

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.

These little stories brighten the work of the wire editor and of the men who endlessly feed the wire news over the nation. Occasionally these unsung men of journalism provide a few sidelights themselves. An instance of this occurred recently when Harlingen asked Dallas via the AP wire for permission to test their transmitter unit. The standard test-line for a teletype is "The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog's back 1234567890 sending." Dallas answered, again via the wire, "Start your fox jumping. Pen him at 10:32." Nor could another operator resist temptation when a chance arose for a dig at another paper. The Dallas News received a short note on the wire from Galveston News which read "Congratulations on excellent Texas state mat service." Mats, in case you're unfamiliar with the term, are the form in which pictures are transmitted between papers. Another AP paper sent a message a few moments later. At the end of the message was this rather pertinent question to the Dallas News—"Did you service (send) some Galveston cheesecake in state mats? ? ? ?" If nothing else, it's an interesting racket.

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.

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.

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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. 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. Apparently such near tragedies are getting to be a habit in the Windy City. Another wire story tells of a man who, on his sixtieth birthday was having his car towed. As the tow-truck and car crossed a rapid transit line the tow chain broke. He abandoned the vehicle just in time as an electrically powdered train smashed it to bits. 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. These little stories brighten the work of the wire editor and of the men who endlessly feed the wire news over the nation. Occasionally these unsung men of journalism provide a few sidelights themselves. An instance of this occurred recently when Harlingen asked Dallas via the AP wire for permission to test their transmitter unit. The standard test-line for a teletype is "The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog's back 1234567890 sending." Dallas answered, again via the wire, "Start your fox jumping. Pen him at 10:32." Nor could another operator resist temptation when a chance arose for a dig at another paper. The Dallas News received a short note on the wire from Galveston News which read "Congratulations on excellent Texas state mat service." Mats, in case you're unfamiliar with the term, are the form in which pictures are transmitted between papers. Another AP paper sent a message a few moments later. At the end of the message was this rather pertinent question to the Dallas News—"Did you service (send) some Galveston cheesecake in state mats? ? ? ?" If nothing else, it's an interesting racket.



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