

# Battalion Editorials

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1949

## Hospitality Down in the Bayous . . .

Reports on the LSU weekend are still coming in our office from all directions. There is one outstanding thing about these reports, however, that makes them above average. Not a man has returned without a report including large amounts of praise for the students and staff of Louisiana State.

From the first Aggie to arrive on the scene of battle, to the straggler who saw the last quarter of the game, all agree on one point—"A good time was had by all!" But that trite phrase does not begin to voice the exclamations of the several thousand who attended from the state of Texas.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the big open house in their Tiger Field House, an event that would have made even Andy Gromyko say "yes." One Aggie reported that the first man he met was the dean of students, who took him on a tour of the campus and the fraternity houses.

Possibly many Aggies brightened their views of fraternities after returning from the Bayou State. Friendliness and good will so prevailed that even the staunch, die-hard anti-frat men were converted. (Converted to the LSU viewpoint, anyway.)

## One Short Violin Solo, Please . . .

A lot of people have been wondering why The Battalion has an editorial board. Everybody knows who composes that group, or can learn easily enough by referring to our masthead at the bottom of this column, but that doesn't answer the question, "Why have a board?" editorial that is.

The answer is simple. It is impossible for the two co-editors to write all the editorials and still keep tabs on everything else that goes on on the paper. If you are a regular reader of this column you know that we usually average three or four editorials a day, depending on their length. Boiled down to a typewritten page basis, this means that every editorial column represents about four pages.

You might not think that is much for two men to write, but there is, whether it is apparent or not, considerable research and thought put into what you read here. We try to include in each day's column at least one article of local interest. Sometimes we aren't able to do that, but more often than not we manage to print more than one "local" a day.

We also feel that it is our responsibility to comment on national and international affairs as we see them. But, to do this means that the writer of these ar-

And then there were the girls. Friendly, beautiful girls. Some of the sororities even went so far, some say, as to refuse dates with anyone that weekend but visiting Texas Aggies. Pardon our expanding chests; out of the way of our poppin' buttons!

Usually the male students of such schools are quite cold and indifferent to the transient Aggies, but at Louisiana State, it was a different affair.

One of the points that most impressed A&M students and supporters was the heavy preparation by the Tiger students for the festivities in honor of their visitors from Aggieland. Certainly a lot of hard work went into these preparations, for nothing but long labor could reap such wonderful results.

This was the last time that A&M and LSU meet on the gridiron under the present agreement. A&M has signed up other teams, but only for the next few years.

It's a shame that we can not go to Louisiana again next year, and every year. But when the contract for the team to play again is renewed, we only hope that it will be a home-and-home affair, so that we might be able to return some of that wonderful southern hospitality.

Articles must keep in close touch with "goings on" in the world.

The members of the editorial board are also responsible for scanning our Associated Press material and selecting that which can be used in The Battalion.

In addition to these duties, the co-editors and most of the members of the editorial board must keep informed on what is happening around the college. One of them is always at every important meeting on the campus. All of them try to attend the many luncheons, not just for the news angle either, but they're there. The paper is represented at every board of directors meeting whether it is here or in El Paso. And at every out of town function of the college The Batt is there in the person of a member of the board.

Then there are the routine but essential tasks of copy reading, proof reading, and the final step of "making up" the paper in the print shop.

Naturally, these duties are passed around among the more experienced members of the staff. But we also try to get a class occasionally, and it has been reported that once in a while we even take time out to study.

Come on up and lend a hand if you want. It's a great life if you don't weaken under the strain.

## Columbus: In The Dominican, Honored . . .

For the last few years history books and professors have given Christopher Columbus a pretty hard time.

They call him just lucky. To an undeniable degree, he was lucky. But he is not given enough credit for his initiative and drive to get ships and men, his compelling personality, and his courage to hazard such a supposedly dangerous trip. Well, it seems that at last someone has

taken it upon himself to have the ole boy honored in a big way—in an extremely big way.

Many "someones" must have taken it upon themselves in view of the fact that twenty-one American republics have been working together since April 14, to build a tomb for Columbus that the sponsors say will be biggest memorial to a single man since the building of the pyramids.



## National Firms Donate Prizes For Annual Batt Stoker Derby

By DAVE COSLETT

Brush off that briar, bud. The Annual Battalion Pipe-Smoking Contest is just around the corner. Wednesday, October 26, is the date set for this latest episode in the stoker derby.

Pipe and tobacco manufacturers all over the nation are giving you better than 100 reasons why you should get in shape today. They have donated that many items to be used in the contest and as prizes for the winners. Entrants will find just about every brand of tobacco on the market available with which to fill their pipes.

Just as an example, here's some of the donations to date: On hand or promised are 12 one lb. tins of Sir Walter Raleigh, 12 half pound tins of Prince Albert, six one lb. tins of George Washington, two one lb. tins of Heines, and 12 half pound cartons of Revelation.

Nor is that all. Rogers Imports has donated two genuine calf leather tobacco pouches, Buescher's Industries has donated six dozen corn cob pipes, and the S. M. Frank Co. has given the previously mentioned six Frank Medico pipes. And to top that off, the list of donations grows each day.

The battleground on which the smoking honors will be decided has also been selected. A room in the YMCA has been set aside for the event. Every effort will be made to supply either air conditioning or a portable respirator.

Yet to be selected are the judges for this year's contest. A special committee will be appointed within a few days to perform this important task.

Any ideas or questions concerning the contest should be turned into The Battalion offices on the second floor of Goodwin Hall.

## Social Security Taxes Don't Sit Idle; They Draw Interest

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7.—(AP)—Do you ever wonder what happens to the Social Security tax you pay into the old-age pension plan?

There are arguments over how that tax money is handled. But there is no sign that the present system will be changed.

The arguments will be outlined briefly here. But, first here is the background. If you're covered by the pension plan, you and your boss each pay yearly one per cent of your salary up to the first \$3,000.

That's a total of two per cent you and your boss pay. The government now is collecting yearly about \$1,800,000,000 that way.

Out of that, it's paying yearly in pensions and other benefits about \$700,000,000, leaving a yearly reserve of about \$1,100,000,000.

Since 1937, when it first started collecting this tax, the Social Security system has built up a reserve of around \$11,700,000,000. The money doesn't lie idle. Congress said it should be invested in

government bonds, which now pay around 2 1/2 per cent interest.

So the Social Security reserve fund, invested in those government bonds, is earning money. So much for that for a moment.

The government has a debt of \$255,000,000,000. It borrowed by selling bonds to banks, life insurance companies, you and me, and to the Social Security reserve fund.

On all the bonds it sold, of course, including bonds sold to the Social Security reserve fund, the government must pay interest.

So the government has a double job in handling that debt: to pay off some of the debt while at the same time paying interest on it.

The man and his employer who pay a total of two per cent Social Security tax on the man's first \$3,000 of salary, also pay income taxes.

And part of their income is used for paying off some of the interest on the debt—including the interest of the government bonds bought by the Social Security fund.

Critics of the present system say this is double taxation. They suggest that the old-age pension plan be placed on a pay-as-you-go basis, which means:

Instead of collecting enough Social Security taxes every year to pay out Social Security benefits for that and still have enough left over to build up a reserve that can be invested in government bonds, the government should do this:

Collect yearly from the people in old-age pension coverage enough money to pay the old-age pension expenses for that year. In other words, put it on a year-by-year expense basis.

## From Where I Sit . . .

# Houston, 'Easy Living' Both Filled With Water

By HERMAN C. GOLLOB

Easy Living (RKO) starring Victor Mature, Sonny Tufts, and Lucille Ball (Campus)

A hurried trip to enchanted, booming, water-logged Houston this past weekend in an effort to salvage our modest twenty-room, ultra-modern, all-plastic mansion which was buried beneath the swollen, swirling flood waters of a recent hurricane, has prevented an earlier review of "Easy Living", the Campus's feature attraction

which is closing a three-day run today. Like Houston, "Easy Living" is all wet.

To this reviewer's knowledge "Easy Living" is the first Hollywood effort to hint that the gentle sport of professional football is not a lifetime job, and that the pro footballer should have greener fields on hand in which to romp when playtime on the gridiron becomes too taxing for the constitution.

To press its point, RKO tells the conflict-ridden story of Pete Wilson (Victor Mature), pro football idol who discovers that the glory and gold he has been mining from the lucrative football fields are in the process of being cut short by heart trouble.

Happy-go-lucky Pete, married to a vain, ambitious, pleasure-seeking interior decorator (Lucille Ball), whose designing studio has been absorbing most of his cash, is in a woeful dilemma, indeed.

Since football is the only occupation he's equipped for that will bring in big money, he must either stop playing, accept such prosaic and low-paying employment such as a salesman or floorwalker,

and lose high-living Liza, or keep playing, make a carload of dough, hang on to Liza, and die young.

Along to help Vic make the right decision are teammate and lifelong buddy Sonny Tufts, who has played second fiddle to Vic throughout college and pro football; Lucille Ball, piquant secretary who's had one and love affair and is heading for another through her love for Pete; and coach Lloyd Nolan, who wants only to win a pennant.

As a result of a threadbare, routine, and inept script which is too frequently maudlin and melodramatic and resorts heavily to stock clichés and situations, "Easy Living" achieves not the slightest air of authenticity.

And the ending of this blocked kick is such as to make one believe that it was written entirely separate from the original story. It can hardly be called the logical result of the preceding situation.

Any entertainment value which this film may possess lies in the performances of Victor Mature and Lucille Ball, who try their best to make a touchdown but lacking the plays or the assistance can't even make the line of scrimmage.

## Brazos Scouts Receive Awards

A total of 150 Boy Scouts, Scouters, parents and friends of Scouting saw a record total of advancement awards and merit badges presented at the Brazos district Court of Honor Sunday at the Bryan Country Club.

The district Honor Banner, commemorating the crusade to strengthen the arm of liberty, went to Troop 411, Andy Salis, Scoutmaster. This College Station troop scored 8,140 points, compared to second place Troop 102 with 6,760. Troop 81 was in third place. Points were counted for advancement, for inter-troop competition, and for friends and parents attending the Court of Honor.

Boys advanced in rank as follows. Second class, Bobbie Jarrah, Donald Krause of Troop 383; Richard Weick of Troop 411; Harley Duncan, Charles McAdam, Lane Kelley, Troop 81; First Class, George Boyett, 411; William Kuhnle and Julian Carjov, Troop 12; George Nedbalek, Troop 81.

Star Scout: Dinnie Harris, David Bonnen, Robert Jackson, Ralph Shuffler, 102; Warner Dahuberg, Orin Hevey, Tommy Terrell, Don Borchard, Skippy Fletcher, 411; Life Scout: Jake McGee, Bill Hale, 102; Bill Scott, 383; Tommy Adcock, 411; Bill Aeres, 81.

Phillip Buchanan of Troop 411 was announced as having completed all requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout. Necessary papers are now in New York and his formal installation will be at the next Court of Honor.

## Texas May Still Loose Tidlands

Washington, Oct. 11.—(AP)—The Supreme Court refused today to throw out two suits by which the federal government seeks to establish its paramount right to oil-rich tidlands off the Texas and Louisiana coasts.

The court last May 16 granted the Justice Department permission to sue the two states and asked the latter to file answers to the government's claims.

Texas and Louisiana replied with requests that the court dismiss the suits. They said the constitution does not give the supreme court authority to decide a controversy between the United States and a state.

In refusing to discuss the suits, the court gave Texas and Louisiana 30 day additional time in which to file answers to the government's action.

Justices Jackson and Clark took no part in today's action.

## Campus

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LATEST NEWS TWO BUGS BUNNY CARTOONS and TWO TOM & JERRY CARTOONS

## Begone, Fowl Beasts . . .

# Animals in Attic Annoy Even Patient Curator

By BOB PRICE

It's really tough when you have to play nursemaid to a bunch of stuffed animals all day and then go home to find a live beast trying to move in.

That happened to F. W. Gould, Gould came to A&M this year from the University of Arizona to become curator of the museum.

When Gould moved into his house he was told that a fox had had a recent guest at the house but had changed addresses after being chased away.

A few days later he read in the paper where a rabid fox had been caught in a local home. Coincidence or not, this would have been enough to discourage a man of lesser stamina, but not friend Gould.

All went well for a while but then it happened. One night a noise not far removed from the sound of Scrooge and his chains in Dickens' "Christmas Carol" filled the customary calm of the darkness.

Gould was beginning to wonder by this time if his house wasn't on the site of an old Indian game preserve. But our intrepid Gould went to investigate unproductive to sleep, continued for a week.

By this time, Gould had succeeded in establishing the attic as the point of origin of these inhuman sounds. Beginning to worry that the neighbors would report him for torturing animals, he decided to look for the port of entry for his unwanted visitors.

As he was searching for said entrance he came upon a hole in the side of the house that looked like a likely place for someone to make an entry. Gould shined a light in the hole and there he was, a full grown, Dielphis virginiana (possum to you) big as life and twice as ugly.

Well, The Secret of the Tortured Animals or The Possum's Revenge had finally been solved. Gould is still wondering how he was lucky enough to receive two visits from members of the animal kingdom, but he hopes that he will not get any more similar calls.

He expressed the idea that these animals were a taxidermist's delight and would be welcomed additions to the museum's Wildlife study.

All of which goes to prove that a fox or possum in the hand is worth two in the attic. Oh well, animals is the curliest people.

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# The Battalion

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

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