

# Texas' Cities Never Same After Fantastic Forties

By WILBUR MARTIN

(This is the second of three articles on Texas and the fantastic Forties.)

The cities of Texas changed during the Fantastic Forties. They probably will never again be the same.

The people caused the major change. Too many people or too few people.

An estimated 1,250,000 men and women trained in the armed services in Texas during World War II. They trained at more than 14 major posts and camps, at 28 major air fields. They were stationed at 21 prisoner of war camps.

They trained over miles of land, land located around or near a hundred cities. Some of these cities were tiny places, some small farming communities. Most of the cities were ill equipped to cope with the thousands of men or the hundreds of families that came with the troops.

Bastrop, Smithville, Lockhart, Temple, Killeen, Belton, Hondo, Pate, Lubbock, Waco, Dallas Fort Worth, San Angelo, Sherman, Denison, Laredo, Harlingen, San Marcos, El Paso, Childress, Paris, San Antonio, Houston, Galveston, Corpus Christi, Brownwood, Tyler, Abilene, Odessa and countless other cities were in or near major posts or air fields.

They faced problems of housing, of police and fire protection, of water, light and gas services, and a hundred other municipal tasks.

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They weathered the war years with little physical improvement. Material was almost impossible to obtain. They faced the first years after peace with a backlog of "must" projects.

They faced an added headache of growth—spectacular growth in such places as Houston, Denison and Odessa. And many towns and cities added to their size by annexing outlying territories.

Thousands of the men and women who trained in Texas came back to live. Other thousands were attracted by the state's job opportunities.

Practically every city and town in Texas has grown tremendously since the last census. But in some tiny villages, residents moved away to get war jobs. They never came back.

Austin figures it has a population of 150,000 today. Its census was 87,930 in 1940.

Amarillo estimates it has just about doubled its 51,686 population in the last ten years. Houston's estimated size today is 620,000 compared to 384,514 in 1940.

This trend is noted in all parts of Texas. It can be traced to war-born industry that converted to peace-time use; to oil booms; to new industry. It can also be traced to the hundreds of marriages made during the war. Some Texans brought home brides. Many Texas girls married soldiers stationed at camps in the state during the war. Many of these men decided to make Texas a permanent residence.

"No money" was a common complaint city officials made as

the Forties faded. Bond issues could handle the bigger projects. But red ink still faced many a mayor and city council.

Inflation has played a big part in this financial headache. Bond issues prove inadequate by the time work starts on the project for which they were issued—because of the climb in costs. Construction and operation costs have jumped faster than tax rates.

In many instances, already heavily burdened taxpayers are in no mood to approve new bond issues or taxes.

There's another reason for the money woe of rapidly growing cities. There's a big lag between time of the growth and when it starts paying tax dividends. Essential services—like sewers, gas and water main extensions—can't wait. They must be provided to new residential areas immediately.

No one is willing to predict that this growth of Texas' cities will stop any time soon.

And city officials will continue to juggle the tax dollar to meet a hundred needs.

The amazing growth of many cities was a part of the Fantastic Forties. Many city officials are wondering if their town will keep growing and make the fifties fabulous.

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# Moscow May Be Calling Reds' Plays in China

Washington, Jan. 18 (AP)—Senator George (D-Ga.) suggested today Moscow may be calling all the signals for the Chinese Communists' treatment of American diplomats.

And a Republican senator, who asked that he not be identified by name, said of the previous internment of Americans and the recent seizure of the Peiping consulate: "I don't think these are isolated incidents. I believe they are part of a pattern."

Another Democrat, Senator O'Connor of Maryland, denounced the Communist seizure of the American consulate as "outrageous."

O'Connor demanded that the U. S. block admission of Communist China into the United Nations.

George, acting chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told reporters he hopes Secretary of State Acheson "may be able to give us some information on what influence Moscow has" in the situation in China. Acheson previously has said that Russia is taking over North China areas, including Manchuria, as a part of communistic imperialism.

The Georgian cheered the State Department's action in recalling all U. S. diplomats from China after the Peiping incident. "The time has come for firm action by the United States," he said.

Republican critics of administration foreign policy continued bitter over the Chinese developments.

One Republican senator who asked his name not be used, said Acheson will be asked why he did not let the Foreign Relations Committee know that the Peiping incident was developing.

The State Department knew it more than a week ago," he said. "It was advised by the Chinese Communists on Jan. 7 that they would 'requisition' the consulate. Acheson came before the committee twice after receiving this message. But so far as I know he did not indicate anything unusual was happening."

The governor asked these three questions, soliciting answers from any interested citizen:

1. Experts have called our state hospitals the worst in the country. It will take at least \$25 million to feed and clothe our state wards during the next year and start an improvement program. Do you think this state spending is justified? If not, whose responsibility is it?

2. We do not have the money available now for this or any other purposes. If you think the state should take care of these people, do you think it should go into debt or raise the money with more taxes?

3. If you think more taxes should be levied to take care of these unfortunate, who should pay these additional taxes?

Announcement was made, at the committee meeting Thursday of the forthcoming appearance of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra on January 24, at Stephen F. Austin high school auditorium.

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# What's Cooking



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# University Profs Hold First Meet

The local chapter of the American Association of University Professors will hold its first meeting of the year Thursday night at 7:30 p. m. in the YMCA Assembly Room, Dr. Melvin S. Brooks, president, announced today.

The meeting will be devoted mainly to a further consideration of two previous committee reports, one on recommended curriculum changes and one on proposed criteria for granting promotions and salary increases at the College, Dr. Brooks stated.

The AAUP local unit will make a sustained drive this year to enroll a greater number of faculty members.

New officials for the year are: Dr. Melvin S. Brooks, Department of Agricultural Economics; and Rural Sociology, president; Otis Miller, associate professor in the Department of Journalism, vice president; and D. Ralph Lee, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, secretary-treasurer.

# Senate Demos Say 'Hands Off' Also

Washington, Jan. 18 (AP)—Senate Democrats united today behind President Truman's "hands-off" policy on Formosa.

Senator Lucas of Illinois, the Democratic leader, said a party caucus showed all Democrats support the stand of the President and Secretary of State Acheson in refusing to give military aid to the Chinese Nationalists.

"The Democrats think the State Department and the president are definitely right in the actions they have taken," Lucas told reporters. "The Democrats are fearful that any inervation there ultimately will mean war."

Republicans have taken the lead in sharp criticism of the president for refusing to make Formosa, an island 100 miles off the China coast, secure against attack by Chinese Communists.

The reported agreement followed a suggestion from Senator George (D-Ga.) that Moscow may be calling all the signals for the Chinese Communists' treatment of American diplomats.

Finland Replies To Russian Demands

Helsinki, Finland, Jan. 17 (AP)—Finland's government drafted a reply to Russia's demand for return of alleged Soviet War Criminals today as the nation's two-day presidential election drew to a close.

Counting of votes for 300 electors who will meet Feb. 15 to name Finland's president will begin tonight.

Russia early this morning accused Finland's social democratic government of harboring 300 Soviet war criminals in a move regarded here as an attempt to influence the presidential elections.

# Twenty-Six Ag Ed Seniors Employed

Twenty-six out of 47 graduating seniors in agricultural education have been placed in jobs, according to E. V. Walton, associate professor of Agricultural Vocation.

Of the 26 boys already placed four are going into business for themselves, three are to do graduate work, three are going into the soil conservation service, three have been placed in high school teaching jobs, and the remainder are to teach in the veterans' program.

Walton made the following statement in regard to placement at present, "Although the job situation is becoming tighter, there has been no great difficulty in placing agricultural education majors." He said that one hundred per cent placement is expected by February 15. The men who have not been placed have from one to three job applications pending.

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