

# Battalion Editorials

Page 2 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1951

## Just Vanilla?

▲ TYPICAL room at A&M is pretty bare at the first of the year. In order to make it more than just four walls and a small niche to study, the student has to inject some of his personality into it.

This is also true of an education. Just an education a student receives in the classroom is pretty bare. Something has to be added to give it a "well-rounded look."

Trimings for an education are found in the extra-curricular activities available for every student. There are at least two organizations that are set up to handle this need for a complete education, the Memorial Student Center and the Office of Student Activities.

In the Center are found hobby shops, cultural groups, and other such clubs or committees. And the officials of the Center say they will set up an organization for any group of students who want to organize.

The second big organization is the Office of Student Activities. Under this office come Student Publications, Golf Course, Academic Clubs, Hometown Clubs and student entertainment—just to mention a few of the departments.

The organization is set up—all it takes is you to get in and take part.

## Can't Match Polka-Dots

AFTER CONDUCTING an extensive survey, a list has been compiled of the best reasons for failure to erect mail boxes in College Station.

In a personal interview with Mrs. Persnickety the following explanation was received: "Oh, my goodness, I have tried, really I have, but I can't find a mail box which will blend with the color of my house." The house was painted with polka-dots on a black background.

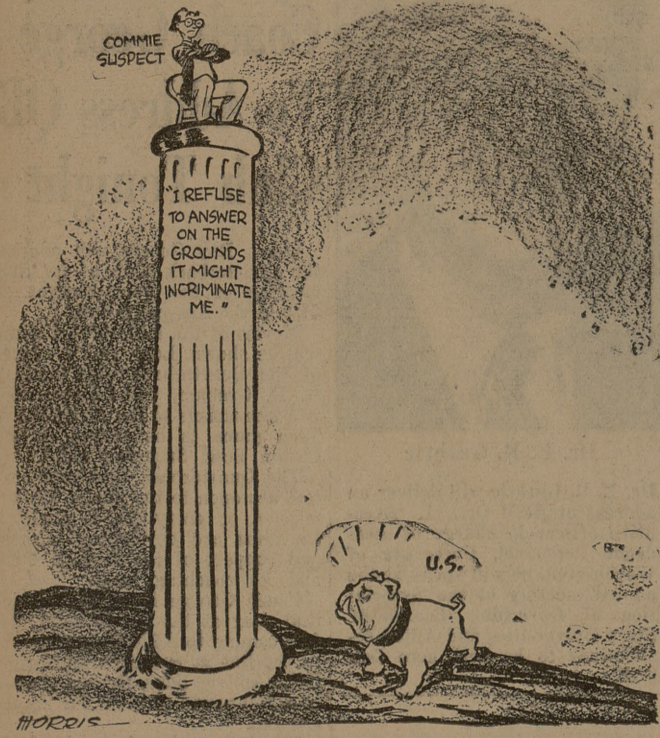
Another lady related, "Well, we have an awfully small house, and mail boxes come in such large sizes."

The following story was told by Mrs. Economy-Wise: "My husband and I haven't much income. We bought our house recently and may be forced to sell it soon. Therefore, we can't afford to drive nails into the walls."

One family told how they hated birds. "We receive our mail at the postoffice," the spokesman related "I just know if we put up a mail box, some nasty little bird is going to raise its young on our porch."

And so the stories went. Little people, thinking up big reasons for being lazy.

### HIS IVORY TOWER



## 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 by students 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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## Confederate President

# Coke Tried to Get Jefferson Davis

(Richard Coke had moved into the Governorship of Texas just after the end of the Civil War. He served at this post through two terms which saw the re-writing of the Texas constitution and the founding of A&M. While still in the governor's seat, he was elected to the United States Senate where he served virtually unopposed for 18 years, but, undoubtedly one of the greatest things he did was in the pushing of the founding of the A&M College of Texas. This is the sixth and final issue of a six part story written by the Director of Information for the A&M System, R. Henderson Shuffler.—The Editor.)

The most lasting contribution of Richard Coke to the state he loved and served so well was the establishment of its first tax-supported institution of higher education, The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. Certainly it was a project close to his heart and one to which he devoted much of his time and thought during his days as Governor.

He not only fostered the legislation which made possible the opening of the college and served as the president of its board of directors during the formative period when the first faculty was being selected and the rules for its operation worked out; Coke went even further, formulating a clear-cut educational philosophy for the school and giving it the fundamental character on which it has grown and prospered.

The provisions of the Morrill land-grant act had been accepted by the Texas Legislature shortly after the close of the Civil War, in 1866, and in 1871 the carpetbagger administration of Governor Davis had passed an act "establishing the Agricultural and Mechanical College," but little real progress had been made toward getting the school opened and operating until Richard Coke became governor.

Letter—Coke to Davis  
On June 14, Governor Coke wrote the following letter from his executive office at Austin:

Hon. Jefferson Davis,  
Memphis, Tenn.  
My Dear Sir:  
At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, held June 1st, at Bryan, in Brazos County, near which the college is located, it was unanimously resolved, that the Presidency of the College be tendered to yourself, with a salary of four thousand dollars per annum, with residence properly furnished, and as much land attached as might be desired for yards, garden, etc.

As President of the Board, I was instructed to communicate immediately with you, present the offer, and urge its acceptance. I now perform that most pleasing duty, as the representative, not only of the Board of Directors of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas but in behalf of the State of Texas and all her people ask that you come and live with and be one of us, and make your home and resting place, after a long and eventful public service, among a people who will never cease to love and honor you.

Nor are we entirely unselfish in making this request. We desire to build up the Agricultural and Mechanical College, an institution which shall be a prominent feature in the educational system of the great State which founds it, and worthy of her pride and fostering care, and we know of no living man whose name and efforts can do so much as yours toward accomplishing that purpose.

The duties to be performed by the President of the College have not been defined, and will not be until you are heard from, and, should you accept, as we trust you will, your wishes will be consulted in fixing them.

It is hardly necessary for me to assure you that it gives me great pleasure, personally, to be the medium through which this communication is made.

Hoping to hear from you at your convenience, I am  
Most respectfully and truly yours  
Richard Coke  
Governor of Texas and ex-officio President, Board of Directors, Agricultural and Mechanical College.

Answer—Davis To Coke  
Davis replied as follows:  
Memphis, Tenn.  
July 8, 1875.  
His Excellency Governor Coke:  
My Dear Sir:

With sincere gratitude I acknowledge the honor tendered me by the Directors of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, as set forth in your letter of the 14th ult.

No occupation would be more acceptable to me than that which

would enable me to co-operate with you in the organization of a system for the instruction of the youth of our country, in the two important branches to which the colleges at Bryan are to be specially devoted.

I cannot too fully thank you for the generous confidence manifested in offering me the presidency of those colleges, and it is but a fair return that I should cordially confess that you have overrated my ability and in the consciousness that I could not satisfactorily perform the duties of the office, decline to accept it.

As soon as my private affairs will permit, I hope to revisit Texas at more leisure than when last among you, and will be glad then to confer with you on the subject of an educational system for Texas; and as a volunteer, to render such service as my small acquirements and shattered constitution may allow.

With best wishes for the directors personally and for yourself specially, I am, with renewed expression of thankfulness, respectfully and truly,  
Your friend  
Jefferson Davis  
Coke Failed

Thus, Coke failed in one of his plans for the college which by now had become one of his principal interests. If he had been able to persuade Jefferson Davis to head the new institution, this great man's personal prestige and strong leadership would have given the infant college a tremendous advantage in its early years and would have precluded many of its early disappointments and failures.

Jefferson Davis, as President of the college, would have made it from the start a popular and respected project, just as the presidency of Lawrence Sullivan Ross was to make it in the 1890's.

The Davis refusal and some delays in building postponed the opening of the college for a year. It was not until the summer of 1876 that faculty, headed by Thomas S. Gathright, had been employed and the final date for opening the school could be set.

To Open Oct. 4

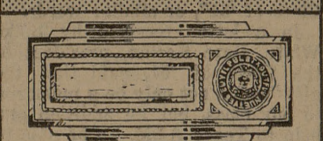
In a meeting of the college board at Austin from July 15th to 25th, the long preparations were completed and the date set for opening at October 4, providing that the College should be formally opened by an address from the Governor.

According to a special telegram to the Galveston News from its correspondent in Bryan, published on October 5, 1876, only two of the college director, Governor Coke and Major Davis, were present for the opening day ceremonies, along with the faculty of six, a crowd of three or four hundred citizens and "not more than 50 cadets".

At two o'clock in the afternoon Governor Coke made his address, a carefully thought-out masterpiece in which he stated clearly the purpose for which the college was created and the needs it was expected to serve in the years to come.

This address in its entirety has been recently republished by the

## WELCOME FRESHMEN!



And here's an important note:  
Better come in right away for your buckle.  
Everybody wears one!

## The Exchange Store

"Serving Texas Aggies"

College and will not be duplicated here. The keystone of the philosophy which prompted those early Texans to establish the college and which has given the school its basic character since, was expressed in these words from the Governor's address:

"It has been the aim of the board, especially in fixing the rates of tuition and the expenses of students, to bring down to the lowest possible figure the cost of an education which shall be at the same time thorough, liberal and practical. Texas is preparing to embrace and be worthy of the great destiny which the big years of future have in store for her."

Gov. Richard Coke launched the A&M College with a clear understanding of its worthwhile mission and a foundation for the strength and character to perform that mission. Many of the virtues which we claim for this school, its democracy; its respect for industry, integrity and courage; its strong patriotic flavor; and finally, the thoroughness, liberality and practicality of its educational offerings, can be traced back to this one great Texan, who dreamed the dreams of such a school, and laid the careful plans to make those dreams come true.

Richard Coke was the father of the A&M College of Texas and it is a relationship of which all sons of the college can well be proud.

Shared Powerful Secret  
The ponderous young man and the spirited youngster who graced the rough-cut punchon floor of the Waco House veranda that hot afternoon in 1850 held between them a powerful secret which no one except the Fates could share.

### IT'S MOVIE TIME in TEXAS

See ALL the Big Ones!  
Never before has this theatre scheduled such a parade of smash hits, many of them in Technicolor. Week after week, program after program, we have arranged for Hollywood's outstanding pictures to celebrate MOVIE TIME in TEXAS.

SEE THIS GOOD MOVIE TONIGHT!

WEDNESDAY — THURSDAY — FRIDAY  
Joseph Cotten . . . Corinne Calvet  
—in—  
"PEKING EXPRESS"  
PALACE  
The EYES of TEXAS are on the MOVIE SCREEN!

## THESE FOOD PRICES ARE DOWN

● GROCERY SPECIALS ●	● FROZEN FOODS ●
—MRS. TUCKER'S—3 LB. CARTON	— PICTSWEET SPECIAL —
Shortening . . . . . 85c	12-OZ. PKG. Broccoli . . . . . 27c
TALL CAN—PINK BEAUTY	12-OZ. PKG. Ford Hook Limas . . . 27c
Pink Salmon . . . . . 57c	● MARKET ●
2 CANS—BITS O' SEA	TALL KORN—SLICED
Grated Tuna . . . . . 59c	Bacon . . . . . lb. 49c
46-OZ. CAN—TEXAS GOLD	SHORT CUT—NO BONE
Pink Grapefruit Juice . 22c	Ham Slices . . . . . lb. 79c
2-303 CANS MUSSELMAN'S	Ham Hocks . . . . . lb. 25c
Apple Sauce . . . . . 29c	PEN FED—TENDER VEAL
2-2½ CANS HAPPY HOST	Loan Steak . . . . . lb. 93c
Elberta Peaches . . . . . 61c	Porter House Steak, lb. 83c
14-OZ. BOTTLE—LIBBY'S	ARMOUR'S—CLOVERBLOOM
Tomato Catsup . . . . . 21c	Cheese . . 2 lb. carton 89c
2-8-OZ. CANS HUNT'S	● PRODUCE ●
Tomato Sauce . . . . . 17c	FIRM, RIPE
2-303 CANS KIMBELL'S	Tomatoes . . . . . ctn. 17c
Green Limas . . . . . 43c	FIRM, CRISP
2-NO. 2 CANS MOON ROSE	Lettuce . . . . . 2 heads 19c
Whole Beans . . . . . 43c	HOME GROWN BABY
2 CANS—NIBLETS	Yellow Squash . 2 lbs. 27c
Whole Kernel Corn . . 35c	CALIFORNIA
2-303 CANS TRELIS	Tokay Grapes . . 2 lbs. 27c
Tender Peas . . . . . 29c	MISSOURI DELICIOUS
	Apples . . . . . 2 lbs. 25c

Specials for Friday & Saturday — Sept. 28th & 29th

## Charlie's Food Market

North Gate — WE DELIVER — College Station

LIL ABNER A Walking Menu By Al Capp