

# AROUND the PLAZA

By JAMES WILLIAMSON

What with the telephone company telling us they are doing the best they can under the circumstances, we don't think they did very well for the South Texas chamber of commerce in the Transit tower.

The chamber recently had a telephone installed.

Telephones being what they are these days, you only get a new one when someone else gives up theirs.

Well, the telephone that the South Texas chamber of commerce got was one which had been given up by Alcoholics Anonymous.

The AA had a pay station put in, releasing their old number. As a result all the calls the chamber receives these days are not inquiries about the merits of raising grapefruit in the lower Rio Grande valley or the prospects for an onion crop around Poteet.

In the past few days the chamber has come to realize some of the problems and purposes of that worthy organization, Alcoholics Anonymous.

Secretaries are no longer surprised to lift up a receiver and hear:

"Come and get me."

Passing by the San Pedro park softball diamond the other afternoon we slammed on the brakes to watch the antics of a group of men who were apparently crazy.

The men would huddle on base, one of them would shout and strike a grotesque pose and then resume his position. There were slight indications that baseball of some kind was being played, but without bats or balls.

We were slightly concerned when one of the men fell on the ground, raised his hands in the air, recovered and rushed from second to third base. All of this going on under the stern, watchful eye of the remainder of the participants.

It turned out to be a regular meeting of the San Antonio Umpires association, at whose sessions, younger umpires are taught the trade by older umpires.

We were watching the teaching. Periods of quiet are few and far between for the police department dispatchers whose alert ears are always tuned to the woe of the city.

So Dispatchers Joe Newman and Bob Hernandez who sat at their telephones the other day from 7 a. m. to 3 p. m. without a single call scratched their heads before submitting their report to Chief Bruce Weatherly. In collaboration, they wrote across their report:

"Nothing of consequence occurred."

El Club Social Universal, with Bob Hernandez presiding, blossomed out in a formal ball at Olmos the other night.

Feyton S. Mathis Jr., who married Evelyn Brand of San Antonio, and who lost his life returning from a mission to Itabou, is one of the armful featured in Philip McKee's book, "Warriors With Wings."

In chapter 12, called "Lightning Over the Mediterranean" McKee has written about Mathis and some of his 125 missions. The story for his Mediterranean experiences is given in Mathis' own words.

Mathis was awarded the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal and Purple Heart.

Currently in town is Edward J. Finley, painter and miniature artist, who includes among his clients Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, and the late Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Finley has been painting in Kerrville and is staying at the St. Anthony now while commissioning portraits of several prominent San Antonians.

Pauline Barker has joined the staff of the Gunter hotel catering office, assistant to Verne Crawford.

## DEAR MISS YOUNG

"Am happy to tell you my first ad brought cash offer of \$125 for my piano, but the second one had even better results—a check for \$155. So it gives me pleasure to enclose my check for \$2.80 covering the two ads," wrote this advertiser.

EMERSON upright mahogany piano, fine cond. lovely tone, slashed to \$155. Large Brunswick phonograph \$20. 1843 W. Gramercy.

Don't lose extra sales—USE LIGHT WANT ADS for Quick-Action RESULTS DIAL F-1231 for Courteous Advertiser

# THE LIGHT

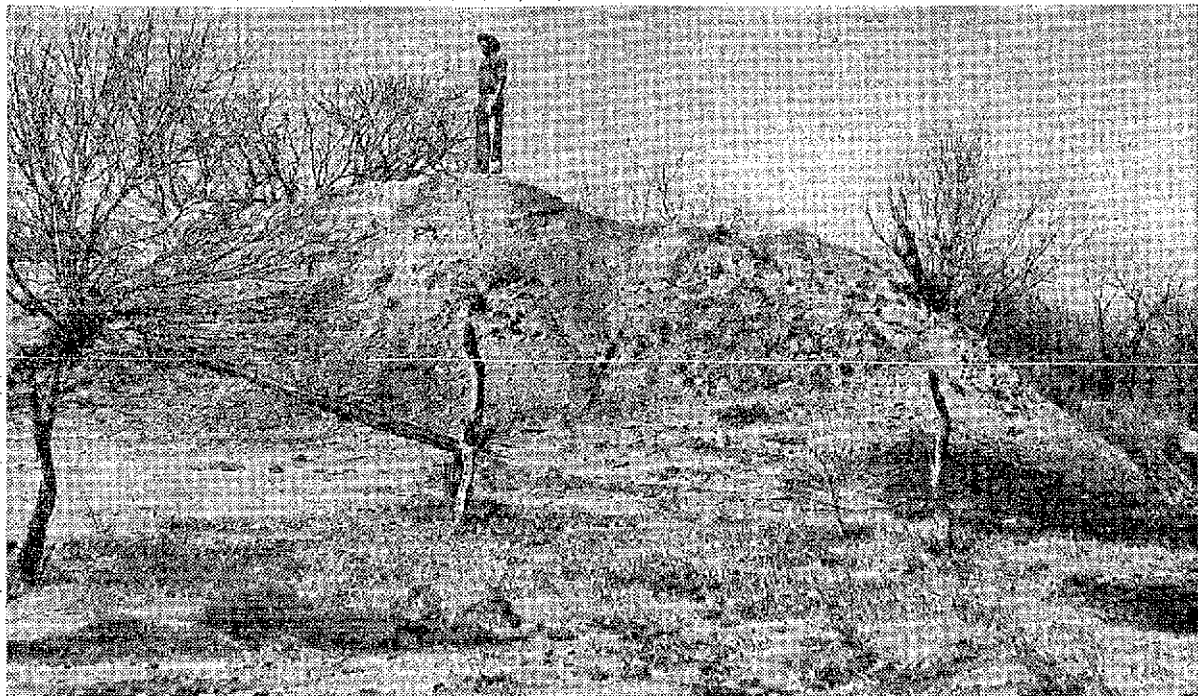
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SECTION D.

1947		MARCH				1947	
S.	M.	T.	W.	T.	F.	S.	
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

## COAL FIELDS REPLACED BY GOOBERS



W. P. KENNEY STANDS ON TOP OF ELEVATED GROUND AT MINE ENTRANCE. Coal laden cars were run atop mound of earth and dumped into trucks and wagons.



CAVE-INS APPEAR FREQUENTLY IN THE 275 MINED-OUT ACRES. Much of the sandy land is now devoted to growing of peanuts.

## Brutality Quiz Goes On

The grand jury investigation into alleged police brutality continued Friday with more witnesses scheduled to testify.

According to reliable sources, the probe is being pushed by Criminal District Court Judge W. W. McCrory, who is sending in witnesses to testify that they have been mistreated by the police.

It was learned the grand jury is divided as to further procedure, and five members are known to have paid the judge a visit in his chambers, the purpose of which was not revealed.

## Part Time

The grand jury will go on part time next week as a result of a recession of criminal activity. Sessions will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday only.

## 5 Bitten by Dog

Four children and one adult were added to the list of dog-bite victims by police Friday. They were: La Rue Keeton, 4, of 401 Burton street; Rose Marie Garcia, 7, of 118 El Paso street; Amphelia Grimm, 2, of 125 Gordon road; Suzanne Gibson, 2, of 127 King Roger street, and George T. Butler, 62, of 422 Connor street.



ENTRANCE TO THE ORIGINAL MINE NEAR SOMERSET. First mines had an incline shaft and used mules to tow cars.

## \$30,000 Fire Wrecks Plant

Damage estimated Friday by Deputy Fire Chief M. L. Butler at \$30,000 was caused by a stubborn chemical fire in the Nokrode Manufacturing company plant at 513 Austin street.

The fire broke out at 10:30 p. m. Thursday and fumes from the burning chemicals made it difficult for firemen to combat the flames. Five companies answered the alarm and it took nearly three hours to bring the fire under control.

Butler himself was so sickened by the fumes he had to hurry from the building to keep from collapsing.

The company manufactures storage battery equipment. W. L. Miller is manager. Damage to the building, owned by Will A. Morris Jr., was placed at only \$250.

## Request in Writing

Formal request for use of the county's voting machines in the city election, May 13, was made to the County Commissioners' court Friday by the city.

In a letter to the court, City Clerk J. L. Quintanilla Jr., said the city would need at least 160, and possibly more machines. He suggested the county fix the rental charge on individual machines, inasmuch as the exact number required had not been determined.

The court agreed to the city clerk's suggestion that the matter of rental be discussed between the city clerk and attorney and Commissioner Dan Traugott. The latter was authorized by the court to deal with the city.

## Miguel Aleman Declines S. A. Visit

President Miguel Aleman of Mexico is not going to visit San Antonio on his trip to Washington.

In a letter to Mayor Gus B. Mauremann received here Friday, he expressed his deep regret in time to which the program of his trip had to be adjusted to reduce his absence from Mexico did not permit a stop here.

GROUP ACTIVATED. Activation of the 700th Ordnance maintenance company, 90th Infantry of the Organized Reserve Corps in San Antonio was announced Friday by Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright, Fourth Army commander.

## Peanuts Pile Riches Over Mines

Peanuts are now growing over Texas' richest coal field. At \$3 per bushel, 62 bushels to an acre, peanuts are more profitable than the black gold underneath.

About 20 miles southwest of San Antonio, on the other side of the small town of Somerset, two productive soft coal mines are idle. High freight rates, cost of mining and competition with gas forced them to close several years ago although there's plenty of coal left unmined.

### MANY CAVE-INS.

Cattle graze cautiously around the cave-ins of the 275 mined-out acres, and much of the soft, ankle-deep sandy land is devoted to the growing of peanuts. Air shafts of the mines are guarded with barbed wire and new cave-ins appear frequently in the peanut fields. Said W. P. Kenney, grandson of one of the early miners:

"It's not a good country to walk around in."

Pat Kenney came over from Ireland in 1878 and settled in Somerset. He found a small coal mine being operated by T. S. Harrison, the first city attorney of San Antonio.

Kenney was familiar with coal. In his part of Ireland it was a common and essential commodity. In Texas it was a rarity but Pat Kenney knew its value.

FOUND THROUGH WELL. In a short time he bought up a lot of the nearby land characterized by a peculiar clay formation and in 1882 opened his own mine.

He later bought the land where the first coal mine had by chance been discovered while a water well was being drilled.

The original mine has an incline shaft, first mined by mules and oxen. The second mine, about a mile away, is elevator type.

The shafts are still open, the cable car mounds are overgrown with grass and sweet williams and the ground around the mine entrances is sprinkled with fine black siltings.

Cowboys hang over the shafts, tracks of wild animals lead into the ugly, deep gaps and rattle snakes twine in the damp clay gulleys.

### 40 FEET DEEP.

The mines are about 40 feet deep, the vein of coal four to seven feet thick. At one time a small village of houses near the mine sheltered the miners and their families, and a rail line connected with the main line.

W. Kenney, the son of the first Kenney, recalled that in the early days the mines did a thriving business, supplying San Antonio ice factories, gas works and the Alamo Iron Works with coal.

### LAST OPERATOR.

He estimated that 7000 tons of coal per acre were mined and that several hundred acres are yet to be touched.

The last operator of the mines was John Beito of San Antonio. Up until the mines closed, the market had moved east and north of Texas. In case any one is interested, the coal is there for the mining.

In the meantime, the Kenney family is planning a big peanut crop this year.

## 13 Meters Robbed

San Antonio's parking meter thief is again active, police reported Friday. During the night, 13 old type meters in the 100 block of West Pecan street were unlocked and the coin containers removed.

## Vet Treated For Poisoning

Horace T. Barnham, 26, of 3210 Howard street, was treated at the M. and S. hospital for iodine poisoning, police reported Friday. Barnham was a prisoner of war for four years.

## Baering Down On the News

By ARTHUR "BUGS" BAER. Distributed by T. N. S. Smart diplomacy is making a loving cup out of the oil can. Use up the other fellow's reserves and save your own.

That's why we are in the near east as sure as leather in the tannery. France is out of the picture and is scratching coal on the Rhine.

The nation with the oil balance will be in the driver's seat for the next hundred years. The Persian gulf is the direction flag for Mosul and the Dardanelles are the cross-town transfer spot for Rumania.

That's the whole story in half a pean. Marshall, Baruch, Churchill and Molotov are sending for me in the morning. They want to know how to fix a bow tie.

## SPEAK THEIR PIECE



BARBARA TATE (R), ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNER. Albert Coindreau of Central Catholic wins second place.

## Barbara Tate Oratory Winner

Barbara Tate of Incarnate Word High school has been declared winner in the 11th annual oratorical contest sponsored by the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade and Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

She spoke on "How Free Is Religion in Russia?"

Catholic High school was runner-up.

The program was under the direction of the Rev. Charles J. Drees and Bro. Anthony Liederick.

Awards were presented by the Rev. P. J. Schmetzer, archdiocesan director of the Society for Propagation of the Faith.

## Food Up But Lunches Same

Costs of food, advancing as much as 150 per cent since 1943 on some items, virtually has not affected the school lunch program, according to Mrs. Grace N. Moffett, cafeteria director for the San Antonio Independent School district.

She has prepared a report showing price increases ranging from 103 per cent on beans and 156 per cent on cheese to 33 per cent on milk. Other rises included were flour, 60.9 per cent; sugar, 43.4 per cent; and bread, 16.7 per cent.

### WAGES UP

Wages also took a sharp rise, according to the report, managers, who received a total in the 53 cafeterias in 1942-43 of \$22,752, went up 78 per cent. Salaries of cooks and helpers has nearly doubled since 1942.

Cost of gas and oil advanced 20 per cent and laundry service jumped 86 per cent over the war years.

### MEALS SAME PRICE

Mrs. Moffett pointed out, however, a complete lunch still can be bought for 25 cents, including a half pint of milk.

Meat prices recently were dropped from 15 cents a serving to 10 cents, despite the rise in meat prices.

Milk is 5 cents for the half pint and bread is free.

### WOMAN MOLESTED

Following complaint of Clementa Valdez, 122 Camargo street, that a man followed and molested her in the 500 block of North Flores street, police booked a suspect who gave his name as Henry Bisquis.

## Krueger on Trinity Forum

Gen. Walter Krueger, retired, Mrs. P. J. Westkaemper, president, San Antonio Council of Parents and Teachers, and Dr. Kenneth Pope, pastor of Austin's First Methodist church, will form the panel when the Trinity university open forum presents its second discussion next Tuesday at 8 p. m. in the university auditorium.

They will discuss the question: "Should We Have Compulsory Military Training?"

Carl Marmon, student, will be announcer; Dr. Monroe G. Everett, university president, will open the forum; Professor David Crockett will be moderator, and Professor E. Russell Jackson, president of the forum board, will state the forum's aims.

## Officer Treated After Autos Crash

As result of a collision between a police scout car and a private auto in the 5200 block of South Presa street, Patrolman Charles Harless, 36, of 137 Chicago boulevard, was treated in Robert B. Green hospital Friday for a broken nose and two fractured ribs.

Driver of the other car, Sam T. Gooden, 422 Hot Wells boulevard, was not injured.

Steve Cardenas, 39, of 2018 Colinas street, a passenger in a car driven by Ernesto Ybarra, 357 East Commerce street, suffered face and neck lacerations when the auto struck a parked car in the 300 block of Chestnut street, police reported.

### Can You Solve this MYSTERY?

Peter Levins presents a baffling mystery drama in which even the victim was missing. Match wits with the suspected killer in "Agnes Tuferson's Honey-moon", an Album of Famous Mysteries thriller in

THE AMERICAN WEEKLY

the great magazine distributed with

## The Sunday LIGHT

## Cash Prizes and Tickets Go to Winners

## 'Best Years of Lives' Contest Begins

What do you think are the best years of our lives? Why? Just answer these two questions and you become eligible to win one of the 16 prizes being offered by The Light in a new contest inspired by the Academy Award film, "The Best Years of Our Lives."

A total of \$125 in cash prizes and 13 pair of free tickets are being offered to the winners of the contest. All you have to do to enter is to write out your ideas on what are the best years of our lives, and why you think so, in 100 words or less.

The first prize will be \$75, second prize \$35 and third prize \$15.

In addition, the 10 next best letter writers will each receive a pair of theater tickets valued at \$3.50 per pair. Cash prize winners will also receive theater tickets.

Entries should be mailed to The Best Years Contest Editor, c/o Texas theater, San Antonio. The deadline for entries is a postmark of midnight Thursday, April 3. Contest winners will be announced in The Light on Sunday, April 6.

The contest is based upon Samuel Goldwyn's "The Best Years of Our Lives," starring Fredric March, Myrna Loy, Dana Andrews, Teresa Wright, Virginia Mayo, Hoagy Carmichael and Harold Russell. This film, the winner of more Academy Honors than any other picture in history, will be seen at the Texas theater, beginning April 3.

Some opinions of famous authors may help you solve a few questions in your minds. Perhaps you think that our best years are youth. Shakespeare voted for this. He said:

"Youth is full of pleasure, age is full of care."

Some say though that it is old age that is best. Sir William Watson claims:

"The young are happy never. Give me bless'd age."

And on the other hand George Bernard Shaw stated that "every man over 40 is a scoundrel."

Robert Browning, the poet, joined the old age ranks in saying:

"The last of life, for which the first was made."

And Oliver Wendell Holmes seemed to agree when he said, "To be 70 years young is sometimes far more cheerful and hopeful than to be 40 years old."