Battalion
EDITORIALS
Page 2 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

College Enrollment Decline Seen . . .

The "classroom crush" which has hit colleges for the past few years may be a thing of the past, at least until the year 1960.

This is the opinion of Registrar John W. Bunn, of Bowling Green State university. Mr. Bunn tabulated estimates from several hundred colleges represented at Chicago recently at the National Conference on Higher Education, where he acted as recorder for the group studying enrollment trends.

The committee expects total enrollment, which was 2,328,226 last fall, to drop to 2,200,000 next autumn, 2,000,000 in 1949, 1,900,000 in 1950, 1,800,000 in 1952, then rise to an all-time high of 2,500,000 in 1960.

These estimates ignore effects of selective service, universal military training and recommendations of the President's Commission on Higher Education. Bunn said that if 300,000 are drafted in the near future, not more than 20 per cent may be from college.

Enrollment of veterans will decline more rapidly than was predicted a year ago, Bunn and his colleagues decided. Colleges last fall had 1,149,333 veterans and 1,188,233 non-veterans. Predictions made in Chicago are that the student veterans will number 950,000 next fall, 700,000 in 1949, 600,000 in 1950, 400,000 in 1952 and 150,000 in 1955. Conference enrollment forecasts made a year ago were the most accurate of all, it was pointed out.

—Kent Stater

Let's Keep Our Enrollment Up . . .

Every year men gather from all over the state to study here and every year the enrollment is estimated and facilities are made ready for the influx of students.

During a harried first week the faculty and the administration rise to the challenge, and during the next four months the business of education functions on well-oiled wheels.

Then comes mid-semester, and nearly 1000 men drop from the rolls of the college.

The facilities then for 8000 students now instruct only 7000.

Faced by the prospect of the largest mid-semester graduating class in the history of the school, A&M should take steps to insure that the mid-semester enrollment will be large enough to utilize the educational machinery developed during the first half of the year.

Responsibility for the steps taken to remedy the situation cannot rest entirely with the college administration. A small effort by the student body, individually and in organizations, can bring a large dividend in improved educational facilities for all of us.

The home town clubs can help by inviting high school seniors to the campus on football week ends.

Speaking engagements can be made by seniors in the high schools of the state during the Christmas recess and during the month of January.

In these ways the student enrollment can be kept constant, and A&M can enjoy the benefits of a stable enrollment.

A Tribute to The 'Perfect Document' . . .

The seven days from September 12 through 18, 1948, have been officially proclaimed as "Constitution Week."

The people of the United States of America should be proud of the accomplishment of this nation in instituting and operating under a document with the scope and justice of the Constitution.

This pride should not be expressed in chest-beating or scorn for other peoples not so fortunate in their attempts at self-government. After looking at the past and present, we should attempt to improve further our nation.

The only evidence which we can present to show that our idea of democracy is the best way of life is ourselves and our country. We must read, discuss, and think about our government. We must drop our nonchalant attitude of "one man can't do a thing in the midst of all this corruption."

If there is corruption, let us begin with this "Constitution Week" and become active and thinking participants in governing ourselves.

Shall we take advantage of the opportunity of self-government which the Constitution offers?

Here We Go Again . . .

An editorial writers life is not a happy one.

Because of the nature of his job he is usually spoken of as a reformer and at times even begins to feel like one.

No job is so thankless and has less personal gratification than his assigned duty of finding fault and offering corrections.

For these reasons the editorial writer is overwhelmed with joy when he finds someone who takes his offerings in the light he issues them: as constructive criticism, to be pondered and if found plausible, acted upon.

The Battalion has found such a party in the caretakers of the Academic Building's Rotunda trophy case.

For endless years now Battalion editorialists have done little else but watch the aforementioned case. When it begins to get lost in a mantle of internal dust we run a short tsh-tshing editorial in our columns and the caretakers promptly burnish the case and our beloved trophies to a ship's-brass lustre.

This idyllic arrangement is like a well balanced see-saw. We wouldn't do one thing to disrupt it. To offer one undue scolding word is unthinkable.

So this is our editorial.

The trophy case is dirty again fellas. Thanks a million.

The Battalion

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Chaotic Conditions Created As Confused Cadets Cram Classes

By T. G. SMITH

Mid-week has rolled around and the painful process of post registration adjustment is upon us. Already the screams and complaints of outraged students, together with the dazed look in the eyes of those too weary to fight, tell the story.

Classes are in full swing. The gaunt meaningful glint is showing in the eyes of the profs, some of whom had grown soft and human over the summer. To add to the wild scramble, there are some students who have had trouble getting their schedules straight.

There is one story running around the Modern Language Department that is too good to pass up. It seems that in a first year French class there was one fellow who was having a hard time realizing the significance of learning the vowel sounds. "Why should we have to learn stuff like that?" he asked. The prof explained that learning the proper tone syllables was the basis of the whole course. After a few moments of silence, the befuddled scholar said "Well, maybe I'm dumb, but—aw heck, prof, is this the only section of Math 102 you got?"

Of course, many students were lucky enough to get one of their profs for a second course (or time?). When Oscar W. Zilch was asked what his reaction was when he entered one of his classes only to encounter his previous instructor he said, (and we quote) "Ahhhhhhhhh!."

The open frankness and candor of many new students is also some thing to behold. One sophomore, upon running into a prof in the hall said, "Good gosh, I thought I got rid of you out at the annex."

But older students know the value of creating a good impression on profs just in case they do get them the second time. To illustrate the importance of this, let's take the case of a chem engineering student who, meeting his 429 class for the first time, walked up to his prof and said, "How are you, sir? I'm sure you remember me. I was in your 204 class." The prof beamed and replied, "Of Course, Smith, I remember you. Now if you'll step this way I'll help you fill out a drop slip and no one need ever know."

Oh well, as that famous old somebody or other once said, "College life would be fine if we just didn't have to go to school."

Travel Magazine to Analyze Texas and Texans in 3 Issues

Texas will receive the most extensive treatment ever accorded any state by a national magazine with publication of the first of three issues of HOLIDAY devoted principally to the Lone Star State.

Scores of articles and pictures will tell the story of Texas' history, agriculture and industries, rural and city life from El Paso to the East Texas oilfields, the range country and the Rio Grande Valley.

J. Frank Dobie, noted Texas historian, and other Texas authors who interpret their state to the nation in articles about Texas will fill about a hundred pages. Hart Stilwell, Green Peyton, Lewis Nordyke, Robert Easton, and nationally known writers from other sections, have also contributed articles.

In analysis of personalities who wear the Texas brand, Holiday pictures a typical Texas wildcatter and a cattleman. It details the history of the Texas Ranger and touches on the states hunting and fishing preserves.

The series of three Texas issues of the magazine commences with the October number, to be published September 15. That issue carries the first half of a two-part article by Dobie entitled "Explaining Texas," and articles on Houston, Dallas, and Fort Worth plus hunting and fishing.

A double-page decorated map of the state, picturing the industries and agricultural products of the various sections, is also carried in the October issue.

Deadline Extended For Reinstatement Of Vet Insurance

World War II veterans still can reinstate their National Service Life Insurance, the Veterans Administration has announced.

Some veterans are under the impression they can no longer obtain this government insurance. World War II veterans who can pass a physical examination may reinstate their lapsed insurance at any time.

The deadline for reinstating NSLI without a physical examination was July 31, 1948, VA explained. Prior to the deadline, a veteran could reinstate lapsed insurance by certifying that his health was as good as it was when the policy lapsed.

This deadline confused some veterans who feel that they cannot reinstate lapsed insurance since the deadline passed. That is not correct, VA said.

Veterans may reinstate their insurance at any time by passing a physical examination. If the policy has lapsed less than three months, it still can be reinstated without taking the physical examination.

Diphtheria Serum For Infants Urged By Health Officer

The prevelance of diphtheria in Texas is the target of the State Health Department in a recent morbidity report. The report showed only 2 cases of smallpox for this year, but 588 cases of diphtheria in this period.

Commenting on these comparative figures, Dr. George W. Cox, State Health Officer stated that diphtheria is as readily controlled by immunization as is smallpox, but that apparently the public has failed to recognize this fact, or to act upon it.

"Smallpox, which is highly contagious, is no longer considered a major health problem in Texas." Dr. Cox said, "and this is due to widespread vaccination against the disease. Diphtheria, equally contagious, can also be reduced to the point where a single case is a rarity, but only when parents awake to the fact that every child should be immunized in infancy.

"The baby's doctor will recommend when this should be done, and if all children were given this protection, there would be none susceptible to contract this killing disease."

Ordinarily the immunity provided by diphtheria toxoid lasts a child until he is of school age, however a Schick test should be given before the child enters school and, an additional shot of toxoid should be administered if needed, Dr. Cox said.

"When all children are routinely immunized against this dreaded disease, it can be virtually eliminated as the health hazard that it is now to the boys and girls of Texas," Dr. Cox declared.

A&M Grad Teaches Phys Ed At Annex

The Physical Education Department has made the announcement that James R. Hill A&M graduate, has been employed to teach physical education at the Annex this year. Hill received his Bachelor's degree in Physical Education last June.

Hill was born in El Paso and later moved to Ysleta, where he graduated from high school. He served 44 months in the navy as a pilot aboard an aircraft carrier.

While attending A&M, Hill lettered three years as a member of the Aggie track team, specializing in the broad jump.

Yantis De-Seated by Dixicrats . . .

Ace Battalion Reporter Suffers Injury at State Convention

By IVAN YANTIS

A political analysist's life is indeed a difficult one. Covering this convention in Fort Worth has convinced me that my pay is a far cry from the amount I should be paid to compensate for my troubles and sufferings. I give my all trying to enlighten the people of A&M, a difficult task to say the least, and in return I receive practically nothing.

Once I relate my experiences in the State Democratic convention I'm sure you faithful readers will agree with me that my salary should be increased.

Having been assigned the convention-covering task I immediately went to the Fiscal office to draw my travel allowance. With the payment in my hand, I debated the best method of getting to the convention.

There weren't too many choices offered by the 17 cents I was granted. I finally, with much concentration, narrowed the selection down to walking, (My faithful mule has been pensioned to a rest home for animals sponsored by a kindly Houston meat packing plant.) or hitching a ride. A passing cattle truck headed, naturally, for "Cowtown" solved my dilemma.

The convention started off with the singing of "The Eyes of Texas". (Never fear Aggies, I was loyal throughout. I sang The "Aggie War Hymn" under my breath all the time.) This was followed by a prayer. A brief talk by a qualified referee about "Keep it clean, no hitting etc.", or a trumpet blast would have been more appropriate I'm sure.

I was proceeding fairly well covering the proceedings until the Dixiecrats decided they needed some fresh air and left. I stood up to watch their departure. Fasinated by the excitement and how I had witnessed history being made, I slowly sank back to my seat.

At least that is what I expected to do. Alas, I felt rudely and heavily to the floor. The Dixiecrats, it seems, had a first mortgage upon the fixtures and had decided that they must protect their investment.

For an anti-climax I must confess that I have failed you readers. I have been able to cover no more of the convention. I am now spending a brief sojurn in the hospital attempting to regain my strength. My natural modesty prevents me from disclosing the exact nature of my injury. I can say that I now have in a sling that part of my anatomy which some dissatisfied readers have expressed the desire to put there.

Although I have not been able to give an on the scene description of the tense fight between the senatorial candidates, I have had a surplus of time to ponder about the solution to the problem. There is as I see it, only one possible fair method.

We must send both men to the Senate. Not only will this satisfy all voters, but we need two men there. Certainly no one man can capably fill the position that will be vacated there.

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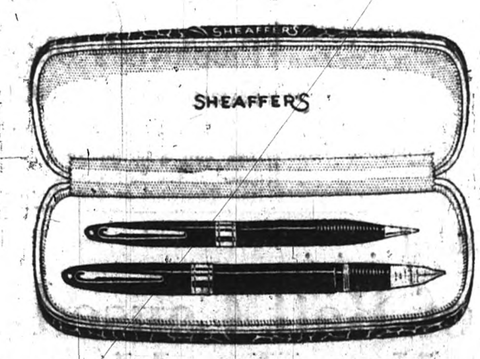

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