

Familiar Faces Leaving With Graduation

Catch Up With the Times...

AUSTIN political columnists claim there's likely to be quite a battle in the state legislature over redistricting Texas.

We'd like to ask one question: "Why?" And we believe we can answer our own query. "Too many small-population-area legislators are going to buck it, for fear they will lose their seats."

It is only natural that these men should be reluctant to vote themselves out of office. But a few who can still define the phrase "democratic representation in the legislature" claim they will not fight a redistricting bill when it is proposed.

That small group, plus the metropolitan law-makers, will form the nucleus of a stronghold to put representation back on a proportionate population basis. The big city

delegation is expected to wage the strongest fight for redistricting, since it will be to their direct benefit.

Texas' population has been gradually shifting to the urban areas since 1920—the last census year on which Texas was redistricted. Three censuses have been made since then but not one district has been altered.

The House of Representatives in Austin has 150 members. According to Euclid the mathematician, there should be 51,807 people to each representative, based on the 1950 census figures. Forty-five of the present 150 districts have fewer than 30,000 residents each.

Either the legislature or a special commission can redistrict the state. If the legislature refuses, this special group provided for in a recent constitutional amendment can do so.

But there exists a loophole. Who can force either body to do so? No one person or group holds that legal power at present.

Harry Truman, a Washington, D.C. pianist who doubles at the presidency, has come up with an idea. It reeks with politics but still bears the Democratic tag. Truman would definitely gain through redistricting, for new national congressional districts would also favor the urban centers, where the president finds much of his strength.

He has recommended that Congress enact law forcing states to redistrict, according to the 1950 census. Politics or no, it is the only democratic thing to do.

Thirty years is a long time and Texas is supposed to be one of the advancing states. Perhaps the 52nd Legislature will enable state statutes to catch up with the times. The population is shifting; let's recognize it.

Keep People's Hand On UMT Controls

IT'S UP to Congress now.

We're talking about Universal Military Training and Service, one of the most controversial subjects in recent years.

After the Senate Armed Services Committee had spent yesterday listening to testimony on the plan and had recessed, the Defense Department sent up a full draft of its plan in bill form.

Chairman Vinson (D-Ga) of the House Armed Services Committee said he would introduce it today. The measure provides for lowering the draft age to eighteen, extension of the term of services from the present twenty-one months to twenty-seven, and subsequent training and service for all youths after their eighteenth birthdays.

The bill faces a stiff fight in Congress. Influential members of both parties have said that they're not convinced eighteen-year-olds are needed in the army.

Many Congressmen feel that training at eighteen would be acceptable, but they oppose overseas service before the age of nineteen.

Mrs. Anna Rosenberg, assistant secretary of defense for manpower, has asked that no restrictions be placed on the use or training or service of the eighteen-year-olds.

And that is where the real danger from Universal Military Training arises.

Congress should say (with all due courtesy to a lady): "Now Mrs. Rosenberg, go back to your job as assistant secretary of defense, we feel capable of handling our job as legislators. And we shall restrict the use of these younger men. This thing started as a military training program; you've already changed the name to military service program. We don't want military training to consist of picking up cigarette butts around battalion headquarters in Tim-buk-tu."

Army life is anything but democratic. Actually, being a service man doesn't fit the picture most of us desire as citizens of a free America. It's a price we must pay for our continued freedom. But we don't have to pay the price of letting our young men be ruled by autocratic, arbitrary army ideas of discipline and training.

By Congressional action, we can restrict the training of these young men so that their time spent in military service will be useful to them in later life.

Location of New Sidewalks Evident

"PLEASE Use Sidewalks!"

That's what the signs say. And where there are sidewalks most students have been trying to co-operate with the beautification committee who posted the signs.

But it is where there are no sidewalks that these signs have, by being disregarded, served as an excellent survey committee. They have pointed out with narrow, well trodden paths where sidewalks are now needed on the campus.

Take for instance the vacant area beside Bizzell Hall and across from Guion. The sign there reads like all the others, but it doesn't make sense. There are no sidewalks to use. So the students have disregarded it. In the process they have marked off quite accurately the route of a needed sidewalk.

The Battalion was told earlier in the year that no money was available for new sidewalk construction, but that a committee was to be named to study the problem and make recommendations.

It is to this committee that these words are directed.

Before you make recommendations, take a turn about the campus. Almost all needed sidewalks have been marked off by unknowing "sidewalk engineers" hurrying to class at two minutes before the hour.

MOVING vans are almost as prominent around College addresses these days as the proverbial Carter's oats. Graduating seniors are all through as of this day, and 440-strong (plus a liberal sprinkling of wives and children), they are heading out to the "four corners." The cry that jobs are scarce is not so loud as it was a year ago when many graduates moved from college apartments without a door to fit a key into.

Virginia and Glenn Pendley and their small one Glenda Jean, are graduating in M. E. . . . Ginny is the lady who said in a recent poll of student wives: "I'll be glad to see Glenn get his degree in January . . . but I have enjoyed every bit of the time we have lived in Aggiedland . . . I always had a secret ambition of wanting to be married to a Texas Aggie . . . and now I'm finally going to make it!"

We'll miss Aline and Carrol Tate and Ronnie . . . and the Vandivers, Mildred, Van, David and Barry, who are headed to St. Louis . . . Dolbey, Bill and Melody Darby, who leave a big vacant spot around the C area of College View and a mighty big one in Company C Vets where Bill has been C.O. . . . We said good-bye several days ago to Emalie, Bill and Billy Bob Carruthers, who are headed home "near San Antonio" where Bill will be a rubber company "executive."

Gene and Mary Pearl Brown plan to "stay around here for awhile," as do Angela and Robert Schleider . . . Rose Marie and Jerry Zuber are headed to Bellville where he will go to work on the newspaper . . . Fred, Dorris, Kelly and Jo Mims are pointing toward Sweetwater, where a house already has been rented for them and is just waiting for them to move in.

Charles Prather came into the Housing Office Tuesday afternoon bareheaded. He probably couldn't have gotten a hat on his head if he'd tried, for he was passing out cigars abundantly as he reported the birth of his daughter just three hours previously. His wife, Wanda, was "doing nicely."

Letters

Rising Prices Need Checking

Editor, The Battalion:

The recent rises in costs of living are putting an ever increasing burden on the fixed income groups of our country. The hardest hit groups are veterans, like ourselves, and families of our fighting men who are overseas.

The recent talks of our leaders that price controls are coming has only caused the prices to sky rocket. Manufacturers, producers, and jobbers want to get their price levels at a high point ahead of the threatened controls.

The present price level of foods is over 200 per cent higher than it was in 1944. This means that the \$50 or \$60 that we have put in our budget for food will buy only \$25 worth at present. Other cost of living items may be compared in like manner. Our one fortunate situation at A&M is that our rent and utilities are only \$25 to \$30 per month, thanks to Veteran's Housing here.

Unless prices of essential cost of living items are rolled back at once to a level based on an index prior to December 1, 1950, the fixed income groups will suffer increasingly while the monopolistic groups benefit.

This is not merely a "gripe" for the sake of being critical, but it is an expression of a reaction to an unjustified situation that is real and "staring us in the face." It is an expression of thoughts that have been accumulating and should have been expressed sooner, just as action to control this situation should have been taken sooner by our leaders.

The barn door is open and the horse is in the outer lot so let's close the gate at once before he is gone for good.

There are other matters worth discussing such as socialistic trends, non-defense government spending, and government support on prices, but the primary concern is on the rising cost of living.

You may consider your one vote or opinion unimportant, as I have done in the past, but have you ever considered that corrupt officials are put into office by this unexpressed opinion or vote?

Let us herewith at once express our opinion to our Congressmen as a veteran's unit. Let us resolve that this important matter of rising prices be controlled at once at a level prior to December 1, 1950.

Over 400 retail grocerymen in Dallas sent telegrams this week to Congressmen requesting immediate price controls. It is a condition which hurts the retailer as well as the consumer.

Any veteran or student wishing to add his support to a resolution to Congressional leaders concerning immediate price control please call 6-1631.

Earl Horn Box 372

THINGS THAT MAKE OUR JOB FUN. In the midst of a reporter's nightmare last week, we had a pleasant break when a lady came by to give us a news story. She was Mrs. Bob Skrabanek, reporter for the Newcomers Club. Her cooperation, and the cooperation of all club officers whose news we try to cover will help to make our job easier, and twice as much fun as it already is.

Among the campus newly weds are the Max Greiners, who pledged their "I Do's" during the Christmas holidays. Mrs. G. (Bobby) now is making her home here with her husband.

Birthday parties still highlight the social events in the lives of college small fry. Many small moppets came home covered with chocolate after celebrating the third anniversary of Ralph Jackson recently. Ralph's mother Bobbie entertained her son's friends in their College View apartment, sent the

youngsters home delighted with their clown and sucker favors, their balls and their books . . . Four little friends called at the home of Walt and Virginia Matzen Sunday to help five-year old Neil celebrate.

WHEN WORK REFUSES TO BE WORK. Last week we had an evening appointment at the home of Lee Crozier to talk about a story we are planning. We arrived to find that she'd turned it into a small party, and we had the time of our lives taking notes from the Dames Club officers, Margaret Oakes, Virginia Matzen and Margaret Menzel between cookie bites and coffee sips . . . Presently we are having some offers of help from the masculine Battalion staff . . . on the condition that we'll promise refreshments with every story assignment.

The load begins to hang heavy

as finals approach. Students are lights are burning long and late as we finish typing term reports that they didn't make earlier in (due the day before yesterday), book reviews, and notebooks. Soon the tale will be told . . . and then we have a new beginning that four months from now will find us repeating the same process!

We pay the highest prices for Used Books— We maintain wholesale and retail lists the year 'round.

GET OUR PRICES BEFORE SELLING

THE EXCHANGE STORE

"Serving Texas Aggies"

are coming are A&M's

But... THERE'S AN "A" IN YOUR FUTURE

if you prepare now with the COLLEGE OUTLINE SERIES

Table listing various college outline series with prices, including Accounting, Algebra, Chemistry, etc.

DELICIOUS EATING at TEMPTING PRICES

Table listing grocery items and prices under categories: GROCERIES, MARKET, and PRODUCE.

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES Specials for Friday & Saturday - Jan. 19th & 20th Charlie's Food Market

The Battalion

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

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.

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.

DAVE COSLETT, CLAYTON L. SELPH Co-Editors. John Whitmore, Managing Editor. Frank N. Manitzas, Sports Editor. Bob Hughson, Campus Editor. Joel Austin, City Editor.

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