

THE BATTALION

Vol. 72 No. 64
66 Pages in 2 Sections

News Dept. 845-2611
Business Dept. 845-2611

Monday, December 4, 1978
College Station, Texas

Spotlight on the 'A' in 'A&M'

The *Agriculturist*, a special supplement in today's Battalion, focuses on agriculture at Texas A&M University. Mule trainers, a student body president, a winning rodeo team, rodeo clowns and a state rodeo queen are some

of the features. The magazine is edited and produced by agricultural journalism students under the direction of the Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow Club.

A&M hosts national farm conference

By STEVE LEE
Battalion Campus Editor

The Agricultural Council of America (ACA) and Texas A&M University are sponsoring the first National Farm Summit Conference at Rudder Center beginning today and continuing through mid-Wednesday.

The summit could assume national significance since more than 400 leaders representing different segments of the farming industry were expected for this year's convening. The stated purpose of the summit is to arrive at agreement on solutions to economic problems facing the farmer today.

The conference centers around a series of five task force reports, the culmination of a year's planning by each group. Scheduled to speak at the summit are former Texas governor and cabinet member John Connally and Sen. Robert Sasse, R-Kan. Connally is scheduled to speak this afternoon at 12:30 after a luncheon in Room 224 of the Memorial Student Center. Dole will speak Tuesday night following dinner at the Ramada Inn ballroom.

A&M to be holiday inn

Winter housing will be provided for students who remain at Texas A&M University over the Christmas break, said Ron E. Sasse, associate director of student affairs. Forty-four spaces will be available in the Rudder Center Hall for students currently in residence halls and who have also reserved rooms for the Spring Semester. It will cost students \$75 for rooms during the holiday period. Sasse said eligible students must register and pay the fee at the Housing Office in the YMCA building. The registration period begins Wednesday and continues through next Tuesday, Dec. 12. Sasse said room assignments will be made between 1-5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 8 in Lounge A-2.

Queen of the rails' kills six in crash

United Press International
ELMA, Va. — The luxurious Southern Crescent, queen of America's passenger trains, derailed in rural Virginia Sunday, toppling gleaming silver cars, in a wild tumble down a steep embankment, piled on top of each other like toys.

At least six people were killed and as many as 60 others injured, five critically. A Crescent cook, Roosevelt Martin, was in the kitchen and had just begun to prepare breakfast — bacon, eggs and sausage, muffins and grits — over the train's wood stoves.

The first call for breakfast — at 6 a.m. Sunday — was only 20 minutes away. Theodore Coleman, 64, of Atlanta, a waiter for 38 years with Southern, was setting tables.

Suddenly, three of the train's four locomotives and all eight passenger cars jumped the tracks near Elma, a rural town halfway between Charlottesville and Lynchburg.

"I was just standing there by the refrigerator and then all of a sudden everything came flying forward," said Martin, who was treated for minor injuries at the University of Virginia Hospital.

Martin said he was momentarily buried under debris and trapped in darkness, but was able to escape the wrecked car through a window.

Coleman escaped serious injury but his additional uniform of white coat and black pants was bloodied.

The dining car was split in half. Two cooks were trapped beneath the stove. One of them Lewis Price, of Atlanta, died. The other, Med Haynes, of Atlanta, was the last person pulled from the wreck more than 11 hours later.

The dining car and the baggage car were derailed and rolled down the embankment, parallel to the track. A sleeping car derailed into the dining car perpendicularly. Coleman said if the accident had occurred a few minutes later after breakfast had been served, the toll would have been much higher.

Rescue crews worked throughout Sunday, at times in a driving rain, to remove the dead and dying, some of them pinned under the twisted metal.

Rescue efforts were hampered by the rugged terrain and the steep embankment, which dropped sharply from the tracks into a 40-foot gully.

Bill Thompson, a member of the Rosemead Rescue Squad, was one of the first on the scene. "When I got there, there was mass confusion, but not mass hysteria," he said. "The passengers were still all in the train. We got most of them out through the windows."

Each task force was led by noted academic figures and will suggest solutions to problems in a particular area.

At the summit the findings of each task force will be summarized by the group's chairman. A panel of experts on each topic will "react" to the reports and then the floor will be open for discussion.

The first report to be discussed at this morning's session was scheduled to center upon international trade. After Connally's speech this afternoon, a task force report dealing with nutrition, product quality and safety is scheduled at 2:30.

Subsequent reports on Tuesday and Wednesday will concern resource use and product costs, farm commodity prices and income, and agriculture's role in government decisions.

As an interesting footnote to the summit, about 200 members of the American Agriculture Movement (AAM) have driven about 50 grain trucks from as far away as Wyoming to the summit to hold a three-day rally. They will eventually drive to the Port of Houston to market their grain themselves, they say, to demonstrate that no middleman is needed to do the job.

Regarding the summit itself, AAM members say that not enough producers will be present to provide needed policy change ideas.

In a statement released last week, summit officials rebuted the argument, saying that several members of the AAM have been members of the task forces assigned for the conference.

Monday

12:30 p.m. — Luncheon, John Connally — Room 224 MSC
2:30 p.m. — Task Force Report — Nutrition, Product Quality and Safety — Rudder Theatre
3:45 p.m. — Task Force Reaction — Rudder Theatre

Tuesday

9 a.m. — Task Force Report — Resource Use and Production Costs — Rudder Theatre

10:45 a.m. — Task Force Reaction — Rudder Theatre
1:30 p.m. — Task Force Report — Farm Commodity Prices and Income — Rudder Theatre
3:15 p.m. — Task Force Reaction — Rudder Theatre
7 p.m. — Dinner, Robert Dole — Ramada Inn ballroom

Wednesday

8:30 a.m. — Task Force Report — Agriculture's Role In Government Decision — Rudder Theatre
10 a.m. — Task Force Reaction — Rudder Theatre
11:30 a.m. — Summit Review — Rudder Theatre
12:30 p.m. — Adjournment



Battalion photo by Steve Lee

These grain trucks, some coming from as far as Wyoming, were driven by farmers Sunday to protest the National Farm Summit Conference here. After the conference, which begins today, the farmers will travel to the Houston Ship Channel to sell their grain in person, without middlemen.

Tornadoes cause \$100 million damage

Louisiana, Arkansas ravaged

United Press International
BOSSIER CITY, La. — Rare winter tornadoes spawned by unseasonably warm weather dropped like deadly bombs across northern Louisiana and southern Arkansas Sunday killing four persons, injuring hundreds of others and causing more than \$100 million in property damage.

The killer tornadoes struck in the pre-dawn darkness out of a thick line of thunderstorms leaving a trail of destruction from the red-clay banks of the Red River to the industrial community of El Dorado, Ark., 100 miles to the northeast.

The worst hit of the half dozen southern communities was Bossier City in northwest Louisiana, across the Red River from Shreveport, where state police said two young girls were killed and more than 180 persons were injured — at least three dozen severely.

More than 1,500 persons were left homeless.

A third fatality was reported at Heflin, La., a small farming community near Bossier City where six persons were injured.

A fourth person was killed in El Dorado when a frame house was demolished by a dozen trees uprooted by the winds. Another half dozen people were injured in that Arkansas town.

Officials called the low death toll "a miracle."

"The amazing thing about this disaster is the amount of damage to buildings — the structural damage throughout the area — and the so few casualties," said Maj. Gen. O.J. Daigle Jr. of the Louisiana National Guard.

"When you fly over and see some of these houses completely dismantled you wonder how so few died. I'd say there was over \$100 million worth of damage."

Bossier City mayor Marvin E. Anding

confirmed the money estimate and said the city was spared by God from more misery.

"He must have been with us. I can't believe we only had two deaths with the miserable mess we have out there," he said.

Authorities partially credited the end of the horse racing season for the low fatality figures.

The Bossier City tornado leveled a nearly vacant motor hotel on the city's east side near the track, injuring about 60 persons. A week earlier, the hotel, the city's largest with a capacity of several hundred, would have been packed with visitors.

Anding said about 65 residential buildings, including one large apartment complex, were destroyed in the two-block wide, eight-mile long path of the giant tornado. The mayor also said some looters had been arrested.

"I cannot believe that we did have some attempts at looting 20 minutes after the tornado passed through the heart of Bossier," Anding said.

"I'm not going to have people and their homes and businesses looted. We are going to deal with these people as severely as possible."

National Guardsmen, armed with rifles and billy clubs, patrolled the area at nightfall.

The mayor said a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew would be imposed for the city "until further notice."

"We have the entire Bossier City area sealed off," said state trooper Harold Carpenter. "Only emergency people and people who can actually prove they live in Bossier City can get in."

The Bossier City storm struck at 1:50 a.m. Sunday dropping down northeast of the Red River and leveling homes, schools, trees and businesses.

"At that time of night, there's not much warning," said civil defense director W.C. Eberhard.

"It developed so fast. It's the most massive tornado a National Weather Service

radar operator had seen in many a day."

Although tornadoes generally are rare in December, weather forecasters said the Gulf State area was ripe for their development because of the equally unusual Indian summer the area had been experiencing for the past week. Temperatures had climbed into the 80s Saturday and humidity hovered around the 90 percent mark in most areas.

"Tornadoes are not that unusual considering the weather," said Herbert Roseman, the NWS forecaster based in Fort Worth. "Although they are most numerous in the spring, Louisiana and other Gulf Coast states can have them any time of the year."

"Yesterday and last night we had warm moist air colliding with a very sharp cold front. It produced a very unstable air condition — thunderstorms developed east and south of Dallas intensified very rapidly and headed northeast."

"The tornadoes were an obvious end result," he said.

Lesson learned the hard way: door no protection from tornado

United Press International
BOSSIER CITY, La. — A serviceman on a cross-country trip to a new assignment said he sought protection behind a motel room door but both he and the door were flung across the room by a Sunday's tornado.

"I was sleeping and I heard like a thunder," said William Carserino, who was spending the night at a Best Western motel that was destroyed by the storm. "I guess it was setting down. And then I heard the rattling and stuff at the window and I thought it was raining real hard. I got up to look out and about that time the window

came through. And then I ducked behind the door.

"Next thing I knew, I flew with the door across the room and landed on top of the kids. And that quick it was over."

Carserino and his family were traveling from San Diego, Calif., to his new Navy assignment on the East Coast. They also planned to visit relatives in Jackson, Miss., during the trip.

The motel was one of the most severely damaged structures. Carserino said guests reacted quickly after the storm passed. "We started bringing out the kids, the

dog and everything. And we, the Carserino family, all came through surviving all right."

"It quieted down real quick and we just started gathering what we could and getting out of there."

"Everybody was injured a little bit, beat up, bruised a little bit. Everything we had in our room — trash cans and all — landed on top of the kids."

"Our car was demolished. It looked like the roof from on top of the upper floor landed on top of three or four cars over there."

Carserino and his family were treated at Bossier General Hospital and released.

Report reveals politics does pay

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Some of America's highest paid government officials — with scores of them making hefty salaries of \$50,000 a year or more — aren't elected by the people, appointed by the president or selected by tests.

The well-heeled officials work for the U.S. Senate, which paid hundreds of staff members such as administrative aides, press officers and secretaries salaries of more than \$40,000 annually in 1978.

The figures are in the 1,110-page, green-covered Report of the Secretary of the Senate, which came out last week with salary listings for the lowliest summer intern to the mightiest committee staff chief.

Only the other Green Book — Washington's version of the social register — affords as much interest, though it has only a fraction of the useful information in the secretary's report.

Senators earn \$57,500 a year, but just below them are 64 aides pulling in \$50,000 or more and another 331 who make more than \$40,000. In comparison, cabinet officers get \$66,000 and top civil servants \$47,500.

The secretary's report said the Senate paid some 7,000 employees \$51.3 million in the last six months of fiscal 1978. In addition, the Senate spent \$13.1 million on office expenses and travel, compiling a total bill of \$82.9 million.

The House employs about 11,000 people and would spend more due to its larger membership. But in general, individual Senate salaries are higher.

The top paid staff people at \$52,500 are Secretary of the Senate J. Stanley Kimmitt, Sergeant at Arms F. Nurdy Hoffman and

Legislative Counsel Harry Littell.

Right behind them is Secretary to the Minority William F. Hildenbrandt at \$52,000. Nine other officials — including Kimmitt's assistant, the parliamentarian and the clerk who compiled the figures — earn \$51,500.

Following them at \$50,478 is George F. Murphy, head of the office of Classified National Security Information.

Although the law limits top pay for a senator's office aides to \$49,941, the report lists 21 committee or subcommittee staff chiefs and two Republican and one Democratic policy staffers who earn between \$50,000 and \$52,000.

There are 26 top personal aides — most of them called administrative assistants — making the maximum, \$49,491.

Others earning above \$40,000 include four persons in the legislative councils, 41 who work for Kimmitt or Hoffman, 161 on committee staff and 125 on senators' personal staffs.

The size of a senator's staff and the salary levels are up to the lawmaker himself, within limits based on the state's population.

Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., had 156 persons on his six-month payroll at a cost of \$282,701 while retiring Sen. William Scott, R-Va. — always a low spender — got by with 19 persons for \$140,347, less than half his allotment.

California's two senators were entitled to spend \$510,583 for the six months — plus up to \$149,000 extra for certain committee specialists.

Sen. S.I. Hayakawa, R-Cal., paid 111 persons \$555,148 in the period, while Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Cal., paid 71 persons \$516,159, plus \$59,607 to five others given

to him because he is assistant Democratic leader.

Sens. Abraham Ribicoff, D-Conn., Adlai Stevenson, D-Ill., and Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., each had five staff members paid at an annual rate of more than \$40,000. The lowest paid top aide, at a rate of \$28,550, was Oregon Republican Sen. Mark Hatfield's personal secretary.

Press secretaries, whose functions range from shaping a senator's image to delivering publicity releases, earned from \$16,100 to \$49,941 a year.

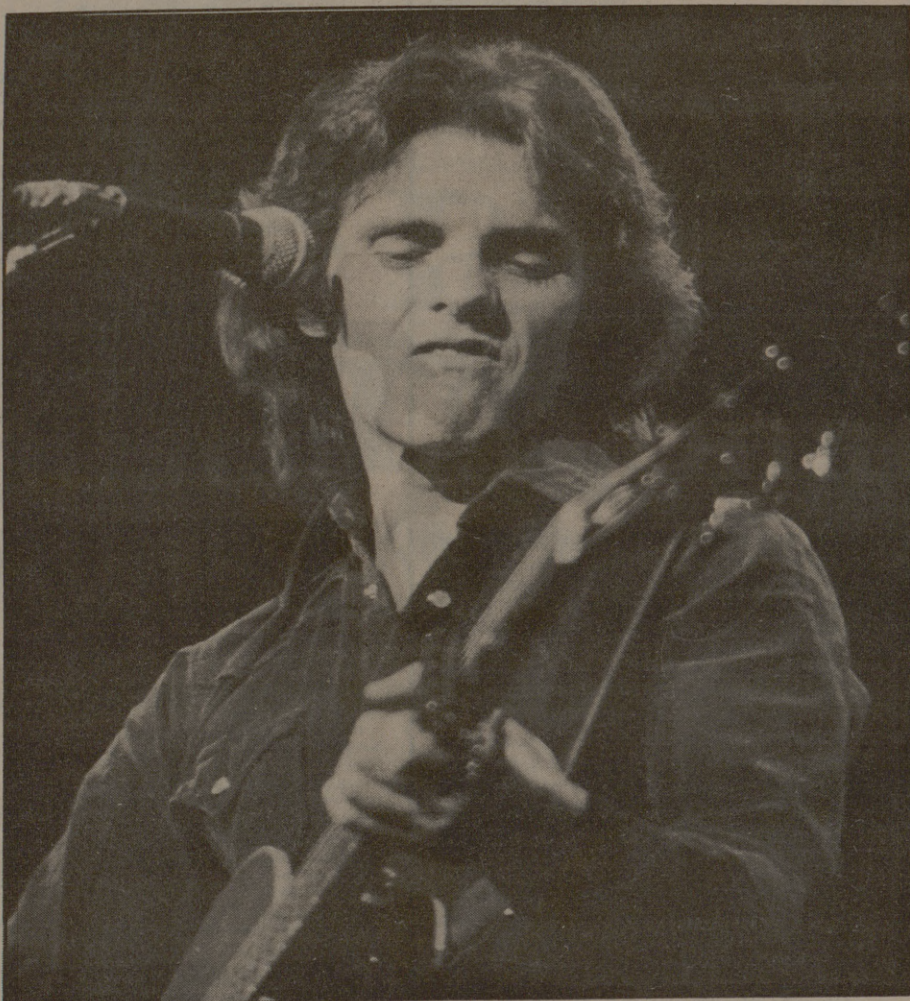
Most of the book — 900 pages — is devoted to listing every expense voucher — from 30 cents for a copy of the New York Times for the Senate library to \$108,846 to pay July's telephone bill.

A&M official charged with DWI in Austin

Harold Lee "Spec" Gammon, sports information director for Texas A&M University, was charged with first offense driving while intoxicated in Austin Thursday night.

Gammon was stopped by police about 9 p.m. in the 4600 block of Interstate 35.

Gammon was charged before Municipal Court Judge Alberto Garcia. He was released on a personal recognizance bond.



Pickin' and grimacing

Ian Matthews concentrates on a chord during his performance at G. Rollie White Coliseum Thursday night. Matthews was the opening act of a program that included David Gates and Bread. A review of the concert is on page 6.

Battalion photo by Lee Larkin