

# Battalion EDITORIALS

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1947

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

## Six Years After Pearl Harbor . . .

December Seventh fell on Sunday six years ago today.

Aggies were beginning to look forward to the Cotton Bowl where Derace Moser and his teammates would soon take on Alabama. The shock of A.M.'s first defeat by Texas on Kyle Field was beginning to wear off.

Now six years later many of the Aggies of that day—including Moser—lie in military graves.

Is this world a better place for their sacrifices?

If not, hadn't we better do something about it.

## Fencing the Rio Grande . . .

The beast that has been rearing its head along the Texas-Mexico border since early last year has finally come into full view, and it seems to be quite a monster.

The beast is in the form of the foot and mouth disease, a cattle ailment that has the same effect on herds of beef that fire has on dry grass. When the disease first became apparent in Northern Mexico and moved toward the Rio Grande, our department of Agriculture countered with a slaughter program to wipe the disease out at its source. This campaign soon bogged down, due to a reluctance of the Latin farmers to part with their disease-ridden cattle. A substitute quarantine and vaccination plan was run in. This too has met with little success, and the quest for effective control measures is on again.

A cattle proof fence, the most practical of the suggested remedies, has already been authorized by congress, but no funds for its construction have been provided. And though simple in theory, the engineering and human

drawbacks to a border fence are legion. If the wire is strung too close to the river bed, it will wash out continually, and be hard to reach for repair, but if it is too far back, the ranchers will lose much of their grazing land.

Even the existence of a fence is disheartening to many agricultural groups who are vitally interested in the movements of "wet-back" harvest laborers, and feel that the barrier would impede their passage. Anyone familiar with the "Big River" can also picture sections of the fence being transplanted into Coahuila by the wanderings of the stream bed.

The entire situation is now more or less in a stalemate, and will probably come to a head shortly after the regular session of Congress convenes in January. Meanwhile the discussion and the debate go on with renewed vigor. Whatever working agreement the Departments of Agriculture and State finally decide on, they have a large and snorting steer on their rope to wrestle with.

## Rate Profs, But How? . . .

(Fourth of a Series)

Previous editorials in this series have discussed improvement of teaching techniques as seen by the School of Engineering. Today we have a letter from Dr. C. N. Sheppardson, Dean of the School of Agriculture, explaining what that school is proposing in the way of evaluating their staff, with the purpose of improving the standard of instruction and efficiency of the entire staff.

"Staff evaluation and training are constant problems of administrators and have been the subject of numerous studies by several institutions in recent years. It may be of interest to know what has been done along this line at A. & M.," writes Dr. Sheppardson.

"First, it should be remembered that A. & M. used student ratings from time to time prior to the war. Early last year, a veteran student proposed a new plan for obtaining student ratings on professors to the executive committee. While agreeing to the principal of student ratings, the committee deferred action on the proposal until it could be given further study.

"In the meantime, the writer personally presented the problem to the Student Agricultural Council and, after considerable discussion of the problems and safeguards essential in securing fair and unbiased student ratings, it was unanimously agreed that such a plan should be developed.

"At an Agricultural Faculty meeting held on March 4, 1947, the writer presented the questions of staff evaluation and improvement in teaching for consideration. The faculty unanimously approved the appointment of two committees to study these two problems. Soon after this, the Agricultural

Experiment Station and the Agricultural Extension Service appointed committees on study staff evaluation and, on April 22, 1947 these three committees on staff evaluation were combined into a joint committee to consider the problem for the entire agricultural staff.

"The report of this committee, composed of men below the rank of head of department was thorough and comprehensive. Among the fourteen objectives of an evaluation system which they proposed were the following: (1) to encourage and promote the ablest and most promising staff members, (2) to aid the individual in self evaluation and improvement, (3) to permit assignment of duties according to the individuals ability, (4) to provide a basis for determination of the accuracy of claims of incompetency, (5) to provide a basis for the separation of the incompetent and mediocre.

"The committee considered nine possible sources of information to be used in arriving at a fair and comprehensive evaluation of a staff member, including ratings by administrative offices, heads of departments, co-workers at this and other institutions, students, ex-students, and the individual's self-evaluation.

"This report was presented to the Agricultural Faculty at its meeting on September 18, 1947 and carried over for study by the faculty until its meeting on October 21, 1947, at which time it was approved for adoption in the School of Agriculture.

"This action has since been reported to the Executive Committee and is now under consideration for adoption throughout the college."

(To Be Continued)

## Also 'Defeated'

TEAGUE, TEXAS—"Nobody wins a football game any more," Weldon Owens, publisher of the Teague Chronical avers. "After looking over the sports pages this week, I found this is what happened to the teams with the smaller scores: They were either crushed, trounced, thundered by, downed, hobbled, fared, shackled, outlasted, spilled, battered, stopped, trampled, blanked or smothered."

President Truman's eggless Thursday edict drew this headline in the Winston-Salem (N.C.) Journal: "Department of Egg-riculture Eggsperits Eggsplain Eggciment about Hens, Eggs." The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette said: "Egg-saving More or Less Scrambled."

## 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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## CLASHING GEARS



## : Letters to the Editor :

### THE WINNER CAN'T RUN!

Editor, The Battalion:

In Thursday's Batt Bob Weynand states in his article on the front page that the Aggie parents will be able to show off their "young uns" come December 7 at Sibsa Hall.

I would like to correct Bob on one part. It is not just an Aggie Doll and Diaper Show, but a Veteran Aggie Doll and Diaper Show. I tried to enter my son but was disqualified because I am not a veteran. This show does not represent all the Aggie students, only the major portion of them.

The main reason I feel hurt is because my boy is the best looking one in this neck of the woods.

JAKE RUSSELL, '48

### GOOD OLE DAYS—1944-45?

Editor, The Battalion:

In many of the recent letters to the editors, I have seen many mentions of the "good ole days in Aggie-land" made by "men" who signed their names followed by the numerals '48, '49, or '50. I should like very much to know since when tradition and spirit was running so high in 1944 or 1945. I have been under the impression that since early '41, A. & M. has been rather lacking in the aforementioned.

In reference to the letter on lack of guards at the East Gate, I have only to say—"Stupid kid stuff." Of course I was unable to be here in the "good ole days" and don't know.

RAY SEAL, '42

### WELLS REPLIES TO ?

Dear "Name Withheld":

Since you do not choose to back your arguments with your name, I shall have to reply to an anonymous letter. In your letter to The Battalion you made quite a few statements that are unfair and very untrue.

I merely expressed an opinion which I still hold, be it narrow-minded or not. My opinion was and is that we do not need to cultivate Tu's good will by changing a practice that was in effect long before YOU or I got here. You have a perfect right to disagree if you wish, but you do not have the least right to read things in my statements that were not and never will be there. I said nothing about creating a public disturbance.

## BETWEEN THE BOOKENDS . . .

## Captain Kidd—Was He a Real Privateer or Just a Legend?

By MRS. WILNORA ARNOLD  
Readers' Adviser

PIRATE LAUREATE: The life and legends of Captain Kidd. By Willard H. Bonner. Rutgers University Press, 1947.

No privateer in the history of the world has been caught in a greater storm of controversy than Captain William Kidd.

Did the man who roamed the seven seas in the "Adventure Galley" deserve the title "Captain William Kidd, New York Gentleman," as he was described on his marriage license, or "Kidd the notorious pirate," as the simple folk of England and America knew him for almost two centuries?

Did he swing from a rope at Execution Dock in England for a murder he never committed?

Is his loot just another legend, or does it still lie buried along the coast of the eastern United States, Gardner's Island, Cow Neck, Oyster Bay, Rye Beach, or at least two spots along the Hudson River?

Has he received his due at the hands of the pamphleteers, poets, ballad singers, and authors from Washington Irving to Robert Louis Stevenson?

These and countless other questions are answered by Willard H. Bonner in his engrossing and comprehensive estimate of the enigmatic figure who was born the devout son of a Scottish minister, died a rogue's death, and has endured over the years as the arch-pirate.

Dr. Bonner has tracked Captain Kidd relentlessly through the sparse facts of his life and the legends that have grown through generations of defilers and disciples. What emerges, too, are revealing sidelights on a little-known era of Anglo-American history, the reign of King William, when people in power practiced piracy as

bravely as the knaves who carried prices on their heads, when men like William Penn asked for and received share of stolen booty.

An anthology of Kidd ballads and poetry is included. Skulduggery and swashbuckling deeds are told with a wholly pleasing lift and vigor that have enabled them to survive the singing societies, camp meetings, concert halls, and minstrels to the present day.

CAME A CAVALIER by Frances Parkington Keyes. Messner, 1947.

Came a Cavalier is the story of Constance Galt, a beautiful girl who has great qualities of loyalty and loving-kindness, but whose outlook has been limited by a legacy of poverty and intolerance, and whose faith in mankind has been shattered by an unhappy love affair. Service in France, as a "searcher" for the American Red Cross, at the end of World War I, broadens her horizon immeasurably, and a young and extremely engaging doctor, Duncan Craig, brings a new element of romance into her life. But it is with the coming of a cavalier—Tristan de Fredmond, a French cavalry officer of irresistible attraction—belonging to the famous Cadre Noir at Saumur—that her existence is completely transformed. The rival claims of these two and the poignant memory of her first wood-

ed Eugene Clayton, at first trouble and confuse Constance; but the

starring ANGELA ANN SANDERS • LANSBURY • DVORAK

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Features Start 1:00 - 3:10 - 5:25 - 7:40 - 9:30

DISNEY CARTOON

1st News

James STEWART Jane WYMAN in Robert Riskin's Magic Town

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most worthy of her love finally wins it and meantime succeeds in restoring her self-confidence and proving her confidence in others.

The happiness of her marriage has a lasting effect upon her character; her days of "searching" end in her years of "finding"; Legris, her quest becomes a conquest; the shy and sensitive girl develops into a self-reliant and noble woman. When the Second World War brings with it the destruction of almost everyone and everything she holds dear, her own steadfastness and courage enable her to assure the continuance of a family and the survival of a home, both of which would have perished but for her.

Reading studies indicate that a seventh grade child should read about 230 words a minute, a high school student about 260 to 300 and a college senior or adult from 300 to 350.

## Campus

Opens 1:00 p.m. 4-1181

ONLY 2 MORE DAYS

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LAST TIME TODAY



LORETTA YOUNG JOSEPH COTTEN • ETHEL BARRYMORE

"The Farmer's Daughter"

CHARLES BICKFORD

ROSE HUNTER • FION POWERS

BOBE SCARBY PRODUCTION

Directed by G. C. Pyle. Screenplay by John Ford and Loretta Young.

TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY - THURSDAY

"LADY IN THE LAKE"

With ROBERT MONTGOMERY

With ROBERT MONTGOMERY