

### Misled . . .

Dr. T. O. Walton was a campus hero a while back. Students acclaimed him as their saviour. His "secret" files were loaded with enough explosive evidence to blast Gilchrist and his aides not only from the big white building, but into the pen as well—they believed. He was the source from whom blessings—and charges—flowed. He could do no wrong.

His disciples are beginning to fall away from him now and slip into quiet corners to do some thinking. Some feel that they have been duped into following a false messiah. They are beginning to realize that he is not the man they thought he was, and with reason.

The trek to Austin is a long one, but the largest number of Aggies to attend an investigation hearing speeded to the Senate chamber, forsaking their books for one night, in order to hear Walton "blow the lid off." They sat through three hours of dreary testimony by Dean Bolton and the college comptroller, earnest W. H. Holzmann. Then, at eleven o'clock, Dr. T. O. Walton took the stand. Spectators stood up, crowded close to the witness stand, whispering to each other, "This is going to be good!"

Questioning of the former college president began, with rapier-tongued Sen. Dorsey Hardeman leading. Walton, in the course of his testimony, leveled some serious charges against the administration. He called it "authoritarian." He charged intimidation, mishandling of funds, dictatorship, "inept" administration.

But when asked for proof of these charges, he could furnish little. And his biggest concern was not for the student body, but for the experiment station and extension service.

Walton breezed over details of student uprisings when he was president of A&M. He would not even label them as uprisings. This was calculated, no doubt, to leave the impression that he had always had support of the student body. Students who were here before the war, in the spring of 1942, will dispute this.

That spring, an objectionable "new order" rule was put out by President Walton. Meeting after meeting of the senior class resulted. Seniors planned a strike, but were informed that if they carried it through, they would enter the army immediately as privates. The Battalion was strangely silent during all this, but it is a well-known fact that certain members of the staff, fearing suppression, organized an underground publication criticizing the administration of T. O. Walton charging him with coercion, intimidation, etc. The leader, a junior, was apprehended and summarily tossed out of school for expressing his views. Certain members of the Longhorn staff were severely disciplined. Was all this forgotten?

Walton testified that no advice or counsel had passed from his lips to the ears of students. He had, he claimed, kept discreetly out of the whole controversy.

But now it comes to light that there is a dusky chap in the cordwood somewhere. Delbert Shultz testified last week that not only had he consulted Walton about criticisms of the administration, but that Walton had actually written three paragraphs of the famous Shultz Letter personally. Somebody perjured himself, a serious offense, both morally and legally. And it smacked of collusion when the wording of the prepared statement he read from the stand was almost identical to that of the Shultz letter.

Although Walton denied it under oath, it is a known fact in select circles that he has been meddling in the internal affairs of the college, spreading unrest and discontent among the faculty and students with seemingly unfounded charges about financial transactions of the college.

The rumor is now circulating around the campus that both Walton and Clark have information which they did not air at the investigation, but are "saving" for a grand jury hearing. Evidently, it is a case of either cold feet, or lack of facts in the first place.

The students are disappointed, bitterly disappointed. Dr. Walton has been like powder in the students' skyrocket. A flash, a brilliant trail of light as the rocket goes up, up, up. Then, at the height of its trajectory, when a great burst of light is expected—pfffffftttt. A dud!

Judging from correspondence between Drs. Walton and Clark, they have been participants in a "Mutual Sympathy Society." As Dr. Clark fizzled worse than Walton, they might continue to commiserate each other, but they need not expect any more student sympathy.

The students' case would be in a better position today were it not for the wild charges, inspired by outsiders, tossed around at the outset. They have a grievance, a valid grievance, against Gilchrist's conduct of student relations. A majority of the student body is opposed to him, perhaps more for the things he has not done than for his accomplished acts.

Aggies have proven before their ability to stand on their own two feet. Dr. Walton's help or inspiration should never have been offered or accepted. His participation in the controversy has proved a hindrance rather than an aid.

### A True Light . . .

We are a democracy, and there is only one way to get a democracy on its feet in the matter of its individual, its social, its municipal, its state, its national conduct, and that is by keeping the public informed. There is not a crime, there is not a dodge, there is not a trick, there is not a swindle, there is not a vice which does not live by secrecy. Get these things out in the open, describe them, attack them, ridicule them in the press and sooner or later public opinion will sweep them away.

Joseph Pulitzer

#### SHOTGUNS FOR SALE!

LOVEMAN'S Department Store in Birmingham, Alabama has scheduled its advertising on the society page of the daily Post for years. Recently its copy featured H & R rifles. Said the ad: "Ten to one this .22 caliber repeater rifle . . . is the gun for you!" Right alongside was an item headed, "Plans for Wedding Announced."

## 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.

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### Going Higher . . .

## Mail Rates Go Up With Cost Of Living

By H. W. Spencer

Labor has been setting the pace for increased wages commensurate with rising cost of living. Among those following the same vogue will be the sedate Post Office Department. In lieu of wages increased postal rates will be affected. The 1946 postal workers' pay raise is more or less indirectly responsible as that increment culminated a deficit trend in \$3 out of the last 100 years of Post Office Department operation. In fact the department has been losing about \$300 million here of late.

All kinds of postal service except first-class mail are scheduled for a price rise. Some prices will be raised sharply others moderately. Just about everyone will notice the change as most of the services will be altered. The increased rates will probably go into effect July 1.

As mentioned above, first-class mail is expected to remain the same, that is, 3 cents an ounce. Current legislation will no doubt prevent it from slipping to 2 cents an ounce on July 1, as the law now provides.

Postal cards will be increased to 2 cents. The 100 percent jump is expected to bring at least \$20 million in additional revenue, despite the portended one-third drop in the use of postal cards. Business and church reminders via the post card route will be curtailed.

Despite the fact that neither the Post Office Department nor the airlines desire increases in air mail rates, the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee seem inclined to raise them. This will nullify the recent 8-cent to 5-cent an ounce reduction. The new rate is expected to be 6 cents an ounce.

Other services will probably be affected as follows: Special Delivery for letters is likely to be increased from 13 cents to 20 cents; registered-mail fees will be raised about 25 percent; insured rates will be increased from 3 to 5 cents for \$5 f insurance, etc; and a money order for \$50 will cost 25 instead of the present 18 cents.

Newspapers and magazines will be paying more postage next year. The new rates now are being worked out under a complicated formula that involves the amount of advertising carried, the percentage of circulation delivered through the mails, the service rendered the public, and whether a publication comes out daily, weekly, monthly or quarterly.

Prospects are that small county papers will get the smallest increase under this arrangement, while monthly magazines with mass circulation will be hardest hit by increased postal rates.

## Cancer Blamed On Cosmic Rays

Cosmic rays which continually bombard us, piercing our bodies from head to toe at a rate of more than twenty times per second, may be the invisible guns that start off cancers. This was revealed in experiments conducted by Dr. Frank H. J. Figgie of the Maryland Medical School in Baltimore. This is the first time that cosmic rays have been linked with cancer.

Farmers and others who live most of their lives outdoors are less subject to internal cancers than persons spending most of their lives in buildings which produce cosmic rays showers and intensify the radiation. However, we will not have to spend the rest of our lives in underground shelters to escape cancer-causing rays. Dr. Figgie suggests that plastic material would be more protective than the conventional steel and concrete structure.

## Trotter to Attend Chicago Conference

Dr. Ide P. Trotter, Extension director, will leave by plane tomorrow for Chicago to participate in a conference called by the Farm Foundation. Members of the conference will consider problems of land grant colleges in social and economic fields.

The conference is composed of two extension station directors, two state extension directors, two deans of agriculture, two presidents of land grant colleges, a group of rural sociologists, and M. L. Wilson, director of the Federal Extension Service, Washington D. C.

Enroute back to College Station, Dr. Trotter will be met in Dallas by Dean Joe Howell of John Tarleton Agricultural College and will go with him to Stephenville to speak at Parent's Day Services on Sunday, May 4.

## San Antonians To Meet Thursday at 7

Election of officers and the planning of summer activity will be the main points of the San Antonio A. & M. Club meeting Thursday evening at 7 p.m., according to President Tommy John. The meeting will be held in Room 205, Academic Building.

# Greatest Disaster in History Of US Was Galveston Flood in 1900

By Richard Alterman

The greatest disaster in American history was the Galveston flood of September 8, 1900. Between 5,000 and 8,000 lives were lost, and property damage totaled \$30,000,000. The next greatest disaster was the Johnstown Flood, May 31, 1889, which took 2,229 lives.

The worst explosion in our history was recorded in 1865 when the ship Sultana carrying ex-changed Union prisoners of war exploded and sank seven miles north of Memphis. Over 1400 men lost their lives in this single blast. The most serious fire took 1,152 lives in October, 1871, at Peshtigo, Wisconsin. A forest fire swept the area.

Some other major disasters are: 1906, San Francisco earthquake, 452 dead.

1903, Iroquois Theater fire, Chicago, 575 dead.

1944, Hartford circus fire, 168 dead.

1926, Florida hurricanes, 327 dead.

1915, U. S. Eastland capsized in Chicago, 812 dead.

1947, New London, Texas, school explosion, 294 dead.

1947, O'Connor electro-plating plant blast, Los Angeles, 15 dead.

1947, mine explosion, Centralia, Illinois, 111 dead.

This year alone, more than thirty-five catastrophes in the U. S. have taken a toll of well over 1,100 lives. This year's death toll is running at

## Printing Office, Reclamation Bureau Examinations Open

The Civil Service Commission today announced examinations for Engineers for employment in the Bureau of Reclamation, and for the following positions in the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.: Electrotypist (Finisher and Molder); Stereotypist; Printer (Monotype); Keyboard Operator (Keyboard Operator) and Photoengraver.

The Engineer positions, paying \$3,397 to \$4,902 a year, are located in Oregon, Washington, California, Arizona, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, North Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. To qualify, applicants must have completed a professional engineering curriculum leading to a bachelor's degree in a college or university; or they must have had 4 years of technical engineering experience. Graduate study in engineering may be substituted for 2 years of the required professional experience. Applications must be filed with the Executive Secretary, Central Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, Bureau of Reclamation, Room 230, New Customhouse Building, Denver 2, Colorado, not later than May 20.

For Electrotypist and Stereotypist positions (\$1.94 an hour), applicants must have completed an apprenticeship of at least 5 years, or they must have had 5 years of practical experience.

Applicants for Printer positions (\$1.88 an hour) must have had at least 5 years appropriate experience. For Photoengraver positions (\$2.10 an hour), applicants must have completed an apprenticeship of at least 6 years in the photoengraving trade, or have had at least 6 years of practical experience.

Applicants for positions in the Government Printing Office must be received in the Civil Service Commission, Washington 25, D. C., not later than May 13.

Further information and application forms may be obtained from the Post Office.

a rate far above the average for the last ten years.

Among the catastrophes which took more than 300 lives during the last decade are:

1942, Boston night club fire at Coconut Grove, 492 dead.

1937, Ohio-Mississippi valley floods, 360 dead.

1944, explosion of two ammunition ships at Port Chicago, California, 322 dead.

1938, hurricane and flood along the Atlantic coast, 682 dead.

1947, explosion of French freighter Grandcamp loaded with ammonium nitrate set off a series of blasts at Texas City, 575 dead.

These disasters alone have taken a toll of over 2,600 lives. The number of persons injured has run into the thousands, and property valued at millions of dollars has been destroyed.

## Texas Mishaps Totaled 10,000 Deaths and \$200 Million Loss

The April 16 explosion at Texas City was the second worst disaster ever recorded in Texas and the second within a week. The worst was the Galveston hurricane of September 8-9, 1900, which killed 5,000-8,000 persons with a property damage estimated at \$30,000,000. On April 9-10 a tornado struck the panhandle leaving 132 dead with property damage running into the millions.

Among the other notable Texas tragedies was the second Galveston hurricane of August 17, 1915. Some 275 inhabitants were killed and property in the amount of \$50,000,000 was damaged.

Other were the Brazos River flood of June 17 - July 1, 1899 and the Brazos River flood of December 1-5, 1913. The former killed 85 with a property damage of \$9,000,000, as compared to 180 dead and damage amounting to \$8,000,000 in the latter.

A rainstorm throughout most of Texas on September 14, 1921 killed 224 persons with estimates of property damage as high as \$17,000,000. Another Texas hurricane at Corpus Christi September 14, 1919, left in its wake 284 dead and a property damage of \$20,000,000.

The aforementioned disasters killed almost 10,000 persons with property damage amounting to more than \$200,000,000.

### Tyler Club Meets Thursday

The Tyler A. & M. Club will meet Thursday evening at 7:15 p. m. to discuss plans for a party at the end of the semester, according to W. P. Patrick, president. The meeting will be held in Room 108, Academic Building.

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## Research Survey To Be Given Sigma Xi

The Sigma Xi Club of A.&M. will meet on Thursday evening, May 1, at 8 p.m. in the lecture room of the Animal Industry Building.

The program will consist of a survey of the research work being conducted at A. & M. in the field of biochemistry and nutrition. Following brief reports from a number of research leaders, the group will be conducted on a tour through the research laboratories in the Animal Industries Building.

All members are urged to be present for this program.

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