

### Firemen's Training School Here Has Helped State Save \$10,000,000 Yearly

It may sound hard to believe, but a \$20,000 appropriation made by the State Legislature in 1931 is returning Texas property owners a saving of approximately \$10,000,000 a year in preventing fire loss, and at a cost of about \$4,000 annually.

That appropriation was made for the equipping and operation of the Firemen's Training School at Texas A. & M. College, and the bulk of the original money was spent for fire-fighting apparatus and other permanent equipment. The \$4,000 annual cost is spent for the salary and expenses of field instructor G. F. Williams, who spends about ten months of each year traveling throughout Texas instructing fire departments in the latest and approved methods of fire-fighting and fire prevention, according to H. R. Brayton, director of the school, sponsored by the A. & M. Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering.

#### School Organized

The training school was organized under Prof. Brayton's guidance in 1929 and the first annual Fireman's Training School was held in 1930, when 76 cities sent 196 men

to attend the course. It has grown annually, until last year 269 cities were represented and approximately 600 firemen took part in the training.

It was not until 1933, however, and after the appropriation mentioned had been made, that the work was extended to the field. Cities sending representatives to the course received a three percent reduction in their key rate, providing the existing rate is not twenty cents or lower.

#### Figures Compiled

Figures compiled by Prof. Brayton show that between \$40,000 and \$50,000 in reduced fire insurance premiums is saved by Texas property owners each year, with more than \$300,000 saved since the establishment of the school, through 1937.

The savings reported do not show the improvement which has been made in fire-fighting methods, Brayton explained. "In 1931 the fire loss in Texas amounted to over \$17,500,000," he said, "but in 1937, after seven years of training school instruction, the loss was only about \$7,500,000. The fire loss ratio compared to insurance premiums was 75 percent in 1931 but last year it was only 34 percent," he added. Meanwhile insurance premiums have shown considerable reduction in addition to the three percent key rate reduction.

Prof. Brayton's report shows that the Texas fire loss for the five-year period ending in 1932 totaled about \$81,000,000 as compared to a similar period ending in 1937, which showed a total of almost \$38,500,000 destroyed through fire. This reduction may be attributed in a large measure to the training given the firemen at the school.

#### Success of School

"I attribute the success of the training school, not only to the increased efficiency of the firemen themselves, but to the fact that we have made Texas citizens fire-prevention-conscious," Brayton concluded.

Cost of operation of the annual school is paid by nominal registration fee of \$12 charged those enrolling and covering their room, meals and instruction while at the college for six days.

### College Station 20 Years Ago - - - And Today



These two photographs graphically portray the growth of College Station. Above is shown the entire North Gate 20 years ago. Below is a section of the North Gate today.

### College Station Is Fastest Growing City For Its Size in State of Texas

By Bill Clarkson

Until last year College Station was considered just a community five miles south of Bryan and the home of A. & M. College. However, since its incorporation in the spring of 1939, College Station has enjoyed the feeling of being a "grown up" city in its own right. It can now compete with Bryan in population during the regular school sessions and before long will be able to compete equally with Bryan in business enterprises.

College Station is known as the fastest growing city in Texas. During the past four years its gains have been almost miraculous.

The residential sections of College Station are districts of which any city would be proud. The sections include the homes on the campus and the several surrounding additions including College Park and Oakwood, oldest residential districts, rapidly growing; College Hills, College View, and the Boyett Addition. The newest of these additions is the restricted College Hills Estates which was opened last spring and already has a large number of modern cafes and business houses.

The thriving business center of College Station is located at the northern end of the A. & M. campus, better known as the "North Gate" to both students and townspeople. It consists of cafes, drug-stores, grocery stores, confectioneries, tailors, cleaning and pressing establishments, shoe repair shops, men's furnishings, jewelers, photographers, barber shops, a dentist and a post office. Recently a new \$65,000 theater has been added to the many business establishments at "the Gate". It has a seating capacity of 628 people and has the most modern movie equipment obtainable. The other theater, located on the campus, is the Assembly Hall, sponsored by the College Y. M. C. A.

The modern Aggeland Inn, located at the heart of the A. & M. campus, is the only state-owned hotel in the Union. Many tourist courts, located on the highway bordering the east side of the campus, are also available for visitors.

Churches of all denominations are located around the college campus. A beautiful Methodist church and student center have been planned and are to be erected as soon as sufficient funds have been secured. A new Episcopal chapel was completed in 1939 and is located in College Park at the south end of the campus.

The Battalion newspaper, although put out by students of the college, serves as a combined college and city paper. When College Station became incorporated, it was designated immediately as the official city newspaper. The paper is run entirely by students except for the actual printing, which is done by the modern College Print Shop.

Not to be outdone by other cities, College Station has its own radio station, W.T.A.W., which broadcasts the Farm and Home Program six days a week and also broadcasts the "Aggie Clambake", a student program, on Friday afternoons. The studios are located in the College Y. M. C. A.

Among the many improvements around College Station in recent months is the new water supply, which comes from wells a few miles north of the city of Bryan. This new water supply is considered one

of the best in the country, as it is 99.9714% free of minerals, as compared to the high mineral content of the "old" water.

College Station has its mayor, city council, police officers, traffic laws, city ordinances, just as any other city. It could not lay claim to these appurtenances before last year. Neither could it boast of the modern business sections several years ago that it has today.

College Station is definitely "on the up-and-up", a center for college students' and college people's trade.

### College Museum a Valuable Adjunct In Teaching of Biological Sciences Here

In 1937 Dr. O. M. Ball retired from active duty with the Biology Department after thirty-four years as its head. He became first curator of Francis Museum. The foundations for the museum collection of plant and animal fossils had been laid through a lifetime of cooperation between Drs. Mark Francis and Ball. Although the museum is separately organized, it serves as a most valuable adjunct to biological instruction at A. & M. College.

Upon the retirement of Dr. Ball, Dr. C. C. Doak was appointed head. Under him regular staff members and graduate assistants instruct about 1,500 men in all phases of life science. Zoology, botany, general biology, bacteriology, plant physiology and plant diseases are

only a few of the special phases of plant and animal science taught by experts in these fields.

The department is housed in the Science Hall, which underwent some renovation in the past year. Much new equipment and many models and other teaching aids have been added.

The department performs its greatest service in teaching the foundations of the life sciences to men entering agriculture but also gives work to premedical students, biology teachers, and who wish to enter applied phases of biology work.

You eat between 92 billion and 126 billion eggs (yes, eggs, not eggs) every day.

### School of Arts and Sciences Performs Varied Services for Numerous Groups

The thirteen departments of the A. & M. School of Arts and Sciences serve the students in the technical curricula of the college by providing instruction in the basic sciences and mathematics and in those phases of general and civic education essential to life in a cultured democratic society. More than a dozen years ago it became apparent that by proper selection and organization of work offered to meet the needs of such students, curricula leading to degrees in the liberal arts and in sciences could be provided also for students desiring such training in the college.

As a result, the School of Arts and Sciences is now serving large groups of students who are seeking general training for business; others who are preparing for the study of medicine or law; others who are specializing in geology,

biology, or the other sciences; and still others who are preparing to teach academic lines in high school or college. The number who look to A. & M. for such training has increased rapidly in recent years.

The outstanding enlargement of the service of the School of Arts and Sciences in the past year has been the expansion of the courses in business law offered by the Department of Economics. To make this possible, Dr. P. L. Gettys, a Texan who was for some years a professor of law in the University of Oklahoma and in Temple University, Philadelphia, was added to the staff of the department. His courses are of importance not only to the economics majors and students in agricultural administration, but to students of petroleum engineering and engineering administration.



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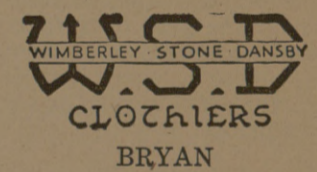
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