

Battalion Editorials

Page 2 Friday, September 21, 1951

Lepers or Stars

YESTERDAY something new was added to the customs and practices at A&M—The senior companies marched. This of course was the subject of a great deal of griping from the members of the "Shock-Troops."

But it may be a wonderful opportunity in disguise. These four year men have the natural ability to become some of the finest marching organizations on the campus. Here are groups of men who have had four years of military training, and for some reason or another were assigned to the senior companies.

These men have more experience in military affairs than any of the other companies in the corps. Instead of treating these men like social lepers, why aren't they given responsibility. They could become one of the finest military escort units for visiting dignitaries, or they could even become a precision drill unit.

The men in these outfits have pride. They can give this pride an outlet in either of two ways.

They can either be the sloppiest outfit on the campus or they can be the sharpest. All it takes is for the men in the units—and the officials to take the initiative to make these military lepers a mark of distinction for the corps. If these steps aren't taken, they can continue as they did in the past year and be a blot to the corps.

NOW THAT HE'S HAD VALUABLE EXPERIENCE -



Halfway Mark Hit In Building Plan

The A&M \$8,500,000 building program has reached the halfway point and the completion of the currently planned program is scheduled to end in 1953.

The new \$600,000 Administration building is set to be ready for occupancy sometime in the latter part of December. This building was built to provide offices for the president, dean of the college, and dean of the graduate school. This in turn will release class room space in the Academic Building and in other buildings on the campus.

The long range planning called for several of the A&M College System offices which are scattered over the campus to be centralized in the "old" Administration building.

When completed, the new Administration building will have the registrar and fiscal offices housed on the first floor. The president and deans of the college and graduate school will have offices on the second floor. A large faculty meeting room is also planned for the new Administration building. The top two floors will be air conditioned.

Storage space in the new building will be in the basement along with the heating and air condition units.

The Battalion

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

Entered as second-class matter at Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Rights of republication of all other matter herein are also reserved.

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.

JOHN WHITMORE Editor
Joel Austin Managing Editor
Bill Streich News Editor
Frank Davis City Editor
Allen Pengelly Assistant News Editor
Bob Selleck Sports News Editor
William Dickens Feature Editor

Founders of A&M

Physical Traits Belied True Characteristics of Ross-Coke

(This is second in a series of six articles on the former governor Richard Coke. The story was written by R. Henderson Shuffler, director of the department of information of the A&M College System. Governor Coke was in office at the time of the founding of the college and was instrumental in getting the college set up. He served for a time on the board of directors and his contribution to the college has been compared with that made by Lawrence Sullivan Ross, former president and "Founder of Aggie Traditions." Thursday's installment told about the first meeting of Coke and Ross. Coke was a young boy in Waco and Coke was a young lawyer.—The Editor.

Two men could hardly be less alike in physical appearance or background than Richard Coke and Sul Ross. Yet, they held one noticeable characteristic in common; each in appearance belied his character. Sul Ross looked the part of the son of the Virginia gentleman, which in reality Richard Coke was.

Coke's big and rugged frame fit the picture one would envision of the son of hardy Shapley Ross. And as each grew older he took on more and more the manner and dress of his congenial disguise. Ross dressed meticulously and developed a courtly manner, while Coke became less interested in his dress as years went by and accompanied this with a bluntness of speech and manner which belied him at once on a con of the frontier.

It was the scholarly-looking Sul Ross who killed the Indian chief, Peta Nocomo, in hand-to-hand combat in a dry creek bed; who recaptured Cynthia Ann Parker, white-captive wife of a chieftain and mother of the great chief Quannah Parker.

Ross it was who served as a captain of the Texas Rangers before he was 21 years old and as sheriff of bloody Waco in its wild hey-day. It was he who rose from private to general in the army of the Confederacy in four years, with a record of valor in more than one hundred battles. By the time he became president of

A&M in 1891, Ross had acquired such a reputation as a firebrand of unlimited courage that the hardy sons of still-pioneer Texans gathered around him like little lambs and behaved most beautifully throughout his entire period of office.

Coke, in contrast, was a peace-loving man, slow to enter any new undertaking and to some degree awkward in his dealings with people. While Ross was too impatient by nature to care for the pursuit of farming, and reportedly made a failure of his only attempt in this field, Coke early in his days at Waco acquired land and built up a plantation which he successfully operated throughout his life.

Coke was frequently criticized in his later years for the carelessness of his dress, including an old black fop hat and a long coat flapping around his knees. He carried a heavy walking stick of the type made familiar by Sam Houston, and although he made the concession to convention of habitually wearing a collar, no picture can be found of him in which he wears a tie.

His manner was abrupt and his speech, while forceful, was anything but fluent. "Old Coke jugs gets up on a stump and waves that big stick of his and bellers like a prairie bull," one contemporary remarked of him. "But," he added thoughtfully, "he wins his point!"

When the War between the States came on, Coke, too, left Waco for the Confederate Army, entering as a private. He displayed none of the dash and genius for war shown by the younger Ross, but by sheer courage and drive he won the respect of those around him and emerged as a captain with a creditable record.

Judge Norman G. Kittrell, a contemporary of Coke's, in his "Governors Who Have Been and Other Public Men of Texas" told of hearing a man say once, in the presence of a member of Coke's old Civil War company: "I don't like any man like who wears a great fop hat and long-tailed coat, and carries a big stick, and hollers when he speaks."

To which Coke's old comrade replied in quick fury: "I like him. I like that fop hat because I have

followed him when he wore it on the battlefield. I like to hear him holler, because I have heard him holler 'Come on boys,' when the bullets were flying and his men were falling around him. I have seen that bald head shining when, with his big hat off, he was in the lead where the fighting was the hottest. I like him for all you don't like him for."

On another occasion, Judge Kittrell relates in the same delightful collection of reminiscences, Coke, now a member of the United States Senate, was invited by President Arthur to dine at the White House. Knowing the President to be a stickler for the conventionalities, which he himself ignored as often as possible, Senator Coke was somewhat perturbed. He approached a fellow Senator, noted for his courtliness, and said: "Maxey, I have received an invitation from President Arthur to dine at the White House and I haven't got any kid gloves, and I don't want to wear any, and I don't know what to do."

Senator Maxey told his distressed friend from Texas that he had an engagement with the President prior to the dinner, and would see what could be worked out. In the meantime, something prevented their getting together again until after the fateful evening. When Senator Maxey next saw Senator Coke he inquired whether he had ever found the right kind of gloves.

"I did," Coke said, "but come mighty near not doing so. I went down Pennsylvania Avenue on one side and back up on the other and could not find a pair big enough. Finally, in a little hole in the wall on a side street I found a pair I could get on, and when I did get 'em on, my hands looked like a pair of canvassed hams, but I wore 'em."

"And when it was all over," Senator Maxey inquired, "did you get the gloves off safely?" "Hell," Coke snorted, "As soon as I could get home, I tore 'em off!"

In spite of his carelessness in dress and his impatience with some of the rather strict formalities of his day, Richard Coke was in no sense an uncouth ruffian. He was a thorough and profound scholar of the law and one of the most forceful writers of his time.

Some of the decisions he handed down as Justice of the Texas Supreme Court, as well as many of his messages as Governor and later his prepared speeches in the

Senate, were masterpieces. While the charming and dashing Ross rose to the Governorship largely on personal popularity and his reputation as a hero, the plodding Coke came up the hard way, fighting for every step up the ladder. Governor Ross was one of the most popular chief executives Texas ever had in a time of comparative peace and quiet. Coke took over the helm of State by sheer force in one of the most troubled times Texas has ever known, and steered a true course in spite of severe buffetings from every side.

Each man was great in his own way—Coke's, however, was the hard way.

(The third in this series will be published in Monday's Battalion)

Dr. Carlton R. Lee
OPTOMETRIST
203 S. Main Street
Call 2-1662 for Appointment



WET UMBRELLAS
ON THE LIVING ROOM FLOOR!
Never mind... It's Valspar'd!
Super VALSPAR
"GUARDING ALL FLOORS"
London's Paint Store
2201 College Road

Bryan Baptist Start Church Bus Service

The First Baptist Church of Bryan will run a free bus service Sunday morning for Aggies who wish to attend services in Bryan. Two College-owned buses will arrive at 9:15 a. m. to collect passengers.

One of the buses will park at the west side of Dorn 16, across the street from the Campus Theater on Sulphur Springs Road; and the second bus will pick up riders at Dorn 12. They will leave promptly at 9:30 for Bryan.

Church School starts at 9:45 a. m. at the Bryan Baptist Church, and the Worship Service will begin at 10:50 a. m. The buses will return Aggies to the campus. Regular week-end services will be held at all the College Station churches.

Jewish Services
Weekend Jewish Services will be held tonight at 7:15 in the YMCA Chapel, and each Friday at the same time, unless otherwise specified. A weekly Wednesday evening service will be held in room 2D of the MSC.

Bethel Lutheran Church
Sunday School and Bible Classes will convene at 9:30 a. m. Sunday at the Bethel Lutheran Church, 800 S. College Avenue. "What

Think Ye of Christ?" will be the topic of the Rev. William C. Peterson's worship sermon at 10:45 a. m.

Wednesday evening Vesper Services are to be held at 7:30 p. m., with a service called, "How Do You Appear Before God?"

Other meetings next week for the Bethel Lutheran groups are Ladies' Choir practice, Tuesday 7:30 p. b.; and Confirmation Class, Saturday 9 a. m.

A&M First Baptist Church Sunday is "Buddy Day" at the First Baptist Church of College Station. Church members are asked to bring an "unlisted" buddy to church with him in time for the 9:45 a. m. Sunday School. The Rev. W. J. McDaniel, interim pastor. (See CHURCH Page 4)

SAFETY! COURTESY! ECONOMY!
SAFE-T-WAY TAXI
Phone 2-1400

ATTENTION STUDENTS
PORTABLE TYPEWRITERS
Royal Quiet Deluxe
Come in for demonstration
—Liberal Terms—
Bryan Business Machine Co.
SALES — SERVICE — RENTALS — SUPPLIES
209 N. Main, Bryan Dial 2-1323

NIGHT SCHOOL OPENS
Monday, October First
INTENSIVE training will be given in Gregg simplified shorthand, typing, bookkeeping, and college arithmetic.
REGISTRATION accepted now.
McKenzie-Baldwin Business College
702 South Washington Avenue
Bryan, Texas Dial 3-6655

RADIOS & REPAIRING
Call For and Delivery
STUDENT CO-OP
Phone 4-4114

Tune in - BOGART BACALL
"BOLD VENTURE"
EVERY MONDAY
KORA
8:00 P.M.
AMERICAN LAUNDRY & DRY CLEANERS

Freshman Green Slacks
TAILOR MADE RIGHT HERE AT COLLEGE STATION
- No Sending Away and Waiting for Weeks -
WE MAINTAIN OUR TAILORING CONCERN HERE
Guaranteed to Fit — You Try Them On
\$26.50
Tailor Made to Your Measurements
- COME BY TODAY -
ZUBIK'S
UNIFORM TAILORS
North Gate
1896 — 55 Years of Tailoring — 1951

L'L ABNER Boy Meets Ham
A MASS SUCCEEDS WHERE I SAY "FREE!"
LET'S GO DE HONORABLE WAY, BOYS. BEFORE STARVATION MAKES BEASTS OF US, WE'LL STAB!! ONE—TWO—

L'L ABNER The Bony Express
I-I CAN'T PLUNGE DIS KNIFE INTO DAT HELPLESS DOGPATCH HAM!! IT AIN'T NO MERE LUMP O' MEAT!! IT GOT A POISONALITY!!— IT SEEMS T'BE PLEADIN' WIT ME N-NOT T' MOIDER IT!!

?-A DOGPATCH HAM!
IT COME FROM HEVWIN, NO DOUBT!! I'VE HOID O' EM!! THEY'VE KEPT WHOLE FAMBLES ALIVE—FER YEARS!!

YEH-SURE— (2) GITS A PECULIAR FEELIN' FROM DS HAM. LIKE ITS BEGGIN' ME NOT T' MOIDER IT!!

MEANWHILE: ON THE TRAIN IS A BROKEN-HEARTED BOY—
OH, WHAR KIN MAH DOGPATCH HAM BE?— AH IS SO LONELY, SINCE IT WENT AWAY— AN' SO HONGRY!!

IT'S YOUNG EDDIE M'SKONK, WHO DELIVERS TH' U.S. MAIL, ARIDIN' ON HIS PARTNER, TH' U.S. MULE!!

SPESHUL DEE-LIVERY, FUM DOGPATCH!!

By Al Capp