

The Challenge of 1950 . . .

Is A. & M. College—or any other university in Texas—able to provide the education necessary for a person to assume a responsible position in the world of 1950? If the college has facilities for such instruction, is it being transmitted to students, unhampered by pressure groups interested only in accomplishing their own private ends?

There was a time when many students here were interested only in getting a diploma in the quickest and easiest fashion, and then getting out in the world where that diploma would assure a good financial income. Students now here, especially the World War II veterans, have been broadened to a new comprehension of their responsibilities in the world and are expecting more from their education than technical skill.

At recent meetings of the Ex-Servicemen's Club or at the first meeting of the Free Discussion group, a spectator could sense the determination of this generation to shoulder the responsibility of democracy, and to continue the fight for existence of the American way.

You may ask "What fight?" Perhaps "struggle" is a better word. Regardless of what you call it, we are now engaged in a fight for economic freedom; a fight to eliminate "power mad individuals;" a fight for peace of mind; a fight for security of individual rights; a fight for a better world in which to live.

All of these principles, so wisely and sincerely stated in the Constitution of the United States, have been fought for previously, but there is no end to the fight. They were fought for in the Civil War under the name of States' Rights; in World War I as "the war to make the world safe for democracy," and World War II as the war to eliminate the "isms." But these armed combats have been only the more obvious phases of the fight.

How does all this affect us as veteran students at A. & M.? First, we are among those who won the combat phase of World War II, and we are also faced with the large debt so incurred. We feel that we have every right to demand the wholehearted participation of every person in any program for the preservation of peace and the development of a world of economic cooperation.

It is up to us to try for a better, more stable world! But in order to do this, we need every scrap of information on world conditions, to supplement the practical knowledge we gathered through war-time experiences. For that purpose we have come to A. & M., as entry into an institution of higher learning is supposed to be the proper step for one who wants to learn as much as possible, soon as possible. (The reverse of too little, too late.)

Now that we are here, the question has risen in our minds: "Are the universities and colleges able to provide such education as we need to create the kind of society we desire?"

No one individual can satisfactorily answer that question, but it appears that on a national basis the people responsible for providing educational facilities have been unable to meet the students' demands for unbiased, straightforward, unsuppressed information on current problems, their causes and possible means of alleviation.

It would be regrettable if an institution which contributed more than its share of leadership during the war days should fail to contribute toward leadership in time of peace.

A few weeks ago the salaries of A. & M. instructors were raised to a level which would put faculty pay here on approximately the same level as T. U. This week salaries at T. U. were raised to bring them closer to national scale. So we are back in the same relative position from which we started!

"Fifteen for Marsteller" . . .

Dr. R. P. Marsteller will step down from a position in September that in the past has been a leading one, an important one as far as the country and state are concerned, as well as the A. & M. College of Texas. For forty-one years Dr. Marsteller has faithfully served our school, during which time the veterinary school became one of the outstanding of the United States.

State wide famous for his leadership in the Texas Veterinary Medical Society and the Texas Public Health Association, he is also well known in national and international circles for his representation of President Roosevelt at the International Congress of Doctors of Veterinary Medicine at Zurich in 1938.

His school developed into one of outstanding reputation during the time he has served as assistant to the first dean, Dr. Mark Francis, and as dean.

The decision of the president and the board of directors to permit Dr. Marsteller to continue as professor of veterinary medicine at no reduction in salary for the one remaining year before he reaches the age of compulsory retirement is a just one, for surely a man with the organization ability and with the reputation established in his past years of service could have carried on for another school year before retiring.

The Battalion

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Story of Helicopter, Whittling, Building Among New Books

by WILNORA BARTON

Are you a whittler? Most boys pick up some of the art from the time they receive their first pocket knives. There is nothing more rewarding and requiring less hustle and bustle than whittling. It is a pastime and a distinct pleasure to the gifted ones who indulge in it, from the old-timers sitting on the shaded front porch to the youngsters whittling on the stock of a "niggershotter." Ben Hunt's "Whittling Book" is just the sort of thing you need to give you some ideas for designs for whittling out useful and decorative objects. Mr. Hunt is careful to point out that his book is about whittling, not wood carving. The two are not the same.

First, Mr. Hunt says, you have to have a good knife, and if you want to do some fancy work, maybe you'd better have two. He has some good suggestions on selecting knives, sharpening them, and tells you which woods are the best for whittling purposes. The book is filled with designs, diagrams and directions.

Then, after he has briefed you on the essentials, Ben takes you right into the secrets and the lore of the art. How much would you like to carve your own decoys for the duck hunting season this fall? Well, why not? It all sounds so easy! Anyway, there are a lot of tricks revealed in this book, and whittling is such a nice "sitting-under-a-shady-tree" sort of thing to do on these hot summer evenings.

Devon Francis has written another book on flying. This new one is "The Story of the Helicopter." The aircraft designers and engineers have for years been trying to develop some aircraft practical for the private flyer. In 1940 a Russian-born engineer named Igor Sikorsky wheeled out of the hanger the first helicopter to fly successfully and do all the things a well-behaved airship is expected to do. Sikorsky had been working on this flying egg-beater for over thirty years. It was no small triumph for him when the thing took to the air and stayed there, responding to the pilot's lightest touch.

The book gives a very enlightening account of the years of toil and the frequent disappointments which went into the development of the helicopter, not only in this country, but in other places all over the world. Engineers in other countries had tampered with the idea long before Sikorsky. The story takes up an 1863 experiment, through the Herrick Converplane, the Bell Helicopter, the Kellett autogiro, to the "PV-3" in flight.

For those of you who want it the book gives plenty of technical detail, but the style is light and flowing, and the vocabulary simple enough for even the most untrained to follow easily. Pilots and ground-crew men especially will find this book absorbing. Here is the "how" as well as the "why" of the design and construction of the flying machine that is different.

Robert Lasch has something to say to all of you, veterans and others, who are desperate for a place to live. His new book, called "Breaking the Building Blockade," explains a lot of the deals which go on back of the building materials shortages and red tape tangles which seem to be strangling every effort to put roofs over our heads.

Assuming that the American public is aware of the recent action of the government to expedite housing for veterans, the author asks us to give a little thought to the soundness of the idea. Maybe the veterans don't want to build houses just yet, especially with materials and labor costs so high. What if the veterans don't care to own their homes anyway? Unless a long view of the situation is taken the likelihood of a "haphazard building" campaign under the head of "Homes for Veterans" is in the offing.

Planning for adequate building is not an individual affair anymore. Housing involves a lot more than the plans for one dwelling. It includes the provisions for utilities, services, recreation, educational, religious, and social elements which are the elements of a community."

Lasch has used forceful language and pulls no punches in his effort to wake up the American consumer public. He leaves out charts and details which the average reader would skip. However, his statements of facts are authentic. He advocates the long term community planning idea and the sincere consideration of the "rights of human beings to be housed decently."

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