

# The Battalion

STUDENT WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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Texas A. & M. College

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## A Perverted Idea of Amusement . . .

Noticed by everyone at the East Gate early this week was the complete and ruthless destruction of some twenty-odd or more street light reflectors. It seems that some group has a very sinister idea of amusement or is attempting to injure A. & M. as much as they can in their very juvenile way. Not only does the price of fifteen dollars for each reflector involve quite an item of expense for the college; but in the present war-time days, any type of steel and glass reflectors is almost impossible to purchase.

College officials have overwhelming reason to believe that this latest episode is just one more in a series of dirty work by local delinquents and is definitely not the work of any of the cadets. They are of such an opinion because this is not the first occurrence of property destruction around A. & M. by that suspected group. Exery kind of vandalism from smearing paint on buildings and monuments to entering buildings and carrying on the destruction of college property has been indulged in by that group, and it follows that street light damaging is not out of their line of work.

Aside from keeping the police and the officials constantly on the alert for the hoodlums, little else can be employed to bring about the termination of their activities. One excellent suggestion is that the college should appeal to the corps and to everyone associated with A. & M. to cooperate as much as possible in bringing these barbaric activities to an end. For anyone wanting to see a hideous sight, it is suggested that a little jaunt down to the East Gate should be made. There one can gaze upon the now exposed and bare light bulbs. After dark, the effect is anything but attractive and the effect produced by naked light bulbs is entirely out of keeping with the beautiful and sweeping approach leading to the Administration Building. Anybody who has the welfare and interest of A. & M. at heart cannot refuse to lend a cooperative hand whenever possible.

Those reflectors at the East Gate are to be replaced as soon as possible by the college, but only at very great difficulty. Not only from a standpoint of expense, but also from a standpoint of impossibility to acquire new fixtures, should the corps and the college as a whole endeavor to cooperate and see such destruction ended.

## A Bright Future Outlook . . .

For the first time in the history of Texas A. & M. College, the necessity for the provision for more entertainment for the corps of cadets has finally been realized. An almost totally neglected item in the past, liberal funds to insure adequate entertainment of the highest calibre have at last been granted; and the future should find the Aggies well supplied with entertainment.

In bold contrast to the mere one thousand dollars per year formerly allotted the corps, the sum has now been hoisted to four thousand five hundred dollars per year. This increase in funds constitutes a gain of four and one half times more than the former figure, and an even more astonishing fact is that the figure of one thousand dollars of bygone days was in effect even when Aggeland boasted a pre-war corps of seven thousand cadets.

Not only has the fund for student entertainment been increased tremendously, but the cash allotment for the Singing Cadets has been increased two and one half times, from one thousand dollars to two thousand five hundred dollars.

Anyone who has spent just a few weeks in Aggeland can vouch for the dearth of entertained that has been offered. With the new and substantial increases in effect, those old evils should see their deaths. Aggie dances, which have already earned the reputation for themselves as being the best, should find themselves becoming even bigger and better. That will be possible because a number of things such as a workshop for decorations will be made available for the corps. It is to be equipped completely with the proper tools so that permanent decorations can be constructed rapidly.

Aggie dances are not the only thing that should be benefited. Plans include, at present, an increase in quality and frequency of free stage shows, movies, and of Town Hall performances. When all these things do come about, the incentive to remain a little closer to Aggeland should displace the week-end migration to more attractive spots.

With this latest go-ahead signal, the Singing Cadets will now be enabled to increase their tours. Their schedule now can include more numerous appearances at Texas high schools, ex-Aggie meetings, and most important of all, at army hospitals for the benefit of the Aggie exes convalescing. A spacious bus is to be purchased, when priorities permit, for the Singing Cadets and the Aggeland Orchestra; and those organizations will then be enabled to tour Texas and bring even more credit to A. & M.

The future for the Aggie corps of cadets looks bright, indeed, insofar as entertainment is concerned. What has long been the dream of so many Aggies for years should now become a reality on the A. & M. campus. Instead of proving to be one of the great deficits around this vicinity, the corps should be able for once to brag about its entertainment facilities and not apologize as in the past for the mediocre entertainment offerings.

# BACKWASH

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

By The Collaborators

For sheer, unadulterated courage, Tin Pan Alley is striking an ersatz gold medal in honor of Sonny Dunham, who did the equivalent of spitting into a lion's eye to prove he wasn't afraid.

The youthful Mr. Dunham, impatient with predictions that he was a cinch to click in time, got behind Father Time and gave him a push. Instead of blowing his brains out with one-night stands and split weeks in theatres that have no dressing rooms and almost as few customers, Dunham drew and threw the dice in one big gamble. He took an engagement at New York's Capitol Theatre. Of itself such a move was an advantage, not a hazard. But when the competitive theatres like the Roxy and Paramount are presenting such established names in music as Harry James and Jimmy Dorsey—that's too fast, like putting him in the same ring with Joe Louis when he is still a year away.

Dorsey was the headliner at the Roxy at the unprecedented salary of \$50,000 for four weeks. James, the hottest thing since Glenn Miller, was starring at the Paramount, on the heels of a spontaneous jitterbug outburst that was highlighted on the front pages of New York daily papers, when it was necessary to call out the police. Dunham came into the Capitol as one newspaper columnist put it "on the swing and a prayer".

But the combination was good enough to justify Sonny's confidence. The show was held over for two weeks against the stiffest competition Broadway has seen in many years! Since then he has reappeared at the Capitol, and his name and the name have become synonymous. Dunham's success, however, was more than just sheer courage.

Sonny began his musical career at the age of seven with lessons on the "slophorn". At 13 he played his first dance engagement, a one-nighter, with a local orchestra. During his high school days Dunham played with the high school orchestra and band. Leaving high school at the end of his sophomore year, he went to New York with his trombone where he began his professional career playing for different Ben Bernie bands. After seven months with Bernie, Sonny joined Paul Tremaine's Orchestra. While playing for Tremaine, Sonny mastered the cornet. In November of 1931 Dunham left Tremaine and formed his own combination only to break it up six weeks later.

to accept third trumpet chair in the Casa Loma Orchestra, Dunham remained with the Casa Loma Orchestra for six uninterrupted years before starting out on his own. Since forming his own orchestra Dunham has played engagements at the Hotel New Yorker, Hotel Pennsylvania, Capitol Theatre, and Paladium. He has also appeared on Spotlight Bands and in RKO Pictures, and has made several hit Columbia Records.

It has been brought to the attention of these authors that the Deans have started cracking down on grades and cuts. What are they trying to do—make an educational institution out of this place?

Well, Old Army, it is time for the Fish ball again; so, get out your boots, toothbrushes and other accessories that go towards making a dance of this type a success. Don't be alarmed, Frogs, most of them in the same ring with Joe Louis when he is still a year away.

The Senior Class, in its last meeting, passed this very appropriate rule for the Freshmen: . . . "No Frog or Fish will be allowed to dance without moving his feet."

If some of our very nervy Juniors would stop to realize that they are not the only men that have attended A. & M. in the last fifty years, they might wake up to the fact that they are not the only class on the campus and also that they are hurting no one but themselves with all of their high sounding plans. Also this going non-reg is also one of your faults.

He: Do you believe in free love?  
She: If I don't, you have a sweet bill.

What does everyone think about resuming the publication of the "Battalion Magazine"? This was as fine a school magazine as could be found in any college. With promise of a larger student body in the fall it seems only fitting that it be revived. It takes quite a lot of talent and some hard work, but this should certainly be no holdup. If everyone would think about it and talk it up, it might be possible to have the "Batt" Magazine once more.

It seems that our little article about the food situation was read and appreciated by some of the higher ups. Here's hoping that some of them do a little looking into the matter.

# Good Neighbors

PERU . . . . . Land of Traditions

By Ruben R. Caro Costas

Peru is an agricultural country—yet she depends upon the outside world for food.

Bounded by the Pacific Ocean on the west, Ecuador and Colombia on the northeast, Brazil and Bolivia on the east, and Chile on the south, Peru finds herself surrounded by five different countries at a cost of both men and territory. She has contested territorial claims with Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador, and disputed with Bolivia over the nitrate fields and guano beds along the coast. In all those disputes Peru has come out on the short end of the fight, losing her sons and her territory.

Geographically, Peru can be divided into three regions, each region different from the others. There are really three Perus, the Peru of the dry coastal plains, with modern cities and ports where the majority of the population lives, made up of vast sugar plantations, and extensive cotton farms; the Peru of the Andes, with its mineral wealth and Indian traditions; and the Peru of the eastern slopes, with its large forests and extensive undeveloped agricultural land.

When the Spaniards first reached Peru in 1532 they found a land of wealth. They overthrew one of the great centralized empires of all times, the Inca Empire in a bloody and violent conquest. The Conquistadores were outnumbered in this struggle but took advantage of a civil war that was raging throughout the Empire. The Indians were unable to wage two wars at the same time.

The Conquistadores found a well advanced civilization. Suspension bridges which are still in use, aqueducts, irrigation systems, massive stone buildings, and wide roads were among the important highlights of that Empire.

Peru achieved her independence in 1821. General San Martin, whose armies had freed Argentina and Chile, invaded Peru and after a bloody battle against the Spanish forces declared the country a free state. Final independence, however, was not achieved until after the decisive battle of Ayacucho between the Venezuelan General Sucre and the Spaniards.

Irrigation, coming from the Andes, makes possible the agriculture of the coast where sugar, cotton, and flax are the crops mostly grown. In the mountain terraces are raised such crops as wheat, cocoa, corn, barley, oats, and potatoes. Cattle, sheep and llamas are raised here, and provide nearly all of Peru's meat supply and some wool for the export market.

Three cities are typical of the three different regions. Lima, the capital, is a city of contrast between the modern and the colonial; Cuzco, ancient Andean capital of the Incas, is a city where the Indian traditions prevail; and Iquitos is frontier river port on the Amazon, once a boom town in the day of the wild rubber.

The churches and the houses of Peru, as well as the clothes worn by her people, reflect the three strains in her culture—the Indian, the colonial, and the modern. Colonial cathedrals were designed by Spain's best architects and decorated with the work of her best painters. But along with the Spanish influence are Inca motives in gold and silver, and Indian artists who worked on the cathedrals introduced the mythological figures of ancient religions into their excellent carvings.

In her arts, too, the old and the new mingle. Peru's history, legend, and land have inspired her writers. Some artists turn to the Indian for inspiration while composers utilize

# BETWEEN THE BOOK-ENDS

By Edna B. Woods

## FISHING

"Oh, the gallant fisher's life!  
It is the best of any;  
'Tis full of pleasure, void of strife,  
And 'tis beloved by many."

"Sir Henry Wotton was a most dear lover and a frequent practitioner of the Art of Angling; of which he would say, 'Twas an employment for his idle time, which was then not idly spent, a rest to his mind, a cheerer of his spirits, a diverter of sadness, a calmer of unquiet thoughts, a moderator of passions, a procurer of contentedness; and that is begat habits of peace and patience in those that professed and practiced it.'"  
—The Compleat Angler.  
Izaak Walton.

This age-old, summer-time recreation doesn't solicit participants; people are just naturally attracted to Fishing. From the boy in overalls, lolling on the river bank to the professional fisherman, all manner of men (and women) share a common, healthy enthusiasm for this sport. More and more people are joining the ranks of the "born-

fisherman," for with speeded-up production programs and restricted travel, a week-end fishing jaunt is an ideal substitute for the sophisticated vacation.

THE COMPLEAT ANGLER, by Izaak Walton, was first published in 1653. The author added to it continuously for twenty years. In 1676, the fifth and final edition was published, supplemented with an addition written by his ultimate friend and adopted son, Charles Cotton. THE COMPLEAT ANGLER—the fishing classic—is a collection of odd bits of information. Whether it is simply a treatise on fishing, a charming pastoral, or a biography of Izaak Walton has not been determined, but surely it is a well-loved favorite of English literature.

Neither selective nor inclusive, the following new books are more practical for the modern fisherman. From the Barnes Sports Library: BAIT CASTING, by Gilmer Robinson, is a beginner's book on casting, emphasizing the equipment and the various methods of casting. FLY CASTING, also by Gilmer Robinson, describes the fundamentals of the art, contains special information on bait, and includes concise descriptions of the

various kinds of Fresh water game fish. HOW TO TIE FLIES, by Ellery C. Gregg, contains the basic information about flies, accompanied by diagrams and photographs. The standard dressings of 334 flies are listed in the appendix. THE FIELD BOOK OF FRESH WATER ANGLING, by John Alden Knight, is a source book of general information. Rods, reels, lines, leaders, anglers' knots, hooks, flies, fly-rod lures, bass flies and bass bugs, Casting-rod lures, and Anglers' accessories are discussed briefly.

FRESH WATER FISHING; a fisherman's manual, by Myron E. Shoemaker, is a beautiful book, illustrated in color. It includes general information on fishing, casting, and care of equipment, but most of the book is devoted to various types of fish, giving complete descriptions and excellent colored photographs of each type.

Two other new books on fishing are, THE THEORY AND TECHNIQUE OF FRESH WATER ANGLING, by J. A. Knight, and POND, LAKE, AND STREAM FISHING, by B. C. Robinson. These books are interesting especially because of their numerous photographs. "Field and Stream" is the fisherman's favorite source for up-to-date information on the science of fishing. Other than the information about fishing which it contains, this monthly magazine is rich in tales of fish and fishermen. Of special interest is one, "The Big Fish of Hollaroot Mountain," by Weldon Stone of the Department of English of A. & M. College, which was published in the March, 1939, issue.

# :: Your City ::

BY W. L. HUGHES  
Eighth of a Series

## HISTORY OF A. & M. CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL: PART III

The last school census gives the A. & M. Consolidated School district 496 white and 296 colored scholastics. This is double the number of white twenty-five years ago, and more than double the number of colored children.

It became necessary a good many years ago to erect a new building for the colored children and furnish transportation. The budget for the colored school alone now runs about \$15,000 a year. In the beginning, the colored school consisted of a one-room school situated just east of the campus on what is now Highway 6. No transportation was needed. The budget for such a school was only a few hundred dollars annually. The colored school is now housed in a \$12,000 building and is doing an excellent job of furnishing a practical education for the colored children. It is a 12-grade school with 10 teachers. Vocational agriculture and home economics are featured.

Just how the "training school" idea was lost is not easy to explain. Professor Hayes died in the early twenties and Dr. Bizzell went to Oklahoma in 1925. Thus the school lost two good friends. Financial troubles began to accumulate. The two busses soon proved inadequate and additional busses had to be purchased. A full-time mechanic had to be employed which added to the budget. The cost of bus transportation over poor roads ran high. The building soon proved inadequate for the increasing school population, and some of the children were "farmed out" in college buildings. Finally the entire high school department was moved to old Pfeiffer Hall and remained there until about 1940.

The Texas Legislature cut off the appropriations which were made in the beginning since, the school had lost, or was losing, the training-school idea. The school was soon on the rocks financially. Rural aid laws helped very little. Local taxes amounted to only a small part of the school's needs. The state was furnishing less than \$20 per capita. The school's budget was steadily increasing from year to year. About 1928 a legal consolidation was effected and a board of seven trustees was elected, but financial troubles were not abated. Many schemes were brought forward for financing the school. The campus people went as far as to try to raise money by private subscription but this scheme raised only a few hundred dollars. By

this time the "training school" idea had about disappeared and the school was simply another consolidated public school on its own resources. The taxable valuations of the consolidated district were only about one million dollars, but the budget kept on increasing.

Twenty-five years bring about many changes. College Station has grown into a city with its own municipal government. People have built their own homes and the taxable valuations have increased to 2 1-2 millions. Local school taxes now amount to some \$25,000 annually. The school was moved into new buildings adjacent to the campus about five years ago. A gymnasium and athletic field have been provided. The new school plant cost about \$100,000 and almost \$8,000 annually is required for debt service alone. The budget for the white school for 1944-45 was approximately \$7,400. Twenty-one teachers are required. The curriculum now includes such work as industrial arts, home economics, commercial work, including typing shorthand, and business training. The traditional courses in English, mathematics, history, science are offered.

While the school has been thru many ups and downs, the future seems bright and promising. It has met the educational needs of many rural boys and girls who otherwise would have had scant educational opportunities. It has filled a great need for the campus children. The financial resources are gradually increasing, but the budget still keeps a few steps ahead of the available revenues. The high school department with an enrollment of about 150 students is still rather small to offer a rich and varied educational program. However, as the population of College Station increases, these shortcomings will gradually be overcome. The school now operates seven busses. The roads have been improved, taxable valuations are increasing, the state's share in financing the school is still about 2-3 of the available funds. The board of trustees is made up of fine, patriotic citizens who are endeavoring to see that the school meets the needs of coming generations.

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old Indian tunes and their dramas. Education is developing very rapidly. Vocational, industrial and commercial education is planned. Formerly, education in Peru had followed the classical pattern. San Marcos University, established a century before Harvard was, dedicated to traditional instruction in the humanities and in the professions. There is a Catholic University in Lima, and other universities at Cuzco, Trujillo, and Arequipa. These are under the (See GOOD NEIGHBORS, Page 3)

# Campus

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Thursday—Last Day

"THE PRIDE OF THE YANKEES"

starring  
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A PARAMOUNT PICTURE

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FRANCES LANGFORD • VAGUE  
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Tues. - Wed. - Thurs.

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