

# Open Letter to College Station Citizens

In a recent article in *The Battalion*, "The City Beat", there seems to be some misunderstanding as to the objectives and purposes of the Citizens Committee for Better Roads, who desire an opportunity for all Citizens of College Station to vote on a road bond.

It is not the intention of this group to block or hinder the present plan of the city as stated in "The City Beat", but it desires to accelerate and augment the plan.

We do not oppose the City Council's present plan as stated, but desire to help, if possible, make their plan workable by assuring the city ample funds to do the work required to give us usable roads at the earliest possible time.

A workable plan for a bond issue was presented to the City Council in November, 1957, by Ernest Brown, vice president of Moroney, Beissner Co., Houston, Tex. The City Council rejected this plan even though it was a workable plan then and now.

**Can Then Plan**  
We, as a group, have been unable to find any bonding attorneys who advised the City Council such a plan could not be voted (much less borne) by our citizens. Mr. Brown advised the committee he encouraged the city to adopt the bond issue, and emphatically stated he did not advise the council against it.

"The City Beat" implied the Citizens Committee wanted a bond that would do all streets. It is not the desire of this Committee to do all the streets at one time, but to do all the main thoroughfares, as designated by competent engineers, and as many feeder or secondary streets as possible; all of this working in conjunction with the city's pay-as-you-go plan.

The main thoroughfares are to be paid for in the same manner as the present "pay as you go" plan. (We assure money to do all the thoroughfares, plus enough to do many of the secondary or feeder streets.)

**Streets Make City.**  
The Citizens Committee realizes and knows that if we are to have streets that are usable and a city in which we can be proud, we, the citizens, must pay for it. At the same time we feel a great portion, if not all of the increase in taxes, could easily be paid by the savings on automobile maintenance and increased property evaluation.

It is true a portion of the city's credit will be tied up, but for what purpose could we tie it up but to get good and usable streets that will increase the value of our homes and property?

The city's borrowing power will increase as our city grows, but we are of the opinion that the growth of our city will be vitally affected unless something is done about our roads as quickly as possible.

It was stated the increases in taxes will be slight and the repair program extended over approximately a six-year period.

We have been advised that it will be impossible to do more than half of our streets on the pay as you go program over this six-year period.

"The City Beat" pointed out that the \$350,000 proposed out of the bond issue would do "roughly one third of what would be needed to complete the job."

**11 Years to Pay**  
If the above statement is correct it would take 11 years to complete our street program on the "pay as you go plan." This is excluding any possibility of increased cost of construction. Since World War II construction costs have increased 47 per cent each year.

Under the city's present plan, for every \$45,000 furnished by the city, the property owners must put up \$90,000 which would give the city \$135,000 per year for streets (provided, of course, you go from house to house and get your neighbors to put their share). Although the pay as you go program is based on one-third participation by the city and two-thirds by the property owners, we have been advised the city in addition to their middle third must do all intersections, concrete intersection gutters, excavations, engineering on all streets, plus curb and gutter along all parks, city property and property adjoining the college.

"The City Beat" stated, "if the bond election was called, there would be a big delay before any actual work could be done."

**No Delay Meant**  
It is not the intention of the Citizens Committee to cause any delay whatsoever in any work that can be started at this time by the city. In fact we encourage the city to instigate any feasible improvements immediately on their "pay as you go plan," and then should a bond be voted and passed by the citizens, work it into the present program.

The pressing need for money to pay for the piping of water from the proposed Navasota River reservoir as well as the need of storage facilities for the water was discussed in "The City Beat."

The committee has been informed by the Brazos River Authority and State Water Board that if such a dam is built on the Navasota River (in at least five years) the Cities of Bryan and College Station have been assured that an adequate amount of water will be set aside for their use. However, the City of College Station will not be required to put up any money until such time as it actually needs the water which will probably be 10 to 20 years.

**Three Alternatives**  
Furthermore we have been assured that at that time there will be three possible alternatives that could be used: (1) The city can borrow the money from the Fed-

eral Government at 2 1/2 per cent to be repaid over a 50-year period without a bond issue; (2) the Brazos River Authority will pay all the city's share of the cost and sell the water back to the city without the city putting up any money, and (3) at the time the city needs the water it could vote a bond issue and pay its pro-rate share.

It is not the intention of the Citizens Committee to intimidate, harass or embarrass anyone. We have a burning desire to see our city grow, prosper, and be a town in which we can be proud.

We are fully aware of the tremendous task that has and will face our mayor and City Council and are most appreciative of the many tireless, thankless hours they have devoted to the job.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Citizens Committee for Better Roads

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"By action of the Executive Committee of the Academic Council, all undergraduate classes will be dismissed on Monday, November 24. This applies only to undergraduate classes. It is not a holiday for College employees and it is not intended that graduate classes be dismissed."  
Very truly yours,  
J. B. Pavey  
Dean of the College

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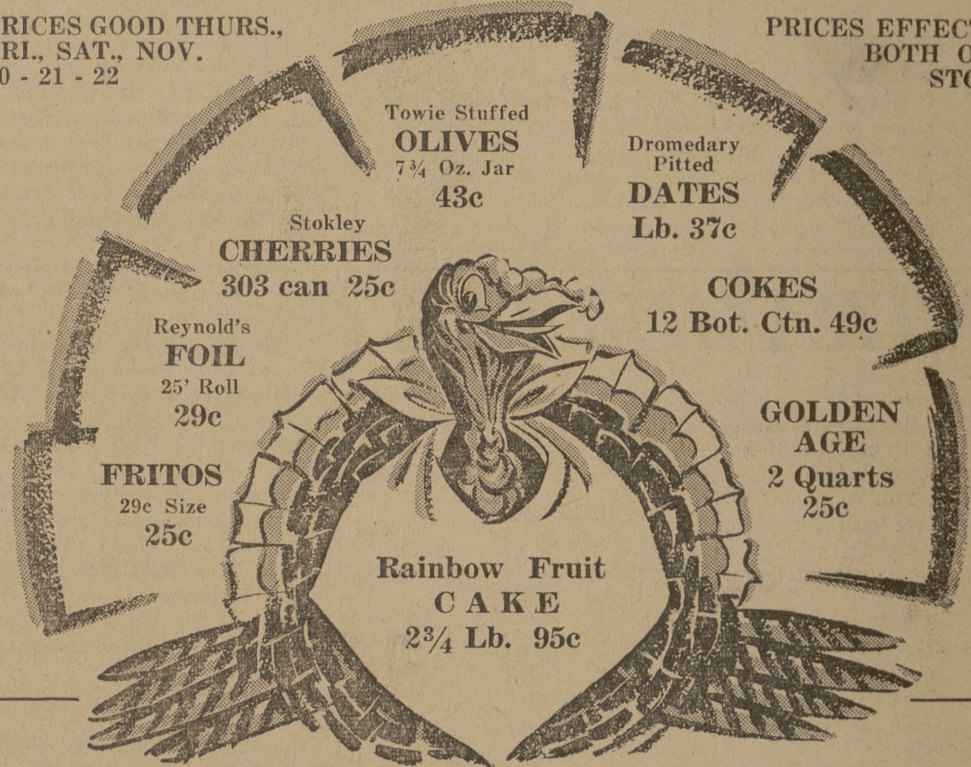
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