

Battalion EDITORIALS

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FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

What Constitutes An Emergency?

It is extremely difficult to measure the value of a human life, but occasionally it becomes necessary. The cities of College Station and Bryan have sacrificed their human resources too cheaply.

Deliberately or through a negligent survey of the risk, they have placed a mean value on the lives of their citizenry; they have gambled and they have lost.

No community can afford to gamble with the lives of their people without just cause. Three people have been fatally injured at railroad crossings in Bryan and College Station within the last year. Each of these could have been saved, each should have been saved.

Safety devices capable of preventing

these accidents have been available for a long time. They have not been provided. This negligence is inexcusable.

On December 17, 1947 the Battalion made a careful survey of the potential dangers at each of the railroad crossings in our communities. Specific recommendations were made to remedy and partially correct the dangers.

Copies of this survey were sent to the mayors of College Station and Bryan, to the Bryan newspapers, and to the railroad companies involved. The recommendations were circled with a red pencil. A red pencil was not effective—they should have been circled with blood.

The Water Shortage And You . . .

Evidently some people think more of their grass than they do of their neighbors.

The water supply of Bryan and College Station is critically low. Losses of stored water during daylight hours are not being offset by gains at night. Excess lawn watering has lowered our water potential dangerously. Even drinking water will become scarce within twenty-four to forty-eight hours unless the public responds immediately to the pleas of City Manager M. P. Walker.

This shortage was predicted two weeks ago, and a simple effective plan was offered for the conservation of the water supply. That plan depended upon the voluntary elimination of excess watering of lawns. Had home owners responded to this initial request, we could have main-

tained the necessary margin of safety in our water supply.

They did not respond.

Steps have been taken by the city officials to remedy this trouble. One new well has already been sunk and will be tied into supply lines as soon as it is possible. The machinery is already on the site for the drilling of a second new well. Together these two new wells will restore our water supply balance. Unfortunately these new sources of water can not be of aid for another two weeks.

In the interim the home owners of Bryan and College Station must exercise more judgment in the use of water. They must check their impulses to water their lawns daily. We admire green lawns and verdant shrubs but not when we know that they are watered with our neighbors drinking water. Lets think about them for awhile and save the water.

I Don't Discuss, Says Henry . . .

The Battalion does not as a rule follow a policy of reprinting other newspaper's editorials, but the Atlanta Constitution in their July 25th issue ran an editorial which we believe deserves publishing here. It concerns a recent press conference held by Henry Wallace.

"The American press came off very well in its conference with Henry Wallace. He began it by being very critical of the press for not being objective and for not speaking frankly on current issues.

"Whereupon a reporter, limited to one question as were the others—a limit not imposed by either the Republican or Democratic convention leaders—asked Henry Wallace if he had, indeed, written the Guru letters. These letters, published by Westbrook Pegler in The Constitution and other newspapers and by Newsweek Magazine, reveal a fuzzy devotion to an esoteric Eastern cult and its leader and are, presumably, from Wallace's pen.

"I don't discuss Westbrook Pegler,"

said Wallace, in a strangely evasive manner.

"Pegler got up.

"I am Westbrook Pegler and I'd like to know."

"Henry had the grace to flush, but he said, 'I don't discuss anything with Westbrook Pegler.'"

"Up then got famed Henry Hencken, of Baltimore, who forced Henry to admit he was not a stooge of anyone. Still Henry was unobjective and evasive.

"Up got other reporters, who had supported Wallace, and urged him to answer.

"But Henry was neither objective nor forthright. He wouldn't answer.

"Also Wallace and his platform got right along with Communism. Much of the Wallace platform contains identical wordage from Daily Worker comments on the arrests of Communists.

"The Wallace platform . . . presents Russia as a shy friend, waiting to be loved by this country. It is a platform more hypocritical, even, than those of the two major parties."

Enjoy your meat eating under this simple guarantee.

Cook and serve any cut or kind of Safeway meat the way you prefer it. Eat it all up . . . judge the tenderness, juiciness and flavor.

If you don't like it—for any reason whatsoever—we will give all your money back, and without return of the meat!

Adv. in the San Francisco News.

The Battalion

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Amplification Department

By CARROLL TRAIL

In Wednesday's column I published a letter from J. B. asking if there was a Dormitory 13. I checked with all the authorities on the subject and none gave me an affirmative answer.

However, after quite a bit of research, I found that the Dorm just south of the Main Post Office is 13. The college athletes were formerly housed in this dorm, but after winning only one ping pong game in all athletic events in 8 years, the authorities thought it best to move the boys elsewhere.

When the athletes left, the dorm lay idle for two years before the administration thought it wise to use the unlucky number again. A new president had been established over the school, and he scoffed at superstition.

One of his first acts was to demand the addition of a new course in the mechanical engineering curriculum. This course, called "thermodynamics," held its first semester of classes in 13. After 98% of the students failed, the classes were held elsewhere. But even today one can still feel the effect the dorm had on the course.

Again the dorm was idle. And it has remained idle most of the time. Yantis used it back in '38 for his campaign headquarters. Result: a resounding defeat. Yantis used it as his home headquarters when he mapped out his world tour in '39. Result: shipwreck and near-starvation. Now J. G. Peniston is using it to keep his mess hall help in. Result: well, who am I to judge?

Dear Sir: My vocabulary is limited, too limited.

Can you tell me the meaning of the words listed below? I want to get the jump on my English professor. He doesn't know them either.

Here are the words: stockster, felth, sloomy, misgo, misprond. Thanks a million.

M. L.

Answer:

Well, M. L., you must be quite a man to develop such an interest in the king's English. Too many of the young people today are learning to do something. Instead, they should follow your example and delve into the finer things of life. How nice it is to have a large vocabulary and be able to express oneself correctly! Ah, yes, M. L., I can see that you will lead a rich and full life.

As for your words, I must admit that I had a hard time finding them. Our board of language experts didn't know them, and I didn't want to embarrass Dr. T. F. Mayo by asking him. So, I had to look them up in the Library.

"Stockster" is the term used to describe one who steals servants out from under the unsuspecting noses of his best friends. In these days when servant help is so hard to get and servant stealing has grown with leaps and bounds, one is a social disgrace if he cannot use "stockster" fluently.

"Felth" denotes the ability of the fingers to enable the brain to recognize objects through touch. I can see that from this choice, M. L., you are a practical man. Apparently you are preparing for the day when you will become old, and your eyes fail you. Then, if someone were to ask you why you can distinguish objects with your fingers, you can say, with a sly twinkle in your eye, "Felth."

"Sloomy" is certainly a good word to have at one's command. How else can one combine dullness, laziness, heaviness, and sleepiness all in one word? "Sloomy" does just that.

"Misgo" means arrive at the wrong place and "misprond" means proud for the wrong reason.

M. L., I am proud of you for your initiative. Actually, I am a little surprised that you haven't been able to use these words before now. It is my opinion that one is verbally tied if he does not have vital words at his command.

Too Hot for Him Here . . .

Yantis Journeys to Capitol To Cover Special Congress

By IVAN YANTIS

O'Daniel Apartments, Washington, D. C. (By Carrier Pigeon)—Perhaps my readers will wonder why I left College Station so hurriedly and came up here. Well, Saturday afternoon, the managing editor called me in his office and said, "Yantis, we need some one to cover the special session of Congress. Since you are our best reporter, I am sending you. It will be a tough assignment, but I know you can do it. Good luck."

(Editor's note: Yantis is in Washington covering the special session of Congress, but the circumstances concerning his hurried departure are not exactly as he reported them.)

After not finding a room to sleep in, and losing his money, Yantis was picked up on a vagrancy charge. By exerting pressure in the right places, the Batt was able to spring him. For his health, the staff decided to send him to Washington until things cooled off here.)

Upon my arrival I was met by my old chum Senator O'Daniel, at whose house I am now residing. I haven't seen the Senator for several years, and our meeting was quite touching.

I dropped in on the President just before he gave his message to Congress. I tried to get him to change his civil rights program to my civil wrongs bill. If he would

listen to me, he could get the backing of the South and consolidate his party.

Truman's message to Congress Tuesday was received rather coldly by Republicans but cotton in their ears, and sat silently, Democrats cheered madly, and Dixiecrats cheered until the President mentioned his civil rights program. Then they became silent and Representative John Rankin jumped up and read from the Constitution until someone told him the filibuster wouldn't start until later.

I saw Lyndon Johnson at the session. Instead of being at his regular seat, Johnson hovered over the group in his helicopter.

When the President finished his speech, he was congratulated by many of the lawmakers, while others completely ignored him. As for me, I tried to talk to Margaret but she said that I wasn't her type and she had no desire to make my acquaintance.

In spite of Truman's attitude toward my civil wrongs, I was determined to push it through. I button-holed one distinguished-looking gentleman, gave him a cigar, and tried to get him to put my program before the Senate. He thanked me for the cigar, but declined my offer, explaining that the only time he gets on the senate floor is when there is a fight: he was the sergeant-at-arms.

I snatched back my cigar and decided that maybe I was in the wrong. What this country needs is not a states' rights program, but a county rights bill. Then if Congress continues to kick the Brazos River tidelands question around, the County could just secede. Imagine—The Brazos County Republic!

At any rate, I am behind the President's minimum wage of 75 cents per hour. I'm tired of chopping cotton for 40 cents. And I wouldn't be a bit surprised if the wage didn't pass Congress. From all reports, most congressmen are preparing for the day when they will be defeated and will have to start working for a living.

Trampling Out the Vintage . . .

Limited Linguist Lacks Lots Of Praiseworthy Perseverance

By FRANK CUSHING

It is to be hoped that the recent actions of a lost traveler will not be a catching fad. The said tourist, a Mexican, had no knowledge of the English language and even less knowledge of which bus in Tulsa, Oklahoma, was the one that would carry him to Dallas.

Evidently running on the assumption that all roads lead to his goal he loudly climbed aboard a Springfield, Missouri-bound bus. Some time later he learned of his mistake when the bus arrived at its, not his, destination.

Now instead of showing the type of perseverance desired in the old adage of "Try try again," the lost one wandered off from the bus depot and purchased from a tobacco shop one package of cigarettes and a shiny pocket knife.

He received his money's worth from the latter. After smoking one cigarette the discouraged individual proceeded to thoroughly stab himself seven times.

Certainly this type of action leaves much to be desired. What a chaotic effect it would have upon our country if all travelers that found themselves slightly lost rushed to buy smokes and knives.

The old timers that constantly insist that the younger generation is made up of milk sops and weaklings will find good confirmation for their opinion in a young hold-up specialist in Chicago.

He attempted to rob a hamburger emporium in that city recently and was foiled by the woman-owner of the shop. She fired one shot and the youth sank to the pavement.

His true valor was revealed when a summoned ambulance arrived. Instead of the young man being mortally wounded from the

lady's straight shooting, it was found that he had fainted. Perhaps smelling salts will be considered standard equipment for future wayward characters.

The path of young love is not always easy. At least that is the sorrowful belief of a cupid-stricken suitor in Mississippi. His prospective father-in-law had requested that the police forbid the lover from pursuing the wooing of his, the requestor's, daughter.

However the whole situation ended well. The wooed one called off the police by informing them that she was of legal age, as was her beloved. She further stated that papa was just old-fashioned. The up-to-date daughter happened to be seventy-one and the boy friend seventy-three.

Any Aggie who has seen the "Tilt" sign defeat his hopes of winning a free game should envy the misplaced luck of a man in Santa Barbara, California.

Desiring a cake of ice, the hero of this narrative deposited two dimes in the proper slot of a vendor-machine and awaited his return. It came and of a greater return than expected.

While the depositor moved hastily to cover and the ice dealers pulled their hair, thirty two cakes of ice skidded out to rest upon the pavement. When the deluge finally subsided the purchaser selected a likely looking ice chunk and left. His winnings, like so many other's, melted away.

A bright thought of unknown origin was brought to the surface the other day. The observation likened the long skirts "New Look" to the prohibition era. It is common knowledge that the joints still exist in both but they can't be found quite as easily.

The Democratic Platform

1. Adoption of price controls and rationing to curb "Republican inflation."
2. Repeal of the Taft-Hartley Labor Act and a boost in the minimum wage from 40 cents to 75 cents.
3. Continuation of a vigorous international policy with an international police force for the United Nations and all-out financial support for the Marshall Plan.
4. Action against Communism; the maintenance of strong army, navy, and air force and international control of atom bomb.
5. Recognition of Israel as a nation and revision of the arms embargo to permit shipment of war materials to that nation.
6. Freedom of the press.
7. Federal aid to education.
8. Enactment of housing legislation providing for slum clearance and low-rent housing projects.

9. Continuation of farm price support and repeal of the federal oleo tax.
10. Protection for "small-business" and strict enforcement of anti-monopoly laws.
11. Expansion of social security to include health and disability insurance.
12. Continuation of federal aid to veterans.
13. Efforts to balance the budget and cut taxes when possible.
14. Acceleration of Federal Reclamation Program.
15. Further development of federally owned power systems.
16. Federal action to insure racial freedom, abolishment of the poll tax and enactment of an anti-lynching law.
17. Exposition of Communistic treasonable activities and prosecution of those involved.

The Republican Platform

1. Continuation of a bi-partisan foreign policy.
2. Encouragement of unity in Western Europe.
3. A firm belief in the principle of "collective security against aggression."
4. Continued support of the United Nations.
5. Recognition of Israel as a member of the "family of nations."
6. Continued friendship with the Chinese.
7. "Diligent pursuit of our aims for universal limitation and control of arms."
8. Elimination of "secret" foreign pacts.
9. Encouragement of the reciprocal trade policy.
10. Reduction of government control of

- business, and greater emphasis on competition in private enterprise.
11. Protection of workers and employers against coercion and exploitation.
12. Recognition of the federal government's responsibility in the issues of housing, conservation, public health, old age security, and similar measures, but a determination to leave final legislation on these matters up to the individual states.
13. Enactment of laws prohibiting the crime of lynching.
14. Enactment of such laws as necessary to expose the "treasonable" activities of Communists and to defeat their objectives.
15. Abolition of the poll tax.

The Progressive Platform

1. Peace with Russia.
2. Repeal of the draft law.
3. Destruction of all of America's atom bombs.
4. Government ownership of large segments of industry—and "full equality" for Negroes, Jewish people and all minority

- Americans.
5. Support of the United Nations as the eventual "federal world government."
6. Protection of the constitutional rights of Communists to freedom of speech.
7. Inauguration of federal controls to fight the high cost of living.

Sneak Previews . . .

'Naked City' Recommended As Best Hellinger Production

By BILLY SHIPP

"THE NAKED CITY" (U-I), starring Barry Fitzgerald, Howard Duff, and Dorothy Hart. A Mark Hellinger Production. Palace Theater in Bryan.

The Palace Theater is currently offering the late Mark Hellinger's last production before his sudden and unexpected death. A specialist in factual and documentary type pictures, Hellinger puts his best efforts into "THE NAKED CITY".

Shot in New York City in on-the-spot locations, it is the same type as "BOOMERANG" and "THE HOUSE ON 92ND STREET". This is the hard-hitting drama of just one of the many stories that arise from that teeming city of millions. The story deals with

the efforts of the New York Police in trying to solve the murder of a beautiful model and her connection with a series of jewel robberies.

Barry Fitzgerald is his usual excellent self as crafty and cunning Lt. Muldoon of the homicide squad. Newcomer Howard Duff, radio's Sam Spade, does well as his sidekick. Detective Haloran, Texas' Dorothy Hart is beautiful as the girl friend of one of the suspects. This is her first starring role and your reviewer believes she has quite a future in store for her.

The movie is well put together and has an excellent plot. It is filled with thrills and excitement. It shows how a big city police force operates with its ingenious

officers and the latest scientific equipment. The show is fast paced and moves toward a thrilling climax.

For good movie entertainment this week your reviewer suggests "THE NAKED CITY".

Many Volunteers May Halt Drive

WASHINGTON, July 30 (AP)—The Army cheerfully said today that if enough men continue to volunteer maybe you won't be drafted after all.

Lt. Gen. Willard S. Paul, chief of army personnel, held out that hope to draft-age men in reporting that 18,085 swapped civvies for GI duds during the first two weeks of July. This is more than half the 30,000 monthly average the army has figured it will need during the next year to boost its strength from 542,000 to 790,000.