

Battalion EDITORIALS

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A Look at California U. . .

It's a relief to turn from the troubles of the Texas state colleges to those of another state system. Recently both Time and the Saturday Evening Post have carried articles on the whopping-big University of California and its 40,000 students. The articles tell how the size of the institution worries its top executives.

But considering what a scholastic reputation Cal has (one of the top four in the country) and how free they have been from the sort of trouble that has dogged our Texas institutions for years, we sometimes wonder of the California system of one big university work better than our Texas system of several unrelated schools?

There are plenty of objections to such a change, which would unite Texas U. A. & M. Tech., TSCW, NTSU, and perhaps others into a single administrative unit. But at least under such a unified system we might be spared such paradoxical rows as the present difficulty over the College Building Amendment. If Tech were the West Texas branch of the University, it would be impossible to fight the college system as a whole, in the name of the part. But would West Texas really be willing to give up its separate school, even though Tech benefited by the change?

No Aggies could be expected to vote for a system which would make A. & M. a branch of the University in truth, instead of in law, as at present. And so it goes. The idea of a unified Texas state college system is probably just a pipe dream. But looking at the University of California, (which includes UCLA, Santa Barbara College and Davis Agricultural School as branches) we are sometimes dubious about the advantages of our own system.

Here is how Time dramatizes the size-problems of UC.

"In the open-air Hearst Greek Theater at Berkeley, Calif. one day last week, 8,000 new students sat waiting. As the warm sun beat down on them, the band blared out *Hail to California*. A huge, hearty figure strode on stage. Robert Gordon Sproul, president of the nation's largest university (41,451 full-time students), began to speak. As everybody had known he would, he struck just the right note.

"I hope you will not take this personally," he said, "but I think that there are 10,000 too many of you. You would all be happier if somehow the 10,000 could go elsewhere. But whether you belong here or not I welcome you."

(Wonder what would happen if an A. & M. president addressed an entering class in those words?)

Most experts rate California's faculty in the nation's top four, along with Harvard, Chicago and Columbia. Among Cal's galaxy of scientific stars: Nobel prizewinner Ernest O. Lawrence, inventor of the cyclotron; Glenn T. Seaborg, discoverer of plutonium; and—until recently—Physicist Robert Oppenheimer. Among its strongest suits: physics, chemistry, engineering, history, agriculture, music.

The predominance of the sciences at Cal is no accident; it is much easier to persuade legislators of the tangible benefits of research in plastics or potatoes than of the value of knowing about Yeats and Keats. That attitude is not peculiar to legislators; it is shared by many of the faculty, by the overwhelming majority of California undergraduates—and by most Americans. Remarkable one history major last week: "You're made to feel that if you aren't taking both physics and chemistry, you're wasting valuable space."

Some university presidents have dictatorial powers; the president of the University of California is only a prime minister. His educational program must win the approval of the Academic Senate, a powerful faculty body that pre-dates Sproul's regime, and makes California one of the most democratically run universities in the U. S.

No new courses or departments can be added, no dean appointed, no new professor called, no academic budget instituted, without Senate action. Says Sproul with a grin: "The faculty can't be driven. It can only be

persuaded." Sproul is, of course, a professionally persuasive man.

The 16-man Board of Regents (appointed to 16-year terms and by custom reappointed for life) own the eight campuses, hire & fire university presidents, spend the legislature's appropriations as they see fit.

Sproul thinks it would help if every baby were awarded a bachelor's degree at birth; that might satisfy those interested only in the prestige of a college education. A good many others, he suggests, should be shunted off to junior colleges and vocational schools, to be given the education they really want and are fitted for. That would leave the university free for what Sproul considers its real responsibility: the specialized work of the junior and senior years, graduate and professional schools, for exceptional students.

"From the president of a state university, that is a bold proposal," says Time.

But not everybody loves the "one big school" idea. Patriotic citizens of Southern California are hot for separating U. C. L. A. from its sister at Berkeley. Sproul modestly disagrees with the general verdict that "the University of California is held together by me alone." His principal argument for keeping the state's colleges in a single system is to avoid expensive duplication. To keep Southern California happy, Sproul has helped make young and lusty U. C. L. A. a strong school in its own right. Now growing at a faster rate than Berkeley, U. C. L. A. has its own football team, its own alumni association, will soon have a \$7,000,000 medical school.

Like Harry Truman at the Army-Navy game, Bob Sproul roots for both sides at the annual U.C.L.A.-Cal game. He always gets a big cheer when he ceremoniously swaps seats at the half. (a custom that would be advisable if A. & M. and T. U. should ever be united.)

That's the story on California. Does it hold any suggestions for us, or not? The floor is open for discussion.

PERSISTENCE and the help of God turned a \$100 trick for B. M. Atkinson, Louisville (Ky.) Times columnist.

Atkinson submitted a 200-word story to the Saturday Evening Post Postwar Anecdotes column. With it he wrote a letter saying, "This is the honest-to-goodness truth."

The anecdote came back with a rejection slip. Immediately he returned it, again accompanied by a letter assuring them it was the honest-to-goodness truth. Again it came back.

For the third time, Atkinson returned the story, this time with a letter saying, "This is the honest-to-God truth."

Within a week he received the \$100 check.

THE 25th anniversary number of **Line-type News** tells this story:

William Wrigley was riding with a friend on a train from New York to Chicago. Said the friend: "Your gum is known all over the world. Why don't you save the millions of dollars you are now spending on advertising?"

Wrigley pondered a second, then asked: "How fast is this train going?"

"About 60 miles an hour," was the answer.

"Then," asked Wrigley, "why doesn't the railroad company remove the engine and let the train travel on its own momentum?"

PUBLICITY Department of American Broadcasting Co. in Hollywood tells this one:

"Rivalry between radio columnists often is grossly exaggerated. . . . When Walter Winchell whipped his 15-minute newscast over the ether waves he got a flash on the rescue of a boy who had been feared kidnapped. It came a few seconds too late for him to use it, so he rushed to Louella Parsons in mid-broadcast and she scooped the nation on the news."

THE **Centrals** (Ill.) Evening Sentinel has a standing head, **FELICITATION**, over birth notices. But one day recently, the newly born were listed under: **TODAY'S LIVE-STOCK MKT.**

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.

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THE CAT ALWAYS COMES BACK



Texas in Washington . . .

A. & M. Supplies Personnel For U. S. Agricultural Dept.

By **TEX EASLEY**
AP Special Washington Service
WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—(AP)—Biggest of all governmental agencies devoted to other than military activities is the agricultural department.

Charged by law with acquiring and distributing useful information on agricultural subjects, the department engages in research and educational programs and administers laws relating to the production and marketing of foods.

The early years of the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration, in the 1930's, saw a great expansion of its functions to aid farmers who had been hit simultaneously by the depression and droughts.

These included soil conservation, farm credit and rural electrification programs.

Texas always have been prominent in the agriculture department. Among those who have served there previously are Dr. Seaman A. Knapp, longtime resident of Houston, founder of the Extension Service; Chief Justice of the U. S. Court of Claims Marvin Jones, once congressman from Amarillo, who officiated as War Food Administrator, and Grover Hill of Amarillo, who was Undersecretary of Agriculture during the war.

Those from the Lone Star State who currently hold down some of the top jobs in the department include: Jesse B. Gilmer of El Paso; head of the Production and Marketing Administration; H. H. Williamson, an assistant chief of the Extension Service, who formerly directed that work at College Station; J. C. Dykes, assistant chief of the soil conservation service and largely responsible for the operations of that agency. Dykes is a native of Dallas, a graduate of Texas A. and M. and before coming to Washington lived in Fort Worth.

Texas A. and M. College, as would be expected, has been a steady source of top-flight career personnel for the department for decades.

Williamson is of the class of '11 and is the current president of the National Capital Texas A. and M. Club. Arthur L. Roberts, '30, of Weatherford and in the production and marketing division's cotton section, is secretary of the club.

One of the oldest agriculture department employes is Charles A. Burmeister, Tilden, Tex., who came

here shortly after graduating from A. and M. in 1908 and plans to retire next year. He is in the livestock branch of PMA. His brother, Gustave Burmeister, also is a veteran department employe, handling foreign agricultural statistical information.

A Texan who gained distinction as head of the experiment station at A. & M. years ago, Bonney Youngblood, now is in charge of research programs at experimental stations throughout the country. His duties take him on inspection tours of these stations from time to time to coordinate and direct research activities.

Other ex-Texas Aggies here in the agriculture department include: Ernest J. Holcomb, Cleburne and College Station; W. Carl Holley, in PMA's "Farm" labor branch, who once lived in Mineral Wells and Cooper; T. Lee Gaston, Gatesville; Maurice B. Cooper, Center, and C. L. Mimms, Spur, both in the bureau of agricultural economics; John P. Cunningham, Edinburg, and Walter L. Scott, Kemp.



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Actors Plan To Combat Attacks Of 'Red Hollywood'

By **BOB THOMAS**

HOLLYWOOD, Oct. 9 (AP)—A group of prominent film actors, directors, writers and producers is organizing for a campaign to combat congressional assertions of the "Communist influence in Hollywood."

Initial meeting of the organization, as yet unnamed, was held this week at the home of Director William Wyler, Academy winner for "The Best Years of Our Lives." Speakers declared something should be done to offset the congressional hearing this month at which charges of communist activities in the movies are expected to be aired. Many Hollywood names have been called to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee.

The new group plans to give the public "a true picture of so-called political influence in Hollywood." Among those attending the first meeting were Wyler, Director John Huston, Katharine Hepburn, Gene Kelly, producer Jerry Wald, Melvyn Douglas, Writer Emmet Lavery and others.

"Arch of Triumph," after almost a year of editing, is expected to hit the nation's screens in December. The delay was due to a difference of opinion between director Lewis Milestone and enterprise boss Charles Einfeld over treatment of the story.

The cold season has hit town. Dick Powell and Irene Dunne just got over their sniffles and returned to work. Now Joan Crawford and the four kiddies are ailing. Note to Robert Mitchum fans: your hero will do a lot of singing in "Rachel" . . . Elizabeth Taylor joins Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon in "Speak to Me of Love". Life plays Greer's daughter.

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Story by JOAN HARRISON & DONALD CRISP

Hal Boyle Reports . . .

Cattle Feeder Gets \$60,000 - Should He Stay in Business?

By **HAL BOYLE**

CLEAR LAKE, IOWA, Oct. 9.—(AP)—A farmer here recently received \$60,000, the largest single check ever issued to a cattle feeder in this area, yet today he doesn't know whether it is worthwhile to stay in business.

That is the dilemma of J. D. Richardson and many other mid-west farmers who make a career of taking range-fed western cattle and fattening them into top grade heavy beef.

"I've been feeding cattle for 25 years and darned if I know what to do," said Richardson, a tall blue-eyed farmer son of a farmer.

He and others like him are being scared into reduced activity by the high price of grain, the food-fuel that ripens lean, grass-fed steers into the juicy, fat-grained steaks that command a premium in metropolitan markets.

"A fellow doesn't know whether it's worth bothering about," said Richardson, and "they've got us over a barrel."

He figures that he can buy an 800-pound steer for \$216 but that it will cost him a dollar a day for 300 or more days to feed it the corn and protein needed to plump it into a 1400-pound target for the butcher.

"That makes it cost me \$516, not counting the hay it eats or my own overhead and labor costs," he said. "Nor does it include any interest for my money."

But such a steer, if sold on the present high Chicago market, would fetch him only \$504.

"City folks sometimes blame the farmer for these high prices but the farmer didn't ask for them. We'd be a lot better off if the prices stayed low. Now we're out on a limb."

Richardson got his check for \$60,000 for 128 high grade steers.

"I figure that if I buy a hundred steers at the present price to fatten," he said, "they could lose me the price of the feed plus \$15,000, plus the cost of my labor."

But the farm, after a quarter of a century, would be incomeless without beef cattle around and he can largely feed them with his own corn, the corn he could sell now for a nice profit if he chose to.

"I never sold a bushel of corn in my life though," he said. "I always have to buy from neighbors to feed my cattle."

And because farmers are traditional people he will go on as before on a reduced scale. He feels his own case is typical.

"So there won't be as much beef to eat in this country next year as before—that's for sure," said Richardson.

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