

Battalion EDITORIALS

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

Ross Volunteers Again...

Last night the famed Ross Volunteers re-organized under a new constitution. Prior to the war that body of men comprised the outstanding group of cadets on the campus. To be elected to the Ross Volunteers was the dream of every freshman.

Primarily a social organization, the group nevertheless acted as representatives of the college and the people of the state in official functions. They greeted famous personages to the campus; the Ross Volunteers acted as a guard of honor in the inauguration of many a Texas governor. Their precise movements on the drill field were a sight to behold—perfection was the keynote on every occasion.

Requirements for membership were stiff. Men had to be acceptable both scholastically and militarily. They were elected by their classmates for the honor, and no group ever demanded any more exacting standards of its nominees than did the Ross Volunteers. They were "men" in the eyes of men.

The Ross Volunteers combined the best features of two national military fraternities—Scabbard and Blade and the Pershing Rifles. The former was primarily a social organization, while the Rifles devoted a greater portion of their talents to excelling in drill.

The Battalion welcomes back to the campus a group with such illustrious historical antecedents. There is a place for the

group on the campus; indeed, there is a need for such a body of men. But there are pitfalls which must be avoided if the Ross Volunteers is to be acceptable to the student body as a whole.

First, the matter of dues must not deprive any man of his right to participate in the activities of the Ross Volunteers. Any amount which does that is too high, even if it is only a small sum in the eyes of the majority. The white uniforms are striking, but should any nominee feel that he is financially unable to shoulder that burden, it is too high a price to sacrifice quality of character for quality of material.

Snobbery has no place in an organization of this type. Many good men will not meet the entrance requirements, due either to academic or military work. Perhaps, in some cases, those not making the grade would otherwise have made better Ross Volunteers. Who knows? It is not for that group to decide... past errors have shown the fallacy of such thinking.

In addition to their official, ceremonial, and social obligations, the newly-formed group will have a more serious responsibility—that of upholding the ideals of their namesake. Above all, some concrete program for the betterment of the school should be established in the name of Lawrence Sullivan Ross—"Soldier, Statesman, and Knightly Gentleman!"

Just Supposing...

Suppose at A&M today the power plant was out of commission because it had been bombed a few years ago during the war. Suppose the only food available for Sbsis and Duncan dining halls were whatever could be shipped from Australia, plus a few wild goats that could be found in the Brazos plains. Suppose the Exchange Store were empty of books, Cushing Library had been robbed of volumes by an enemy, and the only "texts" were note-books of previous students. It would be a hard life, wouldn't it? Students in many parts of the world are

living under just such conditions. That is why World Student Service Fund exists. While we are educating ourselves, we can help students the world over eke out an education under almost hopeless circumstances.

Members of the A&M Student Senate will be going through the dormitories next week, asking contributions to the WSSF. Not big contribution. Just a little one, unless you feel like spreading yourself. But think of how you would feel, if A&M were like the universities of Greece or China...

More Bellylaughs Needed...

Mack Sennett, old-time movie producer, said a mouthful the other day. He complains that movies aren't funny anymore.

"I see all the pictures that come out. Many of them are terrible; there's too much murder in the films. Where are the belly laughs that we used to put on the screen? Comedy is becoming a lost art. Why? Because there is no training school for comics." Sennett commented on some of the newer comedians. Red Skelton, he said, is "wonderful." Danny Kaye "amusing." Of Bob Hope: "He throws so many puns at you, you have to laugh at some of them."

Charlie Chaplin, whom Sennett discovered, is "the greatest comedian of all time." But he didn't approve of Chaplin's latest film.

"I told Charlie: 'There are hundreds of actors who can do that sort of stuff as well as you, but no one can match your comedy. Why waste your time?'"

Sennett said he keeps an office in New York and is reissuing his old comedies. "Think of the possibilities in 16 mm and television," he said. He also plans a feature-

length collection of some W. C. Fields and Bing Crosby shorts and others.

Sennett attributes the eclipse of his comedies not to the advent of sound, but to the double feature. The culprit, he declared, was a theatre owner of Providence, R. I., whose customers complained they had nothing to do after the show was out at nine o'clock. So he gave them another picture to keep them happy. The double feature idea spread and finally killed the two-reel comedy, ending a happy and colorful era of movie history.

Though Sennett said nothing about them, the cartoon comedies have taken the place of the older custard-pie epics. We're just as happy about that. The only people who really enjoy revivals of the early pictures are those who can remember when these films were new, and are taken back to childhood for fifteen minutes time.

But as for Sennett's remark that movies aren't funny any more—he's got something there. We wish Bing Crosby and Bob Hope would take to making shorts that could be dropped casually into any and all Guion Hall programs, as cartoons are now.

The Life of Riley...

In Houston, Cuban seaman Luis Rodriguez helped blond Matthilda Kettler, German showgirl, enter the country illegally. Commenting on the case, which has come before the Federal Court, the *Houston Post* related that "Rodriguez said he did not know the girl was aboard (the ship) until she was discovered by a ship's officer and he was confined to a linen closet on a diet of bread and water by the captain for five days." What some people won't do to lose weight!

Describing the new Hudson car, the *Clarksdale (Miss.) Daily Press* reported: "Probably one of the best points about the new car is that it hardly resembles a Hudson except for one section of the grill..."

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 \$4.50 per school year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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Southern Democratic Revolt Spreading Throughout Dixie

RICHMOND, VA., Feb. 27 (AP)—Governor William M. Tuck asked the Virginia General Assembly yesterday to enact legislation which would bar President Truman's name from the next Presidential election ballot.

The proposal, was the governor's answer to the president's civil rights program. Tuck invited similar action by the rest of the South.

Little Rock—Southern opposition to President Truman and his Civil Rights proposals has a new recruit yesterday.

The Arkansas Free Enterprise Association—An organization of cotton planters, business and professional men—announced it would campaign to elect unpledged Democratic presidential electors in Arkansas this year.

Area Executive Director John E. Daggett, Marianna, said the organization's goal, is to enable Arkansas' vote "to be cast for the presidential candidate who recognizes states rights and our traditions."

Washington—Southern congressmen managed to hold up anti-lynching legislation temporarily yesterday.

But they did so on a technicality which probably won't stop it tomorrow.

The bill which would make lynching a federal offense and establish heavy penalties, was approved yesterday by a House judiciary subcommittee.

The embattled lawmakers from Dixie found themselves facing a three-front fight against President Truman's Civil Rights program.

In addition to the anti-lynching bill before the House committee, a Senate judiciary subcommittee is expected to have a similar measure prepared by next week. And the Senate rules committee was reported ready to take up an anti-poll tax bill today.

Jacksonville—A circuit court

Trampling Out the Vintage...

1700 Mile 'Unauthorized Joyride' by Two 'Non-Flying' Sergeants in B-17 Shakes Army

By LARRY GOODWEN

We're not in the habit of going around giving advice to military authorities, but if recent events in distant areas are any indication of what might happen to military equipment around College Station—well, perhaps a double guard might be in order.

It was only two weeks ago that a certain frustrated young T/Sgt. (now Private) Williams decided to relieve the Army of one of its self-proclaimed 155 mm. Howitzers and led some anxious M. P.'s on a merry 12 mile chase through the heart of Lawton, Oklahoma.

Now comes a story from Balboa in the Canal Zone which may well cause some more revisions in guard schedules in the army.

What was "borrowed" this time? A B-17! According to an Associated Press dispatch, two American Sergeants took an "unauthorized joyride" 1,700 miles across some of the roughest terrain in the world—and neither had ever been at the controls before!

M/Sgt. Glen D. Woods of Muncie, Ind., and S/Sgt. Theodore S. Havens, Jr., of Washington, N. J., arrived at U. S. Caribbean Air Command Headquarters Wednesday night from Caracas in Venezuela, where military authorities said they landed the B-17 after a flight across the Andes from Galapagos.

Both said they had observed pilots in flight and it "looked pretty easy."

So, instead of servicing Galapagos' one plane for a possible mercy flight at daybreak Monday, the two Sergeants said they set off for greener pastures.

Woods said he handled the controls the whole way—just did everything he had seen pilots do. Up to 15,000 and 20,000 feet they took the bomber, headed for Waller Field on the island of Trinidad. Woods said he had planned to set down the plane and say: "Well, here we are." It didn't quite work out that way. With only 500 gallons of gasoline left, Woods sat down at Caracas.

Officers of the Caribbean Command said they were astounded that two untrained men could fly the four-engine plane over the Andes, but it didn't seem hard to Woods and Havens, Woods said he even made most of the flight on instruments because of thick weather.

Woods said he had a little trouble getting the big plane to land properly. He had to try four times before he got the air-speed down to a safe margin. Then he made a good landing.

Thursday, Woods and Havens arrived in Balboa and took up residence in the guardhouse where Army officers scratched their heads over the whole incident.

Did we hear somebody say something about doubling the guard? UNDERSTATEMENT

While we're on the subject of airplanes, we might as well pass along this yarn that occurred in Meridian, Texas.

Col. Alan D. Clark, flight commander of a group of twenty B-29's enroute to the west coast, calmly related how one of the planes crashed in flames late Wednesday night.

Col. Clark answered the phone in the sheriff's office in Meridian around 3 a.m. and confirmed it had crashed in flames.

"It happened about 11:30 p.m.," he told a reporter. "The planes were flying at 10,000 feet on instruments through a heavy rain and fog."

"Was the plane burning?" he was asked. "Yes, it was on fire."

"Did you see it fall?" "You couldn't see very much."

"Did anybody bail out?" "Yes."

"Are you sure?" "We know they did."

The reason he knew: Air Force authorities revealed later that Col. Clark himself bailed out of the plane.

JUVENILE BOOTLEGGERS

Oklahoma City police Thursday were hot on the case of two young girls—nine and eleven—who were telephone stogers for an Oklahoma City bootlegger.

Oklahoma still has prohibition and the local rum-runners use photos to take orders for home delivery.

The law found but about it when police went to a house to check complaints that the girls' grown-up sister was abusing her baby.

Juvenile Officers R. M. Goff and T. T. Hutchinson said the tykes could rattle off bootlegger prices of popular brands and had been trained to jot down customers' addresses.

"You see," explained the elder sister, "Mother isn't home much."

The officers want to meet her.

Stark Leaves On Tour of College Union Buildings

J. Wayne Stark, director of the Student Memorial Center, left this morning by train to the University of Wisconsin and other northern colleges to observe operation of their student union buildings.

Stark said that the University of Wisconsin was selected as a model because it is considered to have one of the most up-to-date and successfully operated union buildings in the country. The Wisconsin student center was built before the

war at a cost of \$2,500,000. After spending 10 days at Madison, Wisconsin, Stark plans to visit Purdue, the University of Michigan, and the University of Minnesota to inspect their union buildings.

He will return about March 20. In his absence Bill Hill, present manager of The Cave, will act as general manager of the two campus confectioneries.

U. S., BRITAIN, FRANCE CONDEMN CZECH REDS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (AP)—The United States, Britain and France yesterday jointly condemned as a "disgraced dictatorship" of Communists the new government set up in Czechoslovakia.

TEA DANCE



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Cover Charge 1/2 Price

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, FEB. 28 & 29—2 TO 5 P.M.

PALACE

TODAY THRU SAT.

BURN LANCASTER and ELIZABETH SCOTT in "I WALK ALONE" with WENDEL COBURN and ANN O'BRIEN

SAT. NIGHT PREVIEW

A DRAMA FOR THE AGES!

JOHN FORD and MARIAN C. COOPER present "THE FUGITIVE" starring HENRY FONDA, DOLORES DEL RIO, PEDRO ARMENDARIZ with J. CAROL HALL - LEO CARILLO, WARD BOND - ROBERT ARMSTRONG, JOHN BRADLEY - CHARLES BRADLEY

White Resigns as Director Of Texas Forestry Service

Resignation of W. E. White as director of the Texas Forest Service, effective March 31, 1948, has been accepted, President Gibb Gilchrist announced today. In his letter of resignation, Director White stated that illness of his mother necessitated his spending the next year in Florida, and that later he planned to do consulting forestry work in Texas or some other Southern state.

"We regret very much the circumstances which compel Mr. White to take this action," President Gilchrist said in accepting the resignation.

White became the third state forester to direct the A&M College Texas Forest Service, when he succeeded E. O. Sietke in October, 1942. During his six years as director, the Forest Service has expanded its Indian Mound tree nursery at Alto from a yearly crop of one million seedlings in 1942 to 18 million this past season. Another 100 acres have been leased as an addition to State Forest No. 1 at Kirbyville, and many advancements have been made in forest fire fighting methods, including an aerial patrol system, which has served as a model for other states.

A native of Illinois, White received his Bachelor of Science degree from the A&M College of Michigan (now Michigan State). He served as a Forest Assistant for the U. S. Forest Service in Oregon, saw service in France during World War I as a private and 2nd lieutenant with the 10th Engineers, and was a deputy super-

visor for the U. S. Forest Service in Arkansas before joining the staff of the Texas Forest Service as a Division Patrolman at Lufkin in 1927.

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Shepardson Heads Cattle Research

Charles N. Shepardson, Dean of Agriculture, has been appointed chairman of the Jersey Cattle Breeding Research Committee of the American Jersey Club. Dean Shepardson also serves as president of the club.

Shepardson leaves Sunday to attend a meeting of the board of directors at Columbus, Ohio, where plans for the organization of a formal research program will be discussed.

Dean Shepardson attributes his receiving the chairmanship to his being a member of the board of directors of the club while serving as head of the Dairy Department.

Guion Hall

FRIDAY and SATURDAY February 27-28

IT DARES TO STRIP BARE A WOMAN'S MIND!

G. C. F. presents James Ann MASON TODD in "The Seventh Veil" and THE LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Campus

Open 1:00 p.m. 4-11:51

TODAY - SATURDAY

Brute Force Lancaster De Carlo Cronyn Bickford Blyth LeVone Colby

Friday's Features Begin 1:20 - 3:30 - 5:40 - 7:50 - 10:00

Saturday Features 1:10 - 3:30 - 5:10 - 7:10 - 9:12

CARTOON NEWS

SUNDAY THRU TUESDAY

NELSON EDDY - ILONA MASSEY NORTHWEST OUTPOST A story of rough-riding men... best-selling women! A REPUBLIC PICTURE

Sunday's Features 1:40 - 3:45 - 5:50 - 7:55 - 10:00

I've Always Loved You

The Swordsman

If Winter Comes

Alan Ladd in "SAIGON"

Watch For Them