

The Last Man . . .

(A Fable)

A hot wind swept out of the west, densely saturated with fine yellow dust. It was not a straight wind but one that swirled and twisted, searching out the few patches of top soil that still remained scattered over the earth. The wind was angry and harsh. It whined through the pock marks and pot-holes of wasteland, sucking away at red clay and hurling blasts of sand against jagged rocks, wearing them down into more sand to be sucked away.

In early morning, the sun lifted itself out of the abyss of the east and shone like a huge copper ball, casting a glow of red throughout the firmament. At noon, it was the same—at eventide, the same, except for dusky purple shadows colored like giant fingers stiffening in death.

Beneath this sun, two men staggered aimlessly onward. They were miles apart—one traveling toward the east, the other to the west. Each shielded his eyes with the knotted knuckles of wasted hands. Otherwise, they were different.

The westward traveler was short and coarse. Beneath the tattered edges of leather pants, his large knees swelled like carbuncles between portions of legs that were the same size beneath and above. He wore no shoes and, as the wind whipped up his tracks, little spots like scabs were left in relief where blood-moistened particles resisted for awhile. He wore no garments above the waistline except a sandy beard and hair that grew together like a great burr. Gaunt arms groped out, one at a time, the other holding the knuckles over his eyes. Around his rusty body, protruding ribs circled half-way around to a sunken sternum.

The other was tall and full clothed in remnants of cloth. His skin was a blistered white, stretched tight over frail bones. Neither of these men carried food because there was no food—neither carried a weapon for there was nothing to kill. It was destined that they meet and each trudged on with a hopeless heart.

There was no green upon the earth. Trees had withered—died and split away into gray rampikes standing like sentinels of desolation. Long ago, the grass had been parched and beaten away by the winds. No flowers colored the sides of the gulches where, years before, cancerous flood waters ate away the soils and belched them into the sea.

No crickets chirped at eventide and the call of the birds' songs had long ago died from the earth.

Each man passed through deserted towns and saw buildings slanting shabbily on sunken foundation stones. Weather boarding curled away from splintered studding in ash gray troughs. Door-yard gates squeaked and bumped in the wind.

Their road led against ancient farmlands. Here giant barns had fallen away at the ends and sat on their haunches like tired beasts. Now and then the mummified carcass of some animal lay half-buried in drifting earth with open eye sockets peering toward the copper sun. No decay had taken place for there was nothing to rot, except entrails and blue gums. Starvation had used up all flesh, leaving only a taut hide to cover the skeleton—nothing to rot.

Endless and forever stretched the eternal marks of erosion and out of the west blew the relentless wind with its burden of sand.

Finally, the travelers met. There was no enthusiasm at their meeting. Each sank beside the road without complaint, but nursing the sores and bruises of his body.

The man from the east spoke first. "Are there any others?" he asked in a broken brogue that was hard to understand.

"No," answered the man from the west. "They are all gone. Are there others to the east?"

"None! I am the last," came the despondent answer. Simultaneously they both questioned: "Water?"

"None" was the dual answer.

Despondent silence then prevailed and each man laid down, facing the bleak space toward the sun. Two vultures circled high against the wind—waiting.

The men and the vultures were the last living things on earth. The men would pass first—then the vultures would pick their bones and live until this final sustenance was gone. They, too, then would die, leaving the earth to the sun and the beating wind.

Man had failed—failed to conserve and replace the natural resources that he harvested for his comfort. In the beginning, there seemed enough for all men for all time to come—fertile soils—verdant forests—never-ending waters—teeming wildlife—abundant minerals. Wealth was there for taking, but it must be taken fast lest another would take and the riches would be divided. Forests were unscrupulously cut away and the undergrowth destroyed by fire. Then hungry floods were given a chance to carry away the soil that produced more trees. Grasslands were plowed and exposed to the wind which swept away the germ of more grass. Wildlife was driven into concentrated areas because of dwindling habitat, then shot away by those who cared not for the future.

Minerals were taken for instruments of war until the bowels of the earth could give no more.

Last were the waters which failed because there was a lack of earthly moisture to create rain.

Man had failed—utterly failed. Over the prostrate forms the vultures swept lower and lower. Short gasps were carried away by the sand. Clenched hands, with finger nails biting into the flesh, gradually relaxed and straightened out on the parched earth. The vultures settled down—greedy and squawking.

The copper sun looked down and the relentless wind whined on.

The last man was gone—gone because other men had failed.

E. W.—Kentucky Happy Hunting Grounds.
—Taken from Texas Fish and Game.

The Battalion

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station, is published tri-weekly and circulated on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons.

Member
Associated Collegiate Press

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

Subscription rate 4.00 per school year. Advertising rates on request.

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

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Allen Self | Corps Editor |
| Vick Lindley | Veteran Editor |
| Charles E. Murray | Tuesday Associate Editor |
| J. K. B. Nelson | Thursday Associate Editor |
| David M. Seligman | Saturday Associate Editor |
| Paul Martin | Sports Editor |
| Andy Matula | Sports Writer |
| Wendell McClure | Advertising Manager |
| Martin E. Crossly | Circulation Manager |
| Ferd B. English, Franklin Cleland, William Miller, Doyle Duncan, Den Schrader, Jack Goodloe, Wm. K. Colville, Walter Lowe, Jr., Lester B. Gray, Jr., Carl C. Krueger, Jr., Mack T. Nolan | Reporters |

Approaching Recession . . .

Economy On Stilts

By A. D. Bruce, Jr.

This country's economy at present is up on stilts. Prices, higher than at any time since the boom period that followed World War I, are still rising. Industry is turning out goods at a rate nearly double the pre-war level. Trade, in dollar amounts, is at record levels. The question now is whether the present boom can run along indefinitely without correction, or whether the spurt now occurring in production and prices is the last spurt before a first postwar "recession". Because prices have started to rise again after a brief decline late in 1946, there is a growing tendency to believe that there is no end to the boom in sight.

Actually, a turn from boom to setback is approaching, and probably will become apparent soon after midyear. PROSPECTS OF BUSINESS DECLINE. A price decline is likely to appear in some important commodities before, or soon after June. Before it is completed, the general level of commodities at wholesale is likely to be down as much as 20 per cent, though the decline in farm commodities very probably will be greater. Trade will be affected as prices decline. Buyers at retail tend to delay purchases if they become convinced that lower prices are obtainable by waiting.

With inventories high, business purchasing is likely to be curtailed considerably at the first clear sign of a broad price decline. Production will reflect quickly a downturn in prices and trade. Unemployment will rise sharply with a reduction in trade and in industry's rate of activity. High wage rates will encourage industry to get along with its workers as possible when boom times end. Profits, too, will suffer, as activity slows. New wage increases about to be given to large numbers of workers in industry will be added to costs not long before volume may begin to shrink.

That, briefly, is the pattern of the "recession" that seems to be approaching. In duration, the decline, from time of its start until the time when recovery is well under way, probably will be 12 to 15 months. A recovery is expected to be apparent by or soon after midyear, 1948.

PENNY'S SERENADE

W. L. Penberthy

Every once in a while during a sports contest one of the teams will get into a situation that is a little unusual, and immediately some of the spectators will ask each other—What are they going to do now? The team may do the orthodox thing, or the captain or field general may decide to be a little unorthodox and take a chance. If, as the result, things turn out well he is a hero; if no, he is just the opposite.

For behavior in all phases of our life there are certain well-established patterns to follow, but very often we get into a position where it is difficult to select the proper pattern, and in such cases we decide to try something new or take a chance.

I have heard coaches tell their quarterbacks to go in there with lots of confidence and not be afraid to try something. These coaches were smart enough to realize that you had to give a field general a little opportunity to use his own judgement in situations that were a little different.

As a general rule it is a pretty good idea to follow tested patterns, but very often there are times when, if we are to get the job done, we must do something different, and those of us who know when to do this have unusual success.

There is nothing so uninteresting as to watch a performance when one can call the plays before they occur, unless it is to be associated with a person who is so set in his conduct that his every action and reaction can be predicted. The person who is always taking uncalculated chances usually gets nowhere fast, but, as I read the other day, "It is a pretty safe bet that the fellow who claims he never had a chance, never took one."

What's Cooking

SUNDAY, March 23
8:30 a.m.—Newman Club receives Holy Communion in a body.

MONDAY, March 24
7:00 p.m.—Range & Forestry Club, Agricultural Engineering Building. Election of officers will be held.

7:15 p.m.—A&M Collegiate FFA Chapter, lecture room of Agricultural Engineering Building. Mr. R. A. Manire & Mr. Lano Barron will be speakers.

7:30 p.m.—Marketing & Finance Club.

7:30 p.m.—Aggie Wives' Circle of the A&M Methodist Church meets with Mrs. Albert Martin,

It Won't Be Long Now . . .

Cancer Cure Is on the Way

By Walter Lowe, Jr.

A cure for cancer will be found! Top flight cancer authorities expressed that opinion at a meeting of the National Advisory Cancer Council held recently in Washington.

Since 1939, physics and chemistry have already found five promising leads to the cure of cancers. They are 1. Injection treatment with male sex hormones to relieve pain and prolong lives of elderly women with breast cancer; 2. Discovery that a chemical, urethane, brings at least temporary improvement in leukemia and other types of so-called blood cancers; 3. Discovery that the nitrogen mustard war gasses give at least as good results at X-rays in treatment of some of these blood cancers; 4. Radiophosphorus for leukemia and radioiodine and other radioactive chemicals, atom bomb by-products, as potential cancer weapons; and 5. Discovery that sugary chemicals from some germs can destroy cells in animals, leaving normal cells unharmed. These chemicals, now being tried on patients, are developments by American scientists that are equivalent to the much-publicized "K-R" anti-cancer serum of Soviet scientists.

Already, chemistry has given the lead for treatment of cancer of the prostate gland, whereby one out of five men are being saved from once-certain death. This in turn has led to the sex-hormone treatment of breast cancer in women. Thirty out of every 100 patients with stomach cancer, third most important kind, can be cured by operation if they report to the surgeon early.

In the same way that scientists had been talking about atomic power for several years before the uranium atom was split in 1939, scientists in many laboratories are now seeking a key to unlock the secrets of growth. With work toward that end going on, any day someone may learn one of these secrets which will show the way to conquest of cancer, as splitting the uranium atom showed the way to unlock atomic power.

To help speed that day, grants amounting to \$300,000 to support 25 studies of cancer in 19 universities, hospitals, and research institutions, were recommended by National Advisory Cancer Council.

Essays should be typed, double-spaced, on 8 1/2 x 11-inch paper. The student's name, home address, college, and college address should be on a covering page which can be detached. Completed essays should be mailed to the address above before June 15, 1947.

The American and British Commonwealth Association, Inc., is an American organization supported by American funds, interested in the betterment of Anglo-American relations through factual understanding.

Veterans Administration supplied disabled veterans with 438,883 prosthetic devices, ranging from arch supports to wheel chairs, during the fiscal year 1946.

Sites now have been selected for 68 of the 75 new hospitals which Veterans Administration is authorized to build and for which funds have been appropriated.

8:03 Guernsey, College Park. 7:30 p.m.—Newman Club meets in the basement of St. Mary's Chapel.

7:00 p.m.—National Guard meeting in Bryan Chamber of Commerce office.

TUESDAY, March 25
7:30 p.m.—College Music Club meets in the R. R. Lancaster home, 207 E. Dexter, College Park. Miss Cynthia Lancaster will be presented in a harp recital.

7:30 p.m.—Singing Cadets will perform in Bryan Field auditorium. No admission charges.

6:00 p.m.—Management Society Banquet, Sbsia Hall.

WEDNESDAY, March 26
8:00 p.m.—Baptist Student Council meeting.

Oscars Go to March And DeHavilland, Year's Top Actors

Olivia De Havilland and Fredric March were named best actress and actor of the year at the nineteenth annual presentation of awards by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

"The Best Years of Our Lives" of Samuel Goldwyn Studios was chosen the best picture of 1946. It paved the way to Oscars, awards and statuettes for the film-folk connected with it. Fredric March won his Oscar for his performance in it—William Wyler for the directing of it; Harold Russell, the handless veteran, for his supporting role in it (he previously had been given a special award); Daniel Mandell's cutting on it won an award; as did Robert Sherwood for the best written screen play; statuettes went to Hugo Friedhofer and Emil Newman for the best scoring of a dramatic film.

Olivia DeHavilland won her Oscar for her performance in "To Each His Own", Anne Baxter was chosen best supporting actress for work in "The Razor's Edge".

Lawrence Olivier was presented an award for producing, directing and starring in "Henry V".

Short subjects awards went to Warner Brothers for "A Boy and His Dog", best two-reel short, and best one-reel short to the same studio for "Facing Your Danger". The cartoon award went to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for "The Cat Concerto".

The War Department received an award for distinctive achievement in documentary production on a short subject, "The Seeds of Destiny".

The Oscar for sound recording went to John Livadary for his work in "The Jolson Story". Another award connected with this picture was the Oscar to Morris Stoloff for his musical scoring. The best achievement in special effects was presented to Thomas Howard for his trick photography in "Blithe Spirit".

The estimated number of National Service Life Insurance policies in force with Veterans Administration on Dec. 31, 1946, was around 5,600,000, consisting of nearly 5,000,000 term and over 600,000 permanent plan policies.

SUNDAY and MONDAY

IDA LUPINO
ROBERT ALDA

ANDREA KING
— In —

SHE SANG THE WAY SHE LOVED... WITH EVERYTHING SHE HAD!
"THE MAN I LOVE"
WARNER HIT Directed by RAOUŁ WALSH
Hear her sing!
"The Man I Love" "Just My Bill" "Why Was I Born" "Body and Soul"
SCREEN PLAY BY CATHERINE TURNER • ADAPTATION BY JO PAGO AND CATHERINE TURNER • FROM A NOVEL BY BRANSTEN WOLF

Quion Hall
OPENS 1 p. m. DAILY

TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY

"SHADOW OF A WOMAN"
HELMUT DANTINE - ANDREA KING

Fly HOME FOR EASTER
VIA BRANIFF

THE BRANIFF REPRESENTATIVE

THOMAS A. WHITLEY
Will be at
Texas A. & M.
March 24-25
On the Campus



MAKE YOUR ADVANCE RESERVATIONS

This time enjoy the fullest vacation possible—by flying. You save time on the way and have more time at home. The Braniff representative will be here for a limited time—to help you make advance reservations—there and back—to any point in the United States served by air transportation.



Every Braniff Flite Carries
PASSENGERS • MAIL • EXPRESS • FREIGHT

Letters

GREEK TRAGEDY

Dear Editor:
After reading the recent editorial, the "Greek Tragedy", it looks from this corner like someone is not able to comprehend the full significance of President Truman's proposal to hold the people of Greece and Turkey. Therefore, if the Battalion believes in writing editorials on national issues, both sides of the question should be presented. Whether the Batt is Wallaceonian or truly Trumanite (or neither), we believe the important question at the pending change of foreign policy should be discussed properly, which can be done only by a non-biased approach. This cannot be done in a puerile editorial whose writer is not fully versed on the subject. Since a well-informed student is vital in the development of a good voter, we believe national issues should be discussed pro and con.

C. N. BEYRLER
R. P. RAWSON

(Ed. Note: The Batt is not only willing but anxious to print dissenting opinions on international and national affairs. To Readers Beyrle and Rawson; how about another letter, taking specific exception to points in the Greek editorial? Namecalling doesn't bother us, and we would like to debate on these subjects. To all other readers: How about your opinions? Pro, con, or in between, they will be welcome. Only one request—be specific.)

NEW RAZOR Simplifies Shaving

World's Newest Razor Gives Swifter, Smoother, Safer Shaves

Mystic, Conn., Mar. 7, 1947. There's a new razor out, simpler by far than any that has ever been made.

The new Enders Razor is all one piece, no moving parts, no extra gadgets. All you do is click the blade in and shave. And what a shave! The razor doesn't clog; it's easy to clean and keep clean. Its modern plastic handle is curved to fit your hand. Its shaving angle is so well set to your face that it reaches easily all the hard-to-get-at spots—around chin, ears, nose.

Get this amazing new Enders Razor at your campus store, at the special introductory price.

SPECIAL OFFER . . .

RAZOR AND 5 BLADES . . . 49¢
DURHAM-ENDERS RAZOR CORP., MYSTIC, CONN.

CAMPUS

Opens 1:00 p.m. Ph. 4-1181

TODAY—LAST DAY!

A LOVE WOLF TAKLES A TWO-TOE CACTUS COOKIE!
JOHN WAYNE • ELLA RAINES
TALL in the SADDLE
WARD BOND • GEORGE HAYES
AUDREY LONG • ELISABETH ROSDON
DON DOUGLAS
Produced by ROBERT FELLOWS • Directed by EDWIN L. MARKIN
Screen Play by Michael Hogan & Paul F. Pie
RKO RADIO PICTURE

PREVIEW TONIGHT
11:00 p. m.
SUNDAY - MONDAY

"Romantic as a kiss in the dark"
SAYS WINCHELL

Paramount presents
Joan Fontaine
Arturo de Cordova
FRENCHMAN'S CREEK
IN TECHNICOLOR
A MITCHELL LEISEN production
Doris Robison • Niall Bruce • Carl Kallway
Ralph Forbes • Directed by Mitchell Leisen
From the Novel by Daphne de Maurer