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Battalion Editorials

Page 2 THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1952

Chance to Live

A YOUNG second lieutenant was out on the front line during some of the bitterest fighting in Korea recently, when suddenly a bullet ripped through his stomach.

This was the first time he had ever been hurt. Sure when he was a kid, he broke his arm—but this was different. It seemed a little odd to lay there with his brain still operating at full speed—and still see his guts spilled out on the ground.

Men in his outfit saw he was wounded and called a corpsman to help the young shave-tail out. Those medics are really on the ball. It wasn't more than thirty minutes before he was back at a battalion aid station and receiving medical treatment.

In a matter of hours he was aboard one of the Air Force's big hospital planes being carried to a hospital in Japan. "Golly," he thought, "I'm still alive."

During the second war his brother received just about the same kind of a wound—but he is sleeping the eternal sleep in a military cemetery.

The doctor, who was aboard the plane, told the young officer he was out of danger.

It was funny the lieutenant thought, the same kind of a wound as his brother received during the other war—yet he was still living.

The secret was the lieutenant had received one of the latest of medical treatments—whole blood transfusions. The Army is sending daily shipments of whole blood from the United States to the men on the front line.

The only holdup is that you have to have a donor before you can get the blood.

Students and residents of College Station will have a chance to donate blood March 11 and 12 when the Red Cross Bloodmobile returns to the A&M Campus. Donors will give the blood in the YMCA from 12 noon to 6 p.m. each day.

Don't forget—most of the students have signed a contract with the rich uncle promising to serve for a number of years if called to do so.

It would be a shame for the blood to run out when you're on the battlefield.

Income Tax Was 'Waterloo' For Kansas City Politico

By ED HOLDER
Battalion Staff Writer

Thomas J. Pendergast, infamous politician of Kansas City, was indicted April 7, 1939, for evasion of income taxes.

Government officials claimed in court that Pendergast failed to make a return on \$315,000, which he received in 1935 and 1936. His entire rotten machine was exposed, right down to the lowest man on the ladder, the common man.

This man had such a thorough and perfect machine, that many people were carrying out his orders without the slightest knowledge of their actions.

TOP MEN in the organization were personal friends of the "Boss." These men were influential, and did favors for Pendergast in return for the many favors he performed for them.

He owned a cement mixing company, and for many years furnished all the cement which was used in Kansas City.

This was only one of the many sources of fabulous income which he controlled. The money for which he was indicted, came from 14 fire insurance companies which were "interested in the disposition of \$8,000,000 impounded by the state of Missouri in a controversy over rates."

ANOTHER source was the returns from all corrupt practices in the city, such as prostitution, gambling, night clubs, and the famous "speak easy" of this era.

When the Boss was indicted, he pleaded not guilty, but at the trial, he changed his plea to guilty in the income tax evasion case.

He was sentenced to 15 months in federal prison and fined \$10,000. He had already agreed to pay \$372,807.10 in restitution of the evaded taxes, plus quite a sizeable sum in penalties.

The Boss changed his plea chiefly for one reason. Henry F. McElroy, city manager of Kansas City for 13 years, had resigned. Be-

fore his resignation he had almost completely run the city by himself.

FOLLOWING McElroy in quick succession came resignations and desertions all down the line, from the top of the giant machine to the very bottom.

Perhaps the reason for the desertions and resignations was the fact that it wasn't any small-town police force who had "put the finger" on Pendergast, it was the Department of Treasury.

In the trial of Pendergast and his associates, several incidents of the past were directly connected with the machine. One of the bloodiest was happenings of the elections in the spring of 1934.

Gangsters, indirectly hired by Pendergast, patrolled the streets to see that people voted. Those who didn't want to vote were carried to their precinct voting boxes and directed to cast their ballots immediately.

THOSE WHO wanted to vote, but in the "wrong way," were thrown from the precinct houses, beaten up, and sent on their not-so-merry way. Four people were slain on this day, two of them policemen.

Why didn't the people fight the Boss? Many of them liked him. He gave them jobs during the depression when they were out of work, and he gave them food and medicine when they couldn't work at all. Their jobs were obtained through the operation of his many construction companies.

Even if someone didn't like the Boss and wanted to say something about it, there wasn't much he could do. The objector always had to think about his business, the fines which might hit it for various reasons, the high taxes which could very easily be levied, and always he must think of the safety of his family.

WHAT WAS Pendergast's biggest mistake? He was responsible for, although in a very indirect way, the slaying of an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investiga-

tion, who was among the four people killed on the fateful election day in the spring of 1934.

This brought the eyes of the federal agents to rest on the Pendergast machine. When they found proof of illegal actions on the Boss's part, they stepped in quickly and accurately, and Boss Pendergast quickly stumbled out.

Talent from Other Schools

(Continued from Page 1)

a hillbilly vocalist, and an original monologue act.

Coming from Texas University also will be Miss Mac Corrigan, who was mistakenly reported by MSC publicity men in yesterday's Battalion to be one of four male performers from the University. Miss Corrigan, who will do some Spanish dancing for the audience, is a senior elementary education major from Laredo.

Besides the University, performers in the Talent Show will come from TSCW, NTSC, SMU, and the University of Houston.

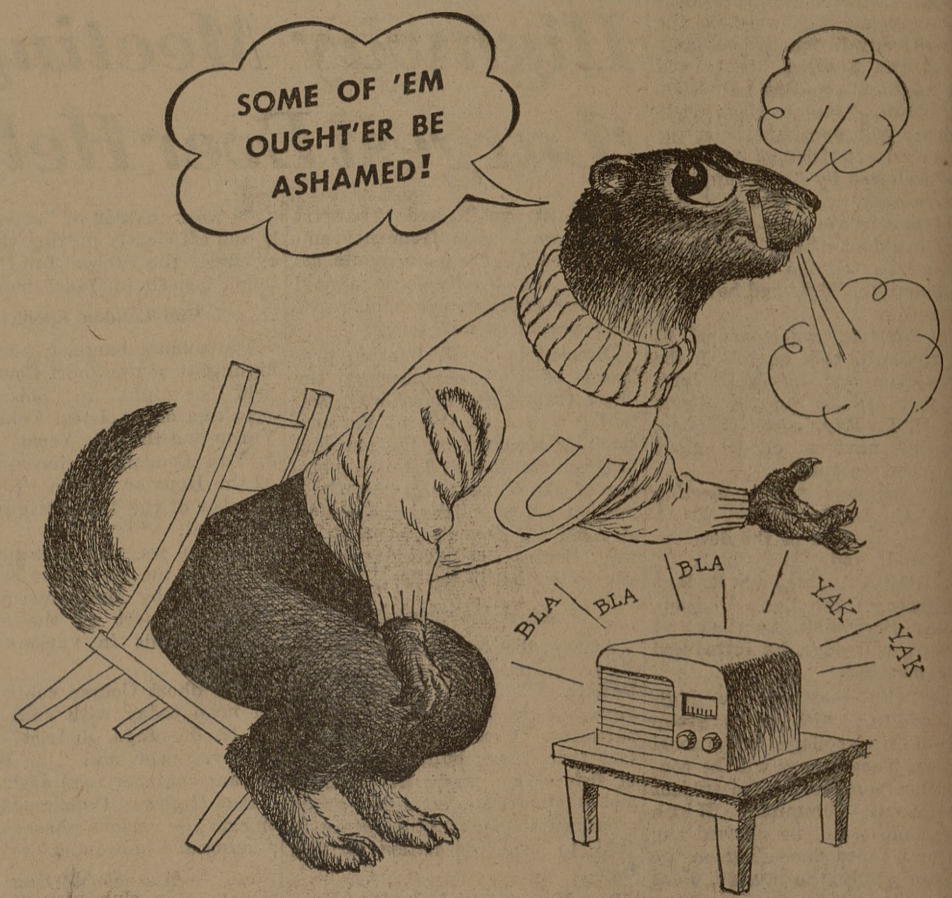
Master of Ceremonies will be A&M Freshman Jerry Schnepp from Houston.

The MSC's usual Friday night presentation of Rue Pinalle will not be held because of the Talent Show, Boyce Holmes, MSC Dance Committee chairman and Rue Pinalle manager, has announced.

A dance will be held in the Ball room following the show, so that A&M students may meet the visiting performers.

Campus Interviews on Cigarette Tests

No. 36...THE OTTER



A usually mild-mannered and easy-going lad, he really made the fur fly when he realized the trickiness of most of the so-called cigarette mildness tests! He knew there was one honest test of cigarette mildness. Millions of smokers everywhere know, too — there's one true test!

It's the sensible test . . . the 30-Day Camel Mildness Test, which simply asks you to try Camels as your steady smoke — on a pack-after-pack, day-after-day basis. No snap judgments! Once you've tried Camels in your "T-Zone" (T for Throat, T for Taste), you'll see why . . .



After all the Mildness Tests . . .
Camel leads all other brands by billions

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Complaints About Editorial

Aggie Grandad
Editor, The Battalion:
My grandad was an Aggie, my dad was an Aggie, and by gosh, I'm mad. I came to this school to be a senior, and I'm tired of a bunch of headstrong realists telling me to go read a funny book. I came here to inflate my ego, not to use silly reasoning. One of the most precious, important, and thrilling TRADITIONS we have, is to let the seniors run the Corps, administration, and student life. Let's leave it that way.
H. R. Drimedulle '52
C. A. F. 567

Democracy in Action
Editor, The Battalion:
We certainly are glad A&M has suddenly become a democracy. Now we no longer have to wait for the juniors and seniors to eat. No more speaking or spirits. No more CQ or bull ring. No more inspections, drill, or hiding beer when the KK's come by. Gig 'em New Army.
Sincerely,
Lane Hintz '54
Don Portie '55
J. B. Vargas '54
Jim Magee '55

Shades of Old Batts
Editor, the Battation:
Your editorial in today's (March 4) Batt is very amusing — even more than your recent safari into the lands of Hans Christian Anderson. Your warning rings out from bold-point type "it can happen here." It appears to us, Mr. Editor, that it has happened here. You point out that we do not take the proper amount of interest in student affairs, which is obviously true or a group of men with half the IQ's that college students are supposed to have would not have allowed the editorial staff, the Battalion now displays, to even reach that high office, much less continue after its policies were made public.
There are two factions existing in a school such as we have here—and in our case they are usually opposed. One faction is the school officials and policy-makers which has many publications, official and otherwise, to voice its view to the public. This leaves the other faction, the students, with only loud unheeded wails with which to sing its woes. To remedy this situation, back in O. A. (Old Army) 1878, the students began publishing the ancestor of the Battalion (which is probably writhing in the morgues with every new issue of its great grand child) as a voice

Apology Needed
Editor, The Battalion:
In an editorial in the March 4th Battalion, you made some rash statements. First that the actions of certain men living in Dormitory 8 were illegal in the recent Student Senate elections, and second, that in your opinion these men should have taken your initial editorial quietly without any attempt to show their side of the issue in question.
In your more recent editorial, you inferred that the upperclassmen of the outfits involved had dictated the outcome of the election to the underclassmen of these three outfits. In our company, in a meeting held the night of the elections, the underclassmen were told that in addition to the name printed on the ballot there was another man in the running. They were also told that if they had any reason to vote for the candidate on the ballot, they were absolutely free to do so, but that if they did not have a reason, we would appreciate their vote for the write in candidate. I ask you, Mr. Editor, is this obtaining votes by dictation or duress?
"If the members of the student body condone such illegal elections as the one staged in Dormitory 8, . . ." is a harsh statement to make in an editorial unless proof is on hand to back it up; however, nowhere in your editorial was I able to find even a hint of this proof. I think that unless you are able to publish proof, you owe the men of Dorm. 8 an apology in the form of a retraction of your two editorials on the subject.
John A. Beyer '52

of the unheard. Today, for reasons strong men shudder to think of, the torch of unintimidated journalism sputters low. The unbiased coverage and "guts" crusading that the very profession is based on has, on this campus, metamorphosed into a mealy-mouthed echo. "The BATTALION, published in the interest of a greater A&M College,"—a voice from the past, the whisper of a tormented soul doomed to wander unheard until . . . ? We don't know, but we think you have found the answer, surely though accidentally. We, the students, have sat too long saying "it couldn't happen here."
Bob Travis '53
Dave Richardson '53

Back-Up Illegal
Editor, The Battalion:
Your most recent editorials have been directed against the seniors

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 examination and vacation periods. Subscription rates \$5.00 per year or \$1.00 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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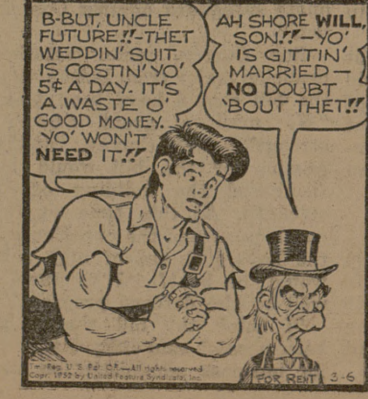
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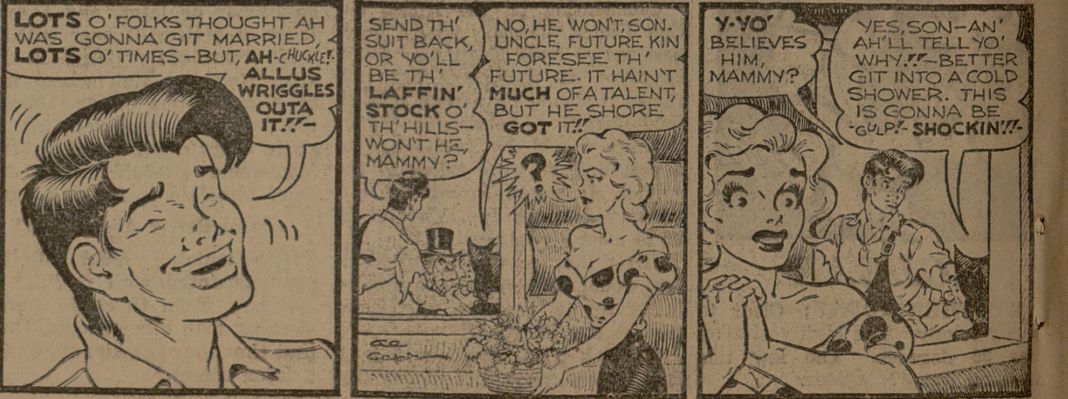
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Woman In The Window



By Al Capp



By Al Capp