Caravan will drive home problems of indigents

by BARRY KAPLAN
Thresher Editorial Staff

Moses led a caravan from Egypt to Palestine, the Crusades are a history of caravans, the civil rights movement is noted for caravans, and the movement to aid the farm workers of the lower Rio Grande Valley will have its caravan next weekend.

Two separate trains of cars and trucks, one leaving Austin, the other leaving Houston, will arrive in Corpus Christi on Saturday night. The next afternoon, Easter Sunday, people from all over the state will be able to view first-hand the physical conditions in which human beings must exist in the state that will be instrumental in putting a man on the moon.

At the same time, the feudal barons of the southern part of Texas will become aware that exploitation does not go unobserved. The mutual shock of recognition will benefit all concerned—the growers, because they will move up into the twentieth century; the caravanistas because they will see with their own eyes the unbelievable.

Travel is truly broadening, and the miles between the civilized parts of the state of Texas and Starr County will drive home the message that Texas apologists need:

If Texas is to be as great as the traditional “brags” say it is, there must be an almost total reform of some of the practices of the owners of a large part of the State’s agricultural economy.

The food and medical supplies delivered to the strikers will, of course, be the tangible goal of the caravan. But the educational value of the experience will be perhaps equally important to the future of the Mexican-American laborers of the Valley. This cause transcends partisan and factional political questions.

There are votes in the Valley, and there are future shapers of the policies of Texas. But above all, there are Texans in the Valley, Texans whose culture can add much to a state that ever admits the possibility of enrichment.

The mechanics of the caravan are quite simple:

Anyone at Rice who wishes to go to Rio Grande City should appear at the Huelga table in the RMC Friday and leave his name. Anyone with inquiries or doubts will be gratefully received. (Doubts might include the perpetual question of what happens to young ladies on such rough and ready outdoor excursions. All women on the caravan must stay in hotels or motels along the route, under lock and key.)

On Friday, March 24, at 7 pm, there will be a meeting of all caravanistas at the Religion Center of the University of Houston. At that time, the trucks will be loaded with foodstuffs and medicines to be delivered.

The assembly time Saturday morning will be 6:15 in the parking lot of the new University Center. The caravan will roll at 7 am, and will arrive in Corpus Christi that evening. The rest will be history.

VIVA LA HUELGA!

Next week: The Real Thing.