

# Battalion Editorials

Page 2 THE BATTALION Thursday, September 23, 1954

## Individual Members Control Future of Cadet Corps

When President Morgan Tuesday told the corps of cadets no one was out to destroy the corps, he added that it was up to the individual members of the corps to strengthen it.

Every cadet present should have listened closely to what he said because the future of the corps is literally in their hands. He was speaking to them, but what he had to say should be passed along to all future cadets.

Things he considered detrimental to the corps were listed, and almost all of them were the result of incidents which occurred last year. He said the corps would be harmed if "irresponsible persons usurp authority."

This was a direct reference to the infamous John Clark affair. Clark said he didn't like it here, and if he had enough money to transfer, he'd leave. He got the money and the invitation to leave from a group of irresponsible persons who had "usurped authority."

The cadet who was denied permission to register because he engaged in mental hazing was pointed out as another person who had "usurped authority." Neither he nor the prospective freshmen he was ordering around had registered when the hazing took place.

President Morgan mentioned the harmful effects of "the establishment of groups or cliques within the corps," and specifically included secret organizations. Last spring a

secret fraternity, the Tonkawa Tribe, was exposed for the second time and its members suspended. They were later reinstated but instructions from the board of directors now call for dismissal as the penalty for membership in a secret fraternity.

Making raids on other schools was still another act named as detrimental to the corps, since one man in an A&M uniform represents the corps of cadets in the eyes of the public. However, raids on other schools may have been eliminated by the joint action of the A&M board of directors and the Texas board of regents during a summer meeting. They made a one semester suspension mandatory for any student who visits another campus with the intent of defacing statues, buildings or other college property.

Morgan also warned against spreading rumors and failing to follow the will of the majority.

Each cadet officer who heard Morgan list the things he considered detrimental to the corps of cadets must have agreed with him. That is, if he has the intense pride in the corps that he should have.

The corps of cadets is as much an integral part of A&M as the buildings and the streets. Its future depends on whether the individual members want to strengthen or weaken it.

Irresponsible members can cause a lot of trouble and responsible members can spread a lot of good will.

### At Other Schools

## Football Spirit High At College

By JON KINSLOW  
Battalion Managing Editor

Most Texas colleges began their first week of school this week, but from the looks of the campus newspapers, everyone is more interested in football than in textbooks.

### Baylor University

Take for instance a lad a Baylor university who wrote to the paper there complaining about how the pep rally was started with everyone yelling to beat the Cougars black and blue. He suggested instead that the students yell to have them beaten green and gold to match the Baylor colors. It seems to us that it doesn't matter what color they beat anyone as long as they rack up as many points as they did Saturday night.

Also at Baylor, enrollment is on the way up along with their football team. They have 4,072 students this year compared with 3,896 last year.

### Texas University

Our neighboring state university to the west, the beloved Orange and White, has their share of back-to-school troubles. Monday, a Negro youth filed an application in the federal district court for an injunction requiring the university to admit him to the School of Engineering. The hearing has been set for Friday in San Antonio. Seven other Negroes have previously been denied admission to the school.

And at Texas it seems the women are encroaching on one of man's last cherished pleasures—that of pipe smoking. A poll story in the Daily Texan quotes one young lass who "bought my pipe in Dallas at Neiman's this summer." From the other comments, it sounds like the ladies are more interested in how many rhinestones their pipes have rather than what kind of tobacco to put in them.

### TSCW

Our so-called "Sister School" in Denton also got on the wagon of enrollment increases. They reported a six per cent increase over last year bringing the number of students to 1,601. As we figure it, this is darn near four Aggies to each Lassie (excluding married Aggies.)

However, say what you will about that, still the damsels from Denton furnish our bare existence here with a sweet-heart each year. The selection of this lucky girl must be big stuff up there because they are already making plans for it. Sixty pictures of the TSCW campus winners are being sent to A&M for the selection of 15 finalists. The final step in the competition is the A&M delegation's trip to Denton to see if the finalists that were selected look as well in an evening gown as they do in a glossy print.

### Southern Methodist University

The SMU Campus reports that they made journalistic history on the Hilltop last week by coming out two days earlier than any other Campus in the school's history. We think that is just fine. The same issue of the paper says SMU's enrollment this year is 4,300—115 below last year.

If you drive a car on the campus and are thinking about transferring to another school because you can't find a parking place, don't go to SMU. An editorial in the Campus pleads with the administration to build more parking lots to relieve the overcrowded parking conditions. All things considered, maybe it does take more room to park some of the later model cars.

### North Texas

North Texas state college seems, however, to have found the solution of the parking problem. They are going to build some more parking lots. But this is just a part of a large expansion program being done at the school. We think this expansion is a good idea, as long as it makes room for more co-eds, that is.

## Fleming Convicted Of Communist Deal

FORT SHERIDAN, Ill.—(AP)—Lt. Col. Harry Fleming Wednesday was convicted of collaborating with the enemy in a North Korean prison camp, the first United States Army officer ever court-martialed on this charge.

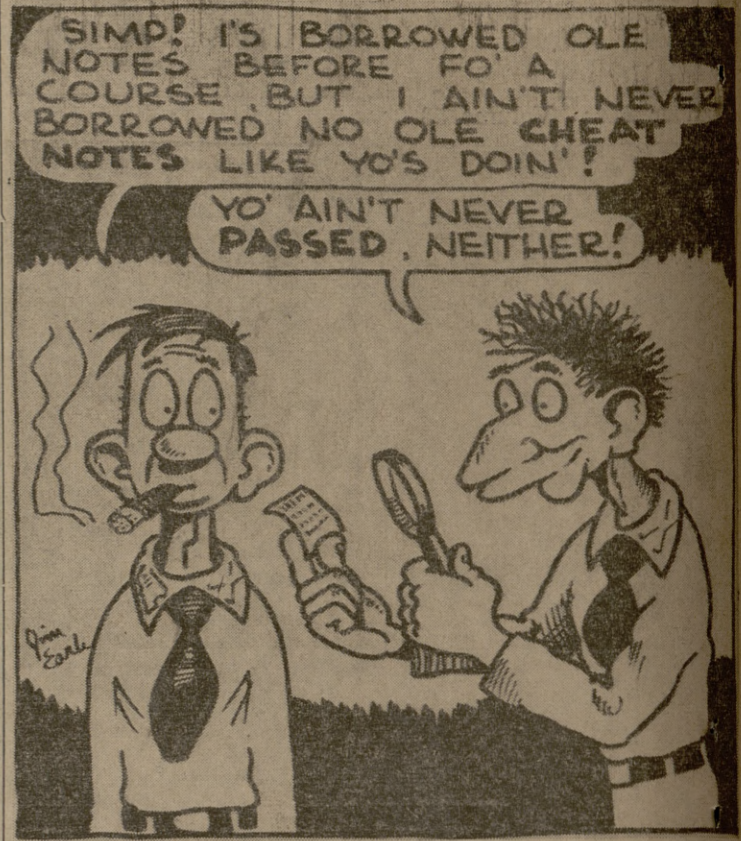
The white-haired, 46-year-old infantry officer was cleared of two other charges—infringing on other prisoners under his command and of conduct unbecoming an officer in allegedly stepping on the foot of a soldier, also a prisoner of war. Fleming accepted the 11-member court's findings without show of emotion. His wife and daughter

were in the hearing room when the verdict was read. Immediately, the court began hearing arguments of "mitigation and extenuation" as a prelude to passing sentence.

The law does not provide for any minimum punishment but, in effect, it would be a reprimand.

There was no indication when a decision on any penalty would be reached.

### Cadet Slouch . . . by James Earle



## Forest Fires Raze Texas Timber Area

LINDEN, Texas—(AP)—State disaster headquarters Wednesday said thirty-three forest fires were burning the drought-stricken woods of Northeast Texas. That is an increase of fifteen blazes from Tuesday.

Five fires were burning uncontrolled.

Several small houses are reported to have burned near Pittsburg but no injuries have resulted.

The Texas Forest Service reported fourteen forest fires were suppressed Tuesday.

Some incendiarism was suspected.

The disaster headquarters, the Forest Service, the State Highway Patrol and Texas Rangers assisted volunteer crews fighting the fires.

Cass and Marion Counties have been hardest hit. One of the uncontrolled fires Wednesday was burning over 500 acres in Cass County south of Linden. Two burned over, 300 acres in Marion County, one burned over 100 acres in Upshur County and one burned over forty acres in Harrison County. One uncontrolled fire was reported in Smith County. Other counties in the area reported eight fires burning over fifteen acres were controlled Tuesday.

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## Bloody Riot Breaks Out In Missouri State Pen

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Sept. 23—(AP)—A bloody riot broke out at the Missouri State Penitentiary last night and at least two guards and two prisoners were reported killed in gun fire between guards and the howling prisoners.

Fire broke out at the prison's furniture manufacturing plant about 7:15 p.m., about an hour and a half after the "E" Hall break. It spread to other buildings rapidly.

Flames lapped up around the eerie gray walls of the penitentiary and could be seen for miles. Prison officials said the rioting started in "E" Hall, the solitary confinement area of the sprawling stone prison.

They added it had been confirmed that two prisoners were dead and 14 injured. One guard, Oscar Corrington, was slightly injured with a bullet wound in his foot. They would not confirm reports that two guards also were killed in the shooting.

Warden Ralph E. Edison said he did not know how the convicts had obtained firearms. Reason for the rioting was not known, he said.

An unidentified prisoner told Thomas E. Whitecotton, director of corrections at the institution, that at least two other guards are locked inside inner buildings of the penitentiary.

Three of the injured convicts are reported to be seriously wounded. The dead were not immediately identified.

After breaking from "E" hall, officials said, the prisoners freed inmates of at least two other halls.

The state Highway Patrol setup its radio alert system inside the prison grounds and some 50 specially trained troopers had been alerted to converge on the area. Patrol officers from as far away as St. Louis had been ordered to the scene.

Shots rang from the walls in the glare of the burning buildings.

Two of the guard towers on the outer wall were out of touch with officials inside the prison.

One frightened old man who is night guard at the prison furniture factory was escorted to safety by two prisoners. He was Phillip J. Herbrandt. He said the convicts told him to "turn out the light and get out of there."

The roof of the flaming school building crumbled to the ground. At least two other buildings of the prison, opened in 1836, are 70 or 80 years old.

Rioting prisoners also set fire to the library, but other convicts managed to put it out quickly.

## Law Panel Files Laughlin Bar Suit

ALICE, Texas—(AP)—The State Bar Association of Texas Wednesday filed a suit to disbar C. Woodrow Laughlin, Seventy-ninth District judge ousted by the Texas Supreme Court and voted back into office in the July primary election.

The suit was filed at 3 p.m. with the Seventy-ninth District clerk here.

"I've been expecting this for

two or three days," Laughlin commented to Sheriff Halsey Wright when the sheriff served notice of the suit at 4:30 p.m.

Earl P. Hall of Austin, attorney for the State Bar Association, signed the 17-page, 11-count petition.

County Attorney Royce Johnston of Kleberg County brought the petition here and filed it. He acted for the grievance committee of District 14-A of the bar association.

The eleven counts in the petition to disbar Laughlin are similar to the twelve charges brought against him by a group of attorneys that resulted in his removal by the Supreme Court for misconduct.

A judge and jury will decide whether Laughlin is to be disbarred as an attorney.

The State Bar Association in Texas has a legal status as a state agency.

Laughlin was a central figure in a storm of controversies over Duval County and its political boss, George B. Parr, this year.

In asking removal of Laughlin as judge, the group of attorneys argued Laughlin in his decisions was partial to Parr and others who supported him for election.

The Supreme Court when it removed Laughlin did not preclude his seeking office again.

Laughlin ran for election for the unexpired two years of his term this summer and won the Democratic nomination by a narrow margin over Markel Heath of Fallsburg.

Democratic nomination has always meant election.

(See LAUGHLIN on Page 7)

## The Battalion

The Editorial Policy of The Battalion Represents the Views of the Student Editors

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