

# Battalion EDITORIALS

Page 2

MONDAY, JUNE 28, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

## The Delay in College Street Repairs . . .

The poor condition of many of the streets around the college has been the subject of many Battalion editorials. Despite the pleas, little has been done about that condition, so in an effort to find out just why we were slipping, we went down to the construction office to check up on the street situation. Here is what we found.

The plans for repairing and resurfacing many of the streets have already been laid out. However, since the money for any repairs must come from the general college construction fund, the planners decided to wait until the bid for the construction of the Memorial Student Center was accepted. According to the information we received, the size of the accepted bid will determine the amount of money that can be spent on road repairs.

The bid should be received by the mid-

dle of August. When the bid is accepted the construction office will know how much can be spent for street repair. If the bid is low enough it will be possible to resurface the concrete base streets and rebuild the gravel base streets. If the bid is higher than anticipated repair will necessarily be limited to those gravel base streets that are in the worst condition.

That is the street improvement picture as it now stands. We feel that a clear presentation of the facts in a case such as this is far better than allowing the situation to go unexplained.

We appreciate the position in which the construction office is placed. The bid for the Memorial Student Center will be anxiously awaited by all because its size will determine whether we drive or walk to the Center's opening.

## Journalism Comes to A&M . . .

When the fall term opens, A&M will inaugurate its first Department of Journalism. The creation of this department should fulfill a need which has long been felt on the campus.

Formerly our graduates have gone forth into jobs possessing the technical knowledge to perform that job. But, when called upon to explain their work or their findings to the public through trade journals or the newspapers, they were not equipped to do so.

No job is so isolated that at one time or another the man in that job does not have to prepare reports for public consumption.

Businessmen should be taught the rudiments of advertising from the practical angle; engineers should be able to prepare copy for newspapers; agriculturists and county agents should be able to transmit their findings and information to the public in such a way that those findings and that information will be read.

We hope that students preparing themselves for other fields will see the advantages of journalistic training, and, if possible, add the journalism courses which will most benefit them in their line of work, to their curriculum.

## The Brown Bomber Steps Down . . .

Friday night was the end of an era in sporting history—the era of Joe Louis. After Louis' floored Jersey Joe Walcott in the eleventh round, he announced his intention to quit the ring.

His fans are glad he decided to hang up his gloves while he was still top man in the books, for sooner or later someone would have come along and replaced him. It wouldn't have looked right for him to lose after he had stacked up 25 wins in 11 years.

Many men thought they could take the heavyweight crown from Louis, but they all came out of the ring, one way or another, wiser men. The one thing these defeated men had in common was a bound-

less admiration for Joe Louis, not only as a fighter, but as a sportsman. Louis proved time and time again that he was one of the cleanest and fairest men in sports.

Louis has announced his intention to go into politics now that he has quit the ring. Although he has not yet said which party he will work for, if he goes about his politicking in the same manner in which he has gone about his fighting, his influence can do much good in that field.

Many people, negro and white, have devoted their time and efforts to contribute to a better understanding between the people of the two races. In his own way, Joe Louis is, and can continue to be, one of the greatest of these.

## Be Considerate of Other's Privacy . . .

Courtesy is a subject which seldom requires mentioning at A&M College.

However, complaints have been voiced by people recently saying that students are becoming lax in consideration for the other person about the hitch-hiking stands. Some reports say that students walk on the lawns, mill about the houses, and even monopolize lawn chairs on and off the private individual's porch.

Those practices are not in keeping with

the majority of students' opinions nor their actions.

This sweltering heat does cause people to hunt cooler locales, and students are no exceptions. That desire to find a cool place while waiting for a car should not dim one's perspective of common courtesy.

People value their privacy very highly. Don't be caught looking down the back of someone's collar on his property; he won't like it.

Jack Harger, advertising manager of the San Leandro (Calif.) plant of Caterpillar Tractor Co. (and everyone who's ever read the *Saturday Evening Post* knows how resourceful tractor people are) came up with a new gimmick for finding a house. He sent every soul he knew a nickel attached to a card that said: "Here's a nickel to phone us, ASH 89018, if you happen to hear of a two-bedroom house for reasonable rent of lease in or near Berkeley."

FROM the term paper of a journalism student, Temple University, assigned the task of analyzing the *St. Louis (Mo.) Post-Dispatch*:

"One story which I thought bordered on the sensational appeared in the April 1 edition of the paper. It told of the suicide of a local college teacher who drank poison because of her 'disappointment in love.' The story also said she was pregnant, although unmarried, but attributed this fact to the police."

## The Battalion

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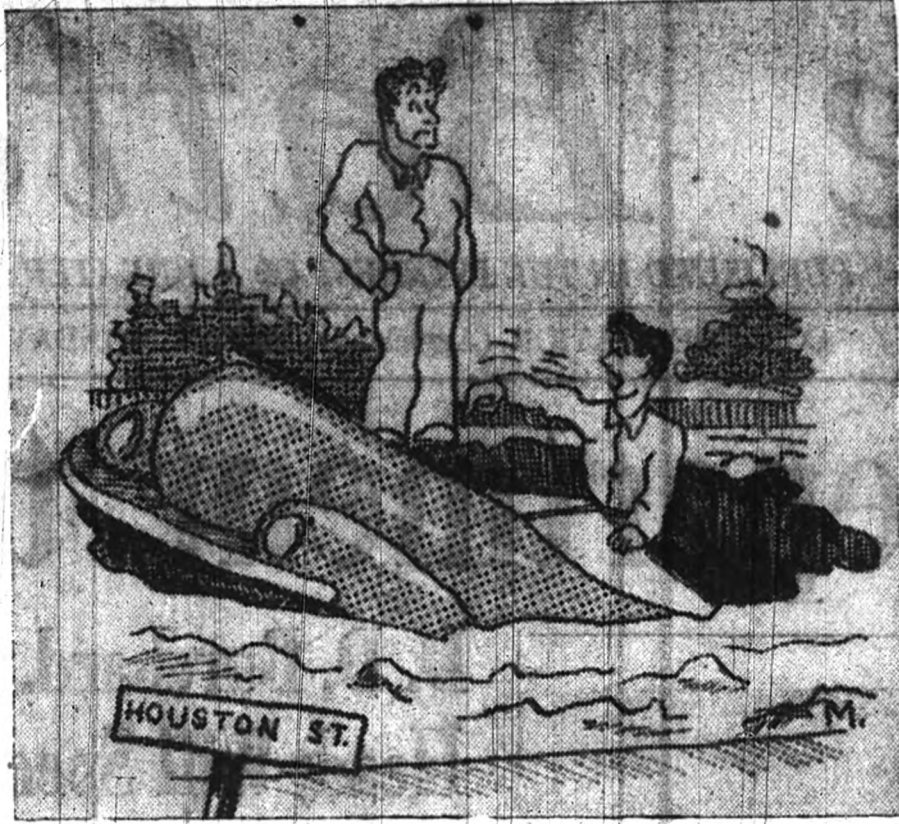
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"Naw, don't bother about me; let's get this guy out of the car beneath mine."

## City of Brotherly Love Jails Ivan; Hotel Bill Goes Unpaid

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (By Carrier Yantis)—Philadelphia is comparatively quiet today. The delegates have gone home. The cigar butts have been swept off the street. But your correspondent is still on the job. I wanted to come home, but the hotel manager insisted that my bill must be paid. I demanded my rights as a Republican, but to no avail. My bail has been set at the impossible sum of 25 dollars. I am not in the habit of soliciting financial aid from my friends, as my roommate will tell you, but these are rather unusual circumstances. Just mail your contributions to: City Jail, Philadelphia, Pa., in care of Ivan Yantis.

I am still receiving telegrams from Governor Dewey expressing his gratitude for what I did for him. It is generally conceded, in the higher Republican circles, that my decision to switch to Dewey on the second ballot in the convention. However, I refuse to take credit for merely doing my duty.

There is some rumor going around that the deed I received to the King Ranch influenced my decision, but whenever people congregate ugly rumors like this usually circulate.

"For my outstanding work in reporting the events that took place at the convention" I am to receive the honorary degree, Doctor of Journalism at New York University. No doubt people will make something out of this too.

I can imagine the disappointed faces that were seen around College Station Friday when my column failed to appear in that issue. It was all due to my incarceration.

I tried to smuggle my typewriter into the cell under my coat, but an observant tower detected it while searching me.

I was able to write this report only after bribing one of the guards into bringing me a pencil and some paper. He did it only after I promised to mention his name in the column. His name was Jack Gray.

Since my return to Brazos County has been delayed this long, I might as well remain in this alien land until after the Democratic Convention. My experience with the Republicans and with my former steed Ambrosia should make me a valuable man to have around. My lungs have become accustomed to the smoke of the hotel rooms, and my training in handling Ambrosia could be useful if the Democratic Donkey got out of control.

During the intervening days between conventions I will probably make a tour of Kentucky and surrounding states in support of my candidate for the Democratic nomination. I will divulge his name in one of my reports to follow.

## GOP Repudiates McCormick

Colonel Robert R. McCormick, publisher of the Chicago Tribune, is a man without a party, for last week his presidential ticket was rejected and his foreign policy repudiated by his Republican colleagues.

A staunch isolationist, McCormick has more than once suffered defeat of his political views. As a matter of fact, politicians around Chicago feel it a good omen if McCormick comes out editorially against them.

In 1936 when the Republicans nominated Alf Landon to run against Roosevelt for the presidency, McCormick supported Arthur Vandenberg for the vice-presidential nomination. Vandenberg, then, was an isolationist, and the apple of McCormick's eye. The Michigan senator declined the invitation and the Colonel's rival, Frank Knox, was nominated.

Since Vandenberg's change of view in foreign matters, the Tribune has let him have both barrels, referring to him as the "Benedict Arnold of the Republican Party."

In the recent political campaign for the Republican nomination, even the most illiterate could tell that Harold Stassen was anything but isolationist. The Minnesotan had made repeated speeches pointing out the United States' place in world leadership, and had endeavored to emphasize the country's international responsibility and duty.

Why, then, should the Chicago publisher support a Taft-Stassen ticket? It is quite obvious that he wanted only to back the winning side. It is equally obvious that the Colonel has no principles. His lust for power, his selfish desire for personal gain made him forget even his deepest convictions.

And his stooge, Governor Dwight Greene of Illinois, resorted to double-talk and meaningless accusations in his keynote address to the convention last week. When he spoke of broken pledges to the people by the Democrats, one would like to remind him of the Centralia mine disaster, and to ask him about his pledges—to his state's coal miners.

Isolationist, internationalist, Republican, Democrat—opportunity whatever he is, Colonel McCormick is a poor example of the American pressman, and especially the American citizen.

## Cotton Tour Group Visits In Washington; Still Traveling

The group was shown the workings of the Loan and Purchase Division, Program Analysis and Market Reports Division and the Standards and Futures Division. In this last division they saw standard grades of cotton being assembled for use in the various cotton markets.

Friday they visited the Bureau of Plant Industry and Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, located at Beltsville, Maryland. They were shown the different experimental plots, greenhouses, and research laboratories under the guidance of Dr. H. W. Bane, head of Division of Cotton and other fiber crops and diseases.

## Trampling Out the Vintage . . .

# Wanta Become a Soda Jerk? Hollywood's the Place to Go

By CHUCK MAISEL

Two Hollywood drug stores have instituted an Amateur Night. On Thursday nights youngsters and adults alike line up by scores and file slowly behind the counter where they are allowed to manipulate ice cream scoops and syrup pumps to their hearts content. When they have finished building their dream sundaes a cashier figures up their bills. One youth happily created—and consumed—a super nightmare including four bananas, 10 scoops of assorted ice cream, and 10 sundry flavors.

Profits are forgotten in exchange for word-of-mouth advertising. Bars in the film city gave the idea some thought but dropped it for fear customers wouldn't be able to spread advertising if given free-rein behind the brass rail.

Out in Westminister, Calif., the local daily recently carried this classified ad: "Wish to trade—bridal gown, hope chest, other accessories for shotgun in good condition. Write Gen. Del. Box 17."

Which calls to mind the ancient adage concerning the methods of killing a cat.

The Texas Prudential Insurance Company has a crisp new \$100,000 check made out but doesn't know who's name to put in the blank payee line. The company officials know they owe the money to someone but they are not sure just who it is. They have asked the district court at Austin to help them out.

It all started this way—Gilbert Wilson of Pittsburg, Texas, took out a policy payable to David Reed his employer or in case of Reed's death to Reed's heirs. However, if Reed died first the beneficiary would become Wilson's heirs.

Then the impossible happened. Wilson and Reed were killed instantly in a plane crash May 2. Both heirs are claiming payment under the policy. The rumor that the

company has ordered a dozen cases of aspirin tablets has not been denied by officials.

The Salvation Army's Bowers boat in New York is going to fight against the devil in kind. In this new age one of Satan's most potent weapons is television sets in bars. Each day thousands go into the taverns merely to look and remain to tipple. Fighting fire-water with fire, the Salvationists are preparing to install television in their own clubs. Next they'll probably be importing chorus girls to keep the unsaved out of night clubs.

As if the Long Island Railroad hasn't come in for more than its share of mud-slinging of late, the line has now been told that trains must become more sedate. The Long Beach, L. I. Chamber of Commerce gave them the word bluntly in a letter to the company.

It wants the railroad to shorten and soften the whistles which signal the start of the trains after each stop. The Chamber believes that the shrill whistling is unnecessarily loud and long, ear-cracking to commuters and residents alike. The railroad—now rather immune to criticism—can't see the cause of all the uproar. Why, what's a little toot between friends?

Pan American Airways are proud of the fact that they persuaded George Bernard Shaw to help for the first time in the writing of an advertisement. In a travel folder Shaw was quoted as saying he was "lost in dreams in Ireland. One cannot work in a place where there is such infinite peace."

Before publishing the folder, the airline called the playwright and asked if he objected. He replied that he most certainly did object to being misquoted. He insisted in rewriting the advertisement saying more in the Shaw manner that "the Irish climate will make the stiffest and slowest mind flexible for life."

## The Order Changeth . . .

# Presidential Shortage at A&M in 1886; Cotton-picking Required in Ag Curricula

By FRANK WELCH

Many institutions and policies fell by the wayside in the ten years that lapsed after the initial founding of A&M. There was so much emphasis being put on the classics here that criticism arose from all parts of the state that the school was not fulfilling the objects of its foundation. It must have been rather disconcerting to Farmer Brown when instead of receiving the hottest poop on the spread of fertilizer from his son, he got the why and wherefore of Caesar's crossing of the Rubicon.

In the official Catalogue of the school published in 1886, a brief history of these years of discontent is given. A&M was under fire from public and press alike, and it was called a "nursery of military aristocracy." Dissension rose higher until the Board of Directors elected a new faculty and Departments of Agriculture and Engineering were established in 1882.

Although the new curriculum in mechanics was "especially successful" most of the students must weren't having any of the agricultural course. The reasons for this are obvious.

The faculty went off the deep end when they included manual labor in the new curriculum. What would you think if you found that instead of studying the technical aspects of farming, you were herded out into the fields and given a lab in cotton-picking? Yes, Cotton-Picking 101 was only part of the drudgery that early ag students underwent. According to the catalogue they also got their share of road-mending.

The college officials were also having trouble hanging onto a president for the institution. No one seemed to like the job. In 1883 the office was abolished and a member of the faculty was appointed to fulfill the necessary duties.

One is led to believe that the college officials attached great importance to the benefits of getting out and using a little elbow grease. Maybe in the early days it was the only way to keep things running. Found scattered through the 1886 Catalogue are such phrases as, "—continual application of principles—in shops, fields, gardens, vineyard, orchard, pastures,—" "By relying upon textbooks as little as possible and leading students to seek information directly from observation—" "By indicating the dignity of intelligent labor—" and "By inducing in the mind of the student an enthusiastic love of nature—" With such principles uppermost in mind, is it no wonder that the school evolved into one of the better type sal-mines???

The prevailing attitude at that time is summed up in a sentence under Methods and Scope of Instruction: "The education here given to young men is not intended to make mere laborers of them in the ordinary sense of the word. A student who graduates here may begin life as a field hand; but it is expected that by virtue of his superior training, he shall be able to speedily find promotion and easily fill the highest position of

honor to which his ability may lead him." Glancing through the yellowed pages, you are constantly kept aware of the fact that they were proud of the school as far back as 1886. Or maybe they were trying to make the best of a bad situation. However, here are some of the "brags."

"The buildings of the College stand upon the crest of a divide, from which there is sufficient slope to carry off all drainage." (Obviously the printers mistake and should read "there is SUFFICIENT DRAINAGE to carry off all slope.")

"The soil is sandy, and mud and water disappear within a few hours after a rain. (That printer again. Should be "The mud is waxy, dry, and soil and sand disappear for two hours after a rain.") There is a constant breeze—usually very strong. (They were proud of the bull sessions in those days.) The water used by students is obtained from cisterns, supplied from high, clean, roofs." (Bryan City Council take note of this ingenious method of acquiring that scarce commodity!)

"There is in the vicinity of the College apparently nothing to produce malarial sickness, and as a matter of fact there is very little of it here."

"The food served in the mess hall is admitted by all (cheer!) to be abundant, palatable and wholesome. It is therefore very desirable that parents should refrain from sending boxes of delicacies to their sons. The practice of eating from these is undoubtedly very injurious to the health of the young men. (Floating out Mom!!) and the surgeon has traced more sickness and consequent

loss of time to this one cause than to any other." The catalogue states in a matter-of-fact manner that "This is College Station not Bryan." By the blunt tone one is led to believe that the feud between the cities had an early origin.

"The situation of the College is peculiarly (delete the -ly and you have something) favorable for the preservation of the morals of students. The nearest town is distant five miles, and it is almost impossible for any student to go to Bryan, even for a short time, without his absence becoming known to the authorities. All the temptations that beset young men in cities are sensibly absent here. (Some things NEVER seem to change!) No student is ever permitted to visit Bryan at night." (The poor kids.)

A&M was considered such a center of moral culture that the officials took steps to preserve this conception. "The reputation of this college for good discipline has caused parents in some instances to apply for admission for boys that had proved unmanageable and thoroughly vicious at other institutions. It is desired that such applications be not in the future presented." (None of that rough stuff please.)

This quotation from Rules and Regulations is submitted as an example of the stagnation of Progress: "A student who shall drink, or bring, or cause to be brought within the Cadet's limits, or have in his room, or otherwise in his possession, any fermented or intoxicating liquor, or fruits or viands (For your information, Webster says this means 'dressed meat') preserved in intoxicating liquor shall be dismissed or otherwise punished."

## ROTC Students Begin Course Of Training At Ft. Belvoir

Colonel C. D. Bridges from MIT who is in charge of the ROTC units gave a short welcome address. He told them that he had reason to believe that Fort Belvoir was the largest ROTC camp in the country.

"The food will be good, and there will be plenty of it," he assured the students. "In the opinion of most of the boys, he was right."

Besides the 33 cadets from A&M, Colonel T. A. Adcock and Major Virgil Williams from the Military Science Department are also in training here. Colonel Adcock is serving as camp executive officer, and Major Williams is camp special service officer. Williams held a dance for the students Friday night.

The six weeks' training will include 240 hours of formal training, 70 hours of branch immaterial subjects such as physical training, drill, parades, and ceremonies; 170 hours of mechanical equipment, mines, obstacles, booby traps, and floating bridge training, and 41 hours training in weapons.