

Changes may help 'old news' problem

Ombudsman

By ROXIE HEARN
Assistant Editor

The Ombudsman is a reader service that fields questions, complaints or comments about The Battalion. This column is a discussion of calls and letters received throughout the week.

For years The Battalion has received complaints about how "old" the news is before it reaches print. Although we'll never give you the news as quickly as radio and television, a change we're undergoing may help a little.

Next week the newspaper is starting a new morning system of production.

Right now, all stories are written and edited, all photos prepared and all pages designed the evening before the paper comes out.

Usually, The Battalion hits the newsstands at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, give or take an hour. This means some stories are almost 12 hours old before they reach print.

Under the new system, only the articles that don't rely upon developing events will be completed

the night before. This includes articles announcing future activities, humorous stories, most editorial material and general features. All other articles (especially those from Associated Press) will be completed the next morning, so the latest update can be included.

The papers will still be on the newsstands between 2 and 4 in the afternoon, but they'll now include events that became news just a few hours before.

Another change The Battalion is planning is an increase in production days. Presently, it is published Tuesday through Friday — four issues per week. In the near future we hope to add at least one more day, Monday. This move will also increase our timeliness. For example, we won't have to run weekend happenings four days after they take place.

This week there have also been some staff changes within the newspaper, including a change of Sports Editors. A news story explaining the changes appears on page 3 today.

A little boy and a lawyer

The story of Sul Ross and Richard Coke

By DON MIDDLETON
and
JOHN ADAMS

The first 100 years

Will all Aggies who are unfamiliar with the names Lawrence Sullivan Ross and Richard Coke please stand up?

Those of you who are standing now have two choices. One, defend yourselves from the wrath of those still sitting or, two, read on and begin to learn about the two men who together did more for Texas A&M than anyone before or since.

The story begins on a hot summer day in 1850. The setting is the newly-founded settlement of Waco Village, Texas.

On the steps of the Waco House Hotel a curly-headed boy of twelve sat and talked with a 21-year-old newcomer to Texas. The topic of conversation was a horse race that was due to begin on the main street of Waco.

The boy, a veteran jockey himself in spite of his tender years, expounded his views on the sport of racing while the young man, a lawyer recently graduated from William and Mary College, listened with interest.

The Waco House was owned by a gentleman named Capt. Shapely P.

Ross. It was the captain's son, Lawrence Sullivan, who gave the Virginia barrister, Richard Coke, his first lesson in the manly sport of horse racing.

"Little Sul," as his friends called him, was born in Bentonsport, Iowa, in 1838. His father, a rugged frontiersman, brought the Ross family to Texas in 1839. The family came to Waco in 1849 where Capt. Ross acted as Indian Agent and proprietor of the town's only hotel.

Lawrence Sullivan Ross grew up in the same way that his father had, fighting Indians, racing horses and adventuring in the hostile environment of the Texas frontier.

Small of stature and genteel of appearance, he was respected as a man of courage from his early youth.

Ross was educated at Baylor College in Independence, Texas, and at Wesleyan University in Florence, Alabama. Upon his graduation from Wesleyan in 1859, he returned to Texas where he was placed in command of a company of Texas Rangers.

At the age of twenty, he was promoted to the rank of Captain by Gov. Sam Houston. It was L. S.

Ross who killed Comanche chief Peta Nocona in hand-to-hand combat and recaptured Cynthia Ann Parker from the Indian tribe.

In contrast to the frail-looking Ross was six-feet, three-inch, 240-pound Richard Coke. Coke was brought up and educated in the style of a refined Easterner. He received his law degree in 1849 and traveled to Washington, D.C., to ask his uncle, a U.S. Senator, for advice on job opportunities.

Uncle Richard introduced nephew Dick to a Senate colleague who advised the young man to go to

Texas to hang up his shingle. The colleague was none other than the U.S. Senator from Texas Sam Houston.

So Coke came to Texas to set up his practice, aiding settlers in land disputes and sowing the seeds that eventually grew into the governorship of Texas.

Coke and Ross became fast friends the moment they met on the steps of Captain Shapely's hotel. And what an unlikely pair they made.

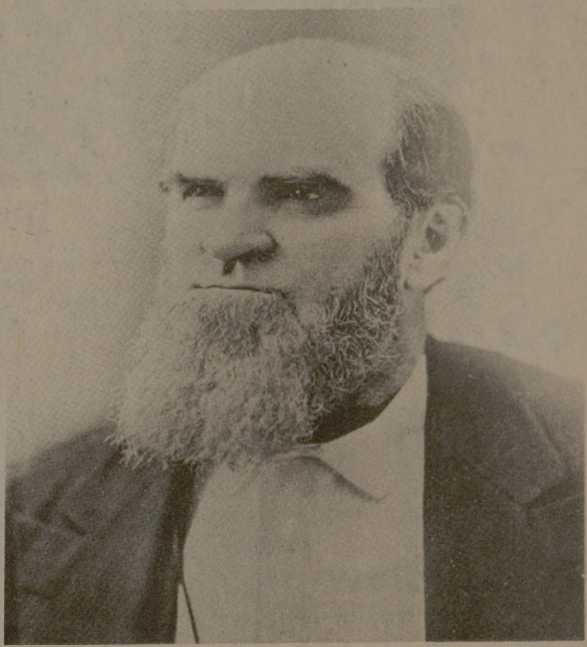
Coke the Easterner, a gruff giant of a man who was slovenly in dress and gentle in behavior. Peace-loving by nature, he served with quiet distinction in the Civil War achieving the rank of captain. Often

he was awkward in his dealings with people, and he rose to power in Texas by his determination alone.

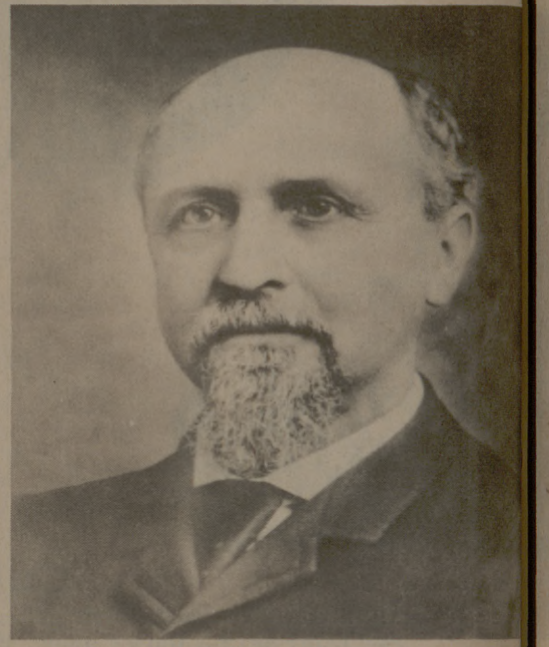
Ross, the Texas Frontiersman, was a prim and proper gentleman who was always attired according to the latest fashion. A fearless soldier, his prowess on the battlefields of the Civil War earned him national fame and the rank of brigadier general at the age of twenty-seven.

Lawrence Sullivan Ross' success in Texas politics was largely due to his popularity and reputation as a hero.

Both men played integral parts in the success of Texas A&M. In the next couple of weeks we'll be peering deeper into the lives of Richard Coke and Lawrence Sullivan Ross.



Richard S. Coke. Courtesy University Archives



Lawrence Sullivan Ross. Courtesy University Archives

Part 5 of 9

Voting and election amendment

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Tex. — Texas' new constitutional proposal on voting and elections is as simple as a check mark on a ballot.

"Short, sweet and clear," proclaims constitutional expert John Bebout of the University of Houston.

"Simplicity itself," says another consultant, former Yale law professor George Braden.

In contrast to the proposed suffrage article — proposition No. 3 on the Nov. 4 ballot — a new section on future constitutional revisions.

Special News Analysis Series

sion, proposition No. 8, gets a failing grade.

"Botched-up," comments Bebout.

"One of the worst constitutional convention sections ever proposed," echoes Braden.

The legislature would have so much control over a convention that it could, for example, instruct the convention to revise everything except the section in the constitution on the legislature.

A two-thirds vote would be required in a constitutional convention to submit proposed changes to the voters, and Braden notes that no other state has such a strict re-

quirement. "It is illogical to call for change and then make change difficult," he says.

Another criticism is that the section is simply not needed. If voters rejected the entire article on amending the constitution, the only thing they apparently would lose would be a new provision requiring the legislature to ask the voters at least once every 30 years whether they want a convention to consider more constitutional changes.

On the proposed suffrage article, a liberal-conservative split hardened over the voting rights of convicted criminals. Conservatives generally felt that criminals should be prohibited forever from voting, and liberal argued that allowing criminals to vote — after they had served their sentence — was important in the rehabilitation process.

The Texas Civil Liberties Union said, "It is our belief that the reintegration into the community of paroled felons and persons receiving probated sentences is a part of the rehabilitative process and should be of primary concern to the state."

The proposed section reads: "A citizen of the United States who is at least 18 years old and who meets the registration and residence requirements provided by

law is a qualified voter unless the person has been convicted of a felony and for that felony is incarcerated, on parole, or on probation or unless the person is mentally incompetent as determined by a court."

The Texas AFL-CIO recommended that its members support the proposal, calling it a "liberalized voter qualification article."

The legislature, however, may impose "additional limitations" to voting, just as it can do under the current constitution.

Extensive language on residency and registration requirements, as well as a prohibition against "paupers" voting, was deleted because it has been held unconstitutional.

In an attempt to stay a step ahead of the courts, however, constitutional writers stated that the legislature could restrict voting to property owners in property tax or bond elections and special, limited elections that have a "disproportionate effect on property owners."

This is a tightrope area as the U.S. Supreme Court has invalidated restrictions in the present Constitution that only property owners may vote in local elections involving spending or borrowing money.

What is probably of utmost importance to Texas voters, however, is a simple 12-word declaration that

carries forward a tenet of democratic government:

"Voting by the people in all elections must be by secret ballot."

ENGINEERS OVERSEAS JOBS PEACE CORPS

SIGN UP NOW * 10TH FLOOR RUDDER TOWER FOR AN INTERVIEW AND AN INFO PACK ON CAMPUS NOVEMBER 3-6

AM AGGIES! Douglas Jewelry

offers

Student ID Discounts!

15% off of \$50⁰⁰ or more

10% off of under \$50⁰⁰

CASH PURCHASE ONLY

212 N. MAIN

822-3119

DOWNTOWN BRYAN

HAVE YOU READ THE FINE PRINT IN YOUR HOMEOWNER'S POLICY?

If you haven't—then shouldn't you be confident that your insurance agent has.

We'll be glad to go over the fine print in your policy with you.

Bring it by 4101 Texas Avenue.



4101 TEXAS AVE. BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION 846-8848

The Battalion

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the university administration or the Board of Regents. The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Bob G. Rogers, Chairman; Dr. Gary Halter, Dr. John Hanna, Roger P. Miller, Dr. Clinton A. Phillips, Jeff Dunn, Tom Dawsey and Jerry Ward. Director of Student Publications: Gael L. Cooper.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

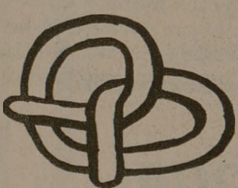
The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods. September through May, and once a week during summer school.

Mail subscriptions are \$5.00 per semester; \$9.50 per school year; \$10.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatched credited to it or not otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein are also reserved. Copyright © 1975, The Battalion. Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.

MEMBER

The Associated Press, Texas Press Association
Editor: James Breelove
Assistant Editor: Roxie Hearn
Production Manager: T. C. Gallies
City Editor: Steve Gray
Campus Editor: Sandy Russo
Sports Editor: Paul McGrath
Photography Director: Jack Holm



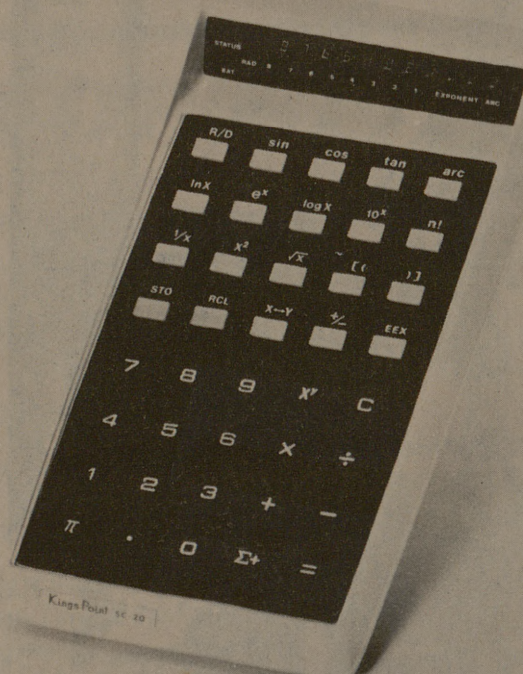
only \$10
SAT - NOV 1

WURSTFEST

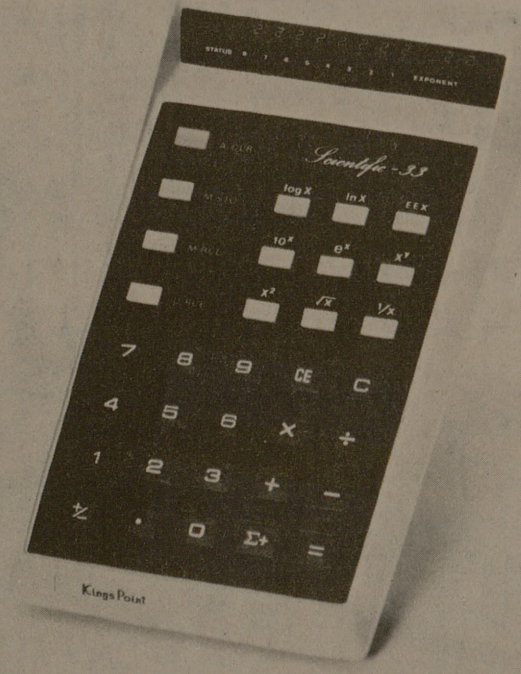
Leaving Lot 60 at 1pm
sign up & more info: sec desk RM 216 MSC
beginning Wed Oct 15



"Kings Point" isn't a famous brand . . . so they offer you a lot for your money!



SC-20—\$59.95



SC-33—\$39.95

LOUPOT'S

NORTHGATE—ACROSS FROM THE POST OFFICE

University Calculator Center

© 1975 Application Calculators Incorporated