

Battalion Editorials

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FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1949

A Private Enterprise and Public Utility Listens . . .

College Station citizens have told the Southwestern States Telephone Company that the telephone service rendered by the company has not been satisfactory. The latest manifestation of this public displeasure came last week at a public hearing where telephone company officials and citizens in local government heard written and oral complaints registered by telephone subscribers of College Station.

According to provisions of the franchise granted by the City of College Station, the Southwestern States Telephone Company must provide this community with telephone service consistent with state laws, (an example business phones must be installed upon a concern's request), operate and maintain equipment in first-class working condition, and give telephone service satisfactory to the community. Of 310 telephones in College Station (including many college phones), 75 subscribers (excluding the College which took no stand) wrote complaints charging nearly thirty different reasons why they thought present service unsatisfactory.

Upon hearing these complaints (too long for repairs, many local dialed numbers give wrong numbers, confused long distance calls, not enough long distance calls, phones going dead during every rain are to mention but a few) and charges of operational inefficiency and administrative favoritism, telephone company officials expressed surprise that such flagrant violations of company policies existed here. They promised to study the complaints and submit a report to the telephone committee of the City of College

Station. Though not subscribers to the telephone service in the literal sense, there are many occasions when the student body becomes customers of the telephone company. A letter was sent to the hearing on behalf of the student body by the telephone committee of the Student Senate. It complained of inadequate long distance facilities to handle frequent student body demands and listed several reasons for dissatisfaction with local service. The letter also pointed out the almost total lack of telephone service to the A&M Annex (three lines to carry both student and college calls) and the inadequacy of the two pay stations at the Annex.

The telephone company should carefully study these complaints presented by both citizens of College Station and students of the College. The aggregate of these complaints points to general public dissatisfaction with the service of what is a private enterprise and a public utility. The enterprise is naturally operated to make money, but its function is primarily as a servant of the people.

Several citizens have stated that the hearing was called to demonstrate to the company public sentiment toward service by the company, and not as an excuse to revoke the company's franchise. Now the Southwestern States Telephone Company knows how the people whom they are supposed to serve feel about the quality of that service. With these complaints known, the company has no other alternative than to correct those phases of their service which have been branded unsatisfactory.

Are Our Doctors Still in Sacred Positions? . . .

Five years ago the family doctor was regarded in almost the same light as the family clergyman—he was looked to for the curing of our physical ills, no sacrifice was considered too great for him to make in ministering to the sick, and his only contact with politics was when he occasionally swabbed the throat of the county judge.

Today, things aren't quite the same. He still cures our ills, but the fee has risen (along with his curing ability) from produce accepted at a rural home to a five dollar fee in his office. And rather than being associated politically with the clergy, the modern doctor has switched over to almost the same position of the other member of the triumvirate—the lawyer. In short, doctors are up to their stethoscopes in politics.

At the recent convention of the American Medical Association, the nation's doctors heard their leaders outline a long and complicated political campaign against compulsory health insurance legislation of any form. To aid this cause, each of the doctors was called on for an assessment of \$25 for an "educational" campaign. Just what this educational campaign will embrace was not made clear, but if the rash of full-page ads and lobbying activi-

ty of the past few months is any indication, the campaign will be both powerful and one-sided.

The issue of a compulsory health program is the approaching, big, domestic political issue. So little is yet actually known about compulsory health programs that it is far too early to intelligently decide their merits and faults. But you may rest assured that the issue will be heavily discussed and re-discussed in all the nation's periodicals and legislative chambers before any legal decisions are made.

If we are to choose wisely among the arguments and decide intelligently on the final issue, we must learn to recognize fact from distorted propaganda and genuine concern from personal interest.

As the AMA begins distributing its arguments we would do well to forget our picture of the old family doctor and investigate their propaganda with a discriminating eye. When the doctor's fraternity began dividing its time between the office and the senate halls, it lost some of its sacred position.

We must check the AMA's statements to see if they are doctoring our bodies or indoctrinating our minds.

Anonymous: Nothing annoys a woman so much as having her friends drop in to find her house looking as it usually does.

The Transmitter: A man with six children is better satisfied than a man with six million dollars. The man with six million dollars wants more.

The Battalion

"Soldier, Statesman, 'Knighly 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 bi-weekly on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Subscription rate \$4.50 per school year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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CURIOUS CRITTER



Boyle's Column

O'Ryan, O'Groggan Boyle Talks of the Emerald Isle

By HAL BOYLE

SHANNON, Ireland—Oh it was high up in the air we were, 8,000 feet above the great Irish Sea. Inside the cabin of the American Overseas Airlines Flagship Service, were some 30 correspondents returning from a tour of the European battlefields and outside was a thick cloud making a mystery of the land below and the sky above. We had run into the clouds after taking off from London. Some of the passengers dozed in their seats, quietly digesting one of merrie England's postwar austerity meals and wondering if God

ever made anything more courageous than the English. But some of us were looking out impatiently waiting for the clouds to clear. We were semi-professional Irishmen in the crowd, seeking to know with our eyes the thing our mouths had gabbled about all our lives. Just then a starboard engine gave a tug at a cloud and swallowed it whole and through the mist there gleamed a river beneath us. And faraway, sure it was a fair river—as if the Lord had taken the milky way and poured it star by star between the green banks and all the stars had melted and ran together in a silver flood.

Looking down at the map of Ireland they saw it through the hearts of forebears who had left this beautiful land for something better but carried the memory of it wherever they settled. There was one among us, Cornelius Ryan, who had been born here and was seeing his homeland again for the first time in eight years. "These is Ireland's tallest mountains—Cahirciveen," he said. "Now over there, the Irish Central Plain," said Ryan. "See how few roads there are and notice how small the farms are." Around each farm is a stone wall. They were built in the days when the Irish used to say "We may not have any ammunition to fight the British, but we have plenty of rocks to throw at them." Our plane landed at Shannon Airport, and we picked up a souvenir of Irish Earth at the edge of the runway. Then we went into the lounge. We had only an hour before our plane left and we spent it scanning about Ireland.

Texas Veterans Free To Select Privately Owned Land Tract For Farm or Ranch Home

By BARCOM GILES, Commissioner of the General Land Office (Editor's Note: Second of a series of articles on the Veterans' Land Program.)

The recently enacted legislation implementing the Texas Veterans' Land Board will be the means of making the dream of thousands of Texas Veterans for a farm or ranch home of their very own, come true. One of the most attractive features of this bill is that section which permits a veteran to personally select a tract of land suitable for agriculture or grazing held under private ownership in any sector of the State. It might be owned by kinmen or by a corporation—it matters not to the Board.

Operation of this part of the veteran purchase plan will eliminate the necessity for migration of veterans from one part of the State to another as a means of the purchasers will select land adjacent to their homes where they are already familiar with production conditions. This factor will serve to lessen chances of failure.

Under the provisions of this section a veteran may purchase a tract of land up to \$10,000 but he will be required to tender the difference above the \$7,500 state finance maximum. Another provision of the bill sponsored by Senator John Bell and Representative Reubens Samterff, permits a veteran to purchase a tract of land owned by the State when such tracts are offered through duly advertised sales. The purchase will be made through a sealed competitive bids with the award going to the highest bidder. To make the contract valid the minimum five per cent down payment will accompany the bid. Proper application forms will be furnished by the Board on request. Each veteran will be limited to one purchase. However, he will NOT be limited as to the maximum amount of land he may be able to purchase under the full loan of \$7,500.00.

The term "state owned land" does NOT include Public School Land but will include land acquired by the State from other state or federal government agencies, or from individuals or corporations for the purpose of resale to Texas veterans, since the inception of this legislation. Under the terms of the bill, veterans will be required to execute an on or before note for forty years at three per cent interest for the balance. After receiving his contract of sale he will be entitled to take possession. **EDITOR'S NOTE:** (In the next issue Commissioner Giles will tell of the eligibility requirements for qualification for farm or ranch home loan and the protection provided the veteran under the legislation.)

Legislature Splits on Old Age Pension Bill; Seek Compromise

AUSTIN, Texas, June 17—(AP)—The senate and house split yesterday on whether needy Texas old folks should have to give the state a mortgage on their homes in order to secure pensions.

The senate voted 21-3 to submit to a vote of the people a constitutional amendment lifting the \$5 million dollar ceiling on state welfare grants but imposing the new mortgage restriction. Objecting to the mortgage idea, the house demanded that a new conference committee be appointed to work out a compromise. The vote rejecting the senate plan was 61-47.

On the big problem of state spending, the two houses outwardly reached agreement. The senate approved 24-7, a house-passed resolution urging heavy cutting of the big money bills essential to operation of the state government the next two years. However, the senate turned thumbs down on a part of the resolution which suggested elimination of a building program for Eleemosynary Institutions unless Gov. Beauford H. Jester offered a practical financing plan. The senate approved a resolution to end the regular session of the 51st Legislature at noon June 28. Both houses must agree before such action can be taken, but it appeared likely the lower house would agree. The Legislature took off for another long weekend, quitting until Monday morning.

Some senators who voted for the House Economy Resolution, said the house was bluffing and trying to put the senate on the spot when it suggested cutting appropriation bills \$45 million dollars. So the senate called the bluff—if that's what it was. Senator R. A. Weinst of Seguin had figured that way. "I think we ought to accept the challenge," he said, telling the senate's presiding officer: "If you will appoint me and two other senators who will follow me on those (conference) committees (on general appropriations), we'll do some cutting and find out who is first to say, 'hold, enough!'"

Senators James Taylor of Kerens, Finance Committee Chairman, and Carlos Ashley of Llano were insistent that the Legislature provide a building program. Ashley has prepared a Constitutional Amendment to permit issuance of bonds by the state to pay for the building program. A bill controlling the use of 2, 4-D and other weed killer poisons went to the governor after the house agreed to senate amendments.

Another proposed constitutional amendment was added to the list. The house approved senate changes in the proposals to let cities and counties join in establishing health units. The senate limited the amount of tax that could be levied for city-county health units to 20 cents on the \$100 property valuation. Failure of the house and senate to get together on removing the ceiling on old age pensions meant that the question can not be submitted at the Sept. 24 special election. Ninety-day notice of the election must be given. House and senate members were advised that unless the amendment were agreed upon yesterday there would not be enough time for routine details essential to putting the matter before the people.

Official Notice
Opportunities for University Teaching and Advanced Research in Norway and the Netherlands for 1949-50 are available. Applications must be in by June 30, 1949. Details may be secured from R. L. Elkins, 204 Academic Building.

SUMMER SCHOOL GRADUATES
Applications for Degrees to be awarded at the end of the Summer Session are now being accepted by the Registrar's Office. All students who expect to complete the requirements for either a Bachelor's Degree, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree, or Master's Degree by the end of the Summer should file the formal application for the degree immediately. Application blanks are available in the Registrar's Office.

Official Notice
M. L. HEATON

Peach Growers To Get Marketing Aid

As an aid to Texas peach producers, the horticulture department is sending men into the field to help determine the exact and correct time of marketing, according to Dr. Guy W. Adrignac, head of the horticulture department.

Commercial peach growers in Texas, will not develop a successful marketing program until they have determined the exact and correct time to gather, pack and ship their peaches for the retailer and the house-wife consumer market, Adrignac said. T. S. Stephens, of the horticulture department has been placing men in various orchards throughout the state for the past week. He will go to Houston Friday to inspect peaches as they arrive at the terminal. Two students, James Venables and Edward Pauls, of the horticulture department will accompany him. One of the students will remain there for approximately a month to study the shipments. The other student will go to Dallas to inspect and study shipments coming in to that terminal. W. B. Mack, horticulture major, will be stationed in Red River and Morris Counties to take notes on harvesting and packing.

Butler at Chicago Meat Conference

O. D. Butler, assistant professor of Animal Husbandry at A&M, attended the Reciprocal Meat Conference, held in Chicago yesterday and Wednesday, under the sponsorship of the National Livestock and Meats Board.

The conference was attended by fifty-two representatives of thirty-one agricultural colleges and the USDA. The purpose of the conference is to provide opportunity for mutual exchange of information and ideas concerning teaching and research in meats.

Butler presented a paper at the conference entitled "Effective Methods, Techniques, and Aids in Teaching the Subject of Meats." His observations in teaching meats courses at A&M provide the basis for his discussion. Earlier this year, in February, Roy W. Snyder, professor of Animal Husbandry here, was in Chicago as a member of the program planning committee for these meetings.

Helicopter Pilot is Rocked by Kids

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., June 17—(AP)—Stones tossed by tots "are worse than the flak over Berlin," says Lt. Joseph E. Barrett of the Waco air base.

Barrett is pilot of an army helicopter spraying DDT over polo and diarrhea-ridden areas here. The helicopter blades are breakable. Police guards were set up today to protect the machine.

SKYWAY DRIVE-IN THEATRE

LAST DAY HOUSTON'S GLEN MCCARTHY and His SHAMROCK HOTEL Present

THE GREEN PROMISE Marguerite CHAPMAN - Walter BRENNAN

SATURDAY ONLY SUPER DOUBLE BILL

ABBOTT and COSTELLO

THE NOOSE HANGS HIGH

AND ALSO

DAREDEVILS IN THE CLOUDS Robert LIVINGSTON - Mae CLARK

PALACE Bryan 2-8879

TODAY - SATURDAY "CHAMPION"

SATURDAY PREVUE Sunday - Monday

"MANHANDLED"

Dorothy Lamour with COMING TUESDAY

M-G-M'S TECHNICOLOR Musical Fred ASTAIRE - Ginger ROGERS **The Barkleys of Broadway**

HOTARD'S
We're open so late (It's now 'till 8)
So bring the date
You want to fete.

Quion Hall
LAST DAY

TODAY & SATURDAY FIRST RUN
Today's Features Start 1:50 - 3:45 - 5:25 - 7:15 - 9:15
Saturday Features Start 1:50 - 3:35 - 5:40 - 7:30 - 9:15

"WOMAN'S SECRET"
PLUS: CARTOON - NEWS

"CONGO BILL"
FRIDAY AT . . . 8:40 P. M.
SATURDAY AT . . . 3:15 P. M.

PREVUE TONIGHT 11:00 P.M.
Sunday thru Tuesday
FIRST RUN
Features Start 1:30 - 3:50 - 5:55 - 7:55 - 10:00

Barbara STANWICK in THE LADY GAMBLER
ROBERT PRESTON - STEPHEN MCNALLY
PLUS: CARTOON - NEWS

Sat. Prevue—11:00 P.M.
Randolph Scott
Frances Dee
Ralph Bellamy
in
"COAST GUARD"
PLUS CARTOON

Arch of Triumph

Campus

"WOMAN'S SECRET"

"CONGO BILL"

PREVUE TONIGHT

Barbara STANWICK

Sat. Prevue—11:00 P.M.

"COAST GUARD"

"SHOCK PROOF"

The Time of Your Life

SATURDAY ONLY

GIRLS! . . . GAGS! . . . GOLD GALORE! . . .

Vacation in Reno

PREVUE SATURDAY