

Determination—It Still Pays

IT READS like an Horatio Alger success story—this 1951 Aggie Basketball record. "The Aggies? Oh yes, they're in the conference, too." That was the pre-season comment. Even from our own quarters came the remark that we could make no promises this season. We made no promises. But the Maroon and White team didn't take that to mean that we made no effort. Quite to the contrary, they substituted good hard work for those promises. There has been nothing spectacular about it. It's been hard-fought—the kind of inch-by-inch climb that people in the sports world seldom notice. Could be that's what makes it all the more precious. It was hard work that paid off—paid off

More Security Per Dollar . . .

A VERY ODD situation exists at the present time from which we may learn a lesson. Security is a paramount issue, and security is expensive. Until man changes through some evolutive or spiritual upheaval there is no reason to assume that this will change as the various wars and crises come and go. This raises the question of efficient security — what is it and how can it be achieved? Once upon a time the "minute man" idea was the accepted method. A large bonfire was sufficient to create overnight a large citizen army ready to do battle with the old squirrel rifle. Few "regulars" were needed, reserve training occurred in the daily shots at game, no appropriations were needed, and military service did not ruin civilian careers—the plow would be waiting for the farmer-reservist. Things have changed radically since this time. If one were to examine the appropriations for reserve activities, however, one would see that the administrative ideas have not changed along with the times. In times of panic the armed forces have a "blank check" so to speak, but when the sailing is smooth a five cent pencil requires a requisition through channels in septuplicate. The sad result is that we spend money, and neither the government nor the individual reservist has any degree of security. B-36 crews are not created overnight, radar screens cannot be maintained on a shoestring, high speed interceptor techniques are not a "spur of the moment affair," and highly skilled personnel cannot be maintained in the services on a "starvation" basis. Numerical quantity as such does not win modern battles. Under the assumption that a constant amount of money will be spent over a hundred year period, we are in favor of a military expenditure program based on a more uniform flow of this constant amount. The "faucet technique" will no longer get the job done. Such a program would attract career personnel—thus avoiding personal insecurity of the present day reservist: The false security of reserve units composed of over age, and over ranked personnel would be avoided; and the country would have the security of men who can afford to maintain a high degree of proficiency in their individ-

ual specialties on a career basis. This practical view should buy more security per dollar until the previously mentioned upheaval takes place.

WE STEAL, if we may, from the sports page. This particular theft is of a column from AP sportswriter Whitney Martin who, last Saturday, published a letter he had received from the father of a disappointed boy. The boy was a typical American lad—he worshipped the idols born on gridirons, baseball diamonds, cage courts and other arenas of sport. And the boy was wondering about this business of the big basketball scandal. The letter read in part, "The news of the scandals has shattered his dreamhouse into a thousand pieces. Most of it is beyond his comprehension, of course, but he asked me what it all was about and he could hardly believe that the Long Island players whom he had followed so closely all season could do anything wrong. "I know he must be only one of hundreds of thousands of American boys of the same age or thereabouts who have had a rude awakening over this sordid affair. The point I am trying to make is that the present day crop of athletic heroes has responsibilities which go beyond the interests of themselves, their schools, or their employers in the case of professional players. "In this day of fast communication involving radio and television and easy travel there has grown a young army of hero worshippers who look upon the athletic standouts as people they want to emulate in their more mature years." Mr. Martin ends by urging the youngsters to keep their dreams. Only a small number of the sports idols, he says, have "feet of clay." Perhaps he's right. Or perhaps he, like others who have helped to commercialize sport, is feeling pangs of blame at having helped to mold those feet.

And the Korean War, like most wars, contributes those interesting side-lights that newspapermen tab "human-interest." From the Central Front comes the tale of "the Stranger with the BAR." It concerns the unidentified hero, who, with the help of a grenadier, wiped out a machine-gun nest that had kept an entire company pinned down. The now legendary stranger with a Browning Automatic Rifle appeared. His companion threw a grenade. The stranger rose to fire. He got off one shot and his gun jammed. The same process was repeated three times. Closer to home is the AP story of two twins that walked into a California marriage-license bureau. The two beautiful duplicates were seen joined by two male twins. To the astonishment of all present, the quartet obtained their licenses and left for a double wedding. Another Texas AP story concerns the Wichita Falls great-grandmother who finally became a Civil Service worker at 75-years of age. The government decided her position as volunteer organizer at Sheppard AFB rightfully came under Civil Service.

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The Battalion

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

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, is published five times a week during the regular school year. During the summer terms, The Battalion is published four times a week, and during examination and vacation periods, twice a week. Days of publication are Monday through Friday for the regular school year, Tuesday through Friday during the summer terms, and Tuesday and Thursday during vacation and examination periods. Subscription rates \$6.00 per year or \$5.00 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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From the Wire

'Sidelights' Form Interesting Fare

By DAVE COSLETT

EVER HEAR of a wire editor? He's that guy on a newspaper who has the job of keeping up with the news of the world and letting the managing editor, the big boss, know what's worth space in the paper.



Coslett

It's a job that keeps you well-informed on world and national affairs. But there's another aspect to it, too. That steadily pounding teletype machine presents each day one of the most interesting and well-rounded stories to be found anywhere. The wire editor, during his labors, gets to read this history of the day.

The history is broken down into chapters. There's usually one for what Congress has done or is going to do. And there's another about the war situation. The chapters vary, of course, with the importance assumed by various things on various days. You as a reader get these top stories. The wire editor sees to that. But there are a million interesting things on that wire each day that can't run in the paper. The main thing that keeps them out is space limitation.

As sort of a summary of what these are, let me pick out some of the lesser happenings of the week end. You may have seen some of them in other papers. Chances are, though, that many are new.

Associated Press reported one from Chicago where a steel-worker, driving in a dense fog, stopped to see why the road had suddenly become so bumpy.

He found that he was driving astraddle a railroad track. Before he could reenter the 1930 model car, a fast passenger train demolished it.

From another end of the nation the wire tells of the reconciliation of a man and his thumb. A farmer in a motorcycle accident has an alert motorist to thank.

The motorist came by after the farmer had already been taken to the hospital. Spotting the thumb, the motorist took it to the hospital where doctors sewed it on the farmer. At last reports the farmer will keep his thumb.

From across the sea comes the embarrassing plight of a rugby player who, before fifty thousand fans and many times more television viewers, lost his pants. Co-operative players from both teams formed a huddle around him while he re-dressed himself.

Then the grenadier scored a direct hit. The man with the BAR tossed the weapon aside, grabbed an M-1 and rushed forward to bayonet three of the four Red machine-guns. Just as quickly as he had appeared, the stranger vanished.

Equally interesting is the AP account of the 11-year-old Korean lad, nick-named Kim, who led an Allied patrol to two American officers he had saved from capture by North Korean Reds. The youngster fed the two Americans while awaiting a chance to lead rescuers to them.

In Texas, the omniscient wire reports a theft in Odessa. Someone got away with a drilling tool, the building and research costs for which amounted to \$250,000. The thieves were evidently well-equipped—the 20-foot long bit weighed 2,300 pounds. Accordingly, she took the required physical examinations. Now she has a social security card and all the official documents to show the airmen, sweethearts and wives that still find the welcome sign always out before her home.

Ag Councilmen Name Escorts For Visitors

Plans for high school and junior college visitors, election of the Agriculturist editor, and election for the best agriculture professor were discussed at a meeting of the Ag Council Wednesday night.

Visitors on high school day will be escorted by W. E. Watson, Bobby Griffin, Jack Birkner, James Lehman, Doug Wythe and Lynn Pittard, C. N. Sheppardson, dean of the school of agriculture announced.

Doug Wythe, Jim Tom House and Leo Mikeška will conduct tours for junior college guests April 28-29.

Contrary to procedure in former years, the editor of The Agriculturist Magazine will be elected in April.

Ballots for the election of the best professor in the School of Agriculture must be turned in by March 1, Malcolm Dyer said.

Deadline for clubs to turn in activity outlines for Open House Day was set as March 15.

Marketing Group To Hear Dawson

O. D. "Dooley" Dawson, agricultural vice-president of the Second National Bank in Houston, will speak to the Marketing and Finance Club at its meeting in room 2A and 2B of the Memorial Student Center at 7:30 p. m. tonight. Mr. Dawson majored in Agricultural Education while at A&M, and was connected with the Federal Soil Conservation Service in Fort Worth before taking his present position.

No Need to Hurry

Buy a Bit of White House?

By ED CREAGH

Fort Meyer, Va., Feb. 26—(AP)—Yes, you still can get a piece of the White House to put on your mantel. Or make into bookends. Or stuff into that closet you've been meaning to straighten out when you got around to it. But don't be in a hurry.

Write in if you want to, but next week will do just as well, the week after next would be better and some time late next month would be better still.

That's the word from a hard-pressed little organization known as the Commission on Renovation of the Executive Mansion, which finds itself in the mail-order business of selling the public such things as bricks, nails and pieces of wood from the house where our presidents live. These things are the left-overs

from the big job of rebuilding the White House to keep it from tumbling down on the head of the present occupant.

There are tons of stuff which would be just junk if it came from most old buildings. Coming from the White House, it's a mass of historical souvenirs.

With some misgivings, the commission decided to sell these presidential keepsakes on a non-profit basis. It announced this plan in the middle of last month. So far, some 39,000 inquiries have flooded in and they're still coming. A staff of eight people here at Fort Meyer, across the Potomac from Washington, is trying to cope with them.

Naturally, these people are behind in their work. They'd just as soon nobody else wrote in for a while. And there doesn't seem to be any hurry about writing. There's a big pile, tons upon tons, of his-

toric rubble to be disposed of, and it's not likely that late-comers will find it all gone.

Among those who already have written in, more want bricks than want anything else. This is lucky because lots of bricks are available—200,000 or so.

They're not in the best of condition but they'll do nicely for paperweights. Or, for around \$100, you can buy enough White House bricks to face a fireplace.

All told, there are 13 kinds of souvenirs for sale. Among them are pieces of stone that could be carved into bookends, small pieces of hand-split lath that could be cut into letter-openers, and square nails that sound like just the thing for driving into square holes.

Applications for these trinkets have come from all parts of the country. The largest number—nobody knows why—have come from such North-Central states as Illinois, Michigan, Indiana and Wisconsin.

If you want a White House souvenir yourself, write to "The Commission on Renovation of the Executive Mansion, Fort Meyer, Va."

Don't mail any money—they'll mail you an application blank when they can get around to it. The blank will tell you what's to be had and how much it will cost.

Pieces range from 25 cents up. All merchandise sold "as is," and most of it is in pretty bad shape. Terms: cash in advance, after you've received the application form. Don't send currency—a postal note or money order will do. You pay the postage. All the money that comes in goes for packing and other costs.

One last word: Don't say I sent you. There are a couple of girl clerks, up to their eyelashes in letters, who would never forgive me for drumming them up more business.

Bible Verse

AND UNTO man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding. —Job 28:28



Davis Takes Place In ASME Contest

Hubert P. Davis, senior mechanical engineering major, took second place in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' triangular meet at Texas University last Saturday.

Davis spoke on Electric Strain Gauges. The meet, sponsored by the South Texas Chapter of the ASME, was a warmup for the Eighth Region Conference today and Saturday at LSU. Davis and Philo H. Duval, senior, will represent A&M at Baton Rouge.

Davis was awarded two volumes of "Strength of Materials," engineering textbooks by Timoshenko. Charles E. Davis, a Rice student, won first place in the contest.

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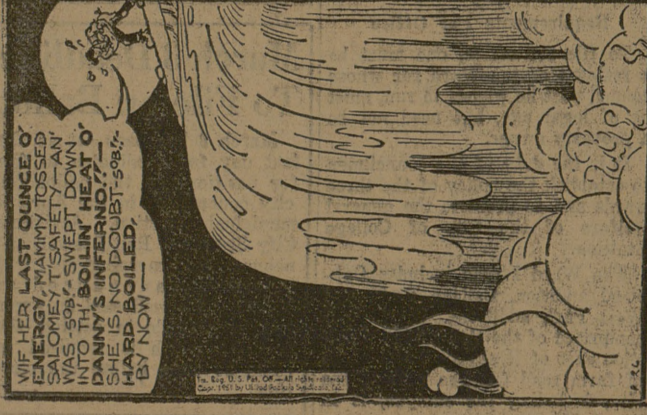
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L'L ABNER Forbidden Fruit



By Al Capp

