

Brazos History . . .

The Batt's recent editorial on Bryan has run into some backfire. Writes a day-student, who is a permanent resident of that town:

There is more to Bryan than meets the eye. There is more to the Brazos bottoms than the casual Aggie ever realizes.

Admittedly, we are short in many items which Aggies seek. We have no bowling alleys, only a limited number of theatre seats, and our young women, who would be of the right age to charm Aggies, run off to Denton or Austin or Georgetown. So about all we have is history.

We have few nightclubs, and most of them are across the river. But that is where history comes in. Suppose you are sitting in the Avalon, wishing to be in some more glamorous community. Do you realize that two hundred years ago, right where you sit, you might have seen the Spanish priests and soldiers, scrambling down the rocky banks of the Brazos? For you are seated at the famed "upper crossing of the Brazos," on the old Spanish trail; the first road in Texas; the life-line spun between San Antonio and Nacogdoches. The crossing was so important, yet so much in danger from Indians, that when the Anglo-American settlers came in, they built Fort Tanochichlan nearby. Ruins of the fort can still be seen in Burleson County.

Did your great-grand-dad fight with Lee? Take a look at the memorial stone in the Bryan Library Building. That structure, the stone tells you, was the last home of Hood's Brigade, the dashing Texas outfit, in the War Between the States.

Amuse yourself with this paradox: most land titles in Bryan go back to a grant made by Spain to Stephen F. Austin. But the high school named for the Father of Texas is just outside the line of the old Austin league, and in the Zeno Phillips grant!

Ranging around in the Brazos Bottoms, we find that the explorer LaSalle was murdered by his own men on the banks of the Brazos near Navasota; that the Texas Declaration of Independence was signed on those same banks at Old Washington; that Baylor was founded at Old Independence. Steamboats once came up the river to Washington, the capital of the republic, and pioneers expected it to become the metropolis of the Southwest. It didn't work out that way. Which leaves you, wandering footloose around Bryan on a Saturday night. Sorry, fellow, but history's all we can offer.

Revolutionist Marx . . .

Recent editorials in the Battalion, distinguishing Communism and other isms, have brought up a number of questions. The editors have been asked if they were corrected in classifying Karl Marx as a revolutionist rather than as an economist. Marx was both.

Marx's book "Das Kapital" is one of the greatest economic treatises ever written, in a class with John Stuart Mill's "Political Economy." That doesn't mean that either of these books is perfect: they can't be, as they contradict each other. But each is a classic presentation of certain economic views.

There was another side to Marx, however, which is to be found in the Communist Manifesto, written in collaboration with Engels. This manifesto was a clear call to revolution. Marx did not believe that economic conditions could be improved without blood-spilling. His predictions may have been correct for Russia and Germany, but they have long been proved wrong for the United States and the British Commonwealth.

It is a serious error to confuse the revolutionary teachings of Marx, expanded by Lenin and Stalin, with the "evolutionary" doctrines of the British Fabian Socialists, headed by Bernard Shaw, Sidney and Beatrice Webb. That is the group which laid the foundation for the Labor government now in power there. Whatever you think of the Labor government—which is certainly having its difficulties—it is not revolutionary.

How badly we have abused the name "Communism" in recent years is told in this editorial from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram:

The ruling of a federal circuit court of appeals in Illinois that "it is libelous per se to write of a man or corporation that they are Communists or Communist sympathizers" should abate the postwar epidemic of name-calling which taxes the patience of many. The opinion offers a clear precedent against the use of the epithet, "Fascist," as well.

*The appellate court held that labels, "Communist" and "fellow traveler," submit an accused to public prejudice and thereby damage his reputation. Perhaps, the defense plea was as significant as the ruling itself. The defense pleaded that the word, "Communist," had no definite meaning, which is generally true of all name-calling.

No '47 Bonfire? . . .

Another Aggie tradition is in danger. If there is no Thanksgiving Eve bonfire this fall, we will know who is to blame. Ourselves.

Response to the appeal for funds with which to pay for wood burned in last year's bonfire has been disappointing. Less than half the needed sum has been raised. That's not so bad. What is disturbing is that a great many people on this campus don't seem to care.

Veterans have raised, as individuals, a large part of the money gathered so far. But the spirit shown at Monday night's meeting of the Veterans Association was surprising. That the association decided not to contribute as a group to the fund is quite proper; what upset some of the veterans present was an attitude of "After all, it's none of our business." Even if no contribution was made, an expression of approval for the campaign would have been in order.

Money jars are still around in our eating and coffeeing places. Nickels and even pennies are welcome.

Do you want a bonfire this fall? If so, contribute now.

A Chance to Help . . .

This week college students all over the United States are taking part in the World Student Service Federation drive for funds, with which to assist students in countries wrecked by the war. This is a worthy cause.

It is hard for us to realize the conditions under which our fellow-students in other parts of the world now live. For us, college life is part work, part fun. For them it is a desperate struggle just to live, let alone study. They need books, supplies, lights, medical care. We are in a position to give those things. Small amounts from each one of us will go far in helping others. By so doing, we will help to build good-will toward America among future leaders of other countries.

A dime apiece will take care of our remaining quota, which is only half that of Texas University.

Sponsors of this drive are Don Hanks of the YMCA Cabinet, Bill Andrews of the Veteran Students' Association, and Mary Andrews of the Vets Wives Club. Let's get behind them and put this drive over the top.

BETWEEN THE BOOKENDS . . .

'Their Ancient Grudge' Gives First-Hand Mountaineer Info

By Wilnora Barton
Readers' Digest

THEIR ANCIENT GRUDGE by Harry H. Kroll. Bobs Merrill. 1946.

The Hatfield-McCoy feud has become a flaming American legend. Its memory has been preserved in ballad and in folk lore. We all have heard one version or another of this savage private war which brought terror to the beautiful hills of the border between Kentucky and West Virginia. The author of Their Ancient Grudge gives us his first-hand knowledge of the mountaineers with unusual insight into the lives they led in their lonely and lovely country. Taking the story from the reactions and viewpoints of the women

of the two families of the generations concerned, the author makes the terror and fury seem not wanton but tragic, the inevitable result of primitive pride and courage bred in isolation. Every page of this book has the flavor of authentic mountain language, the tang of humor and pathos in it. In a restrained and sensitive way, Their Ancient Grudge has the essence of a mountain ballad, bitterness and melancholy, rough fun, vivid action, sudden death, and simple truth.

MY TEXAS 'TIS OF THREE by Owen P. White. Putnam 1947.

Moving from the feuding days of Kentucky to the equally colorful "Shoot'em Up" days of Texas we have this roistering tale by Owen White, the man who wrote Them Was the Days.

The Texas of forty years or more ago, the rough and roaring Texas of the frontier that Mr. White sings of, was the background of his own youth. Outlined in gusty humor we meet the legendary

characters of the West; "Slim" Pickens, the slickest card player Texas ever saw; Red Kelso, and his unexpected funeral; Mrs. Priestly, who combined a lurid past with plenty of self-respect; the Reverend Sam Jones, a noisy emissary of the Holy Ghost, and many others. In simple terms and lucid style the author presents the pageant of a lawless but infinitely entertaining community.

AS WE WERE, in pictures and text by Bellamy Partridge and Otto Bettmann. Whittlesey House 1947.

While we're browsing through the American past, we might as well take a look at the story of America's growth from the Civil War to the revolutionary advent of the automobile as depicted in AS WE WERE, an account of family life in America, 1850-1900. Sometimes exuberant, sometimes decorous, sometimes tragic—as told in every day terms, we have recreated the era in which Great-grandmother lived. With the delightful word pictures from the pen of Bellamy Partridge and hundreds of charming and provocative old prints from the famed Bettmann archives, AS WE WERE contains a rare combination of amusement and information.

Plumbing Skill Aided Goering In Coup d'Etat

by J. K. B. Nelson

Crafty Herman Goering cheated the hangman of perhaps the prize victim of all time simply because he knew more about German plumbing than his captors.

According to reliable sources, the former Reich Marshal managed to commit suicide in the Nuernberg jail last October by taking poison he had hidden in the toilet in his cell—a toilet different from those made in the United States.

Goering bragged about outsmarting the Americans in a farewell letter to Colonel B. C. Anders, prison commandant, the source said. He gave the following version of that still unpublished letter.

Goering entered Nuernberg with the poison concealed on his body. As soon as he was in his cell, he decided that the German-type toilet would be the safest place to hide the metal cartridge containing a vial of prussic acid.

There was a slight hump in the outlet through which the water flushed, and Goering gambled that the hump was high enough and the cartridge heavy enough so the container would not flush out. He put the cartridge in the recess and flushed the toilet experimentally several times. The cartridge stayed there.

Goering carried the cartridge to the courtroom with him many times and his luck held. Although his cell was changed abruptly five different times in his absence, each time he had the cartridge with him.

Sometimes he carried the vial in his uniform jacket, sometimes rectically, and once or twice he embedded it in the naval cavity. The cartridge, green from corrosion, was found beside Goering's body, when the guards went to his cell to take him to the gallows.

Shreveport Club Meets Tonight
Shreveport Aggies will meet this evening at 7 p.m. in Room 203, Goodwin Hall. Louisianans from the Shreveport vicinity are urged to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Letters

DUSTY TROPHY CASE

Dear Editor,
Isn't it about time someone cleaned up the Trophy Case in the Academic Building? That is one thing on the campus most visitors see. At the moment it is tarnished, full of dust and cobwebs. Also the light in it is never turned on.

The school should be proud of these awards and should see that they are given proper care.

BILL FORSYTHE
(Ed. Note: We think so too.)

What's Cooking

THURSDAY, March 6

7:00 p.m.—Rio Grande Valley Club, regular meeting.

7:00 p.m.—Galveston A. & M. Club, Room 32, Science Building.

7:30 p.m.—Brazoria County Club meets in Room 224, Academic Building.

7:30 p.m.—Texarkana Club meets in Room 204, Academic Building.

7:30 p.m.—Lufkin A. & M. Club meets in Academic Building.

7:30 p.m.—Panhandle Club meets in Room 228, Academic Bldg.

7:00 p.m.—Victoria County A. & M. Club meets in Academic Bldg.

7:00 p.m.—Tyler Club meets.

7:00 p.m.—Brownwood A. & M. Club meets in M.E. Projection Rm. All men from surrounding counties invited.

7:30 p.m.—Bell County A. & M. Club meets in Rm. 103, Academic Bldg. to plan picnic and select Duchess.

7:30 p.m.—Eastland & Stephens County Club meets in Rm. 323 Academic Bldg.

7:00 p.m.—Shreveport A. & M. Club meets in 203 Goodwin.

FRIDAY, March 7

7:15 p.m.—Junior Banquet, Sbis Hall.

9:00 p.m.—Junior Prom, Sbis Hall.

SATURDAY, March 8

9:00—All-College Dance.

MONDAY, March 10

7:15 p.m.—All students majoring in range or forestry meet in Range Dept., Ag. Eng. Bldg.

Range, Forestry Club To Organize Monday

A range and forestry club organizational meeting will be held in Range Department, second floor Agricultural Engineering Building on Monday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Estimates by department heads place the number of students majoring in this field at about 40. All classes from freshman to graduate students majoring in these fields are urged to be present. The Range Department is a recent addition to the college curriculum. With over 60% of the Texas land area in range land and another 20% in forest lands, the necessity of efficient management is apparent.

Heard on WTAW

FRIDAY—MARCH 7

- 6:00—Sign On
- 6:00—Texas Farm and Home Program
- 6:15—Coffee Club
- 7:00—Martin Agronaky
- 7:15—Cowboy Melodies
- 7:30—Tik Tok Time
- 7:55—Gems for Thought
- 8:00—Breakfast Club
- 9:00—My True Story
- 9:25—Hymns of All Churches
- 9:45—The Listening Post
- 10:00—Breakfast in Hollywood
- 10:30—Galen Drake
- 10:45—Ted Malone
- 11:00—Hollywood Reporter
- 11:15—Bryan Public Schools Music Program
- 11:30—Let's Go Shopping
- p.m.—
- 12:00—Banking Talking
- 12:15—Gladia News
- 12:30—Across the Footlights
- 12:45—Price Tune Up Time
- 1:00—Walter Kieran
- 1:15—Ethel and Albert
- 1:30—Bride and Groom
- 2:00—Ladies, Be Seated
- 2:30—Edwin C. Hill
- 2:45—Safeguards for America
- 3:00—Tommy Bartlett Show
- 3:30—Melody Merchants
- 4:00—Introduction to the Week-end
- 4:30—(to be announced)
- 4:45—Dick Tracy
- 5:00—Terry and the Pirates

5:15—The College Speaks

- 5:30—Little Show
 - 5:45—The Sportman
 - 6:00—Headline Edition
 - 6:15—Elmer Davis
 - 6:30—Sign Off
- SATURDAY—MARCH 8
- a.m.—
 - 6:00—Sign On
 - 6:00—Texas Farm and Home Program
 - 6:15—Good Morning Music
 - 6:30—Texas A&M Farm Review
 - 7:00—Martin Agronaky
 - 7:15—Cowboy Melodies
 - 7:30—Arlo at the Organ
 - 7:45—News Summary
 - 8:00—Wake Up and Smile
 - 9:00—Your Home Beautiful
 - 9:15—Bible Messages
 - 9:30—Junior Junction
 - 10:00—Happy Birthday Party
 - 11:00—Sidewalk Interview
 - 11:15—Tex Williams
 - 11:30—The American Farmer
 - p.m.—
 - 12:00—Make Your Request
 - 1:00—Opera (Die Walkuerie)—Wagner
 - 4:00—Tea and Crumpets
 - 5:00—Jimmy Blair
 - 5:15—The Chitisan Trio
 - 5:30—Sports in the New York Mirror
 - 5:45—News Summary
 - 6:00—Musical Memoirs
 - 6:15—The Songspinners
 - 6:30—Sign Off

A Look Into the Future . . .

Pleasure Boom Dying, As Spenders Become Extinct

By Dave Bruce, Jr.

Free spending is tapering off sharply in amusement centers where in recent years, money for pleasure has flowed freely. This spending slump is being felt by night clubs, theaters, race tracks, and other entertainment spots. It also has cut into railroad revenues and has eased considerably the shortage of hotel room so much that some hotels are offering special week-end rates.

Tourists and vacationers with money to spend on pleasure are choosing their entertainment more carefully. They shop around for amusement, as they shop around for clothing and furniture.

Briefly the picture for the present and the possible outlook for the near future are as follows:

TRAVEL will absorb less of John Q. Public's money than last year. There is no longer the postwar urge to travel just for travel's sake, and the majority have less money to spend for enjoyment. However, the demand for accommodations for traveling abroad greatly exceed the supply of available facilities.

HOTELS are having more vacant rooms, and food sales, except for banquets, are down. There also has been a decided drop in liquor sales, a most sensitive indicator of spending trends. The fact that week-end patronage is really low seems to indicate that the traveling is being done by business during the week and not by pleasure-seekers on week-ends.

RACE TRACKS are drawing larger crowds than a year ago, but betting is off 10%. The \$2, \$5, \$10 windows are more popular, and less "big money" is passing through the \$50 and \$100 windows.

NIGHT CLUBS are perhaps the hardest hit of all. Some report business off by 35 to 45 per cent. The heavy tippers are carefully scrutinizing their checks once again.

MOVIES have attendances and revenues that are far higher than before the war, but producers are convinced that this industry, too, is to feel the end of the spending spree.

SPORTS offer a partial exception to the trend toward tighter spending for amusement. Professional baseball and football leagues are looking forward to a big year, but attendance is not expected to hold to the high level of 1946.

The boom in spending for pleasure that now is declining has been fed almost entirely by surplus cash accumulated during the war, and this surplus is dwindling fast. The shift in spending habits will bring new problems to some businessmen, but

above all it means that the country is finding its way back to normal living.

Eureka! Rumania Can Be Reached

The Batt Office was the picture of despondence. No work was being done, nothing was being accomplished. All the editors (and recently all the reporters have been appointed editors so there will be no feelings hurt) were sitting around the phone, looking terribly melancholy and sad.

No one had received bad news. In fact, the phone hadn't rung all day. The editors had gathered quietly in mutual sorrow because there was no phone service to Rumania. Solitary tears sneaked down mournful cheeks. It was like a funeral.

"I'd give anything except my honor if I could only talk to someone in Bucharest," said the rewrite man.

"There's nothing I'd rather do than pick up that phone and hear a Rumanian speaking," said the sports editor.

At that moment an enterprising young reporter dashed through the door shouting that phone service to Rumania was restored.

The editors stared coldly at the phone. Then they stared at the cub. Rising quickly they smashed the receiver over the young man's head. He had spoiled their fun. They don't speak Rumanian.

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Aid to Be Given On Income Tax Problems

Officials from the Department of Internal Revenue will be located on the second floor of the YMCA all day Friday and Saturday, giving information to those people stuck with their income tax returns.

In a release by Olin E. Teague, Texas congressman, he said, March 15 this year is a crucial date for all of us with respect to Federal income taxes, but appropriate action by many World War II veterans will save them considerable inconvenience and money. Special provisions of the Revenue Act exclude for taxation purposes all active-service pay received by enlisted men. Also excluded are benefits and subsistence allowances under the G. I. Bill and Public Law 16, mustering out pay, travel allowances and terminal leave pay bonds, pensions, disability compensation, and government insurance refunds.

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W.S.D. CLOTHIERS

The Battalion

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