

Battalion Editorials

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1949

Town Hall: From Folk Songs to Opera . . .

A handful of Town Hall tickets remain in Student Activities office unsold. These tickets, the last of 1774, permit admittance into this year's formidable Town Hall series. When they are gone, the only way to attend a Town Hall performance will be to borrow a season ticket from a friend—the box office will be closed.

This year's Town Hall series is typical of the best in musical entertainment field. Burl Ives' ballads and folk songs will lead off the series. Sunrise Seranader Frankie Carle and his orchestra follow Ives with a concert of the most popular dance music of this decade.

Choral selections will be given by the famed Robert Shaw Chorale. Jacques Abram's piano will thrill classical and

light classical music lovers as his two hour program is presented January fifth.

Annually the Houston Symphony Orchestra appears on Town Hall, and this year's date is February 6, 1950. Joseph Szegit, prominent violinist, will close the Town Hall Series with his program next March 14.

In four years roughly 24 Town Hall programs are given. Those who attend those programs for their four years at A&M have witnessed and heard a healthy sample of the best contemporary American musical groups. Traversing the musical scale from folk songs to operatic selections, the Town Hall series of programs please the ear and broaden our musical appreciation.

The Air Lift Won the Bride, Now Feed Her . . .

American diplomacy is quite often like many American marriages—after a fervent courtship culminating in marriage, complacency and disintegration set in.

One of the most glaring examples of this "after-marriage disinterest" toward the spouse we have won" is our diplomatic and economic attitude toward people in the American sector of Berlin. For months no expense was spared in flying supplies to Western Berliners beleaguered by the Russian blockade. The air lift was our great courtship and Berliners thought they had found a friend in Uncle Sam.

Since the blockade has been lifted and air lift planes have been shuttled back to America, our policy toward the American sector of Berlin has lapsed into almost total apathy.

Time magazine's Berlin correspondent recently reported: (Quote) "One in every four of West Berlin's workers is jobless: a total of 250,000. At the beginning of the blockade the total was 50,000; at the end, 150,000. In five months of "peace," 100,000 more have lost their jobs. Why is this?"

Half of Berlin always lived from the city's service functions as the capital of the Reich; the other half from its concentrated industry. The capital disappeared in defeat; 85% of the factories were grabbed by Russia in 1945.

Berliners value freedom," a German

paper editorialized, "but they can do little with it. They have only the hungry freedom of the unemployed."

In 1945, mind and heart in Berlin's raw, garish ruins were fixed on sheer survival. During the next four years the Germans pushed through poverty to positive goals, to a fierce fight for freedom. Today, in a humdrum autumn of pointless peace, hope has departed and "normalcy" takes the shape of nothingness." (unquote)

Our American humanitarianism will not let Western Berliners starve; our political idealism will not let us give Western Berlin to the Russians. Costly, and as great a gamble as Western Berlin is, we must hang on to the jurisdiction of that symbolic piece of the heart of Germany.

Our efforts in Germany should be directed toward setting Western Berlin into a state of economic equilibrium. Joblessness and hunger are our enemies as certain as Russian communism. To withdraw from that sector would be a grave mistake but unless we can improve living and working conditions in Western Berlin, German unrest will continue to mount and ultimately require us to withdraw.

As in marriage, the courtship was but the initial phase of a long range relationship. Now the problem is to feed, and clothe, and make happy the spouse we have won.

Thresher Grist Against Hazing and Whiskey . . .

Hazing and whiskey hit the lead editorial space in Rice Institute's Thresher last week. Tersely commenting on hazing the Thresher snapped, "We've had just about enough on this hazing business. It is taking up entirely too much of our (and other's) time, which could and should be employed in infinitely more rewarding labors."

On whiskey the Thresher said, "There is a nasty rumor spreading to the effect

that certain elements on the campus are conspiring to banish alcoholic beverages from Rice dances. It is hoped that this is really just a rumor. One holy war per month is plenty."

The "holy war" alluded to is, perhaps, the student bombing incident recently. A Thresher writer took a stand against hazing and he was "drowned out" with a little bomb.

Lady: "Why, you naughty boy. I haven't heard such language since the day I was born."

Small Boy: "Yes, I guess there was a good bit of cussin' the day you were born."

An old gentleman who was searching for his hat the other day was profuse in his thanks to the man who pointed out that it was on his head.

"But for you sir," he said, "I would have had to go without it."

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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Entered as second-class matter at Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Member of The Associated Press

Represented nationally by National Advertising Service Inc., at New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

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.

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THE PINCH



Letters To The Editor

(All letters to the editor which are signed by a student or employee of the college and which do not contain obscene or libelous material will be published. Persons wishing to have their names withheld from publication may request such action and these names will not, without the consent of the writer, be divulged to any person other than the editors.)

DONT BE HALF SAFE

Editor, The Battalion:

Thursday a group of Freshmen were washing Sully. There were no bloody Sophomores, sadistic Juniors, or venomous Seniors standing around lashing them with leather thongs or foul oaths. An officer double-timed from Ross Hall, instructed them to stop, and sent them back to the Corps area.

Why!

Joe Walpman '48
Al Bishop '48
James Page '49
Dean Patterson '50

(Editor's Note—Upon questioning the Military Department we were informed that they are not opposed to the tradition of keeping old Sully "cleaned and shined up." On this occasion, the department said, the time and noise was inappropriate because it interfered with academic classes and administrative work then in progress. They assured us that the matter will be taken up with the appropriate cadet officers so that suitable hours may be set for maintaining this old tradition properly.)

GOOD WORD FROM LSU

Editor, The Battalion:

I read a letter published in today's "Daily Reveille" from Sam

Official Notice

Those students who want their ring for Christmas must get their order in to the Registrar's Office before November first. Any student who lacks not more than eight hours of having completed the number of hours required through the end of the year of his curriculum and who has earned an equal number of grade points may purchase the A and M ring. All rings must be paid for in full when placing the order.

The ring window is open only from 8 a.m. to 12:00 noon, daily except on Sundays.

H. L. Heaton,
Registrar.

Any Dairy Husbandry major student in the Senior, Junior or Sophomore classes who has a grade point ratio of 2.5 or better should report to me at the Dairy Husbandry office not later than October 28, in order to be considered for scholarship awards this year.

A. L. Darnell,
Professor, Dairy Husbandry Department

Any agricultural student who completed two or more courses in Dairy Husbandry prior to September 1, 1949, and who was classified as a senior on that date, and has a grade point ratio of 2.75 or better should report to me at the Dairy Husbandry office not later than October 28, in order to be considered for any scholarship awards we offer this year.

L. Darnell,
Professor, Dairy Husbandry Department

Lanford and Bill Wales, and I am one of the Law students they referred to "bless us". We enjoyed the bull session a great deal also, and were glad to put them up for the night—or what was left of the morning. It was a pleasure to meet good sports who took their licking like men, and who could shoot the bull 'til 3 a. m.

Some of my best friends are Texans. One of your graduates, Henry Ash of Dallas, is an old "War Buddy". Incidentally, the "cowboy" who shared my room knows Ash. My "regard" to you, though I can't recall your name. You didn't snore.

Best of luck to you all.

Bob Des Roches

WHERE'S THAT SPIRIT

Editor, The Battalion:

We've contained ourselves as long as possible, but we can't keep quiet any longer. We've been kicking around this school for several years now, but never, until now, have we seen the Aggies do such a sorry job of supporting their team! Of course we haven't won many games, or even done any particularly outstanding playing, but last year it was the same, and we had a howling, fighting, twelfth man! What's wrong with us? Are we giving up?

At the game Saturday we heard nothing but gripes. No yelling to speak of, just gripes. "Why don't they pass the ball?" "Why don't they kick the ball?" "Why don't they send another quarterback in?" "What's wrong with Stetler?" "Can't he run a football team?" Comments such as that and many more too numerous to mention seemed to be all we could hear. Every play was criticized and any gains we made were attributed to luck.

Why don't we try sticking with our team for a while? They may be green and they may have plenty of rough spots to iron out, but they won't quit, and they'll make the grade. Let's try yelling when we're behind like we do when we're ahead. Perhaps the comments and criticism we heard at the game came only from that offensive two percent.

We don't know, but we do know we have a good chance to win a game this weekend, so come on ol' Army, let's show that team that nobody can keep those fightin' Texas Aggies down!

Ben Evans 48
Bobby Jones 49



LAST DAY
First Texas Showing

Starts: 1:30 - 3:40 - 5:40 - 7:50 - 10:00

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Plus

TEXAS - RICE FOOTBALL GAME

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Thomas in Hollywood . . .

President Not Much Of A Movie Fan, Thomas Notes

By BOB THOMAS

Hollywood, Oct. 20 (AP)—Here's another worry for Hollywood—President Truman is not much of a movie fan.

Through an official source, I submitted a list of questions about the President's movie habits. The reason is that he is not very much of a movie-goer.

"He likes to see a newsworld now and then in the movie projection room of the White House."

"He likes the theater, as was indicated by his published remarks at a press conference the other day."

"He likes news broadcasts on the radio, and listens when time permits. He has seen important

news events on television, including the Democratic convention at Philadelphia before he went up there himself to accept the nomination."

Mr. Truman's lack of enthusiasm for movies contrasts with his predecessor, FDR was probably the most avid film fan of the presidents.

From reader Don McNally of Toledo come some pertinent remarks on barriers against tourist visitors by film studios:

"Industry has learned that it is good public relations to open its doors to visitors . . . the fact that doors are opened, that visitors are wanted and welcomed, creates favorable public reaction—the very thing which most studios want most, especially now, to build attendance and profits. It seems to me that the studios are taking the wrong approach to what could be a great trade builder."

Vaughn Monroe's bobbysocked fans wouldn't recognize him. I found him on a western set out Republic way and he looked nothing like his smooth bandstand self. He was rigged up in a western outfit with a set of studio-made chin whiskers that made him look like a Smith brother (the handsome one).

The warbling maestro is here to play a cowpoke in "Singing Guns." He is lined up against such formidable talent as Ella Raines, Walter Brennan, Ward Bond and Jeff Corey. I asked him how he felt about acting with such competition in his first leading role.

He admitted being worried, but said he wasn't unprepared. "I haven't done any roles," he pointed out, "but our business is largely a matter of acting most of the time. And I have the advantage of having been on the

air for three years with my own show."

He has been riding horseback most of his life, so that's no problem. However, his debut in the picture was almost his last scene. On location at Sedona, Ariz., his horse suddenly reared in the first shot. A hatchet fastened to the saddle slashed Monroe's wrist, missing a tendon "by an eighth of an inch." Three stitches were needed.

No, Mr. Monroe will not be singing "Riders in the Sky" in the picture. Another cowpoke named Gene Autry spirited away the movie rights to the song for \$10,000. Monroe will sing two or three other songs in his high-octane baritone.

Two of the most famous works of the late Theodore Dreiser are in the movie mill. Montgomery Clift and Elizabeth Taylor are making "An American Tragedy" (now called "A Place in the Sun") for George Stevens. And Stevens' partner, William Wyler, will star "Sister Carrie" this winter.

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Robert Ryan
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Lucky License Nite
2 Numbers Selected for
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Quion Hall
LAST DAY
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MONTEZ-AUMONT-ORKEEE
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SIREN OF ATLANTIS
ARTHUR RIPLEY - SEYMOUR NEBENZAL
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DICK FREEMAN, Houston Chronicle Sports Editor . . .
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