

Rowan Heads Safety Study

It's that time of the year again when a number of graduating seniors in the College of Agriculture waste about eight hours of their time. It is time for Graduate Records Exams.

These Exams may have a purpose, but for agriculture students, I can see hardly any purpose for them, especially the advanced tests.

There is, at the most, maybe two or three topics that relate anywhere near to agriculture. The rest are for engineering students, or students in arts and sciences. GRE are required, so why aren't tests administered which are related somewhat to the student's field of study?

In a recent address, Dr. R. C. Potts, assistant dean of agriculture, pointed out some of the demands for agricultural graduates. He said many people think of agriculture from the production standpoint only and can't seem to grasp a true picture of total agriculture. In doing this they don't realize only 10 to 15 per cent of the students in the College of Agriculture return to production.

He listed a number of categories in which students are needed. Some are:

Research — About 9,000 research scientists are in agricultural experiment stations, 6,000 with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and another 8,500 in industry.

Education — The demand is increasing tremendously for high school biology teachers and vocational agriculture teachers. Not only do high schools need more teachers, but junior colleges also want to hire agriculture graduates. He says, "Our own university cannot meet the demand for extension workers in Texas."

Industry — Agriculture students with specialized knowledge are in demand by many industries ranging from oil companies to landscape concerns.

Business — Banking, credit, insurance, land appraisal, marketing, public utilities, sales and cooperatives are only a few such areas.

Communications — Openings are available with colleges, extension services, experiment stations, farm publications, advertising agencies, radio and TV stations and newspapers.

Conservation and Recreation — Federal, state and local agencies are becoming more and more aware of demands for such programs.

A prominent farm magazine editor has brought up the idea of farming in the Astrodome. His thinking sounds fine, but I wonder how Astrodome owners would take to the idea.

Sam Whitlow, Texas editor of Farmer-Stockman, says if a person could farm inside the dome results would be astounding. With year-round weather control and irrigation plus fertilization crops could be grown in fantastic amounts.

He says laugh if you like, but a huge building along the lines of the Astrodome (without the ornate and costly features and high ceiling) might well be used to house a system of crop production 365 days a year. The farmer could produce two crops of cotton or two crops of wheat a year—and have several crops of vegetables.

Man could control the humidity of the building, water when the crops needed it, change temperatures when desirable and probably not be worried with insects.

What do I think? Well, I've seen too many things change in agriculture to say it won't be done.

One of the latest innovations to save the farmer (or his son) a lot of work is a "Rock Picker." Yes, I said a rock picker. An Amarillo based firm supplies the ingenious machines manufactured in North Dakota.

The "Rock Picker" is pulled behind any two to five plow tractor and scoops rocks up with a fork, then dumps them into a hopper. When the hopper is full, the tractor operator drives to a selected spot and dumps the load.

And with the advances in crossbreeding, the Aggie who stumbled onto a pile of milk bottles in the pasture and though he had found a cow's nest, might not be crazy after all.

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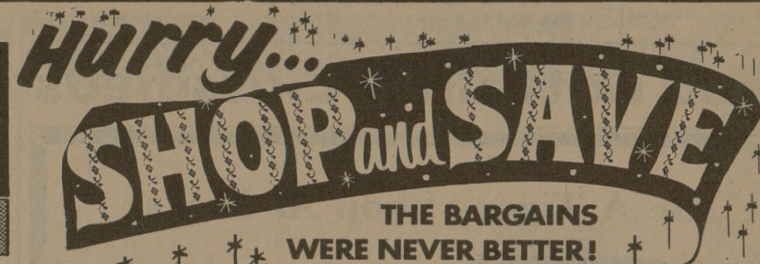
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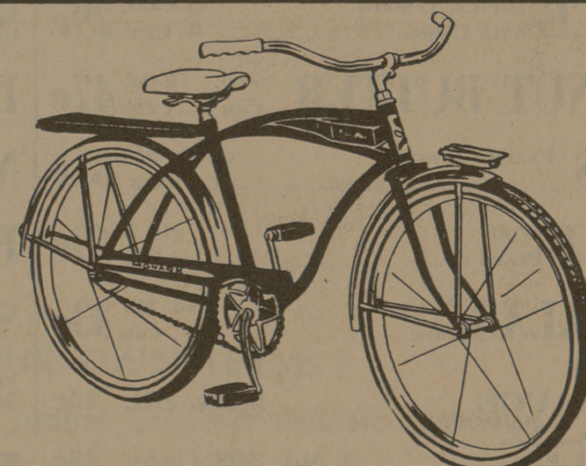
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