Battalion
EDITORIALS

Page 2 MONDAY, JULY 26, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

The Klan — A Blot On Our National Honor . . .

A national disgrace was unveiled in Georgia Friday night when several thousand robed and hooded "Americans" gathered atop Stone Mountain to attend the initiation of 700 new members of the Ku Klux Klan.

Dr. Samuel Green, "official national head of the Klan in America" declared at the meeting that "blood will again flow in the streets" if President Truman tries to enforce his civil rights program. The chief aim of the Klan, Green stated, is "white supremacy."

There is no place in the United States for such demonstrations of hate. They are a blot on our nation at a time when other nations are looking to us for leadership and example. A gathering attended by almost 10,000 robed and unrobed Klansmen and their sympathizers is nothing to look at and forget. It, and all gatherings like it, are dangerous for they have but one object—to incite "men" to violence against other men. They are as dangerous as any subversive group plotting against the government.

The character of the "men" who attended the Georgia meeting is evident from a remark made by the red-robed "grand titian". who introduced Green. When asked for his name by a reporter the "titian" shot back, "It's none of your damn business."

It is the reporter's business. It is the business of every American. The name of the "titian" and all his fellows should be made public so that the decent people of the country can know them for who they are and for what they are. It is their right to know.

There is no denying the fact that the Klan is on the march again. The very fact that the march has started should be warning enough for the government to step in and stop the whole affair. These meetings are nothing but mob meetings and deserve no better treatment than a mob which echos anger. Although the question of "civil rights" is causing much strife in this country's political houses, all responsible people, regardless of party should band together to demand that the Ku Klux Klan be wiped out as an organization. Its methods are not the methods of a democracy. Its ideals are not the ideals of a free people. Its members are not worthy of freedom.

Offensive Against Inflation . . .

There is an age-old question that every one has heard at one time or another—which came first, the chicken or the egg? Today, that problem has been replaced on the domestic scene by a similar but more important one concerning high prices and wages. The price-wage problem is definitely going to be harder to settle.

A consumer doesn't have to go far to see how high prices have gone. The biggest hike has been in the food group which has shown an increase of 129 percent since 1939. Meats, the item showing the biggest gain in the food group, have gone up 167½ percent since that year. And, while lagging a little behind, other groups of commodities are making "nice" showings for themselves too. Clothing has jumped 79 per cent, household furnishings 94 per cent, fuels 36 per cent and right on down the line.

One of the most important items in the average budget, rent, has been very modest in its upward spiral, having just jumped 12 per cent since 1939. This is due of course, to the government controls which still exist.

While the idea of government control of prices is not a pleasant one to contemplate from the American viewpoint, the threat of inflation which daily grows more pronounced, seems to indicate that it is time for some definite action on the part of Congress. If the end were in sight for the price rise, then it would be better to let competition take care of the situation, but the end is not in sight.

From all indications the demand for the basic products of American industry will remain far ahead of the supply for several years to come. This is due in a large part to government spending and the opening of vast foreign markets. So long as these demands are made upon industry the prices of the products in demand will remain high and in all probability go higher.

Congress is faced with the decision of bringing price controls out of mothballs or letting the cost of living continue to spiral upwards at the threat of inflation. The situation now seems to call for the government controls.

Congress rejected President Truman's ten point program for inflation control last fall. All the points were sound, but some of them have already been taken care of. Others remain, and these should be enacted. They are:

1. Allocation and inventory control of scarce basic commodities.
2. Rationing, on the consumer level, of scarce commodities.
3. Installment buying restraints and creation of inflationary bank credit.
4. Regulation of speculative trading on the grain and produce exchanges.
5. Price ceilings on essential commodities and wage ceilings to the extent necessary to maintain price controls.

These are drastic steps. But, the time has come for drastic steps if our nation is to retain the economic equilibrium so necessary to world leadership. We feel that if these controls are introduced and a determined effort is made to apply them the threat of inflation may be curbed

We do not advocate them for an unlimited time. We do advocate them so long as the present conditions so conducive to inflation exist. If they are not enacted, then Congress is bound to the people of the nation to find another solution.

★ ★ ★

A woman private detective in Chicago said she wished all women would learn that men are going "to step around." She would probably be surprised to learn how many already have.

So many undergraduates are married and have children nowadays, there ought to be some way of reassuring oneself that the B.S., when they finally get it, doesn't mean Baby Sitter.

The Battalion

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Random Thoughts . . .

Downs Gets Early Lead For Constable of Precinct 7

By CARROLL TRAIL

Saturday saw democracy in the working. The learned, informed citizens of our country exercised once again that privilege which makes this country what it is today.

And the inhabitants of College Station were no different from those in other parts of the country. Unless, maybe they were more democratic than their neighbors.

Some voters casting ballots at the polls in the Consolidated school building were not satisfied with the announced candidates, but, instead, they wrote in names for several positions.

Of special significance was the vote someone cast for State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Not content with the unopposed candidate, L. A. Woods, this pillar of democracy wrote in F. B. Clark, candidate for senator and former head of the economics department.

However, no other write-ins occurred, and the race went Woods.

The contest for constable of precinct 7 was much closer and was of much greater political significance.

Since no one had announced for the candidacy, every voter was free to write in his choice. No active campaigning was done, and the voter was able to choose as his conscience dictated.

Men receiving one vote each were W. T. (Bill) Moore, candidate for state senator, C. R. Stone, Lee Norwood, and W. H. Frieberger. C. W. Surber, former campus policeman, received two votes, as did Campus Security Chief Fred Hickman. These men's long records of law-enforcement efficiency were, no doubt, responsible for the votes.

Leading the pack with the astounding total of 3 write-ins was the incomparable P. L. Downs. Downs was constant in his vote-getting all day long. His first vote came early in the morning, his second in the afternoon and his third Saturday night just before the polls closed.

Although the returns were incomplete since those votes at Shiloh Hall had not been tabulated, Constable-elect Downs was confident of victory. "I am the first member of my family to achieve political success," Downs said modestly.

Innocent Yantis Mistaken For Batt Reporter Ivan Yantis

By ART HOWARD

Yantis has returned to A&M! But this is Charlie Yantis, not Ivan, the Batt reporter.

Charlie Yantis, '45, graduated last year and has returned to study for his master's degree in civil engineering. He has almost forgotten the raised eyebrows when he introduced himself by his last name. Almost invariably he was asked, "are you Ivan?"

Charlie talks something like Ivan writes, so his denials did not always convince his questioners. One night an indignant student burst into his room waving the latest Yantis article in the Batt. It took several minutes and witnesses to assure the intruder that he had the wrong man.

Except for his name, Yantis' only claim to fame during his tour of duty at A&M was a large display of various brands of soda pop bottles in his room. Yantis and his roommate saved their bottles for a full year before covering an entire wall, except for windows, in a brown motif.

Almost every student in Milner had heard of the odd decoration, and most of them dropped in to see it. Charlie reports that his handiwork was completely removed last summer.

Unable to find an honorable job after graduation, Yantis accepted a position as an instructor at the University of Maryland, where he taught Surveying and Curves and Earthwork.

One of the minor problems Charlie faced there was the presence of girls in his class. Unable to drop his A&M colloquium at once, Yant's solved the problem by apologizing to the ladies in advance for his expressions, and thereafter gave his usual sermons without repressions.

Not having enough to keep him busy, Yantis answered a request for a night school instructor at Columbia Tech, Washington, D. C. He was reluctant to take the job when he found out that it was in the department of architecture, but accepted when assured that he would have to teach only building design, a typical C. E. subject

Charlie, who calls Stephenville, Texas his home, soon grew tired of the climate in Maryland and returned to A&M. On his way back he traded his Plymouth and most of his year's salary for a new Nash.

When asked, "What don't you like about A&M?" Charlie replied, "the lack of wimmen and the overabundance of ticket-givers."

Charlie now shares his room in Hart Hall with another ex-Aggie and graduate student, Willie Zapalac. Yantis hopes that after this article he will no longer be confused with the infamous Ivan Yantis.

Gas Appliances Course Scheduled Here August 2

The L. P. Gas Appliances Short Course, sponsored by the Industrial Extension Service, will be held on the A&M Campus from 9 a. m., August 2nd, to 5 p. m. August 6th.

Registration will be held in Sbisa Lounge from 8 a. m. to 11 a. m., Monday, August 2nd. The registration fee, which includes a ticket to the dinner, will be $12.50 per person.

Rooms may be secured in college accommodations at the time of registration. There will be a charge of $1.00 per night for rooms. Those arriving on Sunday, August 1st., may secure a dormitory room by going to the Aggieland Inn and signing for a key.

Meals may be obtained at the Aggieland Inn or the cafeteria of Sbisa Mess Hall.

There will be a dinner at 7 p. m., on Thursday, August 5th, at Sbisa Mess Hall.

AMERICAN AIRLINES STARTS FAMILY PLAN

DALLAS, July 26 —(AP)—American Airlines Saturday announced plans for a "family fare plan" to make air travel less expensive for wives and children on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday—the days when air travel traditionally falls off.

Rent Officer Says Vet Preference In Home Sales Is Law

Veterans preference in the sale of new single-family residences is still required by Federal law under the Housing and Rent Act of 1948 and must be observed by all offering such property, according to Gordon L. Benningfield, Area Rent Director.

Renting of housing accommodations, except for transient occupancy, is also still subject to veterans preference where such accommodations are in structures completed on or after June 30, 1947.

"Basically, the law requires that such new housing accommodations must be offered for sale or rent exclusively to veterans for 30 days after completion before they can be offered to anyone else," Mr. Benningfield said. "Some builders and contractors are apparently unaware of these requirements, since we have had some questions and complaints about them."

If the price is changed, on either sale or rental, veterans preference at the new price must be shown for seven days just as it was at the original price for 30 days, Mr. Benningfield says.

Indicating that some violations of the law had been noted in this area, Mr. Benningfield says that an increased staff of investigators has been authorized by Congress and that complaints will receive prompt attention.

Philip W. Yeager, Special Assistant in Charge of Veterans Affairs to the U. S. Attorney General, and Brian S. Odem, U. S. Attorney for the Southern Texas Federal District say that their offices will act immediately on any case of veterans preference that is referred to them.

Anyone who has a complaint or who needs information on this program is invited to write or call the Bryan Area Rent Office, Second Floor, Howell Building, Benningfield said.

KARNES CITY COOP GETS FEDERAL LOAN

WASHINGTON, July 26 —(AP)— The Rural Electrification Administration announced Saturday it has approved a loan of $450,000 to the Karnes Electric Cooperative, Karnes City, Texas, $450,000.

Trampling Out the Vintage . . .

Kissproof Lips Now Availab'e For Nominal Fee of Only $7C0

By FRANK CUSHING

The customary cuspidors, considered as standard equipment in all tatoo shops, are now being replaced by cunningly arranged potplants. The dirty windows that once predominated are being washed, and lace curtains are being tastefully arranged. All these innovations are being installed to attract the eye of the new clients of tatoo parlors—women.

The fashion conscious women are finding concrete advantages from submitting to the skin-artist's needle. However, all men may breath easier for the art applied will not be upon the traditional pattern.

Girls, in the know, are turning increasingly to tatooing for eyebrows, lips, and even eyes. They are finding that it will forever end the problem of smearing their lipstick or having a crooked eyebrow due to a slip of the pencil.

Science is certainly a wonderful thing. For a slight fee—about seven hundred dollars—any woman may fulfill her secret desire to be a green-eyed redhead with really kissproof lips.

★

A new cereal has been put on the market to aid those people who have trouble awakening in the mornings. The sale of the product, at least from the sound of it, will have to be rastricted to only perfect physical specimens. It wouldn't do to have a puny individual messing around with it.

The product is named "Zoomies," and it is advertised as an atomic breakfast food providing the meal with a bang. The real selling point of the food is that it is reputed to "explode in your stomach." (Not mine thank you.)

The producers are surprisingly silent on the point, but it would seem to me that "Zoomies" offers a solution to the problem of the spoiled child. All the parents would have to do is to carry the cereal into Junior, fasten on steel helmets for precaution, stand back, and await developments.

★

Birmingham, Alabama is having difficulty in keeping up with the orders filed there for Confederate flags. The recent State's Rights Convention is credited for the demand. Flag dealers were surprised to find that many of the orders came from other places than the Solid South. It would seem quite obvious that Jeff's colors aren't needed nearly as much around here as in "Damyankee" land; almost everyone has one or two laying around from the recent conflict.

★

The English Department should at least take heart from the letter received by a manufacturing concern in Chicago recently. If nothing else, the letter should make the professors realize that things could be worse.

The letter read, "Please give me the strength of your Koroseal clothes-line. I know it will hold all the clothes one hangs on the line but is it strong enough to hold my wife if I was to lower her from the window in case of fire; we live on the third floor. I wouldn't want to drop her, although she isn't much good; however, she happens to be the only one I have."

Shepardson to Inspect Model Farm Projects in Honduras

By FRANK AYRES

C. N. Shepardson, dean of the Agriculture School, will leave July 30 for New Orleans where he will board the S.S. San Jose for Cortes, Honduras.

Dean Shepardson will be one of an eleven man party that is to visit United States Agricultural Projects in Honduras. The rest of the party will be made up of one man from each of ten other states.

Three days will be spent inspecting the plantation of United Fruit Company in Honduras.

The party will then visit the experimental gardens at Lancetilla, the large abaca plantation (source of hemp) and decorticating plant operated for the US Government, and the new plantings of palm oil, rubber, oils and various hardwoods.

They will see banana farms which have been created by draining the deltas and swamplands of the Ulua and Chamelecon Rivers systems of overhead irrigation and fungicide spray, projects for pump drainage, flood fallowing of diseased lands, and water storage for irrigation. A model farm for improving the livestock of the region will be inspected.

On August 6, the party will fly to Tegucigalpa, then motor to Zamorano where they will visit Escuela Agricola Pan-Americana. Here they will see what is being done to teach general agriculture to native boys of Spanish speaking countries of Middle America.

The party will fly to Guatemala City on August 7, and there have the option of visiting another banana division at Tiquisate on the south coast or of traveling in the highlands and visiting Lake Atitlan and Antigua where they will see native methods of cultivating corn, coffee and other crops.

From Guatemala City they will fly back to Cortes and sail from there on the S.S. San Jose, arriving in New Orleans August 15.

Dean Shepardson expects to return to College Station on August 16.

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