

The Battalion

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

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Letters to the Editors

July 1, 1954

Editor of the Battalion
Dear Sir:

The other day at a national convention I heard a college president say that the most important person on a college staff is "the humane teacher." The rest of us are expendable, he said, but not the great teacher. Unconsciously I thought of Thomas F. Mayo as an illustration of the speaker's point.

The full force of that remark struck me when I heard of Dr. Mayo's death after I got back home. Though Mayo was a learned man with an incisive mind, to me the source of his greatness as a teacher was his love of his subject and an absorbing interest in students as individuals. In a spirit of dedication to his work, he led his students to experience great books. Aggies went away from his class feeling that Sophocles or Shakespeare belonged not to some exclusive set but to them and that each author spoke their own language about the fundamental matter of how to live. I don't know how many students have told me that the turning point in their college lives was the reading and discussion of great books with Dr. Mayo.

In a technical school like ours, where students are mainly interested in their special field, why did literature come alive for the first time for many Aggies in Dr. Mayo's classes? I think the reason was that there they first became intensely aware of themselves as individuals, and when Dr. Mayo took them through Dante's "Inferno" which opened their eyes to the possibilities of human nature, they entered eagerly upon the quest of self-discovery. As their teacher knew, deep down inside young people do not prefer to fit into a stereotyped pattern and look and act and think alike. So in sharing with them the great moments of literature, he waked them up to the best in themselves and enabled them to see that they will really succeed in life only by setting out to be as completely as possible the kind of people they potentially are.

In Dr. Mayo's classes, the world of ideas also became a reality to Aggies, and a surer moral sense and a social consciousness dawned in them. Thereafter they realized that college was more than merely a place "to sharpen their economic claws." It was also a place for youth to cultivate the habits and attitudes which help them to become more understanding, more

broad-minded and sympathetic, more intelligently concerned about social and ethical matters—in a word, better people.

I know of no one here or elsewhere who more fully exemplified than Dr. Mayo the qualities of a humane teacher, or who stood out more strongly for the values which in our topsy-turvy world can no longer be taken for granted. It is hard for me to imagine A&M College without him.

John Q. Hays

AFROTC Summer Camp
Nellis A. F. B.
Las Vegas, Nevada
To the Editor:

T. F. Mayo taught more than correct grammar, writing, or analysis of classical philosophy. He taught a way of life.

His was not an ethical doctrine answering all questions of what we should do. It was merely an invitation to take active part in the struggle of opinions. To his would be disciples, who would pattern themselves after the master, he carefully explained that volitional differences cannot be settled by the appeal to a system of ethics constructed by some learned man; they can be overcome only through the clash of opinions, through the friction between the individual and very and the compulsion of his environment, through controversy and the compulsion of the situation.

He was a man of books; yet his knowledge was by no means derived solely from bound edges of worded paper. He urged those who would study ethics to go not only to the philosopher, but into the maelstrom of life where moral issues are fought out. He enjoyed living in the community of a group where life is made vivid by competing volitions, be it the group of a professional organization, a book club, or a group formed by common study in a classroom.

His great personal kindness was exhibited in his gentlemanly tolerance of ideas contrary to his own. He taught that if error is corrected whenever it is recognized as such, the path of error is the path to truth.

His absence is felt here by those who knew him, as it is in many parts of the world by four generations of friends, students, and colleagues. There will be a temporary silence in room 317 Academic, but the pulsation of his teachings will reverberate through the ages in the hearts and minds of the men of A&M College. To but know him was to be a better man.

James R. Henderson

Church Of Christ Bible School Is Now In Progress

A large attendance of young people is registered for the Church of Christ's vacation bible school now in progress, according to Rev. James F. Fowler.

Registration for the school was Sunday at 4 p.m. Classes are held daily from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. through Friday.

For the first time there will be classes for teen-aged girls and boys. Mrs. Grace Bernard and Rev. Fowler will teach these classes. They will emphasize preparation for marriage.

The Rev. Gene Green, pastor of the Bryan Church of Christ, will instruct the adult class. He will use the same course which was taught two years ago, but there will be several differences in the manner of presentation. Rev. Fowler urges that even those who attended two years ago plan to come again this year.

Mrs. Damerall and Mrs. Street will have charge of the nursery, which will include all children under three years of age.

Three-year-olds will be taught by Mrs. Sutphen and Mrs. Bevans; four-year-olds, by Mrs. Wade and Mrs. Mullinix; and five- and six-year-olds (pre-school), by Mrs. Hardaway and Mrs. Hockaday. "Citizens for Christ" will be the topic in each of these groups.

"Why We Worship God" will be on the agenda for Grade 2 (children who have finished the first grade). Mrs. Falls and Mrs. Tenney will instruct these children.

Grade 3 (for those who have finished the second grade) will be instructed by Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Holt. The topic for this class will be the same as that of Grade 2.

Children in grades 4 and 5, who have completed the third and fourth grades, will study "Men Who Worshipped God." Their instructors will be Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Sherrod, and Mrs. Sorenson.

Mrs. Potts will instruct grades 6 and 7 on the subject "Worshiping in God's House."

Transportation for those children who need it will be furnished by the Transportation committee, under the direction of Mrs. A. S. Avery. Mrs. Tenney, Mrs. Sherrod, Mrs. Clemmons, and Mrs. Bachus will aid Mrs. Avery.

Mrs. Carl Landless is chairman of the committee on refreshments. She asks that all who can furnish cookies or help serve the refreshments each morning call her at 4-9222.

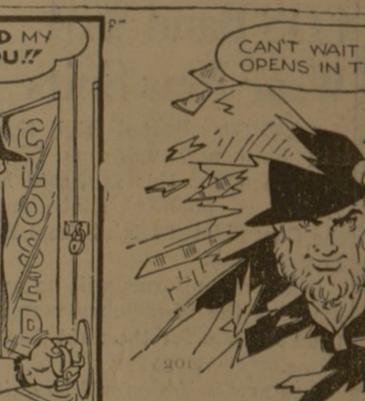
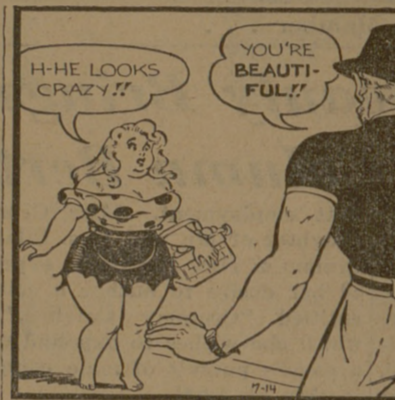
Mary Ruth Back From California

Miss Mary Ruth, president of the Texas Home Economics Association, returned Friday from California, where she represented the Texas group at the meeting of the American Home Economic Association in San Francisco July 5-9. Miss Ruth is a clothing specialist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

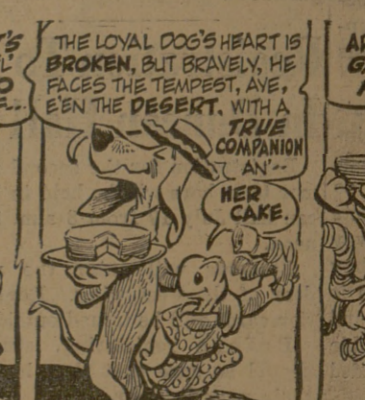
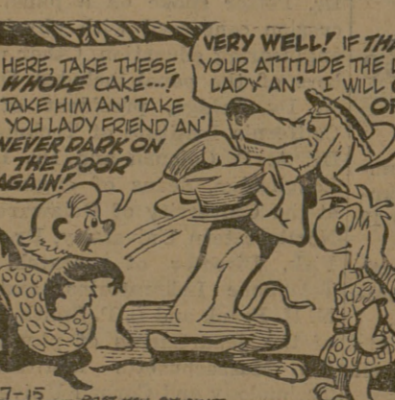
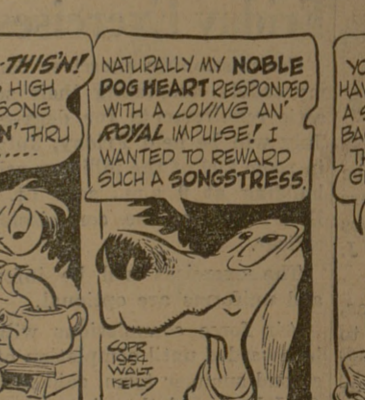
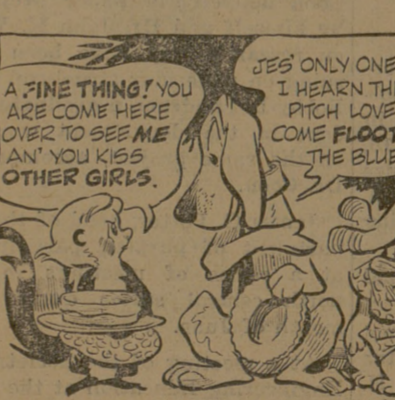
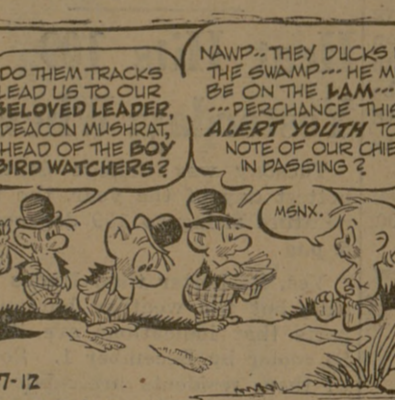
Mrs. Agnes Marrs, Smith County home economics agent, took part in a panel on "Today's Challenge to the Extension Worker" at the national meeting.

Other Extension personnel attending the professional home economics association meeting were Miss Maurine Hearn, state home demonstration leader; Miss Mae Belle Smith, consumer education specialist; Mrs. Aubrey W. Russell, district agent; Miss Fannie Brown Eaton, district agent; Miss Beatrice Rubenstein, assistant home demonstration agent of Brazoria County.

LIL' ABNER



POGO



W. E. Street Renamed As Engineers Vice-Chairman

Dr. W. E. Street has been elected vice-chairman of the Drawing Division of the American Society for Engineering Education, 1954-55. He is head of the engineering drawing department at A&M.

This is the highest elective office in the division. He will automatically become chairman of the Drawing Division in 1955.

Dr. Street has served on various committees within the So-

ciety. He attended the annual meeting held recently at the University of Illinois.

At the Chicago World's Fair in 1939, one firm exhibited a huge typewriter, 1,728 times larger than normal weighing 14 tons.

U. S. farm exports in January, 1954 were valued at 205 million dollars, about 24 per cent below those of the previous January.

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