

# Nothing Slows Down Picture Production In Batt's Photoengraving Laboratory -- Not Even Marriage

By ART HOWARD

Nothing is sacred in the engraving business, as Hardy Ross, one of the Battalion's engravers, discovered at mid-term. Ross got married between semesters and returned to school where he found a rush order for some pictures. He spent most of his honeymoon engraving them.

These locally produced engravings are responsible for the brighter pages in your paper.

If you have been a Batt reader for more than a year, you realize that the paper runs at least six times as many pictures now as in previous years. It was slightly over one year ago that the Battalion installed its own photoengraving lab.

And the majority of the pictures which have appeared in the Batt since then have been the handiwork of Joe Trevino and Hardy Ross. These two students are the ones who stay up late to engrave pictures, called cuts, of last night's basketball game or dance so that the readers will enjoy their paper more.

These two men have probably done more than any writer to increase the readability of the paper.

Prior to mid-term of 1948, pictures had to be sent to Austin for engraving, which usually took four or five days. By then the impact of the pictures was lost. Now it is a matter of three hours from the click of the camera to the finished cut.

The early days were the hard ones. Photoengraving is a skilled job, and there is many a slip between the photograph and mounted cut ready for printing. One misstep on any of the dozen steps can mean a wasted hour.

Joe Trevino was the first "experienced" man to answer the Batt's call for help. Trevino had worked in a photoengraving lab in the Navy—he swept out one for a week while waiting for a ship. But with the slight knowledge gained from that and one of architecture prof Joe Meador's lectures, Joe bulldozed his way into the job. His knowledge, however limited, was enough to impress Roland Bing, director of Student Publications.

In preparation for setting up the lab, Bing and Tom Puddy, Guion Hall manager and photography expert, took a field trip through the Dallas Morning News engraving plant to learn the essentials of this skilled trade. Armed with cans of potions and a few sheets of engraving zinc, they returned to A&M, and Trevino was ready to start.

Uncertain that cuts could be made within the budget, Bing installed only the minimum of equipment. An old copy camera was borrowed for making negatives, and a plain hot plate was used to heat the zinc before engraving.

Often it took four or five tries to make a picture come out because of the poor equipment and the inexperience of the engravers. For the first two weeks their products resembled a coal yard at midnight. Now their work is much better than that from Austin. However, their work can only be as good as the photographer's picture, Trevino explained. If the picture is too dark or too light, it will not have enough contrast to print.

About a week after the engraving started, Hardy Ross, recently returned from the army, made his appearance. Ross had had some experience in photoengraving while working as a photographer. Pooling their knowledge, the two students soon became experts in photoengraving, while working at student wages.

The lab was first located in the basement of Guion Hall but was moved to Foster Hall before the recent Guion refacing job. The saddest part of moving for the engravers was having to leave their proofs of pictures of beautiful

girls on the basement wall. They still decorate their lab with ruined plates, but have not been able to make proofs since Trevino left the gelatin proof roller in the sun. "Engraving has become much simpler since moving out of Guion," Ross said. "The damp atmosphere and humidity changes affected the enamel on the plates, ruining many of our pictures."

One of the improvements which have been made in photoengraving equipment was the addition of a "router," which is the suspended drill shown in the picture above. This router enables Trevino and Ross to produce "line" drawings. Line drawings are different from regular half-tones in that they are solid lines, while half-tones are composed of small dots.

The line drawings give better contrast and are much more effective than half-tone pictures. The line cuts must be etched much deeper with acid than the half-tones; and the router is used to gouge out the open spaces between the lines to prevent making smudges during printing.

The Batt is not the only publication which benefits from the engraving lab; the Commentator, Engineer, and Agriculturist use home grown cuts.

Several men have come in to help Trevino and Ross, but many of them have been unable to master the intricate steps of photoengraving. A recent protege, Brad Holmes, has been working since mid-term and is now able to turn out pictures solo.

Both Ross and Trevino feel that they could take up photoengraving as a trade without any trouble—and probably make a nice income. The standard price for photoengraving is 11 cents per square inch.

Last month these two men turned out 150 cuts averaging 20 square inches, a commercial value of \$330. And that on a part-time job.

However, their job can't really be called part-time because they average 100 hours a month in the engraving lab. This month appears to be one of their best yet, and they are fast approaching the 200-picture mark.

Taking pride in both the quality and quantity of their work, Trevino and Ross have been running a contest to see who can turn out the most work. Trevino first claimed the record with 21 cuts on one weekend. Ross then captured it with 24, Trevino made it 31, and

Ross recently set the top mark of 38, although he had Holmes helping him.

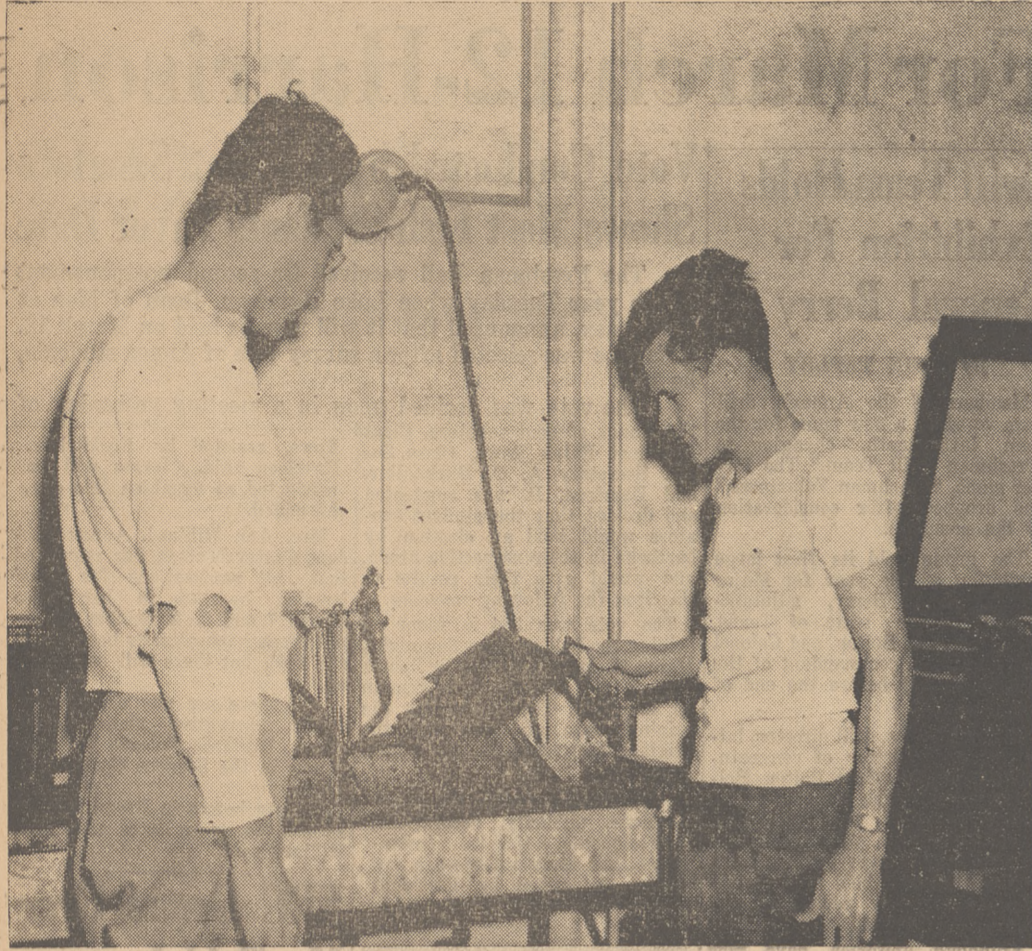
Last fall Trevino turned out every one of the pictures which appeared in the multipage pre-

registration issue.

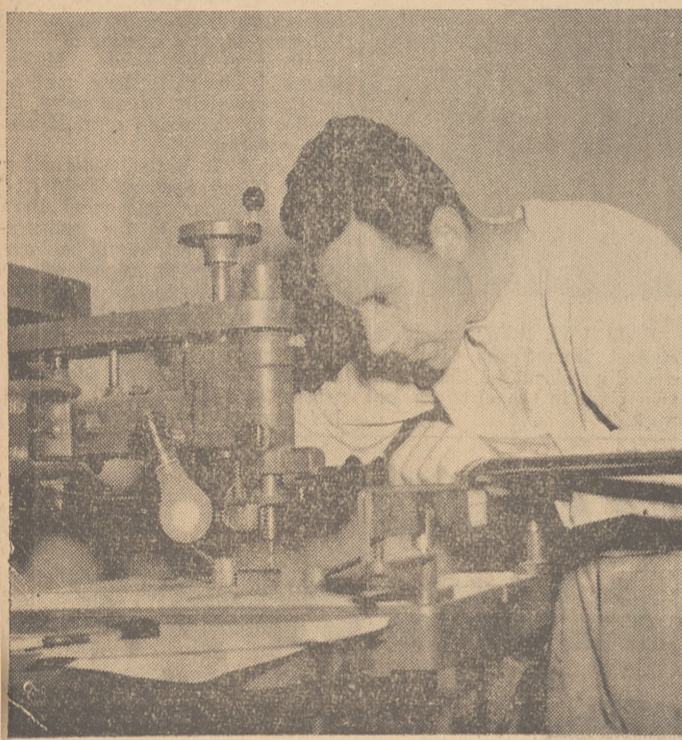
Neither of these men plan to go into the engraving business. Trevino, who claims Edna as his hometown, is studying architectural construction and plans to start build-

ing houses when he gets out of mid-term.

Ross, a ChE major from Pecos, also intends to follow schooling instead of photoengraving.



If their work has been done right, Batt engravers JOE TREVINO, left, and HARDY ROSS, will see the image of a picture appear on the zinc plate in a few seconds. Once this stage is passed, the picture is well on its way toward appearing in the Battalion.



The trickiest job of cartoon making is gouging out the blank spaces between the lines. JOE TREVINO shows the concentration necessary to do a good job with the modern router.



Making the negative is the first step in transferring a picture into a photoengraved cut. Here HARDY ROSS checks the adjustment on the copy camera before taking the picture.

## THE BATTALION

Page 4 Thurs., Feb. 24, 1949

### Fly Boys . . . .

#### Air Force Choice Of 421 Freshmen

The U. S. Army is still the choice of Aggies, but the U. S. Air Force is preferred over any separate army unit, according to a bulletin released by Sergeant J. C. Thomas of the Annex Military Science Department. A poll of the Annex students was made in the Military Science classes in connection with the Basic M.S. Cadet Deferment program, he said.

Six hundred and fifty-one freshmen chose the US Army, 421 the U. S. Air Force, while five men did not select either, as they are not citizens of the United States.

The Air Force, however, held a wide majority by units, the sergeant said. Below is his list of preferences.

- Air Force Administration—181
- Air Force Maintenance Engineering—240
- Infantry—87
- Field Artillery—174
- Field Corps—28
- Armored Cavalry—86
- Corps of Engineers—73
- Coast Artillery—32
- Chemical Corps—24
- Quartermaster Corps—36
- Ordnance Dept.—15
- Transportation Corps—60
- Army Security Agency—38
- None—5

#### Radio Club Erects Antenna at Annex

Have you been wondering what that contraption on the roof of the building across the street from the Military Science building is? That is the three element rotary beam antenna of the Annex Radio Club, erected by Bob Knellinger, Bob Chapman, and Tex Kennedy. Membership in the club is still open to any interested Annex student, staff, or faculty member.

The February 16 meeting of the club was chiefly a forum on various theoretical topics. The members present discussed relative merits of various types of oscillators.

The club now has an automatic doe machine, which sends signals at variable speeds for code practice. The club is now firmly established as a permanent feature and several of the unlicensed members are on the way toward meeting the requirements.

#### Annex Band Stops Morning Practices

Wednesday and Friday morning band rehearsals at the Annex have been discontinued, said Lt. Colonel Verne Adams, band director. Less than half of the band is free of classes at the 8 a.m. period on these days, and the practices would not benefit the band, he said.

### Exams Announced For Civil Service Ratings P-2, P-5

Application forms for historian, intelligence specialist, foreign affairs officer, and social science analyst examinations may be obtained from any first- or second-class post office, the Civil Service Commission has announced. The applications will be received by the commission in Washington prior to March 15, 1949.

Applicants for the examinations must meet educational and/or experience qualifications outlined in Announcement No. 157 for ratings of P-2 through P-5. Salaries for these ratings range from \$3,727 to \$6,235 a year.

Applicants must be citizens between 18 and 62 years of age. Federal medical officers will examine persons who are offered appointments.

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SPECIALS FOR FRIDAY -- SATURDAY -- 25th & 26th

**CHEESE** Missouri Daisy PER POUND **39c**

(CIRCLE S) — Sugar Cured — 5 to 6 Lb. Average—  
**SWIFTS PICNIC** . . . . . per pound **44c**

**Short Ribs** OF VEAL **LB. 39c**

**MOCK** CHICKEN LEGS. **2 for 15c**

CLOVER BLOOM—  
**BUTTER** Solids . . . lb. **69c**

HOME GROWN — FULLY DRESSED—  
**FRYERS** per pound **69c**

Del-Comido— <b>Tamales</b> . . . . . 2 cans <b>35c</b>	Libby's—Sliced—No. 2 1/2 Can— <b>Peaches</b> . . . . . <b>29c</b>
Whittens—No. 2 Can— <b>Chili</b> . . . . . <b>31c</b>	Happy Host Whole Sliced—No. 2 1/2 Can— <b>Peaches</b> . . . . . <b>33c</b>
Del Monte— <b>Spinach</b> . . . . . 2 No. 2 Cans <b>25c</b>	Kraft's Miracle Whip— <b>Salad Dressing</b> . . . . . Pint Jar <b>31c</b>
Ma-omi Cream Style— <b>Corn</b> . . . . . 2 No. 2 cans <b>25c</b>	Milford Cut Green—No. 1 Can— <b>Asparagus</b> . . . . . <b>17c</b>

**CHASE & SANBORN'S COFFEE** . . Pound Can **49c**

**Scot-Tissue** 2 rolls **23c**

Libby's Deep Brown—  
**Beans** . . . . . 3 cans **31c**

I Large — 1 Medium — 1 Guest—  
**Ivory Soap** . All 3 for **30c**

1/4 Pound Pkg.—  
**Admiration Tea** . . **26c**

14 oz. Bottle—  
**Heinz Ketchup** . . . . . **23c**  
**GAINS DOG FOOD**  
Meal or Crunch  
**10 Pound Bag \$1.25**  
Sour or Dill—  
**Diamond Pickles** . Qt. **25c**

PRODUCE  
**CELERY** -- California . . . . . Large stalk **22c**  
**CARROTS** . . . . . 2 bunches **9c**  
**TOMATOES** -- Mexico Pinks . . . . . Carton **22c**  
**ORANGES** - Texas - 216 size . . . . . Dozen **23c**  
**GRAPES** -- Fresh and Good . . . . . Pound **15c**

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