

BATTALION EDITORIALS

Two Aggies Are Dead; Will There Be More

Death has raised its black, ugly hand twice this week to point an icy finger at the A&M campus. In both cases death selected as its tool of death one of the most lethal weapons our society knows — the automobile.

We can pray that we have suffered all the loss that is intended for us during the holiday season. However, we have no assurance that other students will not meet a similar fate before we return to school in January.

Let these two Aggies' deaths be a warning to all — you can die in a traffic accident. The vacuum which rests in the lives of the families of these two men might be partly filled by the knowledge that another man's life might have been saved by the example projected by the tragedy which tore a wound in their hearts.

Each Aggie should dedicate himself to safe driving. He should take as his individual responsibility to save at least one life during the Christmas Holidays. There are a few simple things that he can do that will go a long way in assisting him in such an effort.

Safe arrival at one's destination is much more important than an early arrival. Being one hour late on the deer hunt, on the dance floor or at the table with a home cooked meal will not mar the vacation for family and friends in any proportion at all to what a funeral would do to dampen the festive season.

A Perfect Gift

The Christmas season is a time that has been accepted for years as one of the few seasons during the year when the family is expected to "get together." We feel sure that this year will be no exception.

As we go back to our homes for these few short days, there is one gift that we can take back to our parents. So often a student is guilty of rushing into his home passing a quick hello and then rushing on his way. Much time will go into what to buy the parents for Christmas. This is always limited by what they would like to have and what we can afford. However, we feel that we have hit upon a gift this year that any parent would like to have and any student can afford.

Aggies, as you take off for the holidays this year, promise yourself that you will spend at least one full evening at home visiting with your parents. It will be a gift they will always treasure.

FOR SALE

SURPLUS BUILDINGS

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Sealed proposals for the sale and removal of a one-story wooden frame cottage with accompanying garage located on the Texas A&M University Campus will be received at the office of the Physical Plant, 600 Sulphur Springs Road (FM 60), Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, until 2:00 p. m., January 9, 1964, and then publicly opened and read aloud.

Instructions to bidders and proposal forms may be obtained from the Director of Physical Plant. The University reserves the right to waive any technicalities and to reject any or all bids.

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Ferreri's Triangle Restaurant

Friday's Featuring Our FISH SPECIAL

All the fish you can eat for \$1.00 at 12:00 noon and from 5:00 p. m. to 8:00 p. m.

Book Your Banquets and Special Parties Early. Accomodations From 10 to 200 Persons

THE BATTALION

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the student writers only. The Battalion is a non tax-supported, non-profit, self-supporting educational enterprise edited and operated by students as a university and community newspaper and is under the supervision of the director of Student Publications at Texas A&M University.

Members of the Student Publications Board are James L. Lindsey, chairman; Delbert McGuire, College of Arts and Sciences; J. A. Orr, College of Engineering; J. M. Holcomb, College of Agriculture; and Dr. E. D. McMurry, College of Veterinary Medicine.

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M is published in College Station, Texas daily except Saturday, Sunday, and holiday periods. September through May, and once a week during summer school.

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Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year, \$6.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 2% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 4, YMCA Building; College Station, Texas.

News contributions may be made by telephoning VI 6-6618 or VI 6-4910 or at the editorial office, Room 4, YMCA Building. For advertising or delivery call VI 6-6416.

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CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"... I think you'll be glad to know that we'll be driving at a safe speed on th' way home!"

Bulletin Board

THURSDAY

Hometown Clubs
 Dallas will meet in Room 108 of the Academic Building at 7:30 p.m.
 El Paso will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Art Room of the Memorial Student Center.
 Fort Worth will meet in Room 107 of the Academic Building at 7:30 p.m.
 All Houston Clubs will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Ballroom of the Memorial Student Center.
 Matagorda County will meet in the Social Room of the Memorial Student Center at 7:30 p.m.

Midland will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 203 of the Academic Building.
 Pasadena will meet in Room 308 of the Academic Building at 7:30 p.m.
 San Angelo-West Texas will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 3-B of the Memorial Student Center.
 Wichita Falls will meet in the Biological Sciences Building at 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY 4-5

MSC Chess Committee will sponsor Texas Junior Chess Champions in the Social Room of the Memorial Student Center.

Most Beautiful Tradition Chills Editor Year Around

By DAN LOUIS JR. Battalion Editor

How many times have I gone through this same experience? I really don't remember. Back down the line somewhere I lost count. I believe it might have been in the spring of '62 that I stopped counting. That was a bad one, that Aggie's date also died in that wreck.

But, unfortunately it's time to observe one of Texas A&M University's most beautiful traditions again. The one tradition that everyone wishes was never necessary. It's 10:20 p.m. and time for Aggie Silver Taps — this time for two students, both victims of the automobile.

I'd better double check and make sure that all the lights are off in the office. It's really going to be dark out there tonight, with all the lights turned off and no moon. Well the lights are off and all the boys are out in the hall waiting. At least I guess they are. Funny how a bunch of newspaper people who were chattering and rushing to get a paper put together can suddenly become so solemn, so sober, so aware of the loss of a fellow Aggie at 10:20 — Silver Taps time. Of course three of those fellows had the job for talking with police, hospital officials, the victims' friends and, most unforgettable, his family while they pulled the story together about the accidents.

The clickety-click of the Associated Press wire machine is only temporarily interrupted by, what is in the basement of the silent YMCA Building, a deafening clunk of the lock of the office that has such a final sound to it as The Battalion staff moves out for Silver Taps. The shuffling of softened steps can be heard outside even before I reach the door and the steps which take me to the sidewalk.

One can almost hear the cutting north wind whisper a warning to all Aggies that are about to take to the highways for the Christmas Holidays. There is a deathly silence on the campus. As never in the past, Aggies are observing the tradition of not speaking during Silver Taps or while going to and coming from the ceremony.

The soft music being played over the Memorial Student Center public address system is broken only by a cough just ahead of me. I wonder was it a cough, or a buddy of one of the dead Aggies choking off tears.

I'm on the lawn in front of the Academic Building. The crunching, no more a munching sound, of wet leaves can be heard under my fellow students' feet after I assume my position and become involuntarily rigid and attempt to stop the sound of my own breathing. There's the sound of that strange cough again.

I can hear the scraping, clicking sound of the taps on the boots of the Ross Volunteer firing squad members as they march into position for their part in the ceremony. Silence shouts once again when the squad halts. Soft inaudible commands are followed by staccato striking of rifle butts against concrete as the Aggies position themselves and prepare to point their rifles to the heavens and fire.

I feel my self growing even more rigid than I've been before this moment. I know what to expect. Then it comes — a row of short, brilliant flames jump toward the heavens and then a sharp crack of rifle fire pierces my ears with such impact after the prolonged silence that there is a tingling throughout my entire body. Immediately behind the first, comes two more loud cracks, 21 rifles have fired all totaled — seven at a time.

The deadly silence drops on the campus again. Then from on the upper chambers of the gray-looking Academic Building comes the slow, mournful tone of taps — Aggie Silver Taps. Three times through.

I can't help it, my mind begins to shout over and over again, Why? Why? Why? Why did these Aggies have to die? Their lives were ahead them. There was much they still had to accomplish. Before I have time to find an answer to the age old question, I find myself clearing my throat along with several thousand other Aggies. I'm reluctant to turn away. There must be an answer. But, I know there isn't, so I turn slowly and begin to drift back to the office. I wonder, does everyone else feel as I do at that moment.

I'm half way back to The Battalion office before I'm really aware that I'm moving.

Another question has started to roll over in my mind as I watch the movements of the Aggie ahead, Who will be the next one, me or him? Or will it be you?

TAKE THE WORRY OUT OF WINTER DRIVING



ENCO EXTRA GASOLINE

Enco Extra's winter formula prevents stalls due to carburetor icing! It helps you start easier, warm up faster, gives you full power faster in stop-and-go driving.

extended-Life UNIFLO MOTOR OIL

Instant lubrication protects your engine from friction damage caused by cold starting. Uniflo lasts longer — exceeds the requirements of every car manufacturer.

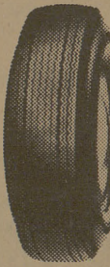


ATLAS Perma-Guard ANTI-FREEZE

This guarantee goes with Atlas Perma-Guard: If your anti-freeze protection varies more than five degrees above the protection point you originally specified, we'll add the necessary anti-freeze at no cost.

ATLAS PLYCRON TIRES

Atlas Plycron tires put more rubber to work for you the whole year long. Enjoy easier steering, a smoother ride and up to 25% greater comfort. Driving is easier, and safer, too!



ATLAS Perma-Ful H-D BATTERY

This Atlas Heavy-Duty battery puts out all the power your car needs. Its extra-long life means low cost-per-mile, too.



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