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Boarders Offer Living Solution

By MIKE KOLAR

NOW IS THE TIME of the semester when many students realize the problems with their current housing facilities and begin to look into a new type of living for the spring. Many find off-campus living unappealing or impractical and dormitory living has its drawbacks.

Twenty-two A&M students have found a new type of living which seems to be synonymous with the

old traditions of college housing. Boarding houses, that is houses operated by someone who provides room and board to people, seem to be re-appearing.

W. B. Lancaster a Fiscal Department employe, owns and operates one for the 22 TAMU students at 303 Dexter Drive. His boarding house is comprised of four houses on Dexter and is run by his wife, children and himself.

THE 19 GIRLS AND THREE BOYS at the boarding house have all their services provided by the Lancasters. They pay just one payment which covers the entire semester.

Images of a boarding house may range from one with a fraternity type atmosphere to one in which the owner keeps the students in chains at night. Bobby Jones, a senior from Marietta,

tells why this really isn't the case at the Lancasters.

"We're like part of the family, but not really. The Lancasters don't tell us what to do but we do have some rules they have set up. The rules aren't really strict and the Lancasters don't force anything upon us. Mostly, we just go by the respect that we've gained for them," Jones said.

MR. AND MRS. LANCASTER are known as "Ma and Pa" to the students who live there and the students who know them well. They have three children: Nancy, a senior at A&M Consolidated; Boofie, an eighth grader there; and Laura, an A&M junior majoring in psychology.

Mrs. Lancaster uses her degree in psychology to good advantage with the students living there. She counsels and helps her boarders.

There are, however, certain drawbacks to living there. Ted Smith, a senior in petroleum engineering, tells of his particular problem.

"It's bad here because of the girls. Every time someone has a flat or engine trouble with their car, it's always us guys who have to fix it," he said. "In some other things, they're kind of dumb. Take football tickets for example. They can't even see how they work."

TED SMITH'S PROBLEM may be unique for a male student at A&M, but the girls living at the Lancasters also have some unusual problems. PTs, or peeping toms, are not an uncommon sight there. Girls living in the houses in back of the Lancaster home have had many of these night visitors. There haven't been as many this semester and Smith offered a possible reason. "There aren't any nice looking girls living there any more."

Ted, of course, is wrong. He's still trying to get even for all the flat tires.

"THE FOOD IS JUST GREAT," Jones said. "We can go into the kitchen anytime for a snack. We have all our utilities paid for, and really nothing to worry about for the whole semester."

"Possibly the only disadvantages to living here are a lack of privacy and a parking problem," Smith said.

"We have good maid service and the location is close enough to school to allow us to walk," Jones said. "We do a lot of things together that are fun. During Christmas, we go to the Galleria and ice skate. We have several parties during the year which are fun. We can't throw a regular type of party as do many other students living in apartments, but we get by. We even formed our own intramural team, the Dexter Jets."

Cindy King summarized the feelings of the boarders when she said, "If I had to do it over, I'd still live here."

Sly, Honest Hit and Run

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) —The Berea Rotary Club newsletter said a note was left under an auto windshield that read: "I have just run into your car. People have seen me and are watching me write this. They think I am leaving my name and address. They are wrong."



PASSING OF THE TORCH by Walton residents Sam Morrison to Delroy Collins began the last leg of the annual bonfire marathon run from Austin. Beginning at 4:30 a. m. Monday, the 20-man team left the Austin city limits with a lit torch as the winds continued, the torch went out but the holder was run the total 92 miles in about 11 hours. (Photo by Kathy Curtis)

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