

# Battalion EDITORIALS

Page 2 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1947

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

## How Many More Must Die? . . .

How many more people will die under train wheels before the railroad companies, College Station, and Bryan see the need of adequate warning systems at our road crossings? Two deaths in the last six months, needlessly and without possible excuse, should produce action, and soon.

If there were flashing or swinging red lights, ringing bells, or even partial visibility, then the fault could lie with the motorist or pedestrian. But there are far too few bells, fewer warning lights, and visibility "zero" at altogether too many crossings for it to be safe for the most careful motorist!

True, the engineer blows the whistle at each crossing (they are required by law to do that), but with the noises that automobiles have — such as radios, knocks and squeaks — how can the whistle be heard? Whistles worked nicely in the horse and buggy days when they scared the daylight out of the horses. But those times and practices are past.

Persons who value their lives are careful as they approach a crossing, but they should have at least a fifty-fifty chance to run the gauntlet. The money paid out in one damage suit to next-of-kin would probably cover the entire cost of installing safety bells and warning lights.

The Battalion has made a survey of the crossings in College Station and Bryan. We present the list of warning media existing at each crossing and the additional warning facilities needed in order to make these crossings safe. Copies of this issue with a red border around this article will be sent to the Mayors of College Station and Bryan, the Bryan newspapers, and to the branch offices of the railroad companies.

If the cities feel that they are under no obligation, then surely the companies will see their duty. No excuse can be offered for the first two deaths, nor can they offer an excuse if someone else loses his life.

### COLLEGE STATION DEPOT CROSSING

On the east side going west, there is one non-illuminated cross-sign. No bell, no warning light. The Missouri Pacific depot allows only 150 yards' visibility to the south. Clear visibility to the north.

Obstructed view of Southern Pacific track from east looking south. Shrubbery prevents a view of more than fifty yards to the north. No signs whatsoever.

A dangerous loading platform at each depot with no more than a five-foot walk for people to stand while waiting to board the train.

From in front of creamery, there is a non-illuminated cross sign on left beside the SP track. Fairly clear view north, but not over 100 yards visibility to south because of SP depot and this is less in the summer when shrubbery is leaved out.

MOPAC track obstructed to north by shrubbery. No bell or warning light.

Recommendation: A ringing bell and a flashing or swinging red light, and, if necessary, removal of the shrubbery. Warning systems should be on the east side of MOPAC and west side of SP track. If these two railroads care to handle the passengers for College Station, they should provide ample loading space.

### SULPHUR SPRING ROAD

Since the MOPAC is on a rise, visibility is good in both directions going west, but this track prevents a view of SP railroad until motorist is upon MOPAC track.

Excellent visibility of both tracks going east.

Recommendation: There should be a swinging light on each side of the tracks since there is considerable traffic on this road.

Let it be understood that the recommendations on these first two crossings are purely temporary measures. Nothing short of an

elevated system of tracks, an elevated platform and a union station, such as the Architect suggest in The 1947 Longhorn would remove the danger entirely. With such a system, it would be simple to have underpasses at the College Station crossing and on the Sulphur Springs road.

### FEEDING AND BREEDING FARM CROSSING

Going West, an embankment prevents a view of MOPAC to north of more than 250 yards. SP reasonably clear.

SP line clear going east from farm. MOPAC line obstructed so train cannot be seen more than 300 yards to north.

### Recommendation

Since embankment cannot be removed, this crossing needs at least a swinging or flashing red light on the west side of SP line and one on the east side of MOPAC lines.

### FIN FEATHER CLUB CROSSING OF MOPAC

On MOPAC track going west, there is clear visibility in both directions. Going east, a tin building on the north side of road is flush against the tracks which obstructs view entirely. Tracks to south are clear.

### Recommendation

Since this crossing is used day and night, it should have reflector signs, a ringing bell, and a swinging or flashing red light. Either that or move the tin barn.

### SP LINE ON SOUTH MAIN

It has red lights, bells, and cross signs. No recommendation.

### 28TH & SOUTH BRYAN AND 27TH & SOUTH PARKER CROSSING ON MOPAC

Each of these crossings have a warning bell. Due to the curve of track, these crossings are VERY DANGEROUS.

### Recommendation

That a flashing, but preferably, a swinging red light plus suitable reflector railroad signs be installed.

### EAST 28TH STREET CROSSING ON SP

Has red lights, bell, and signs. No recommendation.

### EAST 25TH & 26TH STREET CROSSING ON SP

They have bells but no flashing lights. Needs a flashing or swinging red light system installed.

### EAST 24TH STREET CROSSING ON SP

Due to Coca Cola Building and the new Varisco Building, it is impossible to see down the railroad track until the front of a car is upon tracks. It has a bell.

### Recommendation

A swinging light should be installed at this crossing. If something isn't done immediately, this crossing will surely take its toll.

### EAST 23RD, 22ND, 21ST, 20TH, AND 19TH STREET CROSSINGS ON SP

Though these streets are not traveled as much as the others, there is a need for a better safety system than just a cross-sign. Either red lights or bells should be installed, especially on the 19th street crossing. Limited visibility at all these crossings.

### CALDWELL CUT-OFF UNDERPASS

This system is fool-proof and would solve the dangerous situations existing at the other crossings.

If the powers-that-be feel that they cannot afford to establish complete safety systems at all these crossings immediately, we recommend that the College Station crossing, the Fin Feather Club crossing, the South Bryan, and South Parker crossing on the MOPAC, and the East 24th crossing on SP be made safe first and NOW!

Will it take more deaths for SAFETY FIRST to become a must or have enough people lost their lives?

AN AD in the Pittsburgh (Pa.) Press, with the item appropriately pictured! "Closest seat, easily installed—\$10.95." Directly above the cut, in the same layout: "Park Free at Sears."

MINUS periods in the abbreviation, A Dunkirk (N. Y.) Observer headline said: "Marshall Bluntly Tells Moscow Us Is Fed Up With Lies."

From the Little Rock (Ark.) Gazette, in a story about a drunken brawl: "Four of the seven persons injured were jailed, none seriously."

Regarding another wedding, the Allentown (Pa.) Call-Chronicle described the gown worn by "Miss A. . . . G. N. . . .", made of honor.

## The Battalion

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## DROPPING THE OTHER BOOT



## On The Screen . . .

### When You're Kissing Murder, It Won't Let Go—The Web

By DAVID SELIGMAN

THE WEB (Queen, FS). A suspenseful, fast-paced crime story that fairly snaps and sparkles with hardboiled dialogue, torrid romance and spooky intrigue. "The Web" stands above most all other attempts at this type of film.

The script although written for sardonic presentation leaves spaces for several well-placed laughs. Starred in the picture are Ella Raines, Edmond O'Brien, and William Bendix, all of whom have ex-

perienced successes in these types of roles.

★ ONE MORE TOMORROW (Campus, FS). This movie is top-heavy with stars but is short in everything else except subtle sex-appeal. Respectively slinking and striding through the film are Alexis Smith and Ann Sheridan, each in her own fashion.

Some comedy is produced by Dennis Morgan and his "houseboy" Jack Carson, but listen to the background music instead—it's better.

The story runs something like this: Dennis is married to Alexis and she is in love with Ann. Alexis won't give up the sinking ship until after persuasion from Miss Sheridan.

## Letters

### TALE OF A SHIRT—IV

Editor, The Battalion: I'm sure the laundry is doing a commendable job toward getting our clothes back to us in an appreciable length of time, but if holding them a few days longer will enable the laundry to improve the quality of their work, I'm in favor of it.

With the problem of making our \$65 or \$90-plus stretch over a period of one month, it is necessary that we get maximum wear out of our clothes.

We are all aware of the extremely high prices of even ordinary wash clothes.

The question arises in our minds, "Can we afford to continue sending our clothes to the college laundry where they are receiving such treatment that they are not fit to wear after a few washings?" or "Would it be more economical to have them done outside the college sphere and wait several weeks to get them back, only to find that the quality in work is still much to be desired?" It looks like we are stumped either way we turn.

I do not take chemistry; otherwise, I might attribute those holes in my trousers to my own carelessness in the lab. I maintain that the holes appearing in our shirts and khaki trousers are not the results of ordinary wear in washing, but are the results of a too liberal use of caustic soaps and strong alkaline compounds at the laundry.

Such a condition, with the prices of clothes the way they are, warrants an investigation and immediate correction.

Sincerely,  
PRESTON R. CONNALLY

(Ed. Note: J. H. Kingcaid, manager of the college laundry, yesterday refused to comment on the flurry of complaints printed in past issues of The Battalion.

Kingcaid said that the laundry is now working at over-capacity, with the employees handling between 7,000 and 8,000 bundles each week. In this lot are some 40,000 shirts alone.

Kingcaid said that he uses the same type soap which was used at the Baker Hotel laundry when he was manager there. He uses no caustic solution at the college laundry.

The complaint department is handled by girls who check each bundle twice, he explained. If anything is missing, the bundle is held for two days before being sent to the substitution for delivery.

If a student loses an article of clothing, he may claim same or receive payment at the laundry office. A limit of \$3 is set on repayment for shirts lost or damaged.

The unironed look is caused by the system in effect at laundry substations.

He believes it is impossible for clothes to be worn by equipment in use now. He thinks that the laundry has made much improvement since he came here one year ago.

He has managed laundries for 29 years and considers this laundry one of the best under present conditions.

Kingcaid invites students to tour the laundry and test any cleaning solution if they so desire.)

### GREEK ARMY CAPTURES 100 GUERRILLAS

ATHENS, Dec. 17.—(AP)—Northern Greek army headquarters at Volos yesterday said more than 100 Guerrillas were captured as they came from Mount Grammos on the Albanian border. Another guerrilla band, 100 strong, attacked a village west of Argos, killing 17 civilians.

## Trampling Out the Vintage . . .

### Here's One "Sure Thing" Horse That Not Only Didn't Win - But Failed to Finish

If ever the followers of the horse-racing genre needed final proof that "tips" don't pay off, they should have gotten it at Bowie race track in Newark, N.J. recently.

An unidentified voice on the phone had a "sure thing" tip on the fifth race, a 25 to 1 shot named Chance Nick.

It turned out to be the worst tip of the year. Chance Nick started slow, and, if anything, got slower as the race progressed. At the first turn, Chance Nick was seventh in the field of eight. On the backstretch, the horse dropped to last.

But the final blow was reserved for the home-stretch.

As Chance Nick made the final turn, she cashed in her hips and fell to the ground—cold dead. The Jockey, unlike those who took the "sure thing," was not hurt.

### THEY CAN'T BOTH BE RIGHT

A marked difference of opinion concerning the merits of college football developed in Georgia over the recent call for "de-emphasis" by Georgia's Alumni President.

Georgia's Alumni President Robert O. Arnold agreed with Beaver and said football had escaped from the schools to such an extent that alumni were unable to secure seats at the games. In reply, Georgia Tech's Alumni President, Joe Westbrook, a member of Tech's 1929 Rose Bowl football team, declared "professionalism" did not exist at Tech and Georgia—the two schools under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents—and said that the calibre of the students playing football today had improved greatly compared with a few years ago.

Said Arnold: "Unless football is de-emphasized, I am afraid we will ruin football and greatly damage our educational institutions. I think football should be given back to the students."

Said Westbrook: "I do not think football is being over-emphasized today. Many good boys have been able to obtain a college education through their ability to play football. Football fans have paid the education of many deserving boys. Tech is turning out engineers; football is a side issue. Unless and until football becomes the major concern over engineering, football is not being over-emphasized at Tech."

### "R.H.I.P."

A reporter called the United State mint recently in Washington to ask if it is still illegal to hold gold coins. "It certainly is," an official replied.

The reporter explained that a robbery had just occurred in Washington and a reporter called the United States mint to find out.

"Did the householder have the right to have

that?" he asked. "Not unless he was a coin collector," said the official. "Say who was robbed?"

"Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug," was the reply.

There was a moment's silence. Then—"Oh well, it's all right to have a coin or two for souvenirs," the official said.

The reporter thanked him and hung up.

### HELL LISTEN AND LIKE IT

Apparently, Mrs. William M. O'Brien of Washington, D.C. will go to any length to insure being heard by her husband.

A divorce suit filed by O'Brien states Mrs. O'Brien took away his artificial leg to keep him from walking out on her while she scolded him at great length. His action in district court charges cruelty.

Mrs. O'Brien has denied the charges.

### THE HANDS OF FATE

For 60 years, Francesca Mary Rose spent every November 20 in retirement because that day in 1887, her fiance was killed in a train accident.

This year, she wanted to see the royal wedding celebrations in her home town in South Africa, and went out. Five minutes later, she was killed in a motor accident. She was 81 years old.

### YOU CAN'T WIN, MAC

Louis Dascenzo decided today that regardless of whether the man or the wife wins an argument, it's the man who pays the bill in the end.

Dascenzo agreed to provide the money for the with assault and testified in police court she hit him with a shoe, dumped him out of bed, shoved him downstairs, and forced him to spend the night in the car.

Magistrate John B. Neviser fined Mrs. Dascenzo \$100, to be paid in weekly installments of \$2. Dascenzo agreed to provide the money for the fine out of his wife's household money.

### WHY WRITERS GET GRAY

Once, through his novels was appearing in serial form in a popular magazine, English author William Thackeray was summoned to the editor's office.

"Our readers like your novel a great deal," said the editor, "but they are becoming impatient waiting for the hero to marry the heroine. When do you plan to have the wedding take place?"

"They aren't going to be married," said Thackeray vehemently. "That would be inartistic."

"Perhaps so," said the editor, "but our readers insist that they be married, and," he added pointedly, "so do I."

Thackeray, in no financial position to argue, agreed reluctantly to make the change.

"I'll marry them in the next installment," he said, "but give you my word they are going to be miserable together."

## QUEEN GUION HALL

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