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Texas Technological College, Lubbock, Texas

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The miracle and majesty of the great state of Texas will always hold for youth the abundant promise of unbounded opportunity. The beginnings and growth of the new College of Technology at Lubbock picture with remarkable accuracy the faith in education which parallels all public development in Texas. Over the archway leading into the courtyard of the academic group are engraved the words of Mirabeau B. Lamar, "Cultivated mind is the guardian genius of democracy."

That one may feel the modern spirit of Texas, it is only necessary to recount without elaboration the events in the brief history of this new State University of Texas.

In the year 1921, by act of the State Legislature, there was created a third state educational foundation of collegiate and university intention. It
was to be located in the town of Lubbock in the extreme western, almost extreme northwestern, portion of the Panhandle section of the state. So situated, it was a full twenty-four hours' journey by through express train from the capital of the state and from each of the other two state universities, Texas University at Austin and Texas A. and M. College at Bryan. Its avowed purpose was that of a university to be well established in its college departments and in its agricultural department, but with primary emphasis upon the School of Technology. This latter function was first interpreted by the establishment of the most modern and most completely equipped textile school in the entire South.

With a site of four square miles immediately adjacent to the town of Lubbock and with an initial appropriation of one million dollars for buildings, the problem of its building was undertaken. Dr. P. W. Horn, former President of Southwestern University, was selected as President by a board consisting of capable and far-seeing citizens selected from the leaders of industry, banking and agriculture in the state. With the vision of this board, the general plan was prepared for a college which would ultimately function smoothly and well when its student body should number 5,000. That was the Texas vision: from the bare plains partly covered with fields of cotton in 1924, to a university of many complete and specialized buildings caring for a great student body of 5,000 in 1950. To such an end the general plan was prepared in the spring of 1924. In the fall of
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1921, the Administration Building, the Textile Engineering Building, the Power Plant, the Building of Home and Family Arts, and the list of the agricultural buildings were begun; each in turn a part, but only a small part, of a greater and more complete building definitely planned for each of these specific purposes.

In September, 1925, the college opened to a Freshman class numbering 360. All records of the beginning of a new university were completely shattered. In the three years of its history the Texas Technological College has made positive the accurate vision of its founders. Its enrollment now numbers in excess of 2,900 students in regular session.

The central unit of an Engineering Building has just been completed. The Laboratory of Chemistry is approaching completion. The Library is about to be started. The Academic Court is to be completed in 1929. Each building is planned as the ultimate building and built in part only. Each is of permanent and thorough design and construction. Each is rich in significant detail and ornament. Each is part of an ultimate panorama of beauty in which every building shall exist as part of the complete scheme rather than as a separate and distinct unit.

The plan is entirely in the spirit of the University. Its campus, a mile in width and more than a half a mile in depth, opens with its main axis the continuation of a 4-mile boulevard 200 feet in width leading directly from the Court House Square in the city of Lubbock to the future Commencement Hall of the College. Lubbock, a town of 3,800 people in 1920, is a city of 21,600 people today, and has public buildings comparable with those of an older city of twice that population.

The great Court before the Administration Building is 650 feet square; the Court of Technology, terminating at the Textile School and ultimately flanked with engineering buildings on both sides, is 600 feet long by 360 feet wide; the Court of Honor at the head of the main axis consists of the flanking buildings of Chemistry on the left and Physics on the right, with the Commencement Hall at the center. This Hall will be the Hall of Fame for the state of Texas, if the wisdom of the founders of the College is fulfilled.

The entire college is in architecture reflecting the Spanish history of the earlier days of Texas. The climate and physical environment of Lubbock are quite similar to those of central Spain. It is our thought that the Commencement Hall shall be a glorified Alamo; the center and heart of a modern drama of Texas in which in the fine spirit of manhood written at the historic Alamo, the future youth of the great west Texas where true manhood and independence reign supreme, shall go forth to a motto as of Lamar, “Cultivated mind—it is the only dictator that free men acknowledge and the only security that free men desire.”

The Robert A. Long Complete School, Longview, Washington

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The educational and building policy of combining all grades in a large centrally located unit to take the space of several small buildings with grade segregations has been adopted by a few new and rapidly growing cities. Longview, Wash., the Long-Hill Lumber Co’s four-year-old town in the Northwest, has joined the group of small cities employing this plan of centralization. The principal reason given by the Board of Education may be summed up in the following brief statement:

“The plan adopted enables Longview to offer enriched educational opportunities to a far greater number of children at a minimum cost. The educational curricula of both elementary and high schools call for gymnasiums, auditoriums, workshops, libraries and cafeterias. These special rooms are no longer educational accessories but just as essential as class-rooms. To provide several of these large units in a number of small schools becomes prohibitive as to costs. It is only by means of a centralized building policy that these newer educational facilities become financially possible.”

A connected three-building group located on a 20-acre site constitutes Longview’s initial centralized school plant. Pupils from the Kindergarten through the Senior High School will attend this school. The plant will also serve the community for assembly hall purposes, and as a recreational, vocational and health center. The Senior High School, the central and dominating unit of the group was completed June 1. It accommodates 1,200 students. This unit contains the large school and community auditorium, with seating capacity for 1,200. The two wing buildings will house the Junior and Elementary grades, with enrollments of 850 students in the Junior and 600 in the Elementary School.