

# Ben Franklin, Editor . . .

Ben Franklin was the grand-daddy of all American newspaper men, and this week both the publishing and printing industries are paying tribute to him. There is plenty of reason for doing so.



Not that Franklin was the first man to print a newspaper in this country. In fact, Franklin learned his trade on his brother's paper in Boston.

But Franklin was the first man to become a national figure as a "printer", a term which in those days covered not only the men who actually set up the type, but publishers, editors, and salesmen as well.

Franklin qualified as all four. Franklin was the first "columnist," signing his stuff Poor Richard. His paragraphs are still being quoted! His was the first newspaper to print a political cartoon, and there is reason to believe that Franklin himself drew the cartoon, which showed a snake cut into thirteen pieces, symbolic of the disunited thirteen colonies.

In addition to all this, Franklin was the chief scientist, statesman and diplomat of his age. Franklin was not a man who could be stampeded by wild and sudden swings of mob-hysteria. Neither a radical nor a conservative, he took great pleasure in puncturing the arguments of extremists. His sense of humor never failed, even in the deepest crises of the American Revolution or Constitutional Convention.

# Sir Isaac Ignored . . .

Do we take full advantage of Cushing Library's supply of books?

Recently a student drew out the library's only copy of Sir Isaac Newton's "Principia." This book is to science and engineering what the Bible is to religion. It is the basis of modern physics and mathematics. Were it not for the "Principia," three-quarters of the courses at A. & M. could not be taught.

But how many people have borrowed this book during the four years it has been on the library shelves? Exactly four. One a year.

To be sure, we are not a research school. The chief points of Newton's great work are in every physics and calculus textbook. But a prime source is not a book to be ignored, even though it isn't required reading.

We ask again: Do we take full advantage of Cushing Library's facilities?

# What Will They Do Next??

Little did those Aggies who started the fight for first run movies at Aggeland ever dream that their problem would be solved by the decree of a district judge in New York State.

That is exactly what has happened. Now the old block-booking and priority gag of running pictures thirty days after Bryan, are gone.

We who have watched the Bryan theater ownership force Aggies to come to Bryan rather than bring the show to the Aggies, feel inclined to waste little sympathy on the unbusiness-like methods employed by the Bryan management.

Those of us who have waited for taxis or stood up on buses to go to a show in Bryan, believed that "the chickens have come home to roost." During the war years when thousands of service personnel were enrolled at A. & M., no offer was made to waive priority showing rights for the duration of the war. During the years before the war a sign was erected at the east gate promising the construction of a theater there. We may be near-sighted, but there just doesn't seem to be a theater over there.

We have contended all along that Bryan theater facilities could not adequately take care of both Bryan patrons and the A. & M. student body. Surely the Bryan management must know that, too. It has been simply a matter of being unable to adequately serve the public and of adopting a "dog-in-the-manger" attitude to keep others from supplying much needed movie entertainment.

Movie house owners are a shrewd lot and we await their next move with interest. They hate to let the gravy go by default, but right now they aren't sure what they can do about it.

Already one movie owner has approached the Guion Theater management with ideas of making Guion into a second-run show house. The big time operator pointed out that all the money was being made in second run houses. Such men as this will bear watching. They are definitely not interested in providing wholesome entertainment at reasonable prices to the A. & M. student body. Another such move as this by that person and the entire student body will be given his name. We are tired of seeing private movie interests exploit the A. & M. student body while furnishing inferior entertainment.

Tom Puddy, manager of Guion Hall, has indicated that he will make every effort to book first run pictures in February. He hopes to be able to keep prices at their present level but can't be sure until he determines his expenses under the new bidding system.

# A 'Plug' for Research . . .

Recognizing what research means to their business, a group of Angelina County citizens lately contributed \$500 each to the A. & M. Research Foundation's operating budget.

Ernest L. Kurth, lumberman and president of Southland Mills, the pioneer Texas newsprint plant, utilizing Southern pines by the Herty Process, initiated the fund-raising campaign. Among the other contributors are paper mills, lumber companies, machine shops, and theaters.

Up to now the Foundation has been doing research in engineering, the chemistry of fiber glass, plastics, cottonseed protein, and forest products. It is also active in the field of airplane design and function.

These Angelina County leaders perceive what research has done for them, particularly in forestry and wood-utilization. In that matter, Angelina County is the center for the East Texas lumber industry. If every industrial center of the state would hold a like stake in scientific fact-finding, experimentation and invention, the A. & M. foundation would have ample funds for pursuing its constructive labors.

The Legislature is expected to vote funds for research in various fields; but business also profitably may lend its direct support.

Money put into well-constructed scientific research is as bread cast upon the waters.

# Oh, For the Pied Piper!



# BETWEEN THE BOOKENDS . . .

## Inside Look at Post-War Germany Given Readers

DEAR FATHERLAND, REST QUIETLY—By Margaret Burke White, New York: Simon and Schuster . . . \$3.

Since the war ended the quest for the German soul has become a high intellectual pursuit in which almost everyone has taken part except the Germans, who don't seem to care much. The latest to probe for the obscure poisons which so often motivate the German is Margaret Burke White, a literate photographer.

After climbing through the ruins of several German cities, the author reports finding a depressing number of Germans who are just as cussed, quarrelsome and incipiently wicked as they ever were. In her own words, she found "few, so pitifully few," with the democratic ideal in their hearts.

The book is approximately two-thirds text and one third photographs, the latter showing more talent. Nevertheless, the book is well written and provides the reader with a timely insight into present day Germany.

COMMAND DECISION By William Wister Haines, Boston: Atlantic-Little, Brown . . . \$2.50

In the precise sense of the words, William Wister Haines, with "Command Decision" writes a fast-moving narrative of adventure. Certainly, it is no major document of the war, nor is it a very profound exploration of human experience. On its own level, however, it is seriously conceived, and executed with an admirable competence.

The time is the summer of 1943. The scene is an American Air Force base in England, commanded by General Casey Dennis, an old army-flyer from the days of Billy Mitchell. Despite such glowing descriptions of character as brave and intelligent and sympathetic and unswerving, the reader is forced to admit that the hero is entirely believable. The problems of the commander coupled with vivid action and an ingenious plot provides an immensely readable and exciting story. It seems almost certain that a great many Americans will be on the edges of their chairs during the next few months reading and approving it.

VOYAGE TO SOMEWHERE—By Sloan Wilson, New York: A. A. Wyn . . . \$2.75

One should not be deceived by the extreme simplicity of this narrative or the quiet way in which it begins; it is one of the few honest and straightforward sea books to come out of the war.

Nothing is glossed over; this is the way things actually went on board a small craft in the Pacific area, these are the mistakes men made and learned by,

these are the things they thought and did. Like all sea stories of the present war this story has little to do with ships and searing lore and much to do with human character.

A sound, true tale of American landlubbers picked for sea duty, it ignores heroics and concentrates on the natural human emotions of the crew. Their conversations, their gripes, their attitude toward war and danger combine to give the reader the truth in its best realistic form. For reading pleasure, in addition to something to think about, Voyage to Somewhere is one of the best.

# Letters

## LAUNDRY COMEBACK

Dear Editor: In the January 7 issue of the Batt, I read Milton R. Beychok's denunciation of the A & M Laundry service. I appreciated his humor and, to some extent, his gesture. However, there are a few things which I would like to point out in this case.

Mr. Beychok registered the following complaints: "Size 11 socks shrunk to size 4, yellow socks stained to blue, dress shirts shrunken beyond repair, laundry numbers stamped where laundry numbers were never meant to be, sheets ripped, underwear torn. . . someone has deemed it advisable for me not to soil more than a certain number of pieces of clothing."

That's quite a bit of shrinkage he got in those socks. Regarding the shrinkage and discoloration his clothing has suffered, I might suggest that Beychok use a little more discretion in the future by selecting better quality of socks and shirts—if better socks and shirts can be found. I haven't been able to find a decent grade of clothing either since I've been out, but I would hardly blame shrinkage on the laundry. As for tearing and ripping, yes! I definitely had a number of articles torn and buttons ripped off. However, I do appreciate the times the laundry has sewn articles of torn clothing for me, without request or charge.

There is no doubt in my mind, though, that the laundry can discontinue damaging our clothing if it will. I do not expect the chief scrubber to reply to these charges in this column, but I do want to see a reply in the way of better laundry service in the future.

Sincerely, John H. Chretien

(Editor's Note: Feel sure that Beychok was using an exaggerated form of humor to put over his point.)

# The Battalion

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# What's Cooking

TUESDAY, January 14  
7:30 p. m. Business and Accounting Societies, Joint meeting, Ag. Engineering Lecture Room.

7:30 p. m. Marketing & Finance Club, Room 312, Ag. Bldg. Speaker, W. A. Wilson, East Texas Chamber of Commerce.

WEDNESDAY, January 15  
7:00 p. m. Freshman Class Meeting, Assembly Hall. Freshman Ball plans.

7:00 p. m. Brown County A. & M. Club, ME Shops Lecture Room. Extra-special program surprise.

THURSDAY, January 16  
10:00 a. m. Music Group of A. & M. College Women's Social Club, Home of Mrs. T. W. Leland, 561 Walton Drive, College Hills.

# Four New Eco Courses Added

The Economics Department took a definite step toward a greater educational development goal according to Dr. F. B. Clark, Economics Department head, when it announced Saturday that a new system of instruction, together with new courses, will be innovated during the spring semester.

Primary economic courses, numbered 203, 204, and 403 will have one instruction period per week consisting of one lecture to all sections of the course, while the remaining two periods will be spent with individual section instructors.

Other new courses offered are 'Theory of Business Cycles,' covering the history, causes, and current effects of business cycles; 'Economics of the South,' 'Comparative Economic Systems'; and 'Collective Bargaining and Labor Disputes.'

# Agronomy Seniors To Have Barbecue

Seniors graduating in Agronomy and their immediate families will attend a barbecue Tuesday night, January 14 at the Animal Industries building.

The meeting will open with a short discussion of unfinished business. After this there will be an election of officers for the next semester. This will be the last meeting of the Agronomy Society.

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# Tales From Tessiland

## New Columnist Enlightens Aggies on TSCW Activities

By Jo Ann Rummel Correspondent, Lass-O Hello there! Since this is my first time to write this column, the thought of all you many many Aggies who will read this (I hope) has me scared stiff.

Last week we Tessies all bright and rested after the holidays (it says here, anyhow) returned to our Monday morning classes. That's always fun?? Everyone is still drooling over Christmas parties, dances, and just plain being HOME. I've heard reports of gay times at several A. & M. club dances, among these are Hereford, Sherman, Vernon, El Paso, and Houston.

But that old daydreaming stuff has just gotta go, cause 'dead' week starts here Friday, and in the meantime there are last minute themes, notebooks, reports, which mean blood, sweat, and tears in my case. No doubt you are having trouble meeting deadlines, too. And finals start the 24th and end the 1st. Darn, will this month never end?

Mrs. V. J. Rejibian, Armenian-born Dallas book reviewer, spoke to us Thursday on our second annual New Voters' Day assembly program. President Hubbard led 263 new voters in the pledge.

Last night, Ezio Pinza, star bass of the Metropolitan Opera Company, appeared here in a recital on the Concert Drama Series. Mr. Pinza was acclaimed by Time Magazine as "the greatest singing actor of his generation."

The Lass-O ran an article last

week about Baty and Batey, the basketball and football stars of A. & M., for the benefit of confused girls. I'm still not sure about which is which, but I do know that he's an Aggie and that's enough for me. By the way, mentioning the Lass-O reminds me to tell you that for \$2.50 you can have a year's subscription for it. I thought that some of you might be interested. Besides, it's one sure way of avoiding a destable empty PO box.

Well, this is all she wrote. I have to return to the monster (my theme). See you next week.

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