

Battalion EDITORIALS

Page 2 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1947

Second Verse, Same Song...

Another clown has sneaked into the center of the three-ring circus which is at present showing to packed crowds all over the state of Texas. His name: Henry Stillwell, Texarkana school superintendent.

Stillwell's debut was magnificent. Every line upheld the Southern Democrat's approach to social and educational problems... bigoted, backward, and baleful. His action will probably result in his being elected president of the SPPPPP (the Society for the Prevention of Privileges for Prosecuted Peoples and Pedagogues) if and when that large group formally organizes.

The Texarkana school has 1,500 Negro scholars with approximately 400 in the Dunbar Negro High School, which is listed as an accredited school. Mr. Stillwell now claims that he is no longer asking the Dunbar School be on the accredited list, since this would force the board of trustees to pay

the Negro teachers on the same salary schedule as the white teachers.

Thus, Dr. L. A. Woods, State Superintendent of Public Schools, outlines Stillwell's dispute with his (Dr. Wood's) office.

Clarification of the Minimum Salary Bill depended on the State Attorney General's office. Happily that group has declared the measure to be constitutional. Indeed, had it decreed otherwise the state would have been open to attack by Texarkana Negroes, for Federal laws still require equal educational opportunities, in spite of the exhortations of some of the less enlightened southern cavaliers.

Well, the above is merely a ripple in the pond of ignorance engulfing Texas. Both LIFE and TIME nudge sensitive Texans this week with their descriptions of the new Texas Negro University in Houston.

Red Tape Stops Wheels...

Red tape is one of the parasitic growths that gets between the wheels of a democracy and brings it to a stop. There are times when proper procedure and investigation is commendable, but so often they become meaningless delays, bordering on the ridiculous.

One such growth, called "security investigation", recently prevented an American scientist from accepting an invitation to represent this country in a European meeting of the Committee on Science and its Social Relations of the International Council of Scientific Unions. Dr. Bart J. Bok, assistant director of the Harvard College Observatory, was to present an official statement of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission on security regulations at the London conference. He was unable to obtain a passport, after weeks of litigation, in time to attend the meeting.

Last-minute attempts to get the passport included a wire to Secretary of State Marshall from Dr. Bok's superior, Dr. Howard Shapley of the observatory and president of the American Association for the Advance-

ment of Science.

When the passport application was filed, the astronomer was assured it would be issued within a week. When he later was told that security investigation was delaying issuance, Dr. Bok wired the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover replied that the passport matter was wholly in the hands of the State Department.

In Washington, state department passport officials confirm Dr. Bok's version of the incident, but they refuse to offer any further explanation.

Our prestige on the subject of international cooperation of scientific achievement will be hurt by this event. The impression left in the minds of other nations is a dubious attitude toward our true intentions.

At a time when we are denouncing the uncooperative actions of other nations along scientific channels, this action will weaken our stand for a world united to help mankind through science.

Youth at the Helm...

New hope for the Democratic Party appeared last week when the Democratic National Committee had placed before it the name of Senator J. Howard McGrath, 45-year-old Rhode Islander, for party chairman. The committee is expected to elect the youthful son without serious opposition.

The choice indicated the pattern for the 1948 presidential campaign: McGrath is expected to appeal to liberal elements within and without the party, as well as residents of heavily populated urban areas and conservative Southern Democrats. A man who can satisfy the various elements of the party listed above deserves a word of description.

As listed by the "New Republic" (August 4, 1947), McGrath's voting record is rather impressive. He voted for the confirmation of David Lilienthal as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, after the latter's name had been dragged through the gutter by doughty old Senator McKellar of Tennessee. He voted for the Greek-Turkish Aid Bill, by which the United States agrees to send \$400 million abroad without the sanction of the United Nations.

Senator McGrath demonstrated his sympathy for labor by casting ballots both against the Taft-Hartley Bill as originally presented on the floor of the Senate chamber, and later to sustain President Truman's veto. The Rhode Islander cast aside any

doubts concerning his internationalism by voting down an attempt to cut foreign relief expenditures (the Kem Bill, for which Senator O'Daniel of Texas cast one of the four supporting votes).

His stand on some of the more "conservative" measures acted upon by the Senate can be commended by liberals: Senator McGrath voted against the income tax cut, against the lobbyists' Wool Tariff Bill, and he voted for continuance of rent control... a measure which, unfortunately, was passed by the Senate.

Only one great flaw exists in Senator McGrath's record: he voted for the Reed-Bulwinkle Bill to give the railroads of the country the right to agree on rates. This, of course, simply means that railroads would be exempt from provisions of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. Perhaps it's not too late for him to renege on this particular slip.

According to reliable reports, McGrath is a steady, sober family man. Perhaps Democrats can depend on his not being arrested for drunken driving. Gael Sullivan, acting chairman of the committee, fell afoul of the law in this manner, and has not as yet lived it down. Republican and "Independent Democrat" papers throughout the nation headlined this story to such an extent that rapid readers received the impression that Sullivan had committed assault, larceny, and armed robbery in one act.

He'd Be Hanged!

Want ads in Dallas Morning News have been amusing to readers since J. T. Freeland, a garage repairman, broke a campaign with an announcement he was going to hang himself.

He set a date, and explained his desperate act was motivated by inability to take care of all the business. Then, Freeland's personal ads rejected imaginary entreaties of customers against his hanging himself, because who would fix their cars?

"Always thinking of themselves," he wrote.

When the Sept. 10 deadline passed, Freeland announced in the personals he had

called off the hanging because he now had ample floor space to expand and take care of more customers.

A News feature writer found that Freeland's ads had had interesting results, besides bringing new business.

One woman telephoned to ask him if his apartment would be vacant when he hanged himself, another if his garage would be for lease. He received at least two gift ropes.

A 27-year-old ex-GI, married and with two children, Freeland didn't know he was going to hang himself on Sept. 10 until he read the first ad in the News.

A few days before he had employed an advertising man.

The Battalion

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station, Texas, is published five times a week and circulated every Monday through Friday afternoon, except during holidays and examination periods. During the summer The Battalion is published semi-weekly. Subscription rate \$4 per school year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

News contributions may be made by telephone (4-5444) or at the editorial office, Room 201, Goodwin Hall. Classified ads may be placed by telephone (4-5384) or at the Student Activities Office, Room 209, Goodwin Hall.

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Don't Shoot Editor Now; Newspaper Week Soon Over

By HAL BOYLE

DAVENPORT, LA., Oct. 2 (AP)—Nobody kicks a dog or beats a horse in public during "Be-Kind-To-Animals Week."

This, however, is "Newspaper Week" and the press enjoys no such immunity. As usual, it is healthily open to catcalls and kind words.

One who is ready at all times to lend a knuckle in its defense is E. P. Adler, who has spent more than sixty-two years in the newspaper business and reached the conclusion that the American Press has a better life expectancy than its critics.

"Newspapers are as firm in the people's minds as ever," Adler said, "this week on his seventy-fifth birthday anniversary. They are continuing to improve as they have in days gone by, and they are more read than they ever were."

Few people are in a better position to note the changes in the newspaper field than this small, peppery, white-haired publisher. His own career has symbolized them.

He began as a printer's "devil", worked around the Midwest as a tramp printer in the golden age of that craft, then switched to the reporter and business side. Today he is president of the Lee Syndicate, which publishes eleven daily papers in Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri and Nebraska.

Adler is a nationally known leader in the small city newspaper field—a dean who never wants to become dean emeritus.

When he went to work before his thirtieth birthday his starting weekly wage was zero minus a dollar—his father paid a printer the dollar each week to teach young E. P. how to set type. Newspapers were small, handset, printed on flatbed presses, and their news coverage of events outside their immediate communities was generally poor.

"The invention of the web press and the linotype, the development of press associations and wirephoto changed all that," Adler recalled.

Adler is optimistic over the future of the American newspapers and feels that radio, television and facsimile transmission "will never run them out of business."

"All a newspaper publisher has to do is to put out a good newspaper—print the real news—and

he'll sell his newspaper all right," he said.

"Freedom of the press is one of the strong points of America. I believe there still is freedom of the press, and I believe there always will be."

"I see no threat to newspapers except rising costs which must be met by raising the delivery price and the rates for advertising space. But there must be an end to this problem of rising costs sometime—not only for newspapers, but for every other business."

Letters

WATER TOWER ART

Dear Editors,

It sometimes incredible amount of lucid stupidity that can drip from the pen of a newspaper editor, but the editorial in Tuesday's paper (Sept. 23) quaintly entitled, "Go Elsewhere, Rembrandt" is not only journalistic crime to perfection, but also a living constitution for all two-centers.

If the editors of the Batt would quit tearing the flesh from grimy little fingers writing insidious traps in an effort to prove their merit as great reformers, and concentrate on the "real" problems of A. & M., the Batt editorials would be worthy of print.

I have a few suggestions in answer to the editor's plea: (1) That in order for the water tower to be entirely clear of paint at all times, they should climb to the top (comfy-roofed down) and remove all paint with a paper napkin moistened with a drop of lighter fluid (2) That in order for the editor to "guide those idle hands," he should ask them to paint an orange marker directing him to the next train bound for TU. (3) That in case the editor happens to be wearing a senior ring on senior boots... the ring when melted down makes a nice frat pin, and the boots would make an excellent traveling case... especially if the editor were traveling away from A. & M.

Loads and loads of paint, CHUCK MAISEL, '49.

P. S. Free lessons in "How to breast-stroke out of a floated room" will be taught each night on top of the water tower. Love to have you!!!

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Bette Davis Says Motherhood Good For Movie Stars

By BOB THOMAS

HOLLYWOOD, Oct. 2 (AP)—If anyone needs an argument for motherhood, just take a look at Bette Davis.

The gal is looking like a million dollars, which is approximately the amount she is worth to Warner Brothers. She appears vibrant, youthful and thoroughly whistlable as she walks around the Warner lot in slacks and a blouse.

"A woman is never a complete woman," she testified, "until she has become a mother."

As for the future, Bette estimated that she has two more pictures to make at Warners under her present contract, which has a bit over two years to go. "I now takes about a year to prepare and make a picture," she said. "I shouldn't take that long, but that's how they do things now."

She has several dramas lined up for her, but, strangely enough she'd like to do a musical or comedy.

But don't count on it, folks. Good musicals and comedies are as scarce as \$1 steak dinners these days. Bette will probably stick to her forte, tragedy.

Hollywood sights and sounds... Elizabeth Taylor proudly showing an autographed picture from five "Cynthia" admirers—Cecille, Annette, Yvonne, Emilie and Marie Dionne...

Barbara Stanwyck on the "B. F.'s Daughter" set, fanning away smoke from Van Hefflin's cigarette and cracking, "You're not going to lose up my close-up"... Busy George Murphy using a walkie-talkie to keep in touch with his secretary... Jane Russell made up as a 75-year-old for "The Paleface," but still looking like Jane Russell...

Real Rebel Yell Sought by Texas Story Teller

By JACK RUTLEDGE

Associated Press Staff

Wanted: One rebel yell. (Adv.) You've heard of the famous Confederate rebel yell all your life. But, getting down to fundamentals, have you ever actually heard anyone give it? We haven't for one.

Down on the border we've heard the Mexican "Grito" so many times we still have weak eardrums. It may be a lot like the rebel yell. But we have never heard an authentic, honest-to-goodness, guaranteed rebel yell.

If you have one in the attic somewhere, tote it out and let's make a phonograph record of it, suggests Boyce House, Fort Worth author.

I. Hardin, librarian of the Kentucky Historical Society, read House's newest book, "Cub Reporter," and wrote:

"One point in the book interested me so much that I am taking the liberty to writing you about it—for information if you can give it. And that is the rebel yell.

"All my life I have been hearing of the rebel yell but I have never heard it. Since you heard it on the streets of Memphis in 1909, I wonder if you know what it is. Do you know if it has ever been produced on a record, for instance?"

No known recording has been made, and Boyce says such a yell is hard to describe, although he insists he's heard it often in the past.

"How can you describe a sound?" he asks. Describing the yell, he says: "It has not a word nor a cheer nor was it similar to what I conceive the Indian War Whoop to have been, high and shrill. It was a yell which continued for several seconds—the spontaneous expression of strong men, exultant in their strength; of brave men, thrilling with the excitement of the charge."

He says he doubts if any of the handful of Confederates still living can still give the yell, because it is so full-throated and strong. But he figures maybe they have coached younger men who might give the rebel yell. It could be recorded for posterity on a phonograph record.

When it's done, and we hope it is, we'd like to compare it with the grito. Two bits says they're similar.

There are many extinct volcanoes in the north of New Zealand.

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