

Battalion EDITORIALS

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

Behind the Silken Curtain . . .

The recent trouble General of the Armies Douglas MacArthur has had with journalists in the Far East should cause some of the more astute Republican "kingmakers" to pause in their tracks and look around. Although the colorful General asserts he "loves publicity," recent actions taken by members of his command do not appear to bear him out. Indeed, one can hardly picture a presidential candidate sanctioning certain of those actions.

One incident which occurred just recently has had repercussions in the press. Compton Pakenham, chief of Newsweek's Tokyo bureau, was not allowed to return to his post after visiting the United States. Newsweek, in defending Pakenham, called the refusal a very grave infringement of the rights of the press. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch comments that it "would be most discouraging to find that this man, who has been preaching democracy to the Japanese, has stooped to petty persecution in an effort to silence those who do not write just as he wants them to write."

In reply to Senator Knowland (R-Calif.), who inserted Newsweek's protest in the Congressional Record, the general said that "I doubt that the Allied press enjoys anywhere in the world greater freedom in the gathering and dissemination of news than it does in Tokyo."

But some journalists do doubt just that. And why not? According to the Associated Press, military officials have told correspondents that they have no more status in Japan than "a man selling a shirt," and that

Moscow, Where's Bob Hop? . . .

The propaganda war is probing harder than ever. Late last month, the United States released a series of documents, said to be seized from Nazi files, proving that the Russians were palsy-walsy with the Nazis until Hitler unexpectedly turned on them. Now the Russians have come forth with alleged documents showing that the United States financed Hitler as a foe of the Russians. These documents, also, are said to have come from secret German files.

Add to these two imposing propaganda documents the "Proctocol M" papers which the English said they intercepted as they were being passed around to Russian satellites, and you have quite a handful of "secret papers." Almost enough for another Bob Hope spy-movie.

The U. S. documents were published with the sanction of Secretary of State Marshall and said in part that Germany and Russia agreed to divide Poland between them and to attempt to keep the U. S. and Britain out of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Moscow says its documents were also captured during the smash-up of Hitlerite Germany. They make several charges. First,

their "privileges" could be taken away from them at any time, and adds parenthetically, by General MacArthur.

Those "privileges" consist of permission to purchase articles and food at Army Post Exchanges and commissaries, obtain transportation for limited payment, and live in houses commandeered from the Japanese and renovated at Japanese government expense. For such houses, correspondents pay a rental in US dollars to the US Army. Payments average \$100 a month.

But the gloomier side of the picture shows that files are kept on all foreigners, including correspondents. The Counter-Intelligence Corps maintains a record of "reliability" on newspaper and magazine reporters, and these records are graded. Too, correspondents' homes have been broken into without warrants.

It may be granted that journalists reporting from behind the "Silken Curtain" are convinced of their side of the story. Nevertheless, the pile of complaints that have reached the desks of Army and Senate officials rate an investigation.

We may be sure of one thing—should some bold Republican caucus decide to place MacArthur's name before that party's convention in June, the press would feel right in playing down eulogies offered on the floor of that gathering. If he were nominated, he might face an extremely hostile press—and a hostility of a type different from that which fired editorial broadsides at the late President Roosevelt in 1936, 1940, and 1944.

a "golden rain of American dollars fertilized heavy industry for Hitler Germany and in particular her war industry."

"It was the billions of American dollars invested by overseas monopolies in the war economy of Hitler Germany that re-established Germany's war potential and placed into the hand of the Hitler regime the weapons it needed for aggression."

Also, the Soviets assert, in 1934 Britain and France maneuvered a non-aggression pact between Germany and Poland which was instrumental "in the preparation of German aggression." They include this chain of thought with the observation that American financial aid to a beaten Germany after World War I enabled the former reich to quickly re-establish a powerful war industry.

Moscow summed up the release with the conclusion that the American statement "does not correspond to fact," and that Washington is concealing some information while over-emphasizing other facts to distort the true picture.

We publish these statements to forestall the next Kremlin release. They can't say we don't have freedom of the press.

Eisenhower's Farewell . . .

On Saturday of last week General Dwight D. Eisenhower retired as Army Chief of Staff.

Although he served in this capacity during one of our nation's greatest periods of stress, few words of criticism have ever been heard against him. This is perhaps the greatest indication of the diplomacy, tact and skill which he displayed in all his contacts with the armed forces and the public.

Going from a high military post to the position of a potential presidential candidate, he was exposed to the worlds two greatest faultfinders, the American soldier and politician. His farewell message to the troops he commanded is typical of Eisenhower's ability to say the right thing at the proper time.

While the message may not rival Washington's farewell to his men, it is a compelling statement by an officer whom the Army and the American public will find it hard to replace. The text is as follows.

To the American soldier:

"Departure from my present post breaks many ties that are dear to me. But the separation is not complete. I take with me the knowledge that, both by law and in my own heart, my service with you shall not end as long as I live. Assurance of such fellowship

is my most prized possession, for no man can have a more worthy comrade and loyal friend than the American soldier.

For 37 years I have been privileged to serve with men who manifested, in their performance of every duty, the stout hearts of Americans and the spirit of our nation. Pride of service, loyalty to the flag, love of country strengthened them beyond the common strength given to men.

Whatever their rank or army, they were before all else soldiers, heirs to generations of soldierly tradition, distinguished for soldierly virtue. What they have done to preserve their country from its enemies and to free their world from evil tyrannies is written large in human history. My words add nothing to their fame. But I cannot let this day pass without telling them, the fighting men of ground and air—those who have left the ranks and you who still wear the uniform—that my fondest boast shall always be: "I was their fellow soldier."

But the one that really caught our eye was a little number called "Moon Mist." It was a period gown, whose white ermine bodice was topped by a billowing black taffeta skirt (pardon, while we drool).
—San Diego Union

The Battalion

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Market Slump Expected to Be Felt in Retail by Week-end

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—(AP)—Prices fell like ten pins today on Commodity and Securities Markets. The break was sharper in many respects than any last week and was more widespread. Cotton and several other commodities joined grains in crashing.

Stocks tumbled \$1 to \$5 a share. Many closed at the lows of the day. The Associated Press index of 60 stocks was down to a new low since last June.

Cotton and grain, both down their daily limits, led the break. Cotton fell the daily limit of \$10 a bale for the first time in more than a year.

Consumers, hopeful of meat bargains resulting from a sharp drop in livestock prices, were warned yesterday by economists not to be too optimistic.

Bacon, ham and steak were tagged a little lower in many stores and retail prices on flour, lard, sugar and bread also were down in some shops. But the entire movement was on a relatively small scale. Some chain stores began cutting retail prices yesterday when livestock nose-dived as the grain market rallied and got back on its feet after last week's break.

Hog prices fell to a top of \$22.25 a hundred pounds, the lowest since January 6, 1947. Cattle skidded as much as \$3 dollars a hundred pounds and lamb dropped as much as \$1.

While the livestock market was sliding sharply downward the grain market was pushing ahead. All grains contributed to the strong comeback, the price of corn, which was the worst actor of the three during last week's price fall, was up the limit of eight cents a bushel in a trading day.

There was a general feeling that the consumer should not expect too much, too soon. A spokesman for the National Retail Meat Dealers Association said at Chicago that the break in livestock prices would show up on the retail level "by the end of this week."

In Champaign, Ill., the president of the American Farm Bureau Federation urged farmers to shape their futures "by acting like farm prices were coming down still further."

Many independent dealers withheld both action and comment on the price situation.

ARAB WARNS U. N. PALESTINE GROUP
CAIRO, EGYPT, Feb. 11.—(AP)—Jamal El-Kendi, deputy chairman of the Palestine higher executive, said yesterday Arab suicide squads are training in Palestine "for attacking the United Nations Commission when it comes to the Holy Land."

Motor Fleet School To Start Feb. 23

Sixty percent of the available 50 roster openings have already been filled for the fourth annual Motor Vehicle Fleet Supervisor's short course to be held at A. & M. February 23-27. Russell FitzPatrick, course director, revealed today.

A limit of 50 enrollees has been placed on the class with enrollment limited to one man for each transportation company sending a representative. Sponsored by the Texas Motor Transportation Association, the State Board of Vocational Education and the Texas Safety Association, the course is offered by the newly created Motor Transport Training Division of the A&M Industrial Extension Service.

The course covers all operational phases of the motor vehicle fleet industry and stresses safety through sound operation procedures. Field work on the taxi ramps of Easterwood Field will be given in addition to class room work. FitzPatrick said. Night sessions and homework will be given enrollees in addition to the 40 hours of scheduled work, FitzPatrick concluded.

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Trampling Out the Vintage . . .

Women Back-Seat Drivers? They Pose No Problem to This Enterprising Cab Driver

By LARRY GOODWYN

Taxidriver Calvin S. Powell said certainly he put the woman out of his cab. She wouldn't stop talking.

Powell told Magistrate August A. Kozlovsky in Baltimore he knew it was against the law to refuse to transport a passenger. But this woman wanted to drive his cab, too—from the back seat.

She kept up a steady stream of complaints about the roundabout route he was taking, even though he explained he had to do so because of icy streets.

"It just became too much to stand," Powell said. "So I stopped and let her out of the cab because she was getting on my nerves."

Said the magistrate (who has probably had his share of back-seat driving trouble from the fairer sex): "Case dismissed!"

IS HOUSING THAT SCARCE?

When fire broke out in a gasoline engine used to pump water, Farmer Frank Harris grabbed for the cider barrel nearby.

"I hated to have it (the cider) go to waste," he said, "but I didn't want to lose my house. It (the cider) was really good, too."

He said he used 70 gallons to douse the flames before a fire truck arrived.

HARD ON THE FEET, TOO

A Soviet campaign was launched against rumba and "swing" and Russians were given this new "definition" of American-style dance music.

"An example of militant antirealism of modern bourgeois culture. Its degenerating nature is encouraging to the mentally deranged and drug addicts even in a dance."

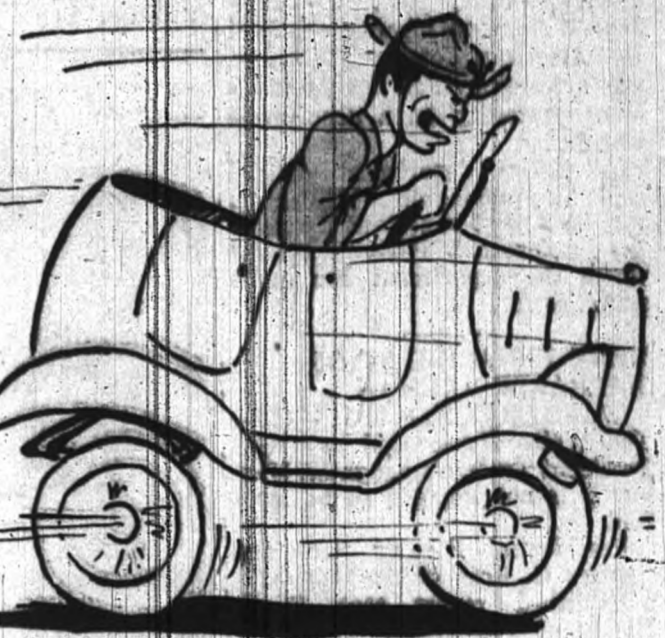
The definition was provided by the Soviet woman choreographer, Galina Shakhovskaya, in the current issue of the popular magazine, "Ozzyok."

HE 'SOAKS' CUSTOMERS—WITH WATER

Oscar Tilden, 52, was fined \$25 in Police Court for selling three gallons of what he termed a "super efficient cleaning fluid" for \$15.50.

The disorderly conduct complaint was brought by two customers who said the bottles contained only water.

Tilden's defense, it was rumored, will be built



around the fact that water "has always been the best cleaning agent. We use it for baths, don't we?" Tilden said reasonably enough.

POET BLUE OF CHICAGO CHOO-CHOO

Gov. Robert Blue, of Iowa, may not know it, but his father was something of a versifier during his career as a railroad engineer.

Historians assembling data for the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad's centennial observance came across this distressing message sent by Engineer Blue to his master mechanic in Winona, Minn., sometime in 1910.

"To A. B. Quinby, Master mechanic, North Iowa Division, Winona—

"A. B. Q.: Engine 62 blue a flue. What shall I do? Signed: D. Blue.

Not to be outdone, Quinby replied: "D. Blue: Plug flue on 62 and come on through. Signed: A. B. Q."

Blasted Out of Former Job

Rumors of Non-Depression Lure Owner of Drive-In Theatre Here

By MACK T. NOLEN

"There's No Business Like Show Business" is more than just a song by a contemporary American composer to Jack Farr, entrepreneur and theatre-owner. It is bread and butter, money in the bank, and new shoes for the babies.

Farr, a newcomer to Bryan, is conducting a project which might revolutionize the theatre business. He has built a drive-in theatre between Bryan and College Station, in a population area where drive-in theatres have not heretofore been built. And he thinks it will succeed.

Farr's father managed a silent-movie house in Karnes City, between San Antonio and Corpus Christi, where Jack was born. But when sound came in, father Farr predicted it was only a passing fad and dropped out of the business rather than spend \$4,000 to convert his equipment to the talking variety. The younger Farr disagreed with his pater and soon had his own theatre in Orange Grove, with sound.

A rumor that the Bryan-College Station area suffered few effects of the Great Depression was one of the factors which persuaded Farr to come here with his drive-in plan. This, in addition to a desire for a drier climate and easier-going attitude, brought the Farr family here from Texas City, where he managed three theatres for the Long

Griffin circuit until the explosion and fire erased his place of employment.

On the day of the explosion of the nitrate ship in Texas City, Farr was at home with the flu, and home was nine blocks from the ship. When the first blast was over, Farr's house looked like the proverbial crushed match-box.

The only insurance he had was storm insurance, and the family survived with nothing to its name but the clothes on its collective backs.

Farr remained in Texas City long enough to rebuild the theatres, then he packed his clan off to Bryan.

A selected contract set-up for his drive-in theatre, named "Skyway" after a naming contest had been held, will enable Farr to show all big pictures, no matter whether first-or-second-run. The admission price will depend on the amount the films cost, Farr said. It will probably be 30 or 35 cents.

While in the navy during the war, Farr observed many improvements in sound systems in New York which have not yet reached down this far. His sound system for the "Skyway," across from Playland on Highway 6 will be one of these improved sets.

The theatre, designed to accommodate 650 automobiles and 250 persons in lawn chairs near the front is scheduled to open about February 15. All sorts of unusual features are being planned—a concessions stand, a children's playground and a bottle-warming service for mothers who bring tots along.

Most drive-in theatres operate only during the summer months, but Farr intends to work on a 365 day year (366 in leap year) and even throw in a Saturday midnight feature for good measure.

In 1940, the average value per enrolled pupil of school property in the United States was \$300, but the range was from \$80 in Tennessee to \$352 in the District of Columbia.

GUION HALL

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QUEEN
—TODAY—
LAST DAY

RANDOLPH SCOTT
—in—
"Albuquerque"