

Battalion EDITORIALS

Page 2

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

Will the Issues Course Be Great? . . .

When the Great Issues course was offered last spring, we hailed it as a great step by A&M toward enlightening students on contemporary world affairs. Its possibilities could be written into a list an arm's length.

Think of what a Great Issues course could do. Important speakers and prominent political figures could be secured for addresses.

Great events of the day could be analyzed and their background studied.

Students would be fortified with a little information on the history unfolding as they watch and study it.

An appreciation and interest could be stimulated that would remain with the student the remainder of his life.

There are many more "ifs," "coulds," and "woulds." But its DID'S are very few.

The promises and possibilities of Great Issues fired the imagination of everyone interested in world affairs. It would be a great boon to A&M.

But somewhere back in the planning stage a weak timber was placed in the foundation, and the whole structure of the course collapsed. While some of the speakers were interesting and informative others were inferior caliber men.

Great Issues became the great giveaway. And interest and attendance dropped to a low ebb. "It's a good course," students said, "a cinch three hours. All you have to do is go to class every once in a while."

If we did not think that Great Issues had possibilities which many would benefit by, we would leave it like it is—dead. But we would like to see such a course effectively presented.

The time is now to weigh and consider the course next semester. Plans could be made now which would profit from last year's mistakes. It is too good a thing to discontinue.

The Great Issues of today might easily grow into the great wars of tomorrow.

The Local Rent Control Issue . . .

College students and employees who are tenants in Brazos County will do well to attend the December 3 public hearing which will probably determine the fate of rent control in this area for the next year.

The hearing will be held in the District Court Room, County Court House, Bryan, at 7:30 p. m., Friday, The Bryan Rent Advisory Board will largely base its recommendations, concerning rent control, on the evidence presented at this session.

These recommendations of the board, together with the evidence on which the recommendations are based, are to be sent to the national Housing Expediter in Washington. Evidence presented to the board must be factual, not general theories, and for this reason anyone intending

to present information should have the evidence in the correct form before attending the hearing.

Any requirements about form that are not completely explained elsewhere in The Battalion can be learned from the local advisory board of which George E. Adams is chairman.

Anyone wishing to testify either for or against continuation of the present controls will be heard.

Certainly landlords who desire discontinuation of the controls will be present. And if they present evidence which shows a need for the discontinuation, the board will, no doubt, recommend this action.

But any tenant who feels that present rents are sufficiently high to warrant federal controls to prevent increases in them, should be sure to attend.

The Passing Parade . . .

The Christmas scene has been side-lighted by a little inter-state tiff over whose tree is the largest.

Rockefeller center proudly put up its 90-foot Christmas tree today but disclaimed any idea of competing with California.

The tree went up in sunny, brisk weather; the temperature was in the 40's. Hundreds of "sidewalk superintendents" were on hand. Ice skaters spun around the ring just below the giant tree, tallest ever erected here.

Electric lights and ornaments as big as basketballs were placed on the upper part of the tree before it was raised with a crane.

Two weeks ago little Redding, Calif., laughed at pretensions of New York and Los Angeles to the Christmas-tree championship. It said its 1948 tree would soar 98 feet, topping Los Angeles' entry by three feet.

If it breaks into a national competition we want to enter Fort Worth in the Mesquite division and San Angelo in the open Cactus sweepstakes.

Here is a wire release, datelined Santa Fe.

New Mexico is dropping another of its bi-lingual customs. After Jan. 1, legal notices will no longer have to be published in Spanish.

The State Supreme Court today repeal-

ed a requirement that court notices be published in Spanish in counties where a Spanish language newspaper is published.

Everyone we are sure, is happy to see our language barriers melting away. Now if only our national government would follow suit and quit printing their income tax forms in Greek.

The Battalion

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station, Texas, is published five times a week and circulated every Monday through Friday afternoon, except during holidays and examination periods. During the summer The Battalion is published tri-weekly on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Subscription rate \$4.30 per school year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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KEEPING AN EYE ON BUSTER



Amplification Department

By C. C. MUNROE

Dear Amplifier:

I have been a student at A&M since 1938 and will soon complete my five year course in business administration, but there is one thing that I have been unable to find out in my many years at school. Since I have labored through your column week after week, I feel that I am due for some reward, so I'll turn to you for the answer to my problem.

What keeps Pfeuffer Hall from falling, and why?

Yours anxiously,
Austin Foster Reffuep

Dear Reffuep:

Yours is a tough question. People who were attending A&M years before your arrival were asking the same question, and it is rumored that well over \$450 thousand dollars has been collected in bets from people who wager day after day that "now is the time, it can't stand any longer."

However, in keeping with this column's reputation for answering the unanswerable, I have delved into the history of Pfeuffer Hall. I asked architecture majors, physics majors, math majors, and bull majors, but all to no avail. Nobody seemed to know. In desperation, however, I turned to one source which must go unnamed. There I discovered what MIGHT be the answer.

Many long years ago, back in 1887 as many people should be able to tell you, Pfeuffer was built. At the time of the initial construction proceedings, however, the college was in a state of strange turmoil, for it was

in that year that the curricula was extended to four years.

This was a blow that was keenly felt by many students and the natural reaction was one of distaste. In fact, there was so much distaste around the campus because of the action that some "whipping boy" had to be found and, again, as usual, the student body took their wrath out on the mess hall food.

So great was the clamor raised about the poor quality of the food during that year of 1887 that a hurried consultation was called by the college officials and recommendations were heard for improving the cadets' diet. Among the recommendations was one calling for a change in the brand of flour the college used in preparing its baked goods. This was accepted, along with some other proposals, and several shipments of a new improved flour were brought to A&M.

This left the mess hall authorities with a large amount of unused flour on their hands and, to make room for the new flour the old was thrown out on the ground. All this occurred during the construction of Pfeuffer Hall. Well, somehow the old flour was mistaken for the sand which was to have been delivered to the building contractors engaged in constructing the new building, and the builders just mixed it in with the other materials.

To make a long story short, that noble edifice that leans so gracefully in four different directions, that architectural masterpiece is no ordinary building. It is a living, if teetering, monument to one of the strangest events ever made at A&M. For the mortar which still clings in spots to the side of Pfeuffer Hall is not ordinary mortar, but genuine "Brass Medal" mortar. As any old time baker can tell you, the slogan of "Brass Medal Flour" was "Anything You Bake With Brass Medal Never Falls." And so, Reffuep, that is one explanation why Pfeuffer Hall still stands today.

Gig 'em,
Amplifier

Think of This

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."
Philip, 4:13

There are many things that we can not do in our own strength. However, when united with Christ, we can endure, achieve, and accomplish all things through the strength that he gives us. This should stimulate us to face life unafraid. It is a promise that will never fail the true and trusting heart. The only requirement for receiving this strength is to "Believe on the Lord Jesus." (Read Philip, 4:10-16)

Perishable Foods Short Course Will Be Held on Campus

The Loss Prevention in Perishables Short Course is to be held on the campus Dec. 13 through December 17, Dr. G. W. Adriance, chairman, has announced. The Short Course is sponsored by the Horticulture, Plant Physiology and Pathology Departments.

Registration will be held in the Sbsa Hall Lounge and a fee of \$2 will be required of all registrants. Meetings and discussion groups will be held in the YMCA and Sbsa Mess Hall.

There is to be a banquet in Sbsa Hall at 7 p. m., December 14. The price of the tickets will be \$2 and will be obtainable at the registrar's desk.

An attendance of 50 persons is estimated.

Radio Stations To Air Timm's Talks

Tyrus R. Timm, extension economist and professor of agricultural economics, and four other professors in land grant colleges have made transcribed records which will be broadcast over 804 radio stations across the country.

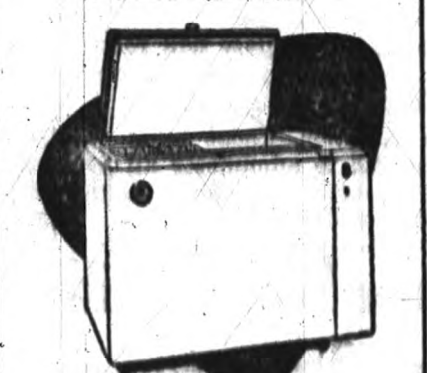
The purpose of these speeches is to emphasize the importance of saving bonds to farm and ranch families and is being sponsored by the savings bonds division of the U. S. Treasury Department.

Timm is representing the South on these broadcasts, which started in November and will finish up in December.

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Found in the Files . . .

Roving Batt Correspondent Attends Truman Press Meet

By C. C. MUNROE

(Editor's Note—Always the first the latest, The Battalion presents an Aggie's eye view of a presidential press conference which took place last July 22.)

Battalion correspondents may not be able to get into Kyle Field or Guion Hall with their press passes, but the cards do turn the trick beyond the borders of Brazos County.

The best example of this, perhaps, was Batt Sports Writer Sack Spoeck's gate crashing at the Olympics in England during the summer, but ranking pretty high on the list was the feat of Jimmie O'Connell, senior civil engineering student from Fort Worth, who used his press card to get into a presidential press conference.

O'Connell was assigned to Ft. Belvoir, Virginia last July for his ROTC summer camp tour, and while there acted as one of the Batt's roving correspondents to send back stories on camp activities. However, O'Connell took his duty to heart, and decided that he would like to see what a presidential press conference was like.

Acting on his own hook, O'Connell wrote a letter to presidential secretary Charles Ross and requested a pass, Ross, who, like so many others, looks at The Battalion with a leery eye, wrote back saying that before the pass could be granted, O'Connell would have to have his paper's editor send a letter to Washington verifying his status as a correspondent.

After some hurried letter writing from Belvoir, College Station and Washington, the pass was received by O'Connell along with instructions to be at the White House July 22. The necessary arrangements for a pass were completed through Captain R. C. O'Hara, O'Connell's platoon leader.

On the day of the conference, O'Connell got a late start from Belvoir and barely made the presidential mansion by the deadline. He was in such a hurry that, in spite of the occasion, he had to park beside a fire plug and take his chances on a ticket.

Two guards checked his name off at the first gate leading into the grounds of the president's home. After walking up to the White House, O'Connell entered through the executive office door and again had his name checked off.

The first room in which he stood was a large, all white-hall way with a large presidential seal on the wall facing the door. Several secret service men questioned O'Connell while he was standing there with about 35 regular White House correspondents who were also waiting for the conference. Both newspaper and radio men were busy outlining questions to ask President Truman.

Secret service men then ushered O'Connell, together with 11 other correspondents who were not on the regular White House staff, into an anteroom just outside the President's office. All around the wall of the anteroom were dozens of newspaper cartoons that were decidedly "anti-Truman." Many of them were originals, given to the President by the cartoonists. Also on the wall was a mock degree from the "Missouri College of Hunting and Fishing" which stated that "this special diploma is hereby awarded to Harry S. Truman."

A picture of the late President Roosevelt and President Truman hung beside the cartoons and the diploma.

After a two minute wait, all the regular White House correspondents filed through the room, down another hallway and into the president's office. When the regular newsmen had passed, O'Connell and the other correspondents followed. Everybody had their names checked again as they went into the presidential office.

The office was very large with pine paneled walls. A United States flag and the presidential flag flanked the desk. A huge picture of Roosevelt hung on the

wall. The president's desk was covered with many knickknacks, and on a table behind the desk were pictures of the president's desk was covered with many knickknacks, and on a table behind the desk were pictures of the president's mother, Mrs. Truman, and of Margaret.

The president, dressed in a neat gray suit, sat behind the desk, flanked by his military aides and secret service men.

Everyone was quiet until an aide said, "Mr. President, they are all here." President Truman stood up then and told the newsmen, "Gentlemen, I don't have anything special to say to you, but I called you in today in case you had some questions you would like to ask me."

The first question: "What do you think of the situation in Berlin?" "No comment."

"What do you think of the possibilities for world peace?"

To this the president answered, "I think they are good, in fact, excellent."

O'Connell was standing on the opposite side of the president's desk.

After more questions about the

world situation, one of the regular correspondents said, "Thank you, Mr. President," and everyone started to wait out.

O'Connell decided he might as well make the best of the situation, so he crossed over and introduced himself to the president saying that he was from A&M. Truman, who had been talking to one of his aides, turned around, shook hands with O'Connell and commented that he had heard a lot about A&M.

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