

# Battalion Editorials

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1949

## Give Them A Championship Send Off . . .

Tomorrow afternoon, at 6:10, the Texas Aggie track team will leave for Arkansas in quest of their third straight Southwest Conference Track championship.

In Colonel Frank Anderson's assemblage of track and field men are some of the best Southwest tracksters in recent years. Several of them have been big splashes in the national cinder pond.

All through this conference, and at invitational meets throughout the nation, our athletes have set individual and relay marks. The national and state publicity they have brought the school is tremendous.

And finally, through a five year athletic drought, they have brought us our only Southwest Conference championship in a major sport—not once, but twice. This

year they stand a good chance of making it three in a row.

Saturday afternoon, when they leave on the Sunbeam; let's all go down to the station and show them we're interested in their chances. In the past, no matter how small the game, we have always seen our football teams off at the station. The players tell us they appreciate this tremendously, and the interest is reflected in their play.

Many of this year's trackmen are making their last conference competition, and closing distinguished track careers.

Saturday at 6, the yell leaders will be down to meet the Sunbeam. Get your roommate and the guy down the hall and bring them down to the station. Let's show our two-time track champions that they are all-time champs with us.

## Some Slippery Statements on Petroleum . . .

A stray statement made by John Suman, vice president and director of Standard Oil of New Jersey, led some of the Great Issues Class astray yesterday.

In an extemporaneous question and answer session he said that the oil companies contributed 56 per cent of the total taxes of Texas. Later, still speaking extemporaneously and without notes, he said that he believed personally that the oil companies were paying too much in the way of taxes instead of not enough as one of the students in Great Issues was insisting.

Since Mr. Suman was not using notes, there is a possibility that he, by mistake, was quoting figures on some other state or one of the foreign countries where his company operates. But we prefer to believe that he was using the same old fallacy-packed argument that oil interests use.

If one examines the argument of the oil company sympathizers closely, evidence quickly shows that Texas oil companies are not great white fathers after all.

According to George H. Sheppard's report of the revenue and expenditures of Texas for September 1, 1947 to August 31, 1948, taxes amounting to \$85,795,000 were collected on crude oil in Texas. It also shows that the total ad valorem or property tax was \$27,540,000; since no exact figure is available, let's allow one-third of this sum as property tax on the oil companies. By adding \$85,795,000 and \$9,180,000 (one-third of the ad valorem tax), we find that the most the oil companies pay in taxes is a figure of \$94,975,000.

Excluding the various fees, collections, and federal aid, we find that Texas collected a total of \$300,643,000 in taxes last year of which this \$94,975,000 is a part. But this latter figure is far short of the

56 per cent that Mr. Suman mentioned.

Obviously, then, Mr. Suman and other advocates of the oil companies' view must look elsewhere to bolster their argument. They conveniently add the net Highway Motor Fuel Tax, which amounts to \$86,667,000, to the crude oil tax and ad valorem tax. This total sum is \$181,642,000, a figure exceeding Mr. Suman's 56 per cent.

But the oil companies do not pay this Highway Motor Fuel Tax out of their pockets. As each gallon of gasoline is produced, the state automatically slaps a four cent tax on it and the Federal Government adds their one and one-half cent tax. This 5 and one-half cents passes along from the refinery to the bulk plants, and from there to the gas station and automobiles. It is passed along as a hidden tax. Who eventually pays this 5 and one half cents? Right, old John Q. Public and not the oil companies. Anyone doubting this can check the dial of any gas station pump and convince themselves.

So at most the oil interests in Texas paid \$94,975,000 in taxes for last year, a paltry sum considering the state's need for money. Instead of paying 56 per cent of the state's taxes, the oil companies are paying approximately 30 per cent.

We enjoyed Mr. Suman's talk and gained much information about the oil supplies about the world. We want him and others like him to feel free to come to our campus and talk.

But these visitors must be more careful about trying to sell Texans on the idea that they (the oil companies) are the financial flesh and blood of the state when actually this honor goes to our resources which are being exploited.

Some of the 8 per cent of farmers, who have had a high school education, might get wised up and tell our State Legislature this salient fact.

A British professor complains that U. S. trillions, billions and millions are not understandable to the English, who use a different system. If it's our money we better count it our way.

A true valuation of money these days was given last week by the counterfeiter who turned himself in because there wasn't enough profit in coining 50 cent pieces. What can you buy with fifty cents?

## The Battalion

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

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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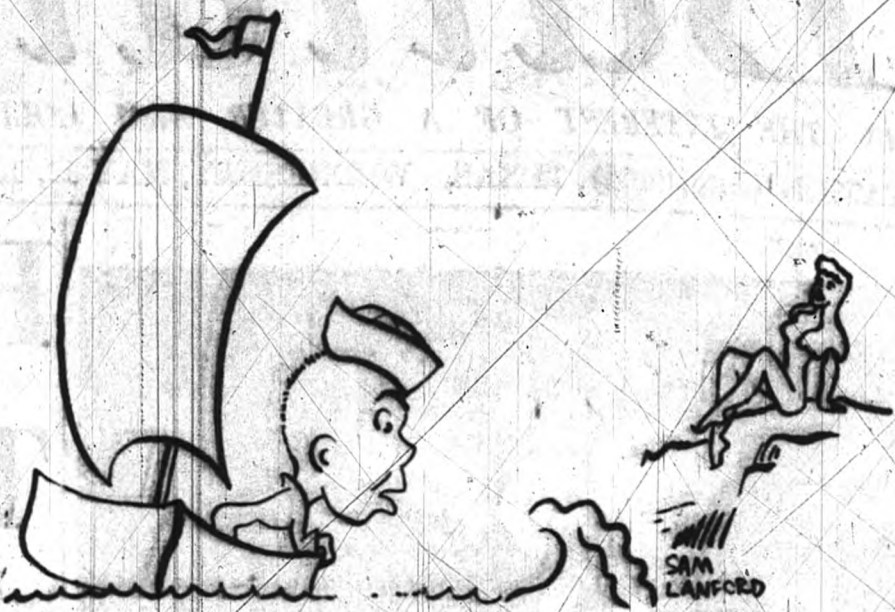
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## Battalion Poem Contest



This Lorelei on a rock so bare,  
She doesn't seem to have a care.  
Let this not fool the sailor bold,

## Sneak Preview . . .

### Latest Western Outlaw Epic Reglorifies Younger Brothers

By HERMAN C. GOLLOB

The Younger Brothers (Warners) starring Wayne Morris and Janis Paige (Campus).

The brothers Warner are unduly fond of the brothers Younger. Several years ago they filmed "Bad Men of Missouri," a hammy, black and white epic which whitewashed the lives of these "good" bad men.

Now, in keeping with the western mania which is currently sweeping Hollywood, Warners turns again to the lives of the Youngers, this time in technicolor. Unfortunately, they have come up with as unhappy a version as the last.

Aside from the stretched, stereotyped performances, listless direction, and rapid script, TYB can take credit for the worst of "western" atrocities: it creates a female desperado (Janis Paige), a beautiful and heartless wench who causes the Youngers untold anguish.

To make a trite story short, the Youngers, (Wayne Morris, Bruce Bennett, Robert Paige, and James Brown) on parole, ride into town with the intention of marrying off brother Jim to Geraldine Brooks,

a sweet young thing with a perpetual smile. They are forced to leave by a hostile crowd which has been stirred up by villain Fred Clark, an ex-Pinkerton detective who owes a game leg to the brothers.

After a saloon brawl, a posse-outlaw chase, and a bank robbery, the Youngers manage to square things with the law and the town-folk, and retire to Missouri to farm the land.

If the countryside which they tilled was as barren in resources and good soil as this film is in entertainment value, we have no doubts that the Youngers turned again to robbing hardworking folk for a living.

Should they turn out any more like this one, the Warners can be accused of doing the same, only they do their robbing in a more subtle manner at the box-office instead of in trains, and stage-coaches.

## Holick Purchases Hillcrest Grocery

The Hillcrest Grocery, 2011 So. College Road, was sold recently by R. C. Fussell to its former owner, E. A. Holick. The Hillcrest store was a member of the Fussell chain.

The store will remain open this week while all details of the transaction are completed and will open Monday morning, May 16, under the Holick management.

The deal was made after Holick expressed desire to get back into business. He lives behind the store and owns the building.

## Official Notice

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural sophomores who took Dairy Husbandry 202 in the first semester and those sophomores who are now taking D. H. 202 are eligible to compete in the Sophomore Dairy Cattle Judging Contest Saturday morning, May 21, beginning at 8 a.m.

It will aid in the organization of the contest if each student who is interested in the contest will leave his name with the secretary of the Dairy Department in Room 213 Agriculture Building any time prior to May 20.

A. L. DARNELL  
Professor of Dairy Husbandry

## Coming to the SKYWAY



HARRY CAREY, Jr., JOHN WAYNE and PEDRO ARMENDARIZ watch their pursuers in MGM's "3 GODFATHERS." Color by Technicolor.

## PALACE Bryan 2-8879

TODAY thru SATURDAY

IT'S THE CHEER LEADER OF THE YEAR!!!

Loretta Young  
VAN JOHNSON

MOTHER is a Freshman  
Color by TECHNICOLOR

Directed by LLOYD BACON - Produced by WALTER MOROSCO

## Boyle's Column . . .

# Boyle Proposes Solution To Woman Surplus in U. S.

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP)—There is a surplus of women in America. Supply has now outrun demand in this important field. And the ratio of excess women to men is likely to continue.

What can be done about it? Particularly since medical science at present is unable to arrange a switchover in posterity production techniques—by means of which the stork would bring more baby boys and fewer baby girls.

The commonest solution for the problem of the extra female has been polygamy, the system under which a man has several wives.

To an American husband this system certainly has obvious merits. I think ten wives would be about right, if all remained deductible for income tax purposes.

Under polygamy you would mar-

ry the first wife for love alone—as now often happens under monogamy.

The second wife would be a \$52,000-a-year career woman, and she would bring her \$1,000 pay check home in her mouth every week.

The third wife would be a wonderful cook.

The fourth would be maid and housekeeper—a well-muscled lass able to move heavy furniture by herself.

The fifth would be a trained nurse, skilled at mixing hot toddies when I had a cold.

The sixth would be a plump young baby sister. She'd care for the children and do odd jobs like bringing my slippers and lighting my cigars.

The seventh would sing and dance at home entertainments.

The eighth would be a secretary and an accountant. She'd keep the family budget.

The ninth I would take to sports events. And she'd never ask questions like: "Why don't they arrest that man if he is stealing bases?"

The tenth would be a glamorous, talented conversationalist. I'd take her along when the boss invited me to his house for dinner.

I think with ten wives like that any man could have a happy home.

## Obliging Stranger Returns Nurse's Purse

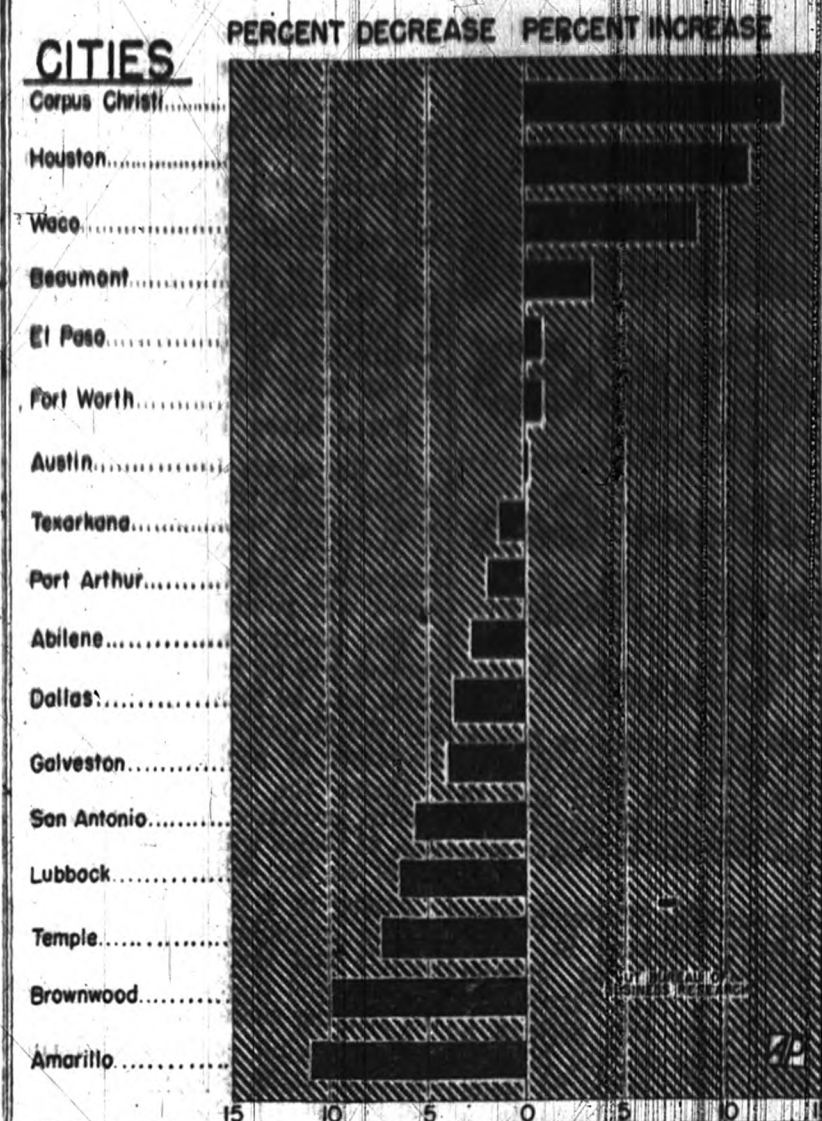
SAN DIEGO, May 10 (AP)—A San Diego nurse has a renewed faith in the honesty and kindness of the human race.

Sibyl B. Dobby lost her purse yesterday while shopping.

A few hours later she found the purse on her front porch, the \$80 in cash and \$133 worth of jewelry intact. She said there was no note to indicate who had returned the purse.

## RETAIL SALES IN TEXAS CITIES

Jan.-Mar. 1949 Compared With Jan.-Mar. 1948



ROSARY AND BENEDICTION  
St. Mary's Chapel  
TONIGHT - WEDNESDAY  
7:30 P.M.

SKYWAY  
DRIVE-IN THEATRE

Now: Last Day  
LUCKY LICENSE

TONITE

FOR

\$250.

(Less Tax)

TWO NUMBERS

SELECTED

— First For —

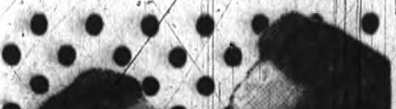
\$150.

— Second For —

\$100.

— GIANT SCREEN —

MEET... Miss Wrong Number!



DEANNA EDMOND  
DURBIN O'BRIEN  
FOR THE LOVE OF MARY  
JEFFREY LYNN - DON TAYLOR

THURS. - FRIDAY  
TECHNICOLOR  
JOHN WAYNE

3 GODFATHERS

Quion Hall

LAST DAY  
Crown in Folds. Every Day!

A DATE WITH JUDY

M-G-M's  
Joyous Musical in Technicolor!

TECHNICOLOR!

WALLACE BEERY  
JANE POWELL  
ELIZABETH TAYLOR  
CARMEN MIRANDA  
XAVIER CUGAT  
ROBERT STACK

Plus  
CARTOON - LATEST NEWS  
and  
THREE STAGE COMEDY  
"PARDON MY CLUTCH"

"CONGO BILL"  
PREL AT 8:30 P. M. ONLY  
SAT. AT 2:40 P. M. ONLY

Fri. Preview 11:00 P. M.  
FIRST RUN

WARNER BROS. HIT MUSICAL!  
MY DREAM IS YOURS  
Color by TECHNICOLOR

COMING - Thursday & Friday  
SPECTACULAR!  
NORTHWEST STAMPEDE  
IN CINECOLOR!

WARNER BROS. HIT MUSICAL!  
DARK DAY  
JACK CARSON  
LEE BOWMAN  
MENJOU ARDEN - SAKALL  
FLY'S CARTOON