

### It Won't Work This Way . . .

Among the requisites for an aggressive, forward-looking community, there is one without which no town or city can progress. In fact, one might almost say that without this asset, even survival itself is well-nigh impossible. The quality to which we have reference is that of unison, of common co-operative effort toward achievements which will result in benefit to the community as a whole.

To the newcomer to College Station, the town's most glaring liability is its lack of this cardinal requirement for civic success. Factional and personal desires are permitted to enter into almost every aspect of the community's civic life—its business life, its city government, its social and religious activities, its schools, and even its relations with neighboring communities.

This impossible situation will be generally conceded to be the result of the town's widely spread geography, and this condition is in turn a logical development of the necessity of building the community around the college campus. In this respect, there lies a difference between this community and other comparable towns.

If we did not believe that this is a civic obstacle which can be overcome, we would be ready to admit failure and abandon any efforts toward promotion of College Station as a separate and independent community. As for the method of solving the problem, we believe that there can be only one answer. Certainly, very little can be done toward drawing the town together geographically. There will always be a North Gate, an East Gate, and a South Side.

College Station MUST rise above this disadvantage. There MUST be developed a community spirit which will transcend business or personal prejudice for any one section of the town. There MUST be a realization that projects which are a benefit to the city of College Station are directly or indirectly beneficial to every merchant and every resident within the city limits. And there MUST be a laying aside of grasping and selfish aims for the taking up of joint cooperation in the promotion of civic interests. Unless these ideals are adopted, the city will never progress, and where there is no advancement there can be only retrogression.

There are many local citizens who will profess to a great civic interest, but who will prove to have selfish ambitions when the chips are down. On the other hand there are many who are truly concerned with the city's advancement and unification, but who are disposed to allow themselves to be influenced or who lack the initiative or the courage to assert their opinions.

A civic organization is badly needed, one which will provide a means for unifying the cooperative spirit of the town, one which will serve as a common ground for thrashing out above the board the controversial problems of the community, and one in which any selfish or sectional aims may be clearly recognized and branded as detrimental to the city's welfare. Perhaps the nucleus of such an organization lies in the College Station Kiwanis Club or in the Business Men's League, although the latter, being composed exclusively of business men, is in its present form not sufficiently representative of the community as a whole.

Whatever form the organization takes, it should have the courage to inquire into and make public the proceedings of our city government and the operation of our school system, to set up an unbiased and unprejudiced city planning program, and to let the chips fall where they may!

### Concerning Advanced Contracts . . .

On February 4, 1945, advanced Military Science will again be offered to juniors and seniors of A. & M. It will be the first time that advanced students of this school have had military contracts since the classes of 1944 and 1945 were taken out of school in June of 1943. Most of the class of '44 went straight to Officer Candidate Schools, but the '45 group was sent to a basic training center before being assigned to various ASTP units throughout the nation. A majority of these men finally became officers, and made a fine record to compare favorably with the classes which came before them.

With the return of advanced "bull text" will come a group of juniors and seniors that will not only be larger in numbers but should also have a more rounded education and different outlook on life. Further, the draft boards will no longer be able to interfere with a man's work if he is making a satisfactory record, which adds up to older men in the Corps.

Because A. & M. is a military school, the renewal of contracts will aid materially in the return of the school to normal times. It may be the spark which this college has needed for quite some time.

### Aggie Facts . . .

It is estimated that almost 300,000 visitors annually come to the campus, exclusive of football crowds. The functions bringing visitors, in addition to visits of parents, girl friends, etc., include cattle auctions, horse show, rodeo, short courses, etc.

A. & M. can provide dormitory housing for more than 5600 men and the A. & M. mess system is the largest seated-table style feeding in the country.

## BACKWASH

Backwash: "An agitation resulting from some action or occurrence."—Webster.

By The Collaborators  
We See By The Papers . . .

The Megaphone, of Southwestern University, had some little something about the Thanksgiving day game concerning whom the staff was for, and throwing few juvenile cracks here and there about the status of this school, as compared with T. u. We hear through several channels that they could do with looking around the Southwestern campus, if they wanted to have something to criticize.

The Baylor Lariat, in an editorial on the report of the Baylor honor council, stated "So here we are—99 44-100 percent pure—even better than 98 percent." Could that be a crack about the Aggies' slang, "two-percenters"? If so, we wonder just where they are.

The Daily Texan, in printing an ACP release, threw a jibe our way concerning leading "cheers" at athletic contests, saying: ". . . There are two important things wrong with cheerleading and organized cheering in general. In the first place, people can't become enthusiastic and cheer just because they are told or asked to do so. Cheerleading creates a synthetic atmosphere and enthusiasm. . . . second point against organized cheering . . . (is) the lack of courtesy inherent in the idea of rooting against the visitors . . ." To all of which, we have only this to add, "Oh yeah???"

Why aren't the Seniors turning in their Favorite and Vanity Fair pictures? We hear the editor of the Longhorn has been pleading for two or three weeks now, and still very few pictures are in. It is viciously rumored that these two

sections will be deleted if some more pictures are not turned in p.d.q. What's the matter with the Seniors, or is it their women, or lack of same?

That little flurry of snow, sleet or whatever it was, the other day caught several people unaware, namely a couple of freshmen. This chit-chat was overheard, "Say, Fish Blank, what do you think of all this white stuff?" Fish Blank replied, in all good faith, I don't know, but I cogitate that they're carrying this Super Suds business too far! Ah, well, live and learn . . .

Head yell leader Martin Vick got a letter from his girl, Sue, the other day in which she offered to stand half the cost of the Christmas present he was going to buy her.

### SCIENCE

Before I heard the Doctors tell The danger of a kiss, I had considered kissing you; The nearest thing to bliss; Now that I know biology, I sit and sigh and moan; Six million mad bacteria— And I thought we were alone.

Fish: "I was dreaming last night that I died and when I got to Heaven, St. Peter gave me some chalk and ordered me to climb a long ladder, writing one of my sins on each rung."

Dewdrop: "Yeah, go on."

Fish: "Well, I gets up to about rung 4,999 when somebody stepped on my fingers, so I yelled and looked up."

Dewdrop: "Well, who was it?"

Fish: "You, coming down for more chalk."

### Good Neighbors: Costa Rica

## Columbus' "Rich Shore" Still Holds Vast Undeveloped Mineral Wealth

By Ruben R. Caro-Costas

Costa Rica, meaning "Rich Shore", was the name bestowed by Christopher Columbus when he discovered gold upon first setting foot upon the eastern shores of that Central American republic. The name still holds significance, for the country is still rich in mineral resources, with deposits of gold, manganese, sulphur, copper, and silver still lying in wait for the developing touch of man.

The economy of Costa Rica is now, however, a basically agricultural one. Coffee is the chief money crop, with most of the coffee plantations under the operation and ownership of native Costa Ricans. Bananas, the second product in importance, are on the other hand grown mostly under foreign enterprise, while cacao is a third important export. Maize, sugar cane, tobacco, rice and other vegetables are also grown, while forest products such as cedar and balsa account for much of the country's livelihood.

### Forests Defy Civilization

The larger portion of Costa Rica is an elevated tableland. The country is traversed by two mountain ranges having a wide plateau between them. The lowlands are narrow on the western Pacific shore, and broader on the Caribbean coast on the northeast. The remaining area of Costa Rica is

covered with virgin forests where civilization has been unable to penetrate the density of the vegetation.

The climate is predominantly healthful, but varies according to altitudes. On the coasts the high temperature makes life rather uncomfortable, while the moderate climate of the uplands is offset by the constant discomfort of the winds which blow during the dry season of December until May.

Constitution Dates to 1871  
Costa Rica is governed by its Constitution of 1871, one of the oldest in Spanish America. Before

becoming totally independent in 1830, it was a member of the Central American Federation, withdrawing because of the frequent internal disputes among the federation members.

The country's population of 623,000 is almost entirely white, the majority of the people being of Spanish and other European descent. A small percentage is made up of negroes imported from Jamaica to work on the banana plantations.

San Jose, the capital, has a population of approximately 76,000 and is a colorful and gay city where the new ideas of civilization blend in contrast with the older methods of life.

## The Battalion

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## BETWEEN THE BOOK-ENDS

By Edna B. Woods  
(Readers' Adviser for the College Library)

### RICKSHAW BOY

By Lau Shaw

"I pledge that while I breathe I won't desert my pen and the honesty of it," were the words of Lau Shaw at the twentieth anniversary celebration of his literary career. Lau Shaw is regarded as one of the pioneers in modern Chinese novel-writing. RICKSHAW BOY a recent translation of his Chinese story, "Camel Happy Boy" is perfect evidence of the honesty of Mr. Lau Shaw's pen and of the importance of his literary career. RICKSHAW BOY is an excellent story, which incorporates the life, customs, thoughts, and miseries of modern China against a background of fascinating realism.

RICKSHAW BOY is a story of the Chinese. If there were white people in Peking when the story takes place, they aren't to be found in this book. Happy Boy, an orphan from the country, comes to Peking at eighteen. Big, slow, rather dumb, but ethical in the manner of the great Chinese philosophers, Happy Boy believed that right actions produced good results. His struggle in the city with practically every imaginable evil—poverty, social injustice, hunger, perversion—is a struggle for mere survival. It is only Happy Boy's character that makes survival possible.

Happy Boy's one ambition is to own a rickshaw. If he accomplishes this feat, his profession will become one of nobility, for he will be raised above the level of the boys who rent rickshaws from Fourth Master Lin at Human Harmony shed. To own a rickshaw, he must have a hundred dollars; for that he saves year after year, a dollar at a time. The loss of the rickshaw is almost

unbearable tragedy, but the misfortunes of Happy Boy have only begun. Fourth Master Lin's hideous daughter, Tiger Woman, tries to capture Happy Boy and is successful in disrupting his personal life irreparably. In the interim he loses the girl who loves him, Little Lucky One, only to find her later, ill, and at the point of death. But the spirit of Happy Boy which has

made him a civilized man is indomitable. Reading RICKSHAW BOY is like hearing a good story told. The story itself is impressive; the background of China and modern Chinese life is interesting; the style is easy and lucid. Happy Boy is an unforgettable character and his story is a revealing introduction to contemporary China.

## Tales from Tessieland

Hello Aggies;

One more week and we'll be headed home for those Christmas holidays. Previously, TSCW students have gone home from the College with troublesome minds and a sense of unrest, as have College students everywhere. But this year it's different. The Christmas spirit is predominantly peaceful and overwhelming this year because it's peace at last.

Everywhere on the campus, in the dorm rooms, class rooms, and at activities, that intangible thing known as spirit in the true sense and peace of mind can be seen looming over students at TSCW. We feel that this Christmas we have something to hang on to, something to be thankful for more than ever before, and we find that our College aim means more to us. We on the TSCW campus have grown up, and Christmas is making us realize it. Maybe it's just at Christmas and Thanksgiving we think about it more, but at any rate, this is the year for us at TSCW as well as College students over the nation to define their purpose.

Christmas at TSCW has always meant looking forward to special parties, dinners, pageants, caroling in the rotunda of the Ad Building, worship at vespers and in the Little Chapel, but even more so now, we realize this extra meaning of Christmas. Strains of "White Christmas" and "Silent Night" may be heard as Tessies stroll up and down the hill, beginning next week the Chapel bells will ring

in the evening until the holidays. At the Concert of Rubenstein last week a long line was formed from the Ad Building all the way to the Auditorium waiting for the concert to begin, and as the line moved forward, students sang carols.

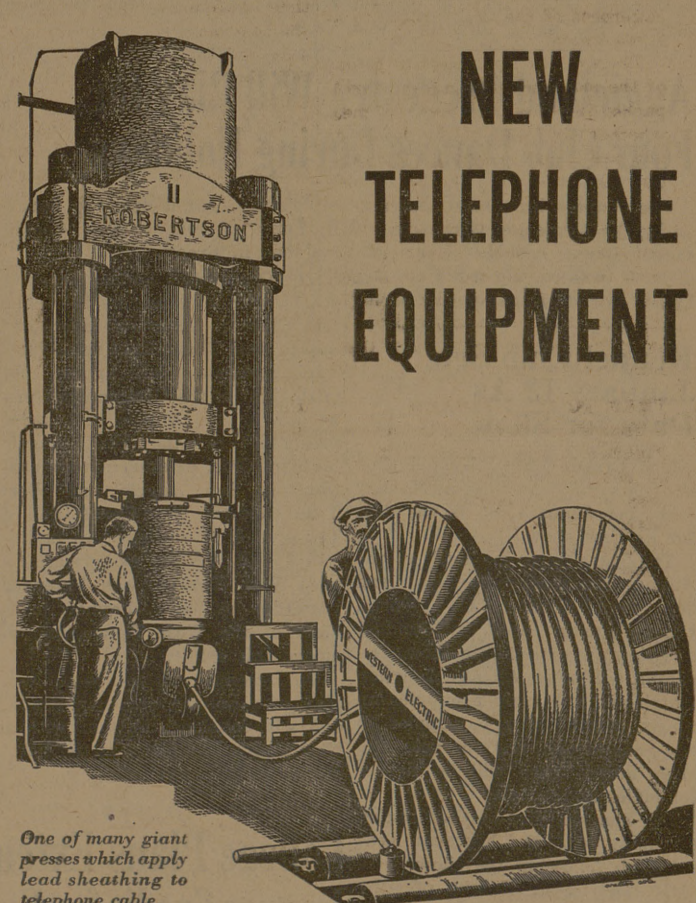
This is our serious side. All the year we laugh and joke and "gripe," but at Pre-Christmas festivities on the campus before we leave for the holidays, the real meaning of why we came to TSCW is defined. This meaning is found in the traditions and little things we participate in to make a joyous and wonderful holiday season for each of us.

This is our Christmas spirit this year. This is what Christmas means to us on the TSCW campus now, and one in which to have fun. This will be a Christmas of all Christmases, and we've already begun to realize it. Maybe it's just at Christmas and Thanksgiving we think about it more, but at any rate, this is the year for us at TSCW as well as College students over the nation to define their purpose.

By this time you must think it's around Christmas time. So do we, and believe me, we are looking forward to it.

Sue Jones,  
TSCW correspondent.

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