

# Battalion EDITORIALS

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

## The How and Why of The Corps Sweetheart . . .

During the past week there has been a great deal of talk about the committee of Corps Seniors who went to TSCW to pick the Sweetheart of the Corps, and why she was not selected to represent the entire school.

A word of explanation is due these people who have asked the questions.

As has been the policy in the past, the Social Secretary of the Senior Class this year selected the seniors to pick the sweetheart.

When his choice was announced, however, a great deal of dissatisfaction was expressed, both from Corps and non-Corps men.

Members of the Student Senate, present at the meeting, felt that there was not a fair representation in the group and asked for a discussion by the Student Senate Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee heard discussions from Corps and non-Corps men. The non-Corps asked that six Corps and six non-Corps students make the trip to TSCW and select an Aggie Sweetheart.

This proposal, however, was protested

by members of the Corps who argued that arrangements had already been made for twelve Corps men to go and also that there would not be enough time to revise the committee to include non-Corps students.

After some debate over the matter, the Executive Committee decided that it had no jurisdiction over the proposed trip to TSCW by the 12 Corps students. The group maintained, however, that the Social Committee of the Student Senate would be responsible for the selection of an Aggie Sweetheart.

The 12 Corps Seniors went to TSCW Saturday to select a Sweetheart of the Corps. This Tessie will represent the Corps at the SMU-A&M game and at any other functions of the Corps. The title, Sweetheart of the Corps, was decided upon since the girl was picked by, and would represent the Corps.

This girl, in addition to being Sweetheart of the Corps, is eligible also to be the Aggie Sweetheart at the discretion of the Social Committee of the Student Senate. Whether this is or is not done will be left up to the Social Committee.

## Not Just Another Week . . .

Practically every week in the year is designated by some local, state, or national group as a special week.

"Fire Prevention Week," "National Dog Week," "State Fair Week," or some other name is attached, to seven days to make us more aware of something we tend to forget.

The week from October 3 through 9 is "Disabled Veterans Week."

About the other special times we can make the standard phrases, but on this one we have little to say.

Most of us in some way have a very

definite knowledge of disabled veterans. We have a friend or relative who came back from this last world war not quite able to compete evenly with the rest of us. Or we may have slept, and eaten, close to and shared the feelings of someone for a couple of years who wasn't quite as lucky as we were.

We don't have to be told what we owe these men or what we should do for them.

We only have to keep from forgetting at times that what they have given can never be repaid.

## Hensel Gets A "Well Done" . . .

Every once in a while word trickles into the editorial office of a deed done by someone that deserves acknowledgement, and thanks.

Early last June a lighted softball diamond was built south of the Grove. While clearing the grounds, it was necessary for seven or eight trees to be removed.

Instead of dragging the trees away and burning them, F. W. Hensel, head of the Landscape Art Department, ordered that they be stacked near-by and saved for fuel for our Turkey Day eve bon fire.

That was the first contribution toward this year's bon fire. So thanks to Land-

scapeman Hensel. And while we are passing out bouquets a rarity in the editorial column, thanks to those who are saving the trees and scrap lumber accumulating in the construction of our Student Center for the bon fire.

Not only does this help us; we only have to move the scraps across the street, but the construction firm saves transportation costs of moving the scraps elsewhere. In something like this everybody profits.

From the looks of the stacks piling up, this year's bonfire should be a peak in pyromony.

## The Passing Parade . . .

"The Greek army soon will attack the Communist guerrillas" in the northern mountains with tactics used by United States Forces.

For the first time since the United States came to the aid of the National Troops, Greek soldiers have been taught American methods of infantry combat. Heretofore the British had done all the training.

The Greek general staff brought 11

platoons of about 30 to 40 men each to the Staff's Infantry school. They had had six weeks of basic training.—The Associated Press.

If Basic Training is like it was four years ago, our only comment is that those Guerrillas had better give up while they still have a chance.

Or they could threaten to send the Guerrillas through Basic.

# The Battalion

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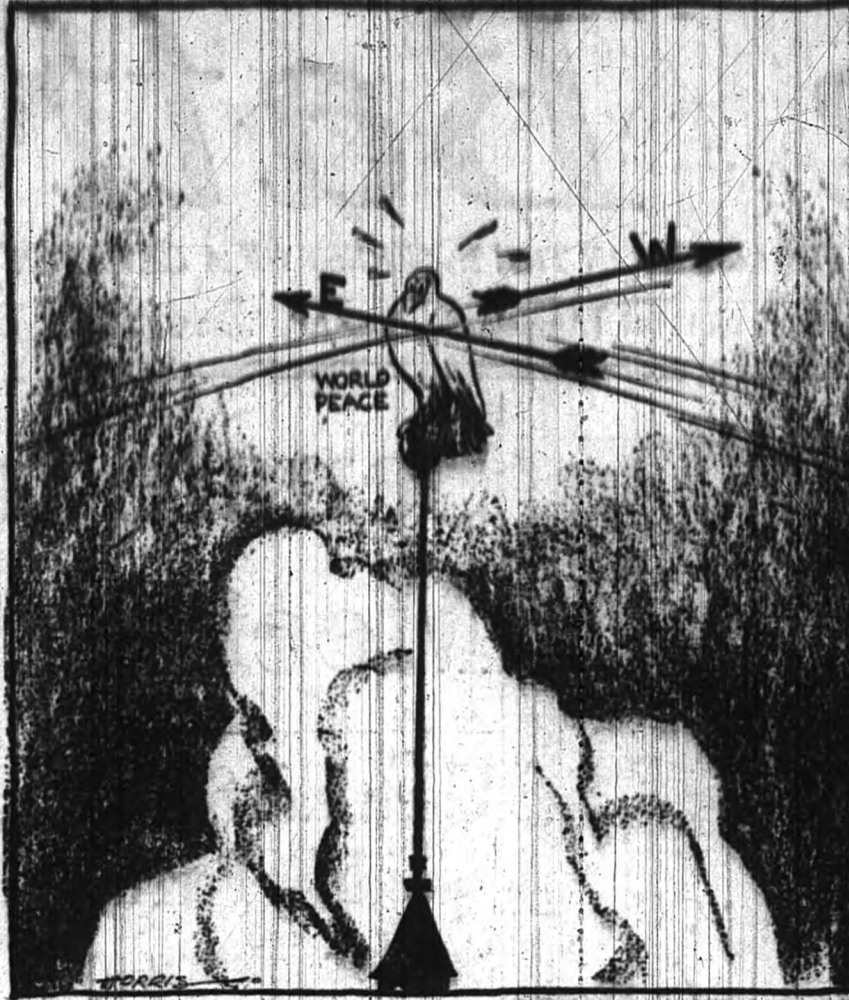
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TRYING TO TELL WHICH WAY THE WIND BLOWE



## Aggieland Then and Now 'Home on the Range' Written On Campus, 1896-1905 Period

By CHUCK MAISEL

(Ed's Note: This is the second of a series about A&M year by year. This article concerns the years 1896 to 1905. The 3rd article will deal with the Student Revolt of 1902.)

Pioneering was past. The years '96 to '05 saw Aggie land grow from a prairie outpost of learning, where wild animals and wilder students roamed at will, to one of the largest institutions of its kind in America.

New buildings reared their heads—the Old Mess Hall, the Assembly Hall, Foster, Science Hall (originally the Agriculture Building), the Old Chemistry Building (the most modern structure in Texas then) and the first M. E. Shops. Another spot, now vanished, was the stage coach station.

The two men who were most responsible for the coming of age of the school died during this period. Sully Ross, founder of A&M traditions, passed on in 1898 and L. L. Foster, his successor, was buried in 1901 in the Old College Cemetery where the New Area now stands.

The new president was David Houston. He resigned in 1905 to become Secretary of Agriculture in Teddy Roosevelt's cabinet.

"Home on the Range" was written on the A&M campus. Although two men dispute the authorship, both did their composing at Aggie land. One was John A. Lomas, later the famous "ballad hunter," then an English prof, and the other was David Guion, son of John Guion for whom Guion Hall was named.

The ten year era saw student publications as we now know them get their start. The Long Horn (two words) first appeared under that name in 1903. A monthly newspaper called the Battalion was born a few years earlier.

When the Class of '03 graduated, they found they had automatically become members of the most well organized ex-students' association in Texas. P. N. Downs, uncle of Pinky, was vice-president.

The Athletic department was growing, too, with E. J. Kyle at its head. Red and White were then the school colors and the college letter was 'C' rather than 'T'.

The '02 team was dubbed "Champions of the South" and in that year A&M scored its first touchdown against the hated Yarsity of that school in Austin. The man who did the honor was George Hope, a freshman. The end of the game that day saw A&M on the heavy side of the score 11-0.

The next year T.U. was again crushed by the Farmers to the tune of 27-6. The Aggies were then called, unofficially, "Champs of the Southwest."

The Cadet Corps of the time numbered one battalion and had as its commander a major rather than a colonel. The band averaged 10 pieces for the ten years, but it was as famous then throughout the state as the band today. Houston Rifles was the new name of the Ross Volunteers, but this was changed back to the original in 1906 during President Harrington's administration.

Some of the names on the campus were: Captain "Bull" Sargent, the most beloved commandant in history and the man from whom the name "Bull" originated; George Jester, a member of the Board of Directors whose son was later to become governor of Texas; Dr. C. B. Campbell, recently retired from the Modern Languages department; R. P. Marsteller, now Dean Emeritus of the Vet. School; and a timeless old negro janitor called Uncle Dan who had a tenure of office longer than any man in A&M's history.

It is interesting to study the evolution of a single tradition at Aggie land. Most students are familiar with the late custom of freshmen keeping 2nd year cadets from attending the annual Sophomore Ball. Henry's howl began. When the freshman class assembled in front of the Old Main to have their picture made for the 1903 Long Horn, some enter-

prising juniors climbed to the top of the building and let fly with three buckets full of water on the rising fire. By the next year, this was an "old tradition" and steps were made to re-enact the drown-out.

The seniors at the time put their stamp of disapproval on the proceedings, so, instead of the original plan, the juniors posted a notice that no freshman would be allowed to carry a cane past the bandstand after 5 p.m. April First.

The fish accepted the challenge and surrounded their champion, who carried the cane, at the appointed hour. They were rushed by the junior and sophomore classes and a battle royal ensued. The upperclassmen ending the victors. Every year after this the "Cane Rush" took place on April First until the Twenties when authorities of the school put the quietus on the affair.

As a substitute, the annual kidnapping of the toastmaster of the junior banquet by the soph had its beginning and lasted to the mid-Thirties. This too was frowned upon by the college, and again the form was changed making the sophomores the victims.

Another event important to Aggie Tradition happened in 1903. This was the Corps revolt which brought about the now famous Aggie Muster. When the handmaster failed to sound recall after call to classes on Texas Independence Day, March 2nd (not April 21 as is commonly thought), the Corps rose in anger as they were supposed to have a holiday. They ran to the drill field and conducted a war dance.

After raising much cane, they stormed Prexy's home where Houston told them to celebrate the day as it should be. The date changed to April 21, but this was the first Aggie Muster ever to be held.

The cadet vocabulary ran something like this: axle grease for butter; bull ties, the turn of the century version of bull-tex; butts, the word now called "shorts"; cuss, the freshman dream; regulator, shortened today to "reg"; and an expression "at fence" was the old-time way of saying you had the "reds." Oh, yes, they had their version of air raids too each time the lights in the mess hall would go out during the evening meal.

Did they have hazing? Well, if you would call it hazing, they had a favorite stunt which was pulled on all incoming freshmen. It consisted of tying a hapless fish to the railroad tracks and leaving him there until the train went by—on the next track.

Old Army was coming out of its shell.

## Think of This

"The Lord is my shepherd . . . Psalm 23  
A shepherd not only knows where to take his sheep to water and food, but he also protects them so that they are content and will not have reason to fear. Likewise, God protects us, his sheep, from all the fears which are common to man. (Read Psalm 23)

## BOOTS!

Hand made — fancy boots . . . \$22.50 Up

Large Variety of Stock DRESS SHOES CANGELOSI BOOT SHOP Across from Ford Motor Co.

# Careless Cartoonist Picks Elephant for GOP Symbol

By EDDIE SMITH

The Republican Elephant, pictured on pins, buttons, and banners at every GOP convention, has provided more speculation as to its origin than any other animal known to man. This oft exploited symbol of Republican might has been bandied about by politicians since the beginning of the party.

In a crucial election year when the public is clamoring for strong measures by the federal government, the elephant may be quoted as saying, "Long live the central government; we must preserve the Union." On the other hand, in times when states' rights are the vogue, this four-legged tool of the Republicans may be found waving his protruding proboscis from the highest hill in favor of "Freedom for the Forty Eight."

Varied and conflicting tales have been uncovered as to the origin of the party pachyderm, some undoubtedly originating in the headquarters of the party itself in defense of the somewhat unwholesome stories advanced by ardent Democrats.

Rumor has it that the idea came from P. T. Barnum, the noted circusman famous for capitalizing on every situation. It seems that Barnum, who may or may not have been a Republican, heard that the party was in search of an emblem in which it might embody all the illustrious traditions of the Republican Party.

Seeing a chance for a bit of free advertising for his "Greatest Show on Earth," which was currently touring the country, he convinced the leaders of the party that the elephant, a powerful and non-forgetful beast of the jungle, would be a perfect symbol of strength and efficiency. Heirs of P. T.'s fortune are reportedly raking in profits from this shrewd bit of promotion even today.

## Reserve Officers Wanted for Active Duty in Air Force

Ten thousand Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard Officers are being offered an opportunity to return to extended active duty with the United States Air Force, General Hoyt Vandenberg announced today.

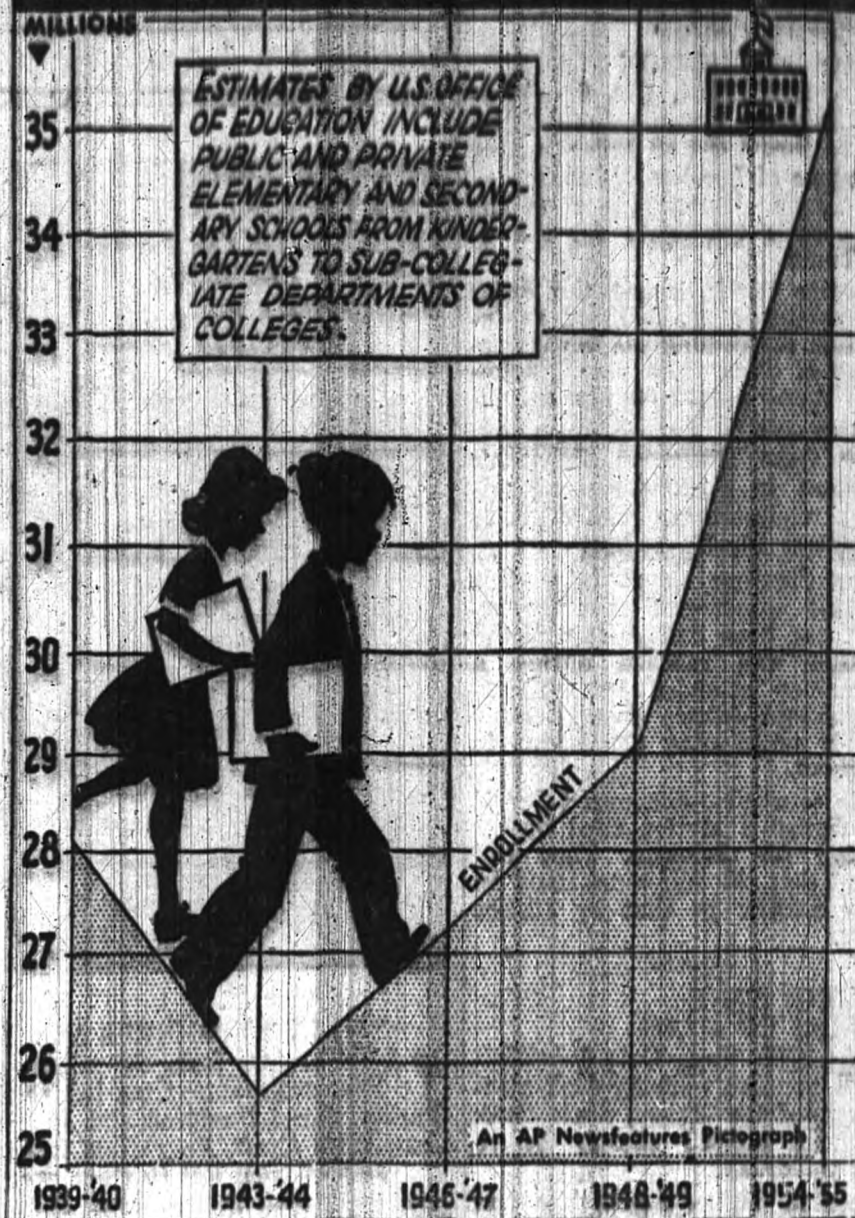
The requirements of the peacetime expanding Air Force call for an additional 5,000 of these officers by the end of the year, he explained, and another 5,000 by next July. These vacancies will be filled on a voluntary basis, General Vandenberg emphasized, pointing out that the USAF is recalling no reserve officers to duty without their consent.

Vacancies exist in a wide range of professional, technical and administrative fields for officers under the age of 45 in all grades up through colonel.

Most needed are second lieutenants who are college graduates, such as graduates from Air ROTC. These men, he said, will have an exceptional opportunity to obtain regular Air Force commissions during their tour of active duty.

Only officers commissioned in the Air Force Reserve or the Air National Guard of the United States are eligible to apply.

## THE U. S. SCHOOL BOOM



Others maintained that the idea grew out of the fact that Whig, which was the original name of the party, is an old Armenian word meaning elephant, thus explaining its origin very neatly.

Another story claims that the elephant was the inevitable choice, since the prominent nose and oversized ears of the beast are ideally suited for ferreting out nasty stories about opposing candidates.

The drab truth of the matter, however, reveals that one Thomas Mast, a political cartoonist for Harper's Magazine, borrowed the animal from an old legend which had a braying donkey scaring the daylight out of an elephant who subsequently runs into a trap set by a cunning fox.

The mystery is, why did Mr. Mast choose the elephant instead of the fox? But for this bit of hard luck, Dewey might this minute be loping across the country astride a beautiful silver fox, harvesting the votes of envious women from Maine to California.

ROSARY AND BENEDICTION ST. MARY'S CHAPEL 7:30 P. M. TONIGHT—WED. OCT. 6TH

Eyes Examined and Glasses Fitted By DR. JOHN S. CALDWELL —Office— Caldwell's Jewelry Store Bryan, Texas

PALACE Bryan 2-8879 WED thru SAT.

From the files of the FBI

THE STREET WITH NO NAME

QUEEN

LAST DAY "THE EYES OF TEXAS" —with— BOY ROGERS TODAY

Campus

LAST DAY First Run Bryan - College —Features Begin— 1:20 - 3:30 - 5:45 - 7:30 - 10:00

Speed to Spare

THURS. —FRI—SAT —Features Begin— 1:35 - 3:40 - 5:45 - 7:30 - 10:00

POWER RAY JOLSON

ROSE OF WASHINGTON SQUARE A RE-RELEASE SEE AND HEAR AL JOLSON (Not Larry Parks) Sing the songs that made him famous—"Mammy," "California Here I Come" and others. —Plus— CARTOON — NEWS

JOHNSON'S UPHOLSTERY SHOP SEAT COVERS Plastic — Straw Convertible Tops Back of Eagle Office BRYAN

MIDNITE SHOW EVERY SAT. SKYWAY DRIVE-IN THEATRE

NOW LAST DAY EASTER PARADE with JUDY GARLAND and FRED ASTAIRE

THUR - FRI Suddenly in Spring

SATURDAY—11 P. M. HOUSKREETS Daughter

Repeat Performance

THURS. & FRI. SPEED TO SPARE

MIDWAY CLEANERS Special Rates on Cash & Carry TWO DAY SERVICE Satisfaction Guaranteed MIDWAY AND COLLEGE ROAD