

# Battalion Editorials

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THE BATTALION

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1955

## 'First a Library'

Somebody whose name escapes us at the moment once said if he were going to start a college, he'd buy a library and some books, then if he had any money left over he'd build a dormitory, and then if he still had some money he didn't know what to do with, he'd hire a couple of professors.

A good library can be an education in itself, and A&M has a good library. It's got umpty-ump books in it, from Aardvark to Zygote, and they're arranged in fairly good order.

But until recently, A&M's library was like the tree that fell in the forest and didn't make any noise because there was no one to hear it. No student went in the library unless some shrewd professor forced them to.

Now the library is making a concentrated effort to clean up and make it a comfortable place to study, or just plain read.

Many student groups, such as the Arts and Sciences council and the Student Senate, have requested changes in the library; almost all the changes are in progress now,

and will probably be done by next year.

Some one of these days, drop by and see our new library; you'll probably like it, and it's certainly quieter than your dormitory room.

## An Addition

The Battalion would like to add a small bit to the words of praise that will be heaped upon P. L. (Pinky) Downs jr. at the "In the Pink" show tonight.

Pinky is called the epitome of the Aggie spirit, but he's more than that. He is a vital and integral part of the Aggie spirit; the old place wouldn't be the same without him.

Congratulations and good luck to you, sir.

## No Surprise

A recent Time magazine survey says that America's College students own 729,000 automobiles.

This should be no surprise to anyone who has tried to drive on the A&M campus.

## Legal Notice

ORDINANCE NO. 282  
AN ORDINANCE GRANTING TO THE SOUTHWESTERN STATES TELEPHONE COMPANY ITS SUCCESSORS, OR ASSIGNS, A FRANCHISE TO USE THE STREETS, AVENUES, ALLEYS, AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES OF THE CITY OF COLLEGE STATION, BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS, FOR A PERIOD OF TEN (10) YEARS, WITH THE RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN ITS TELEPHONE LINES ALONG UNDER AND OVER STREETS, ALLEYS AND PUBLIC WAYS OF THE CITY OF COLLEGE STATION, BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS, AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLLEGE STATION, BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS:

1. That the Southwestern States Telephone Company, its successors, or assigns, shall be and is hereby granted the right in the City of College Station, Brazos County, Texas, to conduct a business of furnishing telephone service and any business incident thereto, and to install, maintain and operate a telephone system, to maintain all construction consisting of poles, wires, cables, and other fixtures and such other telephone apparatus of whatever nature necessary for the furnishing of telephone service on, along, across, over, under, and within all of the streets, avenues, alleys, and other public places of said city for the purpose of conducting such business. The grounds of the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College System are specifically excluded from the places where the telephone system or parts thereof may be installed or maintained under this ordinance.

fish and render service to all individuals, firms, or corporations within the corporate limits of the City of College Station, Brazos County, Texas, in accordance with the reasonable rules and regulations and in compliance with the laws of the State of Texas.

2. The term of this franchise shall be for a period of ten (10) years, dating from the date of its passage by the City Council.

## World News

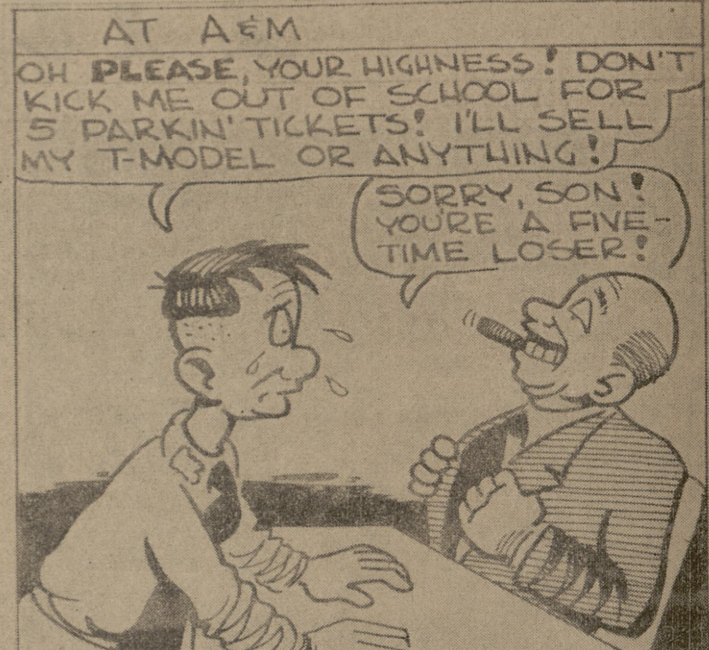
By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
YUCCA FLAT, NEV.—The first underground atomic blast in the United States since 1951 was exploded at Yucca Flat yesterday. The test involved an atomic demolition device—one of the smallest yet devised, and the flames were barely visible 55 miles away.

WASHINGTON—President Eisenhower drew a sharp distinction yesterday between use of atomic weapons in a police action and during an actual war. A police action, he said, is to restore order, and you don't send in bombs to restore order, he added.

## What's Cooking

THURSDAY  
5:15—Corpus Christi club, steps of MSC, take Aggiedland picture, ties will be worn.  
5:30—Amarillo club, front of MSC, Aggiedland picture.  
Golden State club, front of MSC, Aggiedland picture, class "A" uniform, all Californians welcome.  
7:00—Russell county club, 228 Academic.  
7:15—Rusk county club, 411 Academic, plans for spring party.  
Abilene club, Academic building, discuss Easter party.  
Fayette-Colorado county club, 128 Academic, plan Easter party.  
7:30—Wichita Falls club, social room MSC, election of officers, nomination of Cotton Ball duchess.  
Texarkana four-state club, 227 Academic, set date for Aggiedland picture.  
Yankee club, room 11B, MSC.  
San Angelo-West Texas club, Agriculture building, discuss club function.  
Beaumont club, MSC, choose duchess for Cotton Ball.  
Pan American club, YMCA, important business.

## Cadet Slouch



## Radar Tracks Tornadoes

# Warning System Operating

Two years ago 49 tornadoes in Texas took 146 lives. Oklahoma had 378 residents killed in the 10-year span, 1941-50. Louisiana's annual average since 1916 has been 8.6 fatalities in "twisters."

The populace of these states can rest a little easier in the tornado season beginning now and lasting through June. A network of 22 radar stations operates around-the-clock on the lookout for the familiar funnels of death and destruction.

Seventeen observation towers in Texas have direct teletype lines to the U.S. weather bureau in Austin. An alarm received at the capital is relayed to the highway patrol car nearest the suspect area—and then flashed over radio and television.

This system, which is attracting nationwide attention, is the fruition of a two-year project of meteorologists at A&M. It was launched the day following the tornado which struck Waco on May 11, 1953, killing 114 persons.

Cooperative Enterprise  
Today it is a cooperative enterprise of the weather bureau, the A&M Research foundation, the college, Texas Department of Public Safety and the State Office of Civil Defense and Disaster Relief. Authorities feel all three states will be adequately covered when two more stations are completed in Louisiana.

John C. Freeman and Archie M. Kahan of the meteorology staff at A&M have played leading roles in the project. They are quick to point out the limitations of this new weather-control technique.

"We cannot yet predict exactly when and where a tornado actually will strike," they say. "We can and do predict where one is most likely to occur."

Main Mission is Warning  
The network has as its main mission to provide warnings from 30 minutes to four hours ahead of the boiling black tornadoic clouds. This eliminates most of the terror of tornadoes, the element of surprise which accounts for almost all casualties.

of civil defense, and disaster relief, and E. L. Hardy of Fort Worth, regional director of the Weather bureau.

The Weather bureau furnishes the war surplus radar sets, valued at \$100,000 apiece. Skilled men in several departments at A&M then supply the technical know-how and labor to convert the sets for atmospheric observation.

The completely overhauled radar unit is offered any city with a first-order weather station at a cost of only \$10,000. This is where the Research foundation entered the picture—to arrange the financial support and to handle administrative details involved.

A&M Student Played Part  
An unsuspecting student at the college played a dramatic part in the beginning of the project.

Donald K. Moore, a substitute end on the Aggie football team from Junction, was watching the school's experimental radar set on the afternoon of May 11, 1953. At 3 p.m., he picked up an isolated "echo" of a thunderstorm. At exactly 4:32 he took a routine photograph of the TV-like screen, which showed a comma-shaped white blotch on the 80-mile marker.

Precisely four minutes after his picture was made the black fury whirled down at Waco—80 air miles away.

"Next day," relates Kahan, "it was evident to all of our staff that the means were at hand for preventing a large portion of the loss of life in our neighboring city. The means had gone unused for lack of sufficient coordination between existing weather and public safety agencies."

At that time Freeman had been trying for some months to arrange a radar network for research purposes.

There were seven storm-detection sets then in operation in Texas. These were Weather bureau units at Amarillo, Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Victoria and Wichita Falls; the Dow Chemical company tower at Freeport, and the radar at A&M.

Six weeks after the Waco catastrophe a meeting was called on the campus, not for talking, but for

doing something about the weather. On hand were meteorologists from the Weather bureau, the air force and navy, and several other universities.

Warning Committee Originated  
Out of it came into being the Texas Tornado Warning Committee. The original members were Freeman and Hardy, along with Joe S. Fletcher, assistant director of the Department of Public Safety; W. Jeff Davis, publisher of the Crockett Democrat, and Lt. Col. Andrew Paton, commander of the 16th Air Weather Service Squadron at Waco.

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## The Battalion

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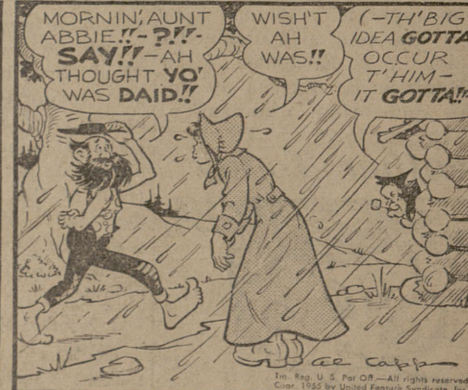
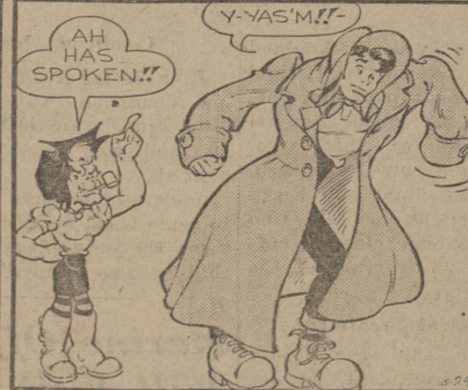
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