

Battalion Editorials

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1950

A&M's 75th Birthday -- A Success . . .

Except for an overcast which prevented Air Force Jet planes from arriving in full force, the weather and all other factors took a turn for the best Wednesday to start the school's 75th Anniversary in unequalled fashion. Though 60 planes were scheduled to take part in the air show, only 12 arrived because of low hanging clouds which would have prevented a formation of a larger number.

If the events of the first day are any in-

dications of what is to follow, this anniversary will be highly successful.

A mass presentation at any school requires the combined cooperation of three factions found there. The faculty, staff, and the student body is to be commended for their parts in promoting and carrying out activities worthy of A&M's diamond Anniversary celebration.

The school has entered a great year of its life. Let's make the most of it.

Stop Inflation Controls Needed Now . . .

The spectre of inflation is raising its ugly head higher and higher, and as yet no action is being taken to control this threat to our economy. The armed forces are suffering severely from this financial "chain reaction." It seems that the very act of appropriating money immediately increases the cost of the needed materials. The Air Force claims that inflation has already added \$360 million to the cost of its procurement program, and the Navy estimates that the price of a submarine has been added to its program.

Chairman Carl Vinson (D., Ga.), does not advocate any reduction in equipment to conform to new higher prices. His opinion is expressed very pointedly in a recent statement: "Congress must control prices or provide more money. There is no need to fool ourselves." John McCone, undersecretary for air, cited specific examples of price jumps. Crude rubber, for example, has gone up 128.9 per cent, copper 23.6 per cent, aluminum 2.9 per cent, and tin 32.9 per cent. Wage increases must also be considered in

the overall increase, according to McCone

There is one good thing to be said for inflation, and that concerns the repayment of borrowed money. For example, if ten billion "80 cent dollars" are borrowed to finance a military program, and "40 cent dollars" are paid back, there is a two for one advantage in so-called "real" values. Some people like deficit financing, and others favor the "pay as you go plan" comparable to the British "austerity" policy.

The forgotten man in all this theory is, as usual, Mr. John Q. Citizen. Inflation is eroding his savings, rising prices absorb what he could have saved, and taxes are cutting down the amount he starts home with. America is predicated on freedom and opportunity for the "little man", and if the time comes when he can't make a decent living, our system will be on the verge of failure.

We believe that the time for action is right now. Rearmament is required, and controls are definitely needed to halt this insidious inflation.

Rain and Preservation of Resources . . .

Borne by prevailing winds, a pall of smoke from smouldering forest fires in north-western Canada has been carried more than 2,000 miles to darken the sun over large cities of the eastern United States. When this smoke blanket is broad enough to cause afternoon baseball games to be played under lights in Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and New York, one can imagine what an area of vegetation must be consumed to form such a cloud.

The area of the fires, in the northern tip of Alberta, is described as scrub timber. This may seem to make it of minor commercial significance; and the distance from sizable settlements doubtless makes the blaze difficult to combat. Yet conservationists know that resources which seemed inconsequential to one generation can become important to another.

For this reason—and for others where woodland fires threaten more inhabited areas—an event of last July in Whitewater Canyon, southern California, may come to have

great significance in the history of forest protection.

There a forest fire had raged for a week despite efforts of 100 men to control it. Even with horses and helicopters, the problem of getting supplies up the side of San Geronio Mountain was formidable.

The California Electric Power Company had been experimenting for some time with rain making on its watershed in that region. Its pilot, Robert Symonds, found two clouds at 19,000 feet which he seeded with dry ice, successfully causing a heavy rain over the canyon on San Geronio which drenched the fire and ended its menace.

Not always, of course, will rain cloud formations be found at the time and place to douse a timber-consuming blaze, but the success even in one instance holds hope for many cases in wilderness areas where fire control heretofore has seemed more than difficult. For as any fire warden knows, one good shower can snuff out more fire than several crews of men.

—Christian Science Monitor

Stassen-Soviet Policy Debate Improbable

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

Washington, Oct. 6.—(AP)—Diplomatic experts on Russia saw little chance today that Premier Stalin would accept Harold E. Stassen's proposal for a virtual public debate on the course of Soviet world policy.

Stassen's letter to Stalin, made public Wednesday, was obviously well received at the state department as a move which in its propaganda effects puts the Moscow government somewhat on the spot.

For while the letter calls for discussion in the full light of publicity on Russia's actions in world affairs, it is highly critical of Soviet policies and makes the point that in the interest of peace those policies should be changed.

Stassen's Proposal

Stassen told Stalin Russia should stop attacking the churches in the Balkans, should join in strengthening the United Nations, should ring up the iron curtain to let tourists and traders enter the Soviet Union, and should take other steps in the interest of world peace. He criticized Russia's attitude toward the Communist aggression in Korea.

He then offered to prove his point either in an exchange of correspondence or in conferences provided they should be fully disclosed and reported to the world. In a news conference Stassen said that what he really had in mind is a meeting between Stalin with members of the politburo and Stassen with a committee of American private citizens.

American officials who have studied Russian conduct over the years speculated yesterday that Stalin's reaction might be either a propaganda blast at Stassen or a decision to ignore the whole thing and give no reply at all.

Letter Broadcast

The state department, to which Stassen sent a copy of his letter immediately after it was dispatched to the Soviet embassy, has made a thorough study of the document and is using it on its "Voice of America" broadcasts to foreign lands including Russia.

Stassen accompanied the copy he sent to the state department by a letter to Secretary of State Acheson. It is understood that he told Acheson he felt he could say things to Stalin which American officials would not be able to say. Acheson, being in New York, had not seen the letter to Stalin prior to its release Wednesday.

Other government officials said Stassen's move could not hurt and might help the American position abroad by putting the Russians on the defensive in this instance. A meeting of private citizens with Russian government leaders could not commit the American government to any particular action and might bring a new point of view to bear on the Russian high command.

Yet the fact that Stassen suggested such a meeting, official on one side and unofficial on the other, could prove to be in Soviet eyes a major weakness of his proposal. What Stalin has always talked about and publicly encouraged in recent years is a meeting with President Truman. The President's advisers have assumed the Russian leader wanted to get the United States in a position in which by direct two-power deals he could wring concessions and break down the unity between this country and its allies.

Mr. Truman has repeatedly made clear that he is not interested—that in his opinion the place to work out the bitter issues between Russia and the West is the United Nations. He has said he would be glad to talk with Stalin in Washington; Stalin has said he was sorry but his doctors would not allow him to make a long journey.



From the City Desk . . .

Board Offers CS Power Rates Cut



By Joel Austin

Wednesday we reported that no word had come from the A&M Board of Directors concerning a decrease in rates for the electric power which they supply the city with. Well, the word has come from Chancellor Gibb Gilchrist that the Board did consider the matter and has offered the decrease.

The Board's answer to the city's request for lower rates was in the form of a 1.1¢ charge per kilowatt hour—effective October 1.

Mayor Ernest Langford pointed out that this new rate would give an average saving of .64¢ per month or .77¢ to be given back to the people in a year's time.

But with the decrease in the charge made by the college, the city can still secure power cheaper from three other sources. Mayor Langford said a reduction would probably be made this month in lieu of the saving offered by the college, but there is another change in rates coming up if councilmen decide to accept the offer of the Brazos River Transmission Cooperative, the City of Bryan, or the Gulf Electric Corporation.

Although nothing will be said at the Monday night council meeting about the matter, Langford said a called meeting will be held sometime next week to hear the report of Dr. F. C. Bolton who has been studying the proposals from the afore mentioned organizations.

Langford said the meeting would probably be closed, but the decisions of the council will be released as soon as it reaches an agreement.

September has been the peak month of the year for electric consumption in the city. The college was paid \$2,825 for 195,700 kwh last month. With the new rate the payment would have been \$2,152—a saving of \$673.

However, July was an average month with a total of 162,600 kwh used. This month cost \$2,434 for electricity, but could have been \$1,788 or a saving of \$646.

With the extra demand charge which the college has been receiving for their power, the savings are approximately the same. So, nevertheless, rates for the month of October will probably bear a noticeable downward trend. And the possibility of a still lower rate appears to be in the making.

The Night Owl . . .

'Honky-Tonk' Piano Revived by Ned Rao



By Herman C. Gollob

Anyone who happened to be in the basement pool hall at the corner of Texas and Main in Houston back in 1910 very likely stopped in the middle of his shot, lifted his ears for a moment above the dissonant counterpoint of cue-ball clicks and raucous chit-chat and caught the jaunty tinkle of an upright piano being fingered into a chorus of "Waitin' on the Kolt. E. Lee" by a stocky little maestro with saucer eyes and a grin that caused even the yellow-stained keyboard to smile back.

Forty years have chased each other into eternity since Ned Rao first broke into the entertainment world with his daily sessions at the pool hall forty-eight. Time and change have boosted him to such enviable heights in show business as a two-week engagement at New York's once-fabulous Palace Theatre, only to force him back to night-club entertaining when vaudeville expired, and finally to staging benefit shows.

Now the bouncy Mr. Raos back in Houston, owner of the Dixieland Lounge at the corner of Travis and Pierce. And he's playing the kind of honky-tonk piano that earned him his three squares for nearly half a century. Only one difference—Ned's his own boss this time. Still wearing the broad grin, now specked with gold, Ned set at our table last Sunday afternoon and in a deep, gritty voice, reeled off a quick autobiography for us:

" . . . After I left the pool room I got a job in Houston's Fourth Ward, the 'honky-tonk' district. I stayed there for five years, then in 1917 I took out to Kansas City, Missouri, and opened at the Gaiety Theatre with a piano-singer act. My brother did the singing.

"In 1919 I picked a 32 week tour of the states. When I was in Little Rock I started a young colored kid who everybody called 'Lazy.' He fit right into my act. We changed his name to Stepin Fetchit.

"When I got to Lincoln, Nebraska, I was on the same bill with Will Rogers. He was doing rope and magic tricks at that time. We became close friends. In 1933 I was playing at Colorado Springs when I got the news of his death. He was a great guy."

Ned paused here, and threw a long, wistful look out the front door. Lighting up a cigarette, he went on:

"Ginger Rogers got her start because of me. I gave her the first job she ever had. She won a Charleston contest in Ft. Worth, and as a prize I gave her a two-weeks' engagement. She left and went to Galveston's Crystal Theatre.

"I quit the business in 1943: Did my last show at Pueblo, Colorado. I came to Houston and opened a spaghetti house, then I went to Galveston and staged the Policeman's Ball. It was the biggest show ever put on in Galveston. A few months ago I bought this place.

Ned took a last drag on his cigarette, which he had smoked down to the cork tip. "I just finished writing a song—"You Taught Me to Love You, So Teach Me to Forget." It's going to be recorded here next week."

Promising to drop in this Sunday and hear the new recording, we left the Dixieland to catch a college-bound train. And day after tomorrow, you'll find us right back, leaning on the red-checkered tablecloth, listening to an old-timer remind himself of a once-gilded era, pouring his heart out over a keyboard into the songs that used to wow 'em at the Palace.

One on the Aisle . . .

Dallas—October 7-22: State Fair of Texas (Mid-Century Exposition): "South Pacific" starring Janet Blair and Richard Eastham. Nightly at 8:30. Mat. 2:30. Thursday, Saturday, Sunday, State Fair Auditorium: "Let Cycles of 1951". Nights, 8:30. Sat-Sun Matinees, 2:30.

Houston—October 7-8: Ringling Bros. Barnum, Bailey Circus.

Official Notice

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES: Any student who normally expects to complete all the requirements for a degree by the end of the current semester should call the Registrar's Office NOW and make formal application for a degree. . . .

All students who did not turn in Identification Cards or have photographs made for one will report to the Photographic and Visual Aids Laboratory from 8 a.m. until noon and from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. daily from Oct. 2 through Oct. 6 and from 8 a.m. until noon Oct. 7.

Each Graduate student is required to suggest the names of members of the Graduate Faculty whom he wishes to serve on his committee early in his first semester. . . .

The necessary forms and any suggestions and help needed may be obtained by calling at the office of the Graduate School. . . .

Ida P. Trotter, Dean Graduate School

The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions
"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

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