

Battalion Editorials

Page 2 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1951

City's Part Done

EIGHTY-SEVEN per cent of the houses in College Station have erected or intend to erect mail boxes, a recent survey conducted by the senior class of A&M Consolidated High School, showed.

The survey uncovered the following facts: 353 houses have mail boxes properly installed, 65 have purchased, but not installed, 282 plan to purchase, 94 refuse to cooperate, there are three vacancies, 11 families are in process of moving, and 77 are incomplete.

The high percentage of mail boxes installed was boosted about 10 per cent by the college's installation of boxes in all project houses.

In October, a survey was conducted by the College Station Kiwanis Club revealing that over 80 per cent of the houses were numbered correctly, but only 25 per cent had installed mail boxes.

The campaign to initiate house-to-house mail delivery was launched during the spring. Since College Station's population numbered over 5,000, the city was entitled to the service if the citizens desired it and certain requirements were met.

Post cards were sent to all utility subscribers in the city inquiring whether the service was desired. Approximately 75 per cent who returned their cards voted in favor of the action.

Among the requirements for the service to begin was the erection of street markers, mail boxes, and house numbers. The city completed the job of erecting street markers last week.

The Battalion along with many of its readers who were prodded into erecting house numbers and mail boxes are wondering when the service will begin.

Dr. T. O. Walton, College Station postmaster, said he could not even hazard a guess as to when the service will begin. He said the federal postal authorities are sometimes slow.

Another person in the College Station Post Office, who refused to be quoted, said he suspected April as the probable date when the service would begin.

Scientists, as a rule, do not talk through their hats, which is more than one can say for many speakers.



RAW RECRUIT

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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Britisher Says

Middle East Always Hotspot

(Editor's Note—This is the first part of the speech made by Consul General James T. Henderson. It was made Wednesday night as a rebuttal to the arguments of the Egyptian government.

The Middle East has always been one of the most, if not the most, important traffic intersections in the world. It is, in fact, the crossroads of 3 continents. You can approach it by water from the north over the Black Sea, from the west through the Mediterranean, from the south by the Red Sea and Gulf of Aquaba and from the East up to the Persian Gulf.

You can approach it by land from the north through Turkey and the Rowanduz Pass, from the east across Persia, from the south over the deserts of Arabia or up the coast road from the Yamen and from the west across the Suez Canal from Egypt.

Little Independence The tides of conquest have flowed back and forward across this region and it has only for very brief periods in history been independent. As early as 1500 years before Christ, Hammurabi developed a Sumarian Empire which stretched across to Canaan and through which Abraham was able to travel in peace.

Much later, during the reign of Solomon there appears to have been both peace and independence in the district, but it was doubtless because of the military superiority of Israel at that time. Then came the Assyrian Empire and other empires supplanted one another as the centuries rolled on, Egypt, Babylon, Assyria, Persia, Mesopotamia, Rome, Byzantium, Parthia.

The Arabs and the Turks, and finally, Great Britain, in their turn conquered and ruled either the whole or a large part of the Middle East. The Middle East has not only been a meeting-place of armies, but a meeting place of ideas—the battleground of different ways of life.

Birthplace of Religions From it have come 4 of the great religions of the world—the Hebrew religion, Zoroastrianism, Christianity and Islam.

Owing to the multiplicity of deities brought into the area by the various conquering armies at different periods, there came about a feeling of being over-crowded with gods and goddesses, which led to a type of disrespect for all these seeming human deities, which in its turn led to Monophysism.

All the religions which I have mentioned are Monothestic and there was of course, in addition, the attempt by Akhnatan to introduce Monophysism into Egypt. It was however defeated by the priestly lobby who had him murdered and his better known brother, Tutankhamen placed on the throne to assure a return to sound old conservative ways. From this you will see that the Middle East became a most complicated scrapheap of historical remains.

Mixed Belief In it can be found traces of almost all the well known peoples of antiquity, of their religions, their superstitions, their ways and habits of life and, owing to this tremendous mixture and also to the recent fluctuation of frontiers, it is not really possible to believe very firmly in the nationalistic propaganda which is being put out by some of these States at the present time.

Egypt has perhaps always been regarded as having a certain character of its own but Iraq, Syria, The Lebanon, Jordan and Saudi Arabia are pretty new ideas to the people who live there. Even since the invention of the postage stamp Syria and the Lebanon have amalgamated and separated two or three times and with varying frontiers.

But the region as a region has a character. It is not Arab char-

acter, although the Arabs would like us to think so, for the Egyptians are not really Arabs. Their lower class, the Fellaheen, are the original inhabitants of the country, their tiny middle class are largely Copts and their upper-class are mostly of Turkish descent.

Varied Background They all speak a type of Arabic, however. The people of Mesopotamia are descended from the old Sumerians and Chaldeans as well as from the Arabs who came in from the desert, and farther north they have a strong Kurdish, Turkish and Armenian influence. Persia has 16 languages and seven religions.

Syria contains two sects of Moslems, Shias and Sunnies, a number of people of indeterminate religion who pose alternately as Moslems and Christians, calling themselves Druzes, various types of Christians—Catholics, Orthodox, Baronites, Jacobites, not to mention a sprinkling of various kinds of Protestants.

There are of course Orthodox and less-Orthodox Jews. In the Lebanon the Christians have better representation but are divided amongst themselves. Racially, the Lebanon is perhaps the most mixed country of all with remnants of many of the most intelligent peoples of antiquity, such as the Phoenicians, the Hittites and the Greeks.

Land of Mystery Israel, you probably know too much about for me to describe it to you. Jordan is a country in a constant state of conflict between the desert and the Sown and Saudi-Arabia is an ancient land full of mysterious remains of civilizations, which have died under the onset of a changing climate.

I have told you enough to show you how full of complications, of romance, of half-forgotten ideas and of the ghosts of ancient grandeur is this part of the world. It is an extremely fascinating region and one of which I have had a good deal of experience.

I worked for two years in the Eastern Department of the Foreign Office, when I first joined the Service. I then went to Persia, later to Greece, which is almost a Middle Eastern country, and spent my leave in Syria and Palestine, drawn there by the lure of the Bible and archaeology. I went back to the Middle East Department for two years in 1944 and it was very interesting to see how that part of the world had developed between 1930 and 1944.

Nationalistic Idea The present situation in the Middle East is determined largely by a number of forces—not military forces but ideas. First, there is the fashionable modern idea of Nationalism fomented to some extent, I must admit, by Great Britain.

Correct Pasture Mixtures Discussed

The importance of using correct pasture mixtures in establishing a permanent pasture was stressed by A. W. Crain, state pasture specialist, in his speech to the Agronomy 417 laboratory class recently.

He gave several examples of both correct and incorrect mixtures and explained what comprised each sample.

Crain also emphasized the need for heavy applications of complete fertilizers and the necessity of renovating periodically.

As proof that these practices work in the field as well as on paper, Crain cited an instance in which he offered to eat every lespezea plant that could be found in a two-year-old Dallis grass-lespezea pasture he had never seen. He ate only two stunted plants.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor, The Battalion: Please refer to letter of Joe A. Riddle and Bob Pankorin published in your paper on Dec. 10.

The gentlemen do not seem to relish the anomaly between the Egyptian War of Independence and the Egyptian struggle for existence. I wonder and am at a loss to understand as to how the national urge in people in one hemisphere was for progress whereas the same in the other hemisphere is against it. To me it is an infected philosophy. Colonialism is bad, but the British colonialism is worse. Memories often fail.

I do not know the conditions in Egypt. It is stated that Egypt is plagued with dissensions and corruptions. In my opinion even if so, this alone can not serve as a cause for supporting occupation, but on the other hand, speaks highly against it so as to permit free growth of a nation. In absolute terms no country big or small can boast of being free of either. There might be just a difference of de-

grees from one to another. If by dissensions your readers mean oppositions, no government can be called progressive or democratic if it does not have a healthy and effective opposition. Let us not forget that British administration teaches "divide and rule" and breeds dissension. Is it unknown that in the oil controversy with Iran, the British have spared no pains to overthrow the Mossadeq government by economic shape-up, inducing intrigues and refusing negotiations?

I am not aware of communist activities of the status of communist party in Egypt. I might mention that Islam and Communism grow in opposite camps. One is inimical to the other. Freedom is the birthright of every individual and (See LETTERS, Page 3)

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"SHOW HIM NO MERCY," CRIES POLICE CHIEF, FORMER BOSOM FRIEND OF FEARLESS FOSDICK

Armed committees of enraged citizens, as well as the National Guard, police and Boy Scouts, are scouring the city for Fearless Fosdick, once the pride of the Force.

Former Detective Fosdick has evidently allied himself with crime. Reports have come in from every part of the city that he has been shooting all who attempt to interfere with the hideous crimes of a certain purple-lipped bum.

Those close to the once-trusted sleuth can give no reason for the shocking change in him, stating that it could not be his last salary slash, which he accepted without complaint. The hunt continues for...

