

Battalion Editorials

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TUESDAY, JULY 4, 1950

Flags for Better Relations . . .

Congress now has an opportunity to make a good-will gesture that many officials and citizens of Mexico are likely to appreciate. A House subcommittee has reported favorably a bill to return to Mexico sixty-three battle flags and emblems captured in the war that ended more than a century ago. This measure should pass without serious opposition. The flags, in moth balls at West Point, are of no use to us and may be too faded to be of much value as mementoes in Mexico; but their voluntary return will be an indication of friendship.

The State Department is right in insisting that the flags be given, not swapped. Although the bill in its present

form says nothing of the flags captured from our forces, it is believed that Mexico will follow our example and voluntarily return them. An exchange in the Big Bend National Park has been suggested and might be made there when President Truman dedicates the big park next October.

Battle flags are obsolete today. They would be in the way as motorized forces lead the troops into enemy territory already softened by air raids. But often they are valued as relics, and the governments that put them into the field are those most clearly to keep them as souvenirs.

—The Dallas Morning News

Just a Little Slow on the Draw . . .

One of the most puzzling phenomena of the 20th Century is the tendency of many so-called intellectuals to view communism with tolerance — if not an even warmer feeling — and to accept what is going on under the Russian form of totalitarian slavery as a great social experiment. One of the explanations that has been offered is that distance lends enchantment and enables such intellectuals to preserve an idealistic mental picture of the "classless state" without the disillusioning intrusion of sordid reality.

This explanation falls flat in the case of Hans Thirring, Austrian atomic physicist, because his home is under the very shadow of the Iron Curtain. A cultural conference of Western intellectuals in Berlin was thrown into an uproar the other day because of Professor Thirring's sud-

den announcement that world events had made it impossible for him to deliver the paper he had intended to present. Events in Korea, he asserted, had dispelled his belief that Soviet cold war policy would never develop into militaristic aggression.

The wonder of this is not that the scales finally have fallen from Professor Thirring's eyes, but how with the example of the Baltic states, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the other Soviet slave states before him he could have preserved his illusions so long. How could a man of his undoubted intellectual abilities be so slow in perceiving what millions of others, many of them with no special capacity for understanding, have been able to see clearly?

—Fl. Worth Star-Telegram

Stocking an Overstocked Cupboard . . .

Taxpayers are in for another headache on federal handouts to farmers. While congressmen, with an eye on the election, were approving an added two billion dollars in farm subsidies, the Secretary of Agriculture lifted quotas on next year's wheat crop. Acreage allotments remain, but the quota action is expected to boost next year's harvest. This, despite the fact that the government is holding something like 350 million bushels of old wheat as the new crop comes in. The Commodity Credit Corporation, a federal agency, is building bins to hold another 100 million bushels of small grain on which farmers are expected to default their loans.

Washington seems unable to learn from earlier blunders. Already taxpayers have been stuck for 420 million dollars for spoiled potatoes. Spuds which the government bought at \$1.83 per hundred pounds have been allowed to rot or sold back to the growers at one cent a hundred pounds. Meanwhile, many housewives are unable to buy enough potatoes for their families

because the government keeps the retail price too high. In some instances imported potatoes have undersold those grown here.

At the same time, eggs for breakfast are beyond the reach of many families because the government, with tax money, has bought and dried seventy-three million pounds of eggs, equal to one and a half dozen shell eggs for every person in the country. The government is keeping on similar stiffs the prices of butter and other dairy products. Under free markets, we usually were able to use all our dairy products in the home market. Now we dump them in other countries while many of our own people go without them because of government-hiked prices.

This unsound policy, aimed at winning elections, would be dropped quickly if those who pay its cost in taxes and in prices at their neighborhood markets would register their protests at the polls.

—The Dallas Morning News.

Food for thought: When the United States and South Korean forces reach the 38th parallel in that far eastern country, just what will happen? Will they go on into North Korea, or will the battle become a stalemate? There is little doubt that the United States and the South Koreans will eventually reach the boundary. It will be done if every man, woman and child in the United States must be recruited. We have obligated ourselves and must follow through.

Headline in the *Toronto (Ont.) Globe & Mail*: "Need 100 Face Cloths For Undernourished Girls."

The dove of peace is either a blutbird or a confirmed optimist.

An afterthought on a Summer Texan editorial: If the 1940 A&M graduates hit the national average of having 1.4 children, just how did Texas grads stand in the lineup? Less, perhaps?

The Battalion

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

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HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY



Eisenhower Called For Senate Meeting

Washington, (AP)—A proposal to beat back Communism with a free flow of ideas on an ambitious scale will get public support this week from General Dwight Eisenhower, Secretary of State Acheson and an imposing list of prominent figures.

Senator Benton (D-Conn.) said Sunday they will testify at public hearings this week before Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee

Transportation Cadets Inspect Newport Ships

Fort Eustis, Va.—(Special)—Thirty-five A&M cadets, now in training with the Transportation Corps summer ROTC camp at Fort Eustis, Va., visited the Newport News, Va. shipbuilding and drydock yards last week.

Newport News, noted for its coal exporting industry, as well as for being a ship-building center, is located approximately 20 miles south of Fort Eustis.

Purpose of the trip was to familiarize the students with the different facilities necessary for construction of all types of vessels.

One of the most important and interesting parts of the tour, according to the students, was the visit to the building docks. There they saw under actual construction the 990 foot, 45,000-ton passenger liner "United States". The liner is the largest American-owned passenger ship either now in operation or in the construction stage.

The ship is of the most modern design, and in its construction, many of the lighter type metals and alloys are being used to reduce the tonnage. Present plans now call for it to be completed by 1952.

After the tour of the building docks, the cadets visited the light force and die shops and the machine shops.

Climax of the trip was a visit aboard the \$8,000 ton aircraft carrier, U. S. S. Bennington. The carrier and its planes are accredited with destroying 184 Japanese planes and 37 ships in World War II.

One A&M student, Jerry Byrd, a business major from Vernon, was unable to make the trip. Byrd had the distinction of pulling "KI" duty on the day of the trip.

hearings on a "Marshall plan of ideas."

Benton, freshman senator, former advertising man and one-time State Department official, has enlisted support of a dozen other senators for an intensified drive to counter and overtake the world wide propaganda efforts of Communism.

Pierce Iron Curtain

Their main theme is that the United States and its allies in the battle against Communism around the globe, must first pierce the so-called iron curtain and reach the eyes, ears and minds of people now getting only Communist-controlled information.

"The mental gap is more dangerous than the dollar gap," Benton said and urged the senate to endorse the program to close it.

1. Steady pressure through the United Nations and diplomatic channels for "freedom of the press" for all kinds of communication media.

2. More support for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and the program of exchanging students with foreign nations.

3. Development of an unenclosed world wide radio communication network able to reach all receiving sets.

Congress Hit

Benton said the present "Voice of America" radio broadcasts to foreign nations are "a whisper" because congress has been stingy on appropriations.

Senator, Elbert Thomas (D-Utah) heads the Foreign Relations subcommittee which opens hearings Wednesday on the program.

Witnesses then will be General George Marshall, former secretary of state and sponsor of the Marshall plan for European recovery; Secretary Acheson; Edward Barrett, assistant secretary of state in charge of the "Voice of America" and related programs; and senators Benton, Lehman (D-NY), Hendrickson (R-NJ), and Mundt (R-SD).

He To Testify

General Eisenhower, now president of Columbia University, and David Sarnoff, chairman of the Board of Radio Corporation of America, will testify Thursday.

On Friday, witnesses will include Bernard Baruch, financier; Lt. Gen. W. Bodeil Smith, former Ambassador to Russia; and George Stoddard, president of the University of Illinois.

Senators supporting the "ideas" program include Flanders (R-Vt.), Fulbright (D-Ark), Graham (D-NC), McMahon (D-Conn), Morse (R-Ore), Smith (R-ME), Sparkman (D-Ala) and Tobey (R-NH).

Letters

(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 persons other than the editors.)

NO SKATES!

Editor, The Battalion:

Last Sunday night I thought I would try to relax a bit by going skating at the Grove. The idea was swell, but complications began to spoil things. After a fifteen minute wait, while the operator made major repairs on skates for another Aggie, I got to the counter to rent skates. But no skates were available.

Having noted only a few skaters I asked the attendants how many pairs of skates he had rented and he said about 20. He also said that with a few repair parts, six or seven other pairs of skates could be put into operation.

Why doesn't Student Activities get behind the Sunday and Wednesday night skating sessions and provide enough skates? With a few repair parts or even a new pair of skates everyone would be able to skate. If the money isn't available, I don't think anyone would mind paying 25¢ instead of 10¢ to skate.

Don Young '52

'Annie Get Your Gun' Shows Hutton as Top Sharpshooter

By FRED WALKER

"Annie Get Your Gun," (MGM) Queen, now showing in Technicolor starring Betty Hutton.

Once in a long while, Hollywood bursts from its plighted cocoon and produces a good "family picture" (But why restrict?) so goes "Annie Get Your Gun."

While leaving the theatre, I heard remarks ranging from "What a riot!" and "The best musical comedy . . ." to "It wasn't as good as I expected," and "There were too many songs and too much music."

(The last quip amused me. I wonder what stands as the popular conception of musical comedy?)

Taken From Broadway

Taken from the fruitful Broadway production by Rogers and Hammerstein, "Annie Get Your Gun" could be classified as another "Study in Hutton." From beginning to end she proves that she can be versatile. The burlesque is child's play, and the pathos is human.

As in musicals, the plot is secondary. This picture is an exception, for the music of Irving Berlin and the extroverted antics of Miss Hutton place the mind incapable of

chronicling.

Annie Oakley, the remarkable backwoods markswoman, bests Frank Butler (world's champion sharpshooter) of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. She joins the show and promptly falls in love with the conceited and casanovian Butler.

Hero Pulls Out

Financial difficulties force Cody to introduce Annie separately from Butler's act, in which she had been assisting. Frank cannot stand to be outdone and hurriedly joins the rival show of Pawnee Bill.

Naturally Annie is a success, but the ensuing European tour is not in many ways. She is both heart and homesick, and too many command performances (it seems you don't get immersed for these) force the show homeward. A super four-act is planned by both Bills.

Object: merger of the two shows for mercenary reasons and the merging of Annie and Frank for other reasons.

A fight between the "lovers" brings about a shooting match between the two, which Annie winningly loses (thanks to Papa Sitting Bull) to gain a husband.

Songs Are Feature

That's the plot, but here is the real story: the songs. Miss Hutton's first number, "Don't What Comes Naturally," brought great reaction from the audience. With the usual desperate animations and an unusual make-up of dirt and freckles, accompanied by a brood of "unusual" children, she here gets one of the biggest laughs of the show.

Other numbers "There's no business like Show Business," "You Can't A Man With A Gun,"

and "Anything You Can Do" are equally as good.

Howard Keel, as Butler, does well enough, but some may notice that his voice seems miscast. He has a rich baritone that, with the correct training, could easily aspire to greater ends. He constantly reminded me of Lawrence Tibbett singing on the Hit Parade, although the comparison has to be a much smaller scale.

If You Like Hutton

We should settle a few problems right now. If you don't like musical comedies, or Miss Hutton you won't like the picture. I overheard one person remark that "There weren't enough cowboy scenes . . ." Please, this is not a stereotyped western. It is a musical comedy, close to a farce. Don't expect characters to be depicted realistically. They are burlesqued all through the picture. And as should be, music, music and more music is predominate.

Family Picture

In defense of the phrase "family picture", there is much to be said. Although the children won't understand a lot, Miss Hutton's actions will amuse them, and the banging of the cowboys and Indians will excite them. Three children, ranging from 4 to 7 sat next to me, and they enjoyed themselves immensely.

Casual observations: J. Carroll Nash plays Sitting Bull, who picked up a dialect somewhere . . . Annie's brother, Little Jake, will probably be "typed" soon in Hollywood . . . Keenan Wynn is still "mouthy" . . . Louis Calhern hits a horse well . . . Edward Arnold was in the picture too.

Comment: Burlesque goes well, regardless of "the good old days."

Good Placement For Ag Ed Grads

Placement of agricultural education graduates has been good, according to E. V. Walton of the Agricultural Education Department.

Of the 79 graduates available in June and July 51 have been placed and the remaining 27 unemployed trainees have applications pending in one or more places, Walton said.

Of the graduates, 16 men have been employed as High School Agriculture teachers, 23 have accepted teaching positions in the Veterans program and 12 have entered other fields.

Walton says that by Sept. 15, all Agricultural Education majors will have been placed.

QUEEN

ALL THIS WEEK



Broadway's outstanding musical-comedy success, "Annie Get Your Gun," now comes to the Queen screen in M-G-M's sensational Technicolor version starring Betty Hutton and Howard Keel, with Louis Calhern, J. Carroll Nash, Edward Arnold and Keenan Wynn heading the supporting cast.

The stage play, with Ethel Merman and Ray Middleton in the leads, ran on Broadway for three years, played to an audience of one million, five-hundred thousand, and netted six-million dollars for its 1,147 Broadway performances. A second company toured the United States with Mary Martin in the starring role.

Irving Berlin's original score remains in the picture version of "Annie Get Your Gun," the 10 songs including "Buffalo Bill," "Don't What Comes Naturally," "The Girl That I Marry," "You Can't Get a Man With a Gun," "Show Business," "Falling in Love," "My Defense Are Down," "I'm An Indian, Too," "Sun in the Morning" and "Anything You Can Do."

PALACE

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LAST DAY



ADVENTURE!!
 raging to the
 Peaks of
 EXCITEMENT!
 SIERRA
 comes in
 TECHNICOLOR
 starring
 AUDIE MURPHY - WANDA HENDRIX
 BURL IVES - DEAN JAGGER

Poultry Breeders Start Meet July 5

The Poultry Breeders School will be held on the campus July 5-7. Dr. J. H. Quisenberry, head of the Poultry Husbandry Department, is chairman of the short school.

An attendance of 25 is expected for the school to be sponsored by the Poultry Husbandry Department.

Campus

LAST DAY

John Wayne

—in—

Back To Bataan

Also Cartoon & News Reels

L'L ABNER Which Floor, Please



L'L ABNER Upsy-Daisy!!



By Al Capp



By Al Capp

