

Battalion Editorials

Page 2 THE BATTALION THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1954

Decision on Progress

Wednesday, the people of College Station will have a chance to prove what kind of a city they want—whether they want an adequate sanitary sewer system, or the present system of inconvenient and, in some cases unhealthy disposal of sewage.

The issue at stake has been studied for two years and has been given the unanimous approval of the City Council. The plan includes future expansion to the south of the city, and it should give College Station one of the best systems of sewage disposal that can be planned. Now it is up to the citizens

to decide if the city will continue to progress.

If the plan is passed, the \$300,000 bonds approved will not be paid for by taxation. In fact, the ordinance authorizing the election says that payment cannot be made from taxes. The money will come from an increase in service charges. The average homeowner will pay \$1.50 instead of 50 cents, and this increase certainly seems worth it, considering how much protection the citizens will be getting for just a small fee.

Wednesday the people will decide. Let's hope they vote for progress.

Letters to the Editors

Editors,
The Battalion,

On Saturday, Nov. 20, I attended the football game between the freshmen of the University of Texas and your school. Your fine band very properly played the A&M song just prior to the kickoff; many of us waited in vain for the band to play the Eyes of Texas—knowing, as the band did, that the Longhorn band was not in attendance. Under similar conditions in Austin, I have, on many occasions, heard the Longhorn band play the song of our opponent's school.

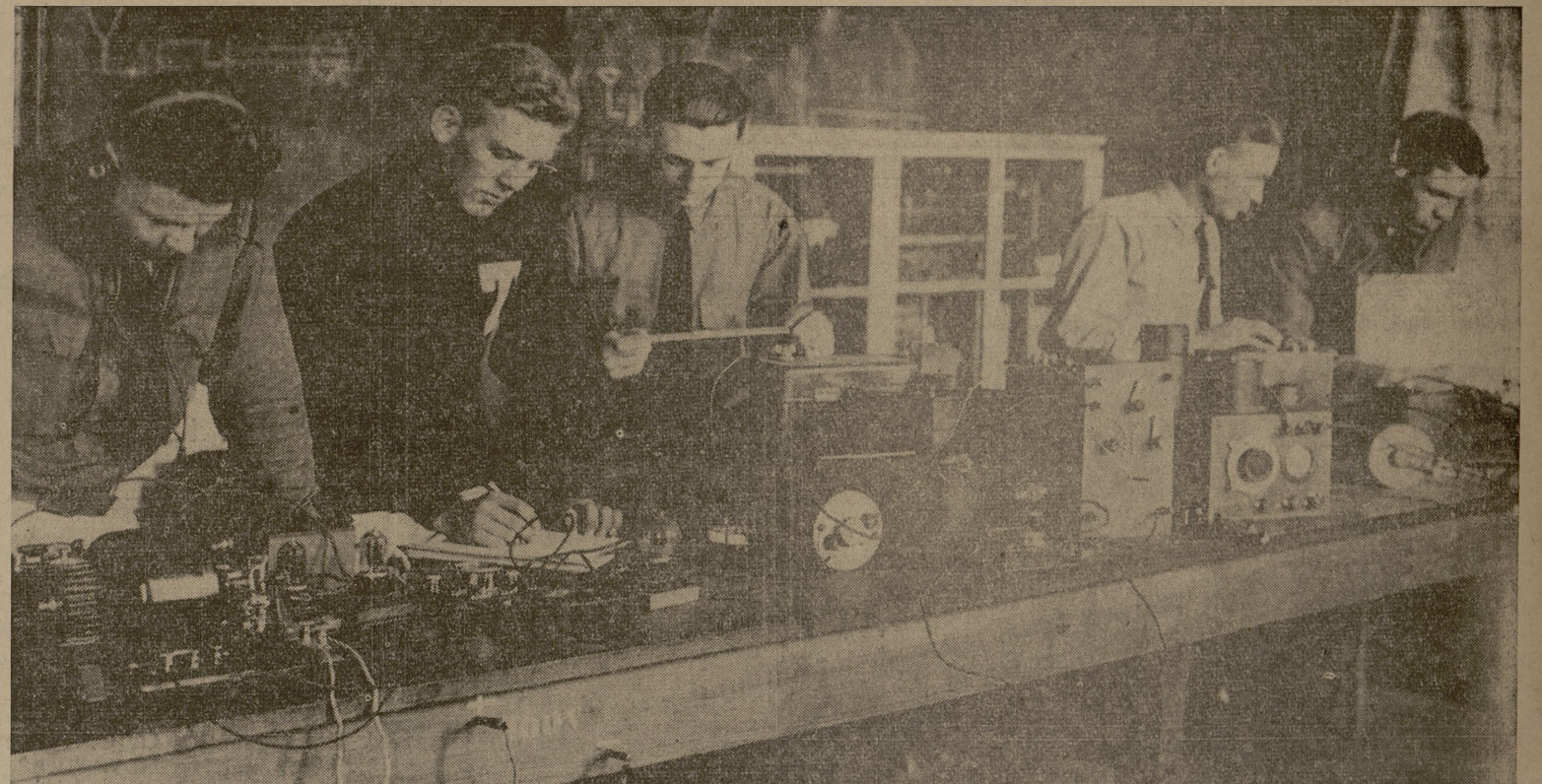
This is a very simple gesture of good sportsmanship and courtesy—qualities about which A&M and A&M supporters so frequently and loudly boast. Why not add something more to your band in addition to the precision marching and excellent musicianship it already possesses?

Charles S. Alexander
Houston, Texas

Two From College To Attend Meet

Dr. Albert J. Kingston and Clay George of the Basic Division, will participate in the fourth annual meeting of the Southwest Reading Conference for Colleges and Universities. The meeting will be held at Texas Christian University Dec. 3-4.

Kingston is a member of the executive committee.



THE FIRST SPORTCASTERS—A&M students who sent out the first sports broadcast in Morse dots and dashes are shown working at the "rock-crusher" transmission set used for the broadcast. They are (left to right) H. C. Dillingham, now an A&M professor; Cecil L. Matthes,

who died last year in North Carolina; Harry M. Saunders, chief engineer for Western Union company in New York; William (Doc) Tolson, research engineer for RCA in Princeton, N.J.; and Rezin B. Steele, chief engineer for Canadian National Telegraph, Toronto.

Annual A&M-TU Game

First Football Cast Biased

The A&M sophomore in electrical engineering who engineered the first radio broadcast in history of a 1919 football game missed participating in the actual transmission. William A. (Doc) Tolson was tooting a trumpet in the band on the sidelines while the game was going on.

It all comes out 35 years later in a recounting of the event.

The occasion was the annual Thanksgiving Day gridiron skirmish between the Aggies and the Longhorns of the University of Texas. This one was on Kyle Field here.

Today Tolson, a research engineer at the Princeton (NJ) laboratories of Radio Corporation of America, recalls that original sportscast took some doing. He and his classmates appropriated by night, while their professors looked the other way, all the tinfoil and other material to rig an original spark transmitter.

"One vital part," he said, "came from an old electric fan which just accidentally fell off he window-sill of an instructor's office. When retrieved on the sidewalk two floors below, the fan's blades were irreparably damaged. But the motor worked fine."

He fingers two partners in crime, as he puts it. One was Harry M. Saunders, an electrical engineering junior at the time and now general supervisor of traffic engineering for Western Union Telegraph company in New York. The other was B. Lewis Wilson, a young laboratory maintenance man then, now an electrical contractor in Denton.

Those who took lesser parts in the whole shenanigans were H. C. (Dutch) Dillingham, now an A&M professor; Rezin B. Steele, chief engineer for Canadian National Telegraph, and Cecil L. Matthes, a power company executive who died last year in North Carolina. All were juniors in 1919.

Tolson also credits Dr. F. C. Bolton, a professor and later dean

of engineering and now president-emeritus of the college, with the first recognition of his students' ingenuity. He went to bat for them and obtained a transmitter license, with the call letters 5 YA.

"Those smart-alecks would stay up all night with their brainchild," Bolton chuckles from memory. "I'm still amazed they made good grades in classes. They were bright boys, all right."

It was not a vocal broadcast the young men created. The play-by-play was sounded on a telegraph key in Continental code of dots and dashes, using a long list of initials for each movement of the football. But it was the very first account of any sports event sent via wireless—and so attested by the Radio-Electronics-Television Manufacturers association in Washington.

This was almost two years before the first prize fight and the first baseball game were "heard" over Station KDKA, Pittsburgh. It was three years later still when

WEAF in New York initiated voice broadcasts from a gridiron.

Dana X. Bible, one of the coaching greats in America, then at Aggie land, helped the students work out their code. Now he is athletic director at Texas.

Saunders, who today still is a licensed "ham" operator with the call letters W-20-M, clears a point: "While amateur stations are not licensed by the Federal Communications Commission to broadcast now, our stunt took place under the regulation of hams was under the old Department of Commerce. Old 5YA was licensed as an experimental amateur station until the college took over in 1922 and got the present call letters."

Further, he points out that exchange of collegiate sports notices

via radio was a common practice at that time among such A&M rivals as Rice, Tulane and Texas.

Saunders adds this highlight: "Texas had a star quarterback named, I believe, Elam. He was an excellent long forward passer, and a fast man on his feet carrying the ball for long gains around the ends. In reporting some of his plays, I would send, 'Elam passes 50 yards.' Then after half a minute just add, 'Incomplete.' Or 'Elam long end run' and several seconds later report, 'No gain.'"

"I knew these reports were giving Texas supporters at the old play-o-graph board in Austin a bad afternoon. At one point in the game the University operator wired us and asked if we couldn't be a little less biased."

Group Features 'Omar Khayyam's'

The Food's group of the A&M Social club met last week and had 'Omar Khayyam's' of San Francisco, as their featured restaurant.

All decorations were of Armenian theme. Each table had centerpieces of persimmons and greenery and either brass animals of India or Turkish coffee pots. The main table was covered with a Persian rug, two copper European Samnovers, a brass tray with a vase of paracantha berries and two books about Omar Khayyam.

Hostesses for the day were co-chairmen Mrs. T. R. Holleman and Mrs. E. N. Pianta, and Mesdames R. D. Chenowent, George Potter, R. O. Berry, Horace Blank, M. C. Schroeder and A. R. Burgess.



TODAY & FRIDAY
BIG HOLIDAY SHOW
"Gone With the Wind"
Feature at 6:30 and 10:05



BELIEVE IT OR NOT—The Battalion had a sign up on the bonfire field too, believe it or not. The Batt staff put up its annual sign, composed of The Battalion masthead pasted to a piece of wood. The amazing thing was that the sign stayed up until the bonfire burned last night. (The sign was not taller than the bonfire. The photographer just got playful.)

Wehrman's Cafe

HOME COOKED FOODS
1009 West 25th St.

BRYAN

The Battalion

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

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, is published by students four times a week, during the regular school year. During the summer terms, and examination and vacation periods, The Battalion is published twice a week. Days of publications are Tuesday through Friday for the regular school year, and Tuesday and Thursday during examination and vacation periods and the summer terms. Subscription rates \$9.00 per year or \$.75 per month. Advertising rates furnished on request.

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Extension Club Has Guest Day

The Extension Service club met last week in the Memorial Student Center and had guest day.

Mrs. A. W. Melloh, Carnegie librarian, spoke to the group on new books. She told the group about what points they should consider when buying a new book. The publisher, illustrator, price, type of binding, recommendations of reviews, literary quality, author and subject matter are the eight points to consider, she said.

Those ladies present at the guest day meeting were Mesdames Walker Matzen, R. D. Lewis, T. T. Montfort of Houston, R. R. Wook, L. E. Spangler, H. T. Blackhursts, Ralph Young, L. C. Short, C. C. Carlton, V. M. Stockbridge and Sevede Anderson of Dallas.

Others present were Miss N. Stockbridge of Arizona, Senora Ferrao and Senora Montano of Portugal.

Decorations consisted of rose and maroon chrysanthemums and maroon candles. The guests and members were served pumpkin tarts and coffee for refreshments.

Hostesses for the meeting were Mesdames W. W. Armistead, R. H. Bush, R. B. Hickerson, M. K. Thornton, Dora Barnes and A. D. Folwiel.

Growth Trial

Dr. H. O. Kunkel of the animal husbandry department is carrying out an experiment to determine if the addition of hormones or antibiotics in feed will affect the growth rate of lambs. He is using 80 lambs in his experiments.



- SAVE YOUR MONEY
- SAVE YOUR CLOTHES

CAMPUS CLEANERS

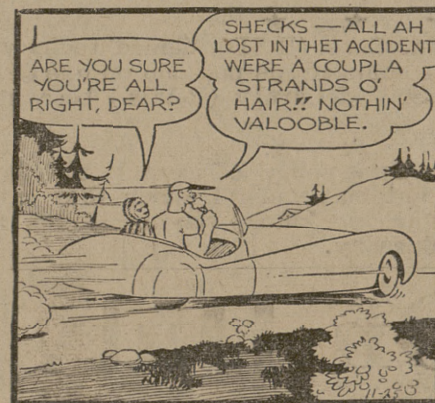
Later Curfew Requested By Women Students



A grass-roots movement to extend evening curfew for women students an additional hour is gaining speed throughout the campus. Many women students feel the present hours are too restrictive. "If we could only have one more hour," stated one prominent leader (pictured at left). "Now we barely have time to enjoy our Dr. Pepper". Sweeping policy changes are being studied and some faculty comment is expected soon. In the meanwhile... Girls, why don't you ask for a Dr. Pepper vendor for your dorm or sorority. You'll find Dr. Pepper gives you a lift for life.

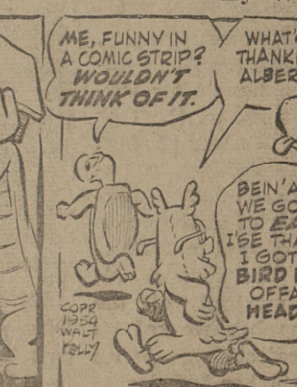
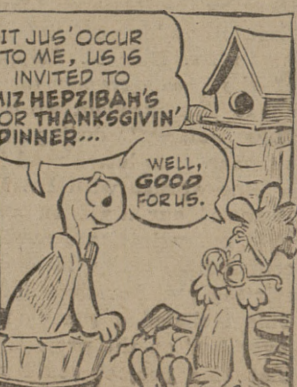
Wake Up your Taste DRINK Dr. Pepper

L'L ABNER



By Al Capp

POGO



By Walt Kelly