

A Letter From the Ex Students . . .

The following resolution was issued last week by the Former Student Association, through its executive secretary, J. B. "Dick" Hervey.

WHEREAS, The student body of the A&M College of Texas distinguished itself and the honorable tradition of the College through exemplary and lofty conduct and action during the school year 1948-1949; and

WHEREAS, This group of young men qualified as the outstanding student body in the entire Southwest Conference from the standpoint of sportsmanship and thereby were awarded the Southwest Conference Sportsmanship Award for 1949; and

WHEREAS, The student body of the A&M College of Texas has had great hon-

or and prestige bestowed upon it through this high degree of accomplishment;

NOW, THEREFORE, The Association of Former Students of the A&M College of Texas, through the action of the Council, resolves that commendation of the first order be given to the student body on its unparalleled achievement in becoming the official recipient of the Southwest Conference Sportsmanship Award for 1949. (end quote)

If there is any group a student of A&M covets praise from, it is from the Aggie exes. From them, who represent the things we would like to be, commendation is doubly appreciated.

We would like to see another letter saying the same thing at this same time in 1950.

Wild River Stay Away From My Door . . .

There's many a Texas farmer who will welcome the creation of a federal river valley authority in Texas—a lot more now than before the floods last week. And we would venture a little further to claim that many city people that didn't previously see the importance of river flood control projects, think it's not such a bad idea now.

Unharnessed water—water made thick by farmer's topsoil and cluttered up with people's bedding and household belongings—can be costly and unfriendly. This uncontrolled water racing through Ft. Worth did millions of dollars' damage, and all the damage was not covered by insurance.

Along the rivers swollen out of proportion by last week's rains more than one family prayed, "River stay away from my door."

River flood control systems would correct much of this unharnessed water after heavy rains. And while dams are placed across rivers and water spills over their

spillways, generators could turn some of the passing mechanical energy into electric energy for the benefit of man. Rivers that once ran clear after heavy rains, now run black or deep red. The color comes from farmlands and soil leaving the farms of Texas forever, or until that part of the Gulf of Mexico rises up and another civilization tills the soil that once belonged to Texas.

The floods must be harnessed. If Texas is willing to pay for it, then let the legislature take steps toward that end. If Texas' lawmakers won't do it, let the federal government help us.

Dams need to be built, soil conservation and flood control need to be practiced. If Texas is unable to help herself, then let's have no qualms about asking Washington for help.

A wild river has no conscience; a wild river is no respecter of life or property. Somebody tame these wild rivers of Texas, we are not running a circus.

Blimey, Gov'nor, It's the Blinking Yanks Again . . .

"The Yanks are back," said a London shop clerk to her customer. "The Yanks are back," remarked a Liverpool fishmonger to a bobble. "The Yanks are back," mused a Lancashire farmer as he watched B-29's drone overhead.

Since last July this expression has been on the lips of Britishers who remember the Yanks of the war years. For some Yanks meant loud, boisterous, drunken, immoral GI's stumbling in pubs to drink and curse the warm beer. For others the return of American servicemen meant the giant of the West—The United States, her 140 millions of people, her production and technology—stood firm with Britain and western European nations in their resolution and determination to exert military occupation of Germany and opposition to further avert Russian expansion westward.

Both Britain and America apparently feel that any violation of Britain's sover-

eignty by an enemy power would be taken by this country as just cause for war in defense of Britain. Prior to World War II the mere suggestion that American troops be based in Britain would have brought both our Congress and the British Parliament to their feet in protest. Now we regard our frontier at the great German divide between East and West and Britain as our ally in the hinterland.

American forces on British soil are hailed by both countries as guardians of victory—a victory that the United Nations sought to win, a victory so elusive and precious that even the United Nations must watch one another with suspicion lest the prize of all become the captive of one.

Yanks in Britain are poised to wrest our share of that victory from the hungry Russian bear should he become restless and set out to feed upon western European flesh.

A minor league ball player married a movie queen. Maybe he's weak on curves.

Silent, wordless, speaking of love, Sam sat in contemplation.

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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News contributions may be made by telephone (4-5444) or at the editorial office, Room 201, Goodwin Hall. Classified ads may be placed by telephone (4-5324) or at the Student Activities Office, Room 209, Goodwin Hall.

KENNETH BOND, TOM CARTER, Co-Editors

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"Why cotiny me summer plans is complete. I am to vacation among de pastoral beauties of d'Camp Hood sage brush!"

Letters To The Editor

OTHER SIDE OF SITUATION

Editors, The Battalion:

You have recently used The Battalion as a means of questioning the value of those people of the State of Texas who are engaged in the business of producing, refining, and marketing our oil and gas resources. Since you have contributed more opinion than fact, it might be interesting to those who read your editorials to see some of the facts.

Your first editorial objected to the efforts of the Governor to retain the tide lands. We find that \$7,750,000 had been paid into the Public School fund up to July 1, 1948, in the form of lease bonus money for off-shore leases and further that the State expects \$66,417,500 from the same source during the next ten year period. We also find that the state expects \$875,000,000 in the form of royalty payments as the off shore oil is produced.

It is evident that you wish to forfeit this money to the Federal Government so that you may dig deeper yourself. Perhaps you think that North Dakota's illustrious senator had our children in mind when he suggested that Federal Aid to our schools be cut because we don't willingly give his state a share of what he thinks is already rightfully theirs.

We also object to your manner of presentation of your editorial on Mr. Suman, who, by the way, had a son graduate from here last year. Mr. Suman, through his efforts since he has been associated with the oil business, has been responsible for doubling the amount of oil that may be obtained from an oil reservoir. If you will take half of some of these tax and income figures you can see for yourself how much John Suman is worth to the State of Texas.

It was the contention of one of John Suman's audience at the "Great Issues" meeting that the tax being paid by the oil industry is out of line with the value of their properties. During the fiscal year of 1947 the people who make their living producing, refining, and marketing oil or gas paid \$5,003,485 as Ad Valorem Taxes while the rest of the tax payers paid \$10,008,472. The people of the oil industry must, therefore, own about one third of the property.

However, we find that the people of the oil industry paid a total of \$71,640,899 in the form of business and property taxes while the rest of the tax payers paid only \$55,757,743 in the form of business and property

taxes. Those tax payers of the oil industry own one-third of the business and property and yet they pay 56.2 per cent of the business and property taxes.

This was Mr. Suman's answer to the member's argument. It is every thing but misleading—it is the biggest understatement of the year, if you wish to consider the total tax and income figures. The following facts will substantiate the value of our oil and gas reserves and the people who exploit them:

For the fiscal year of 1947:

Sources of	Billions of Dollars	Percent of Total
Petroleum and Products	2.4	55.8
Crops	1.1	25.6
Livestock and Livestock Products	0.8	18.6
Total	4.3	100.0

The oil and gas operators paid 45 per cent of the general fund revenues in 1947. At least 52 per cent of the states contribution to the cost for old age assistance was paid by the oil and gas operators.

One-third of the state's bill for public education was borne by the Petroleum Industry.

The Petroleum Industry paid 43 per cent of the cost of higher education (colleges and universities) and of the 3,014 college faculty members who are paid out of tax funds, the salaries of 1,356 or 45 out of every 100, were paid by oil and gas operators.

These represent but a few of the items to which the oil and gas operators contribute heavily.

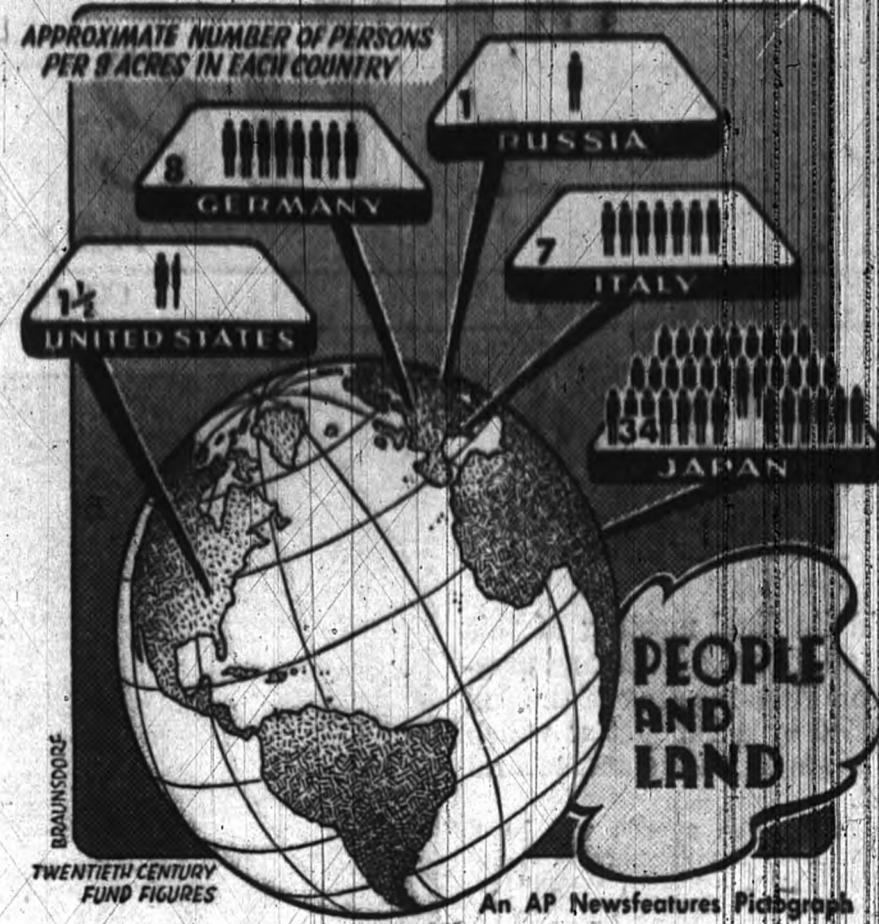
The latest figures published by Commerce Clearing House, Inc., nationally recognized tax analysts, show this picture for 1946.

Taxpayers in 27 states paid \$902 million in general sales and use taxes. (A survey this year by Tax Foundation, Inc. showed the sales tax "take" for the nation was \$1.2 billion or 40 per cent of the total collection of all state taxes in 1947). Texans pay no sales taxes.

In 34 states the taxpayers paid a total of \$834 million in state income taxes. Texans pay no state income tax.

Natural resource taxes paid in Texas the same year were \$6.3 millions greater than the total in natural resource taxes paid by all the other states combined. Texas oil and gas operators paid 92.3 per cent of the natural resource taxes in Texas in 1946.

The State Comptroller had the following to say in the spring of 1948: "... the prosperous condition of Texas' fiscal affairs and the



Adriance, Fugett Inspect Project

Dr. Guy W. Adriance, head of the Horticulture Department, and K. H. Fugett, of the Agricultural Economics Department, returned recently from an inspection trip through East Texas of a project in progress on the shipping and carrying quality of peaches.

Adriance and Fugett, working jointly under the Research and Marketing Act, conferred with peach growers and shippers, and with A&P Company officials who are also participating in the project.

One aspect of the project involves the effects of shipping peaches in two different stages of maturity—"green mature" and "firm ripe." These two stages represent only three days difference in maturity.

Another aspect involves a comparison of the carrying quality of peaches shipped in one-half and one bushel tub baskets to that of peaches shipped in one-half and one bushel boxes.

optimistic outlook are primarily a result of the prosperity of the oil and allied businesses.

W. J. Murray, Jr., chairman, Railroad Commission of Texas, said: "The public is beginning to realize that oil is Texas' greatest money crop; that based upon well-head value, it brings in more money than all our agricultural and livestock products combined; and that it furnishes more than half of the state's tax revenue."

General Ernest O. Thompson, long-time member of the Railroad Commission said: "The economy and continued prosperity—the well-being—of the entire State of Texas is tied in absolutely and inescapably with the production of oil and gas."

Now let us see what kind of job the oil and gas producers of Texas have done. The United States has produced about two thirds of all of the oil used in the world to date, yet the United States has only 12 per cent of the world's land area that is geologically favorable for the occurrence of petroleum.

Now get this—the land area of Texas is only 8.6 per cent of the land area of the United States and yet during 1947, Texas produced 44 per cent of the oil produced in the United States, 44 per cent of the natural gas, and yet we have remaining 54.8 per cent of the oil reserves and 54 per cent of the natural gas reserves.

We have also inquired about what the oil interests are lobbying for in Austin. We find that they are after a unitization bill which will permit them to operate each oil and gas field as a unit. It is estimated that such conservation will yield an additional monetary return to Texas of 2 1/2 billions of dollars. It appeared in the newspapers that the governor was not going to sign this bill for a while. He hopes that a group of our citizens who are in the business of marketing natural gas can be high pressured into paying a tax for the purpose of building farm-to-market roads for another group of our citizens, the farmers.

We find that in 1947 the State of Texas collected \$86.6 million in gasoline tax to be used for state highways and farm-to-mar-

Job Calls

Opening for student at the YM-CA camp on Possum Kingdom lake north of Mineral Wells. Duties would consist of caring for saddle horses, guide for members, and counseling duties. Salary is \$150 dollars per month with room and board furnished free.

Camp opens June 8 for two months. All interested persons should leave their names at the Placement Office. A personal interview will be taken Thursday afternoon beginning at 1.

Two Leon County Men Not Enough

The Leon County A&M Club will be inactive during the summer term due to the small number of members that will be enrolled, according to J. L. Hall, president of the club.

Only two members plan to attend the summer session. These students are O. D. Richmond, history major from Leona, and Clem Woods, agricultural education major from Marques.

ket roads. It is amusing (?) that \$14.8 millions of this total was refunded to the beneficial group—the farmers—so that \$7.8 millions remained to be used. So the farmer, uninterested in building his own roads, has turned to the persons marketing natural gas.

A large part of the gas being sold out of state is sold under contracts of 10 to 25 years duration. The price of the natural gas specified in these contracts, the natural gas concerns would have to absorb the tax by digging deeper into their own pockets. They cannot do so. In fact, we are in need of higher prices instead of lower prices.

Dr. E. DeGolyer, Dallas Geologist-Scientist and one of the leading authoritative spokesmen on the natural gas industry said recently, "I submit, as an American and as a Texan, that it is to the national advantage, and in the state's interest to have higher prices paid for natural gas. Gas can not be conserved as long as it is worth less than the cost of conservation."

Harold G. Vankorb, 37 James H. Creasinger, 45 Thomas A. Rines, 47 Richard S. Guenther, 46

(Editor's Note: Though we have not verified the figures given by these four, they are putting up a good argument. A further discussion of the Texas petroleum situation will be given in the Wednesday paper.)

QUEEN
TODAY thru WED.
MARIO MONTAZ-AUMONT-O'KEEFE
SIRIN OF ATLANTIS
ARTHUR RIPLEY - SYLVIA HEDERZAL
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Palace
Bryan 2-8879

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Campus
LAST DAY FIRST RUN
Features Start
3:35 - 5:45 - 7:55 - 10:00

The Red Pony
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TOM & JERRY
1948 Academy Award Winner Cartoon

WED. - THURS. - FRI.
SAT.
FIRST RUN
Features Start
3:35 - 5:40 - 7:50 - 10:00

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