diplomas.

A Practical Curriculum
All students of the high school were required to take English, American history, and civics, with other subjects elective. In the lower grades, civics was taught incidentally with such work as health and the various school activities. Agricultural arithmetic, agricultural composition, as well as agricultural science and practice, were taught. Traditional courses in mathematics were offered and a large number of students elected to take them. One of the very finest assets of the school was its home economics department. Girls were taught the essentials of homemaking in all its various aspects. Home projects in home economics and agriculture sought to make instruction in these subjects as near a life situation as possible, and such courses as English and mathematics were correlated with them in every possible way.

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