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The SFA . . .

# ECONOMIST

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Volume Four

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Number One

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ATTITUDES OF THE DEEP EAST TEXAS DELEGATES  
IN THE CONVENTION OF 1876 ----- J. E. Ericson

SURVEY OF NACOGDOCHES CONSUMER SHOPPING HABITS ----- Hanieth Flynt

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*THE CAPTIVE AND THE FREE* by Joyce Cary

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AND  
ECONOMICS

**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE COLLEGE**

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STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE COLLEGE

Nacogdoches, Texas

B. T. JONES, A. C. BUTLER, Editors

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SUBSCRIPTION BY REQUEST

ATTITUDES OF THE DEEP EAST TEXAS DELEGATES  
IN THE CONVENTION OF 1876

J. E. Ericson

Deep East Texas was represented in the Texas Constitutional Convention of 1875 by T. G. Allison, Panola County farmer; Bennett Blake, Nacogdoches County farmer; Joe P. Douglass, Cherokee County merchant, farmer, and minister; A. J. C. Dunham, Trinity County mechanic; Webster Flanagan, Rusk County lawyer; John L. Henry, Smith County lawyer; C. B. Kilgore, Gregg County lawyer; Lipscomb Norvell, Jasper County lawyer; D. A. Nunn, Houston County lawyer; W. N. Ramey, Shelby County farmer and teacher; John H. Reagan, Anderson County farmer and teacher; and W. W. Whitehead, Tyler County farmer and physician. They had been elected from the First, Second, Fifth, and Sixth State Senatorial Districts.

All of the East Texas delegates, except Webster Flanagan, were members of the Democratic Party; and five of them, Allison, Dunham, Ramey, Reagan, and Whitehead, were active members of the Texas State Grange. Seven had never held public office of any kind before being elected to the Convention; Douglass, Dunham, Kilgore, Norvell, Nunn, Ramey, and Whitehead. The only one who did not sign the finished constitution was A. J. C. Dunham.

The most influential member of the East Texas delegation was John Reagan of Palestine. He had already served as Justice of the Peace, County Judge, District Judge, State Representative, United States Congressman, Confederate Congressman, Secretary of the Treasury and Postmaster General of the Confederacy, and member of the Texas Constitutional Convention of 1861. Webster Flanagan of Rusk had served in the Texas House of Representatives, the Texas Senate, and the Constitutional Convention of 1868-1869. Bennett Blake of Nacogdoches had been Chief Justice of the County of Nacogdoches for many years and had been a member of the Texas House of Representa-

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tives. John Henry of Tyler had been a District Attorney and State Senator, and T. G. Allison of Fairplay had served in the Texas House of Representatives.

#### The Convention and Its Work

The East Texans were in substantial agreement concerning the purpose of the Convention and the duties of its members. As Reagan expressed it, for example, each delegate to the Convention should make every effort to represent the views of his constituency. He should not disclose or discuss his own views in the debates.<sup>1</sup> He attacked sharply those of his fellow delegates who assumed that the people were incapable of self-government, incapable of determining their own interests, and incapable of protecting their best interests. As delegates, he warned, they should not arrogantly assume that they were wiser than the future millions of Texans and therefore that they knew better for all time what should constitute the organic law of the state.<sup>2</sup>

John L. Henry of Tyler further admonished the delegates to exercise no more power than was necessary to carry out the object of the Convention, the framing of the Constitution. They had no right to usurp all the powers of government. They were simply a Convention to frame a Constitution, not a super Legislature for the State.<sup>3</sup>

William Ramey of Center, moreover, announced that the Convention must guard against a spirit of innovation and change. "I am satisfied," he remarked, "that all sorts of changes and new fangled theories will be proposed for our adoption. . . . The nearer we stick to the land marks, however, the better for our labors."<sup>4</sup> He, thus, urged the delegates to take up the Constitution of 1845, consider and then adopt it, in the main, with such amendments as would be necessary to make it meet the demands of the changed conditions since ante-bellum days.

#### Retrenchment in Government

The East Texas delegation was generally in accord with the dominant opinion of the day which demanded strict economy in government. As John Reagan expressed it,

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1. S. S. McKay, comp., *DEBATES IN THE TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION of 1875* (Austin, 1930), 332.

2. *Ibid.*, 192.

3. *Ibid.*, 75-76-

4. *Ibid.*, 43-44.

"Reduction in the general expenses of government was expected by the people."<sup>5</sup> John Henry, however, warned that efficiency should be consulted before cheapness. A cheap but inefficient government, he thought, would be blighting to the public interest.<sup>6</sup>

The East Texans were in agreement, therefore, with the decision of the Convention to replace annual sessions of the Legislature with biennial sessions, to reduce the mileage and *per diem* of members of the Legislature, to reduce the annual salaries of judicial, executive, and administrative officers,<sup>7</sup> and to limit the state indebtedness to \$200,000 in the aggregate. Two of them, however, advocated the expenditure of enough money to preserve *verbatim* the debates of the Convention. Early Reagan pleaded:

If expenditures were justified for any purpose other than the mere making of the Constitution, it was for that which furnished to the people of the whole country the reasons which influenced their action, and which suggested the various provisions of the Constitution, and would aid their interpretation of the constitution when it was made.<sup>8</sup>

D. A. Nunn echoed this plea and emphasized that preservation of the debates was not in the interest of the legal profession alone but in consideration of the people whose advocates they were in the courts.<sup>9</sup> The majority of the delegates, unfortunately, chose not to heed their plea, primarily because a clerk to make such a record could not be secured for less than ten dollars per day.<sup>10</sup>

#### Legislative Apportionment

When the Convention began debate on the question of apportioning seats in the Legislature, Reagan reminded the delegates that the situation in the eastern counties of Texas was peculiar. In that section there were twenty or more counties in which it must be evident to all delegates that a large portion of their countrymen were incapable of self-government. He referred, of course, to the newly emancipated Negro population in those counties. The Constitutional Convention of 1868-1869, he charged, had gerryman-

5. *Ibid.*, 6, 15.

6. *Ibid.*, 421.

7. Reagan, however, opposed the reduction of Judges' salaries; and Henry championed the addition to county judges to the existing district judges. DEBATES, 422, 429.

8. Debates, 25.

9. *Ibid.*, 41.

10. Ten dollars per day would have cost the taxpayers only \$680 for a verbatim record of the debates.

dered legislative districts in East Texas so that candidates of the Republican party were favored. If the Convention of 1875 did not rectify this situation and come to the assistance of the white Democrats in those counties, they would be compelled to remove with their families or be tempted to coalesce with the Radical Republicans.<sup>11</sup> Reagans' warning was apparently heeded for the Convention gerrymandered the initial districts so as to return East Texas to the control of the Democratic Party.

#### Amending the Constitution

J. L. Henry, for the Committee on the Legislative Department, recommended that constitutional amendments be proposed by a two-thirds vote of each house of the Legislature and be approved by a vote of the people, the method ultimately adopted. T. G. Allison, however, favored an amending process which would involve proposal by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature, approval by a vote of the majority of the qualified electors voting, and subsequent approval by a majority vote of the next Legislature.<sup>12</sup>

Both John Reagan and D. A. Nunn urged strongly the inclusion of a provision permitting the calling of a convention to revise or amend the Constitution. Reagan averred that it was "the inalienable right of the people to meet in assembly or convention whenever they so desired."<sup>13</sup> It is unfortunate that a majority of the delegates could not be convinced on this point.

#### Railroad Provisions

The Convention adopted provisions placing some restrictions upon the creation and activity of railroads in Texas. Among the East Texas delegates, Reagan, Flanagan, and Kilgore strongly opposed their adoption. Reagan contended that the true policy of Texas ought to be the encouragement of railroad construction to help develop the material resources of the State, to furnish a better means of travel and transportation, and to increase the value of frontier lands. He, therefore, favored land subsidies for the construction of Texas railroads, urging: "It is a wise disposition of the public domain to encourage such companies as like to invest their capital in Texas by giving them alternate

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11. *Debates*, 97-98.

12. *Ibid.*, 135.

13. *Ibid.*, 141.

sections [along their routes], they being charged with the cost of surveying and all attendant expenses." <sup>14</sup>

The land subsidy system, he continued, had developed the eastern, northern, and middle sections of the State. The western section ought not to be deprived of similar advantages. It had been the policy of the State since 1854, and he was opposed to putting back the hand on the dial of time. He hoped to see the same energy and enterprise characterize the people of Texas in the future as in the past. The delegates subsequently voted to continue the land subsidy system with some minor alterations.

#### Poll Tax and Property Tax

The delegates from Deep East Texas heartily endorsed the poll tax. John Reagan, for the Committee on Suffrage, reported on October 6 that his committee recommended the adoption of a poll tax. It was not intended to restrict suffrage on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. It would be, he insisted, in the nature of a compact between the State and the citizen by which the latter contributed to the government that protected him. A refusal to contribute, he argued, ought to disqualify the citizen from participating in the process of government. Such a provision, he assured the delegates, would operate no more against Negroes than whites. He concluded:

It is the floating, irresponsible population that controls at elections, and, though they contribute nothing to the support of the Government, they claim the right of administering it through the election of its officers.<sup>15</sup>

The Convention agreed on the necessity for a poll tax, but it was not made a qualification for voting until 1902.

Although the East Texans were not opposed to state property taxes, they were opposed to the collection of such levies in the counties where the property was located. J. L. Henry protested that instead of throwing obstacles in the path of the collection of taxes, the Convention ought to facilitate their collection by permitting owners to pay their taxes in the county of their residence.<sup>16</sup>

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14. *Ibid.*, 268.

15. *Ibid.*, 169.

16. *Ibid.*, 300.



John Reagan also spoke out in opposition. Non-residents, he claimed, would be compelled to travel to the counties where their property was located, employ an agent, or entrust their money in letters to the manipulation of the postmasters; because money could not be sent by postoffice order in those days. People had been invited to the State, they had bought or were given land on the frontier, but they could not live there. They had, therefore, purchased lands in the populous counties, waiting until they could go to their frontier lands in safety. They were being unduly inconvenienced. It was beginning to look as if it were almost a crime to own land in a county where a person did not reside.<sup>17</sup> The convention adopted a provision requiring payment in the county where the property was located, but it permitted the Legislature by a two-thirds vote to authorize non-resident landowners to make payment to the Comptroller of Public Accounts.

#### Public Education

The East Texans agreed that a reinauguration of the public school system of 1845 would not be acceptable. They admitted that some public hostility to free public education had developed during the Reconstruction Period, but it was hostility, according to D. A. Nunn, to extravagance and unnecessary offices, rather than to the system itself.<sup>18</sup> As T. G. Allison expressed it: "As far as I know my constituents, they will oppose any increase in taxation for free public schools. . . . The people are opposed to any magnificent school system."<sup>19</sup> The East Texans, however, as a group favored setting aside public lands for public schools, general property taxes pledged for the support of public schools, or dedication of a definite portion of the general revenue for public schools. Their views were realized only in part in the Constitution of 1876.

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17. *Ibid.*, 313.

18. *Ibid.*, 226; 395.

19. *Ibid.*, 213.

## SURVEY OF NACOGDOCHES CONSUMER SHOPPING HABITS

Hanieth Flynt

SUBMITTED TO MR. B. T. JONES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BUSINESS REPORTS COURSE B. A. 447  
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE COLLEGE

### I. THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE REPORT

#### A. The "Go Ahead" by Mr. Ben Ritterskamp

By oral authorization of Mr. Ben Ritterskamp, Chairman of the Nacogdoches Chamber of Commerce, Mrs. Hanieth Flynt, Staff Member, Chamber of Commerce, Nacogdoches, presents on August 17, 1959 the findings, analysis, and recommendations based on the survey of retail shopping habits in the city of Nacogdoches.

#### B. The Objective of the Survey

The primary purpose of this survey is to collect data that will be useful to retail merchants in determining what they need to do to encourage shoppers in the Nacogdoches area to do their buying in the city.

Although the merchant would be loath to tell his customer, he is ultimately interested in the survival of his business. He may have to use undercover methods to insure this survival, but he must remember that profits and survival come ultimately through service.

At the same time the merchant must keep foremost in his mind the customer and the service and merchandise that the customer requires or demands. This service that the customer wants is not an annual or semi-annual affair, but it is that day-to-day, face-to-face association with those who patronize the business establishment. The shopper wants more than just his dollar's worth of merchandise from the merchant; he wants friendliness, efficiency, courtesy, and all those things that help to satisfy the "economic, social, and psychological wants."<sup>1</sup>

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1. Keith Davis, *Human Relations in Business*, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1957, p. 8.

### C. Factors Contributing to the Analysis

The writer is grateful to Mrs. Gean Hale, Mrs. Ben Ritterskamp, and Mrs. O. D. Tucker for knocking on doors to collect information from Nacogdoches shoppers so that this report can be presented to the Retail Merchants Association. Appreciation is also extended to Dr. A. C. Butler, Stephen F. Austin State College, and his statistics laboratory for tabulating the answers to the twenty-three questions asked in the questionnaire. Thanks go to Mr. Keith Davis for ideas gleaned from *Human Relations in Business*. Without the assistance of these who are concerned about the relations between merchants and customers, the writer could not have completed this report.

### D. Keyhole View of the Report

People get first consideration in this report--how long they have lived here, how many members per family, and why they live here. If retail merchants expect to serve effectively, they must know their customers. Then a look is taken at the present provisions (commodities and services) that Nacogdoches is providing for its shoppers. Retail merchants must seek to satisfy the desires of the customers. To meet those requirements, merchants must know what the customers require. The report gives some idea about some of the things that Nacogdoches shoppers want. Merchants cannot sit on a pedestal and expect the customers to flow in without their making any special effort to bring them in. Enterprising merchants will sell what consumers want and they will make consumers want what they have to sell.

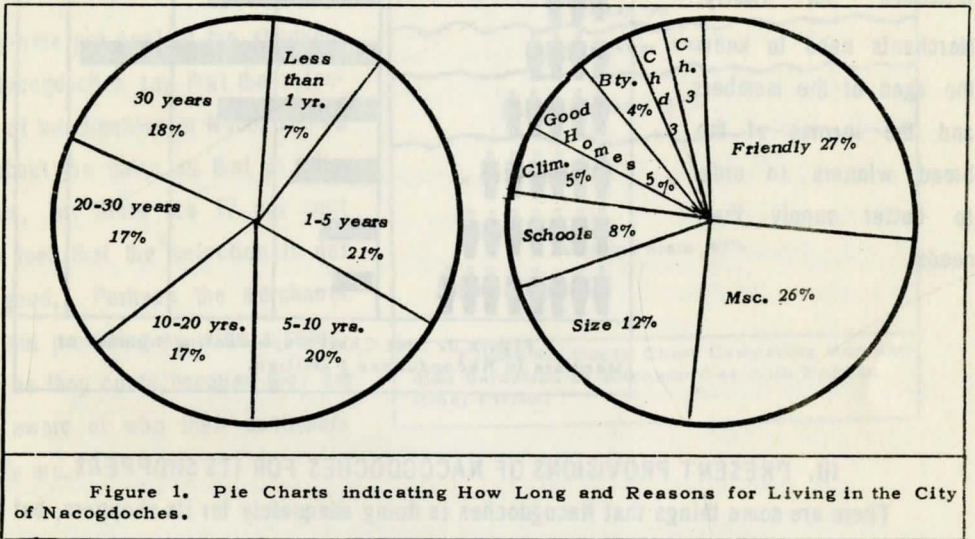
Recommendations are made as to how the merchants, the Chamber of Commerce, and others who are interested may change some of the questionable views that shoppers may have of Nacogdoches.

## II. A LOOK AT THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN NACOGDOCHES

It is important that merchants know their customers in order to serve them more effectively. They must know how many members are in the families, how long the families have lived here, and why they continue to live here. The merchants must keep continuously at the job of learning their customers.

A. Number of Years Lived in Nacogdoches

Mr. and Mrs. Average Nacogdoches have lived here for more than 16 years. Approximately 7 out of 10 people have lived here over 7½ years. It can be seen (Figure 1) that over half of the people have lived in Nacogdoches 10 years or more.



B. Reasons for Living in Nacogdoches

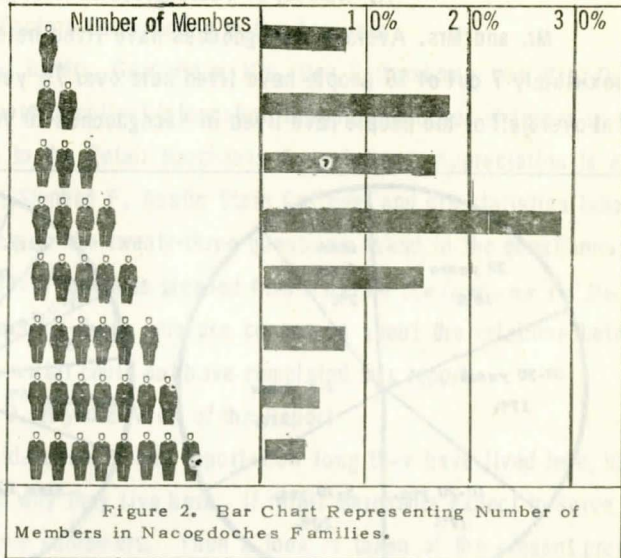
In spite of the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Average Nacogdoches have lived here more than 16 years, there are 7 per cent of the folks who do not like the town. Part of this 7 per cent say the people are unfriendly while the others say the climate is bad. One customer interviewed states that he does not like Nacogdoches because he prefers the coast.

But there are 93 per cent of the people who appear to be satisfied with Nacogdoches as their home. Approximately 1 out of 4 people like Nacogdoches because it is a "friendly place." One reason given for living in Nacogdoches is "no place like it." Other reasons why residents like to live here are indicated in Figure 1 above.

C. Number of Members in Family

The average family has 3.6 members. Some of the families have only one member

(possibly widows or widowers) while others have as many as eight members per family. Merchants need to know the ages of the members and the income of the bread winners in order to better supply their needs.



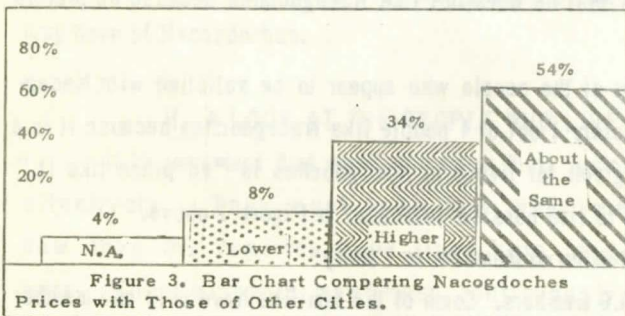
### III. PRESENT PROVISIONS OF NACOGDOCHES FOR ITS SHOPPERS

There are some things that Nacogdoches is doing adequately for its shoppers, but because of slackness in some areas, many of its shoppers are going to other cities to buy those things that they can't find at home.

#### A. Higher Prices for Merchandise

One would think that since over half (54 per cent) of the consumers consider Nacogdoches prices to be about the same as those in other cities, that Nacogdoches

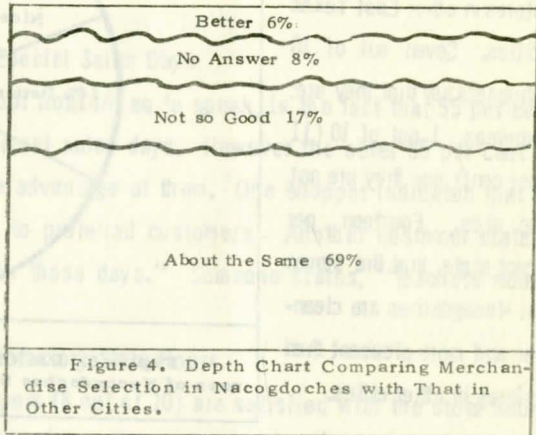
merchants have nothing to worry about. But the fact that 1 out of 3 (35 per cent) consumers say that prices are higher and only 4 per cent say that they are lower means that Nacogdoches



merchants had better get busy and do it quickly. With a percentage that high, it is a wonder that more customers have not already gone to other cities to do their shopping.

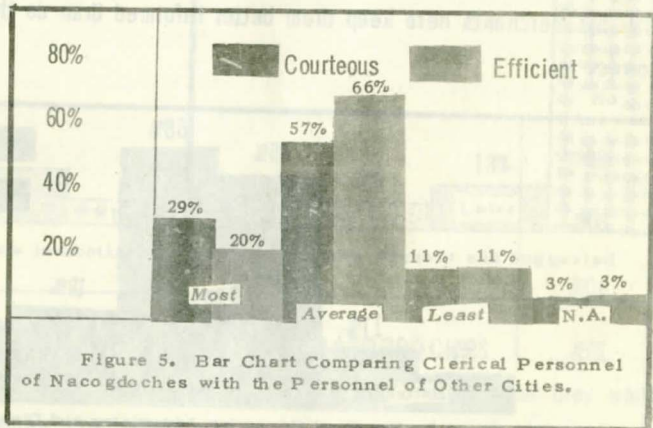
### 3. Limited Selection of Merchandise for Consumers

Sixty-nine per cent of the shoppers in Nacogdoches say that the selection of merchandise in Nacogdoches is about the same as that in other cities, but there are 17 per cent who feel that the selection is not so good. Perhaps the merchants are not providing so wide a selection as they could because they are not aware of who their customers really are.



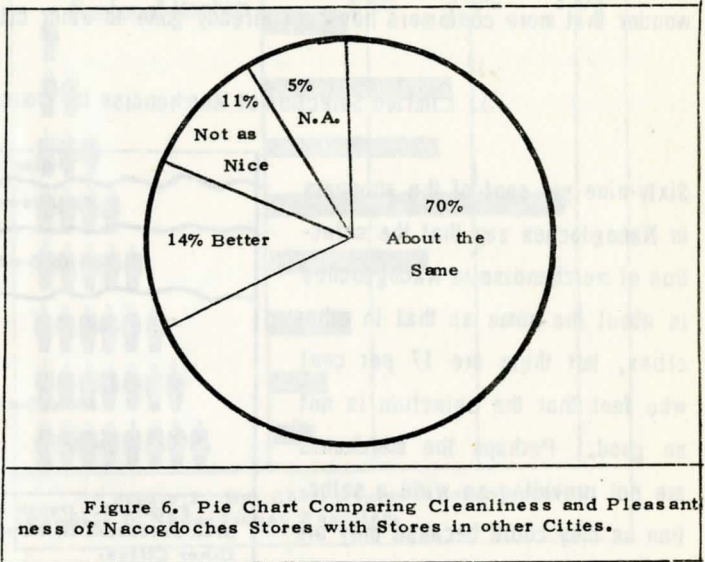
### C. Courteous and Efficient Clerical Personnel

Nacogdoches is fortunate in having clerical personnel who are generally courteous and efficient. Although 1 out of 10 shoppers criticize the clerical personnel for lack of courtesy and efficiency, one of the respondents states, "it is my opinion you have to flatter the clerks to get good service."



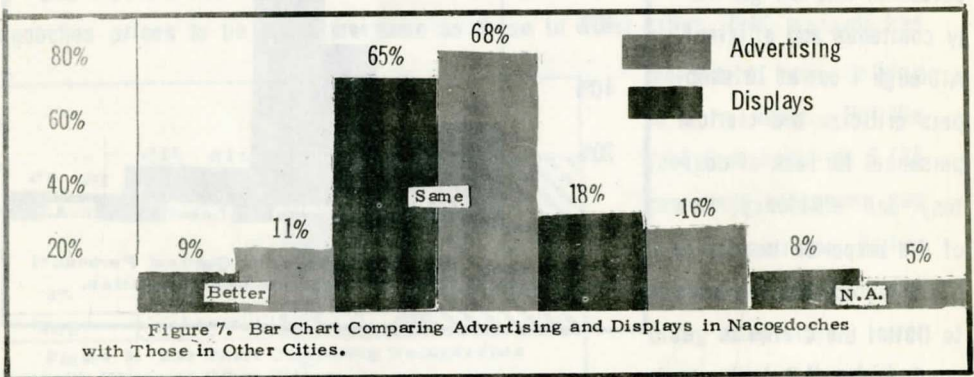
D. Clean and Pleasant Stores

Generally speaking the stores of Nacogdoches are as nice or nicer than stores in other East Texas cities. Seven out of 10 shoppers say that they are; whereas, 1 out of 10 (11 per cent) say they are not so nice. Fourteen per cent state that the stores in Nacogdoches are cleaner and more pleasant than stores in other cities.



E. Inadequate Advertising

The retail merchants not only fail to offer a wide selection of merchandise, they do not even advertise well and extensively what they do have to sell. Eighteen per cent of the customers say that they are not kept well informed while approximately 1 out of 10 say the merchants here keep them better informed than do the merchants in other nearby towns.



F. Attractive Merchandise Displays

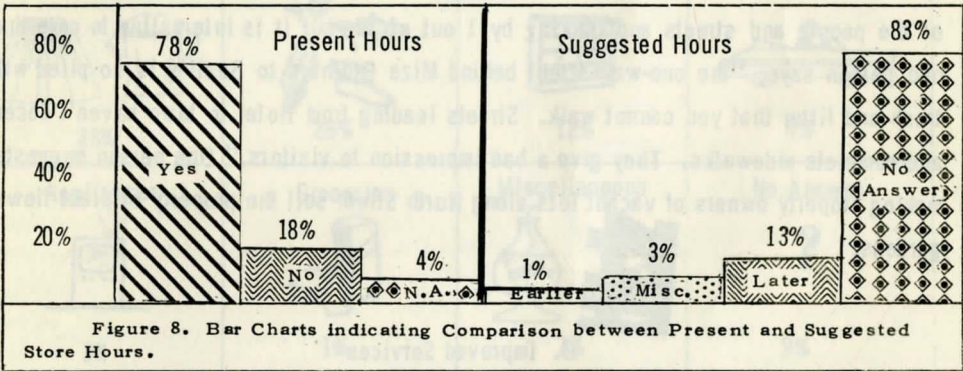
The merchants also fail to display attractively the limited selection of merchandise that they offer to their customers. One can see in Figure 7 above that 16 per cent of the shoppers notice that merchandise displays are not done so well in Nacogdoches as they are in other cities.

G. Special Sales Days

One thing that merchants are out front in, so to speak, is the fact that 55 per cent of the shoppers take advantage of special sales days. However the other 55 per cent do not especially like the sales nor take advantage of them. One shopper indicates that he thinks merchants should not pre-sell to preferred customers. Another customer states, "I never did get too many bargains on those days." Someone states, "teachers would like a chance to get to sales."

H. Satisfactory Store Hours

Most of the Nacogdoches shoppers (8 out of 10) are satisfied with the store hours the way they are. In fact, the majority are so satisfied that they make no special effort to suggest other hours.



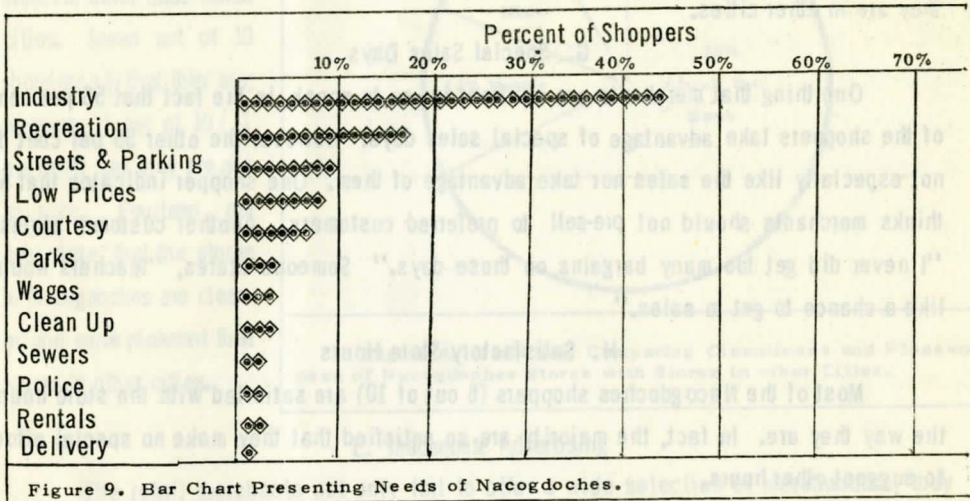
IV. DESIRES OF THE SHOPPERS OF NACOGDOCHES

Most members of the human breed are fickle and don't know what they want, but when it comes to spending hard-earned money, most shoppers know what they are looking for. If they can't find it in Nacogdoches, they are ready to go elsewhere.



A. New Industries

There are several things that could be done to make this a greater Nacogdoches for its residents and visitors. Most of those interviewed are of the opinion that new industries are the greatest need of Nacogdoches. Clean up is mentioned by only 3 per cent



of the people and streets and parking by 1 out of 10, but it is interesting to note that one person says, "the one-way street behind Mize Brothers to Beall's is so piled with trash and litter that you cannot walk. Streets leading from Hotel to town haven't decent and complete sidewalks. They give a bad impression to visitors." One person suggests making property owners of vacant lots along North Street sell the property or plant flower gardens.

B. Improved Services

One out of 3 shoppers interviewed have no specific recommendation as to how Nacogdoches merchants can improve their services. However 12 per cent do suggest more efficient and courteous personnel. Other suggestions are given in Figure 10 on page 17.

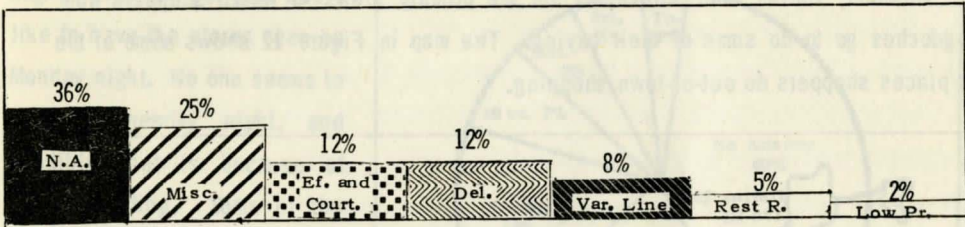


Figure 10. Bar Chart Suggesting Ways to Improve Service to Nacogdoches Customers.

### C. Better Selections

To get better selections is the primary reason that shoppers go out of town to buy. A combination of shopping and recreation is the second main reason; the third reason given is the glamor and prestige of city buying. Other reasons given for out-of-town shopping are better advertising, lower prices, special sales, nicer stores, and more courteous and efficient personnel.

Some of the things that shoppers buy out of town are shown Figure 11.

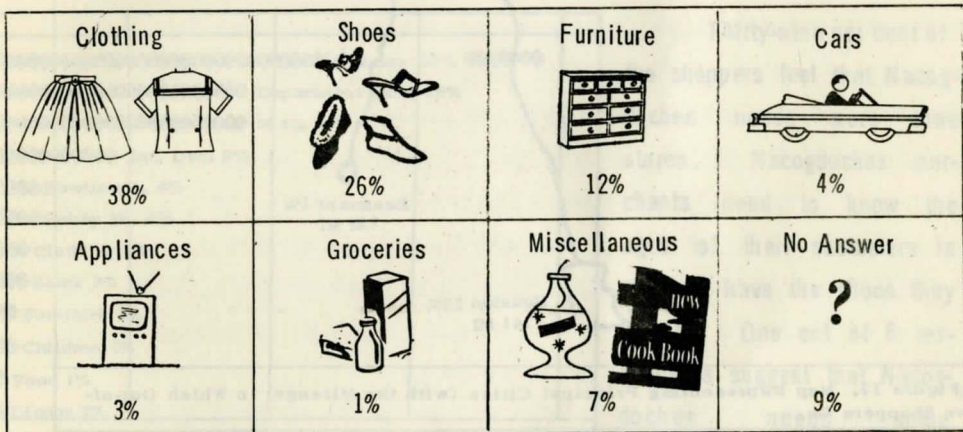
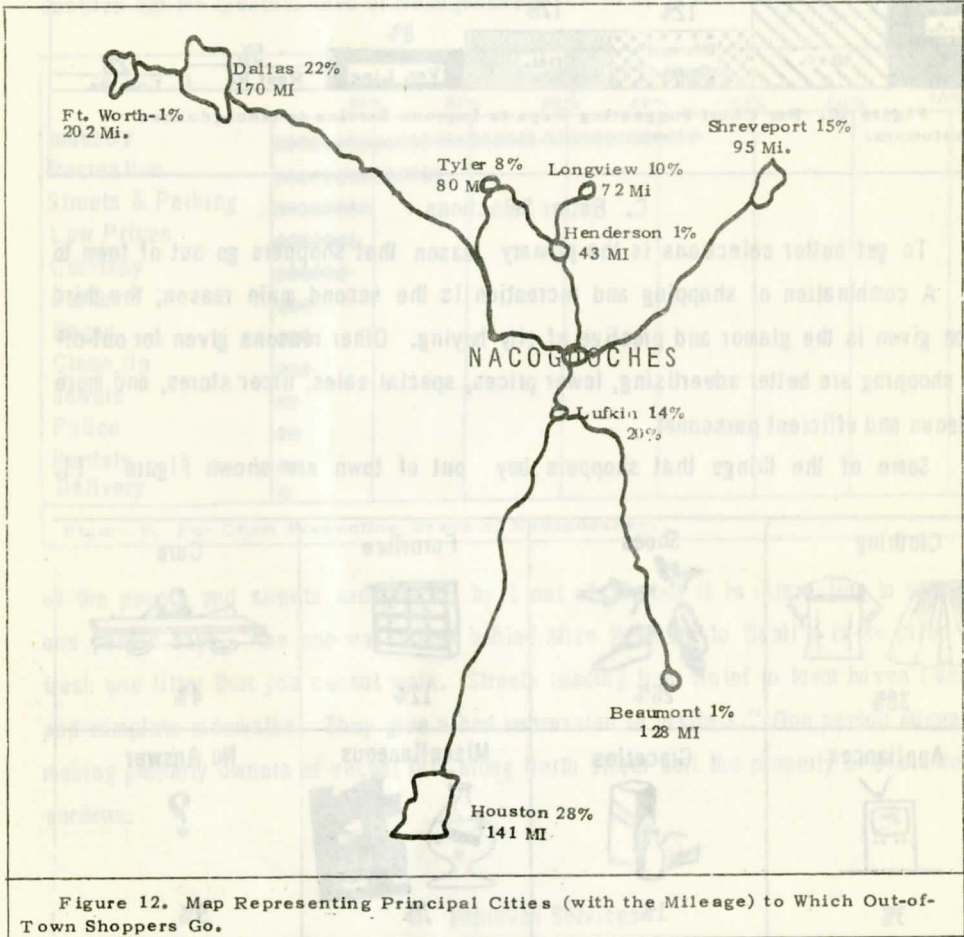


Figure 11. Pictogram Indicating What Shoppers Buy When They Go Out of Town.

More than 1 out of 3 shoppers go out of town to buy clothes. One out of 4 buy shoes while they are in other towns.

Houston, Dallas, and Shreveport are the primary towns in which shoppers from Nacogdoches go to do some of their buying. The map in Figure 12 shows some of the other places shoppers do out-of-town shopping.



#### D. Late Shopping Nights

Nearly half of the shoppers indicate that they would like for the stores to stay open one night for their shopping convenience. The greatest preference is Thursday

night. Eighteen per cent would like to have the stores open on Monday night. No one seems to want Wednesday night, and possibly that is because of prayer meeting. Some of the respondents state they like Nacogdoches because of its churches; so they are probably in church on Wednesday night.

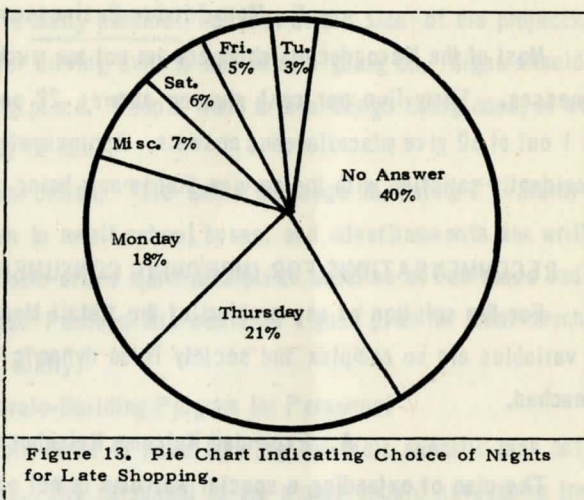
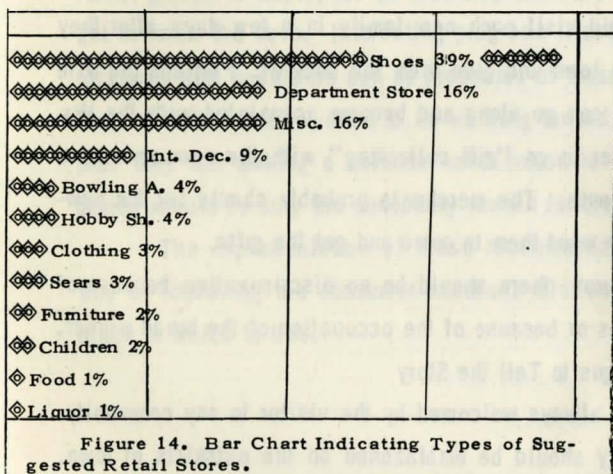


Figure 13. Pie Chart Indicating Choice of Nights for Late Shopping.

### E. Added Retail Stores



Thirty-nine per cent of the shoppers feel that Nacogdoches needs more shoe stores. Nacogdoches merchants need to know the ages of their customers in order to have the shoes they require. One out of 6 respondents suggest that Nacogdoches needs some large department stores

If it were actually known, there are probably more than 1 per cent who would like to have liquor stores.

#### F. More Service Businesses

Most of the Nacogdoches shoppers are not too much concerned about more service businesses. Thirty-five per cent give no answer, 22 per cent say "none," and more than 1 out of 10 give miscellaneous answers. Approximately 70 per cent of the shoppers are evidently satisfied with the service that is now being provided.

#### V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING CONSUMER-MERCHANT RELATIONS

For the solution of any problem of the Retail Merchants there is no pat answer. The variables are so complex and society is so dynamic that no final solution can ever be reached.

##### A. Expanded Welcome Neighbor Plan

The plan of extending a special welcome is not original with the writer, as it is practiced in several cities.

Different merchants in town can give certificates (for a dollar or less or for specified items); these and some interesting facts about Nacogdoches can be combined into a booklet, and the booklet can be presented to each newcomer. Someone connected with the Chamber of Commerce should visit each new family in a few days after they move to town and tell them about the town and give them the booklet. Perhaps the wife of the Chamber of Commerce member can go along and become acquainted with the Mrs. of the household. She may even offer to go "gift collecting" with the newcomers and introduce them to some of the merchants. The merchants probably should let the newcomers know that the merchants really want them to come and get the gifts.

In a plan of this type, of course, there should be no discrimination because of the part of town where the family lives or because of the occupation of the bread winner.

##### B. Signs to Tell the Story

A friendly Texas "howdy" is always welcomed by the visitor to any community. Interesting facts about the community should be emblazoned on the outskirts of town. People like to know.

Many of the respondents feel that streets and parking areas should be improved. When projects are being carried on, the people should be informed. Signs should be put

everywhere (and notices in the Daily Sentinel) not just at the site of the projects. The folks should be made to prefer driving over to see what's going on. Signs should spell out the progress that is taking place. People want to see things being done, or at least evidence that they are going to be done.

Dallas has a program called, "Tie Sales Message to Safety." Sturdy steel shelters are built for children to await school buses, and advertisements are written on the sides of the shelter. In some cities merchants place benches at bus stops and place advertisements on the benches. Perhaps this would be a good plan for local merchants--either co-operatively or individually.

### C. Morale-Building Program for Personnel

All professional people have to have training for their specific task but that doesn't make them successful. The personnel in the stores should have some training, but there should also be some sort of plan for morale-building. Possibly there could be a co-operative training program to teach the clerical personnel how to be courteous to the customers. Employers need to have get-togethers for all the employees or the different groups of employees so that they can become acquainted with each other and also get to know the boss. Interesting programs illustrating ways of being successful in the relations with customers can be presented at these meetings. All the employees, regardless of their position, need to be working toward a common goal. They need to realize that they are making a definite contribution to the success or failure of a business. Money should be only the secondary reason for their working.

The implementation of these recommendations or suggestions should go a long way in improving the consumer-merchant relations and in making Nacogdoches a better place in which to live.

# Book Log

*THE CAPTIVE AND THE FREE* by Joyce Cary (Harper's, N. Y. 1959)

In a remarkable display of self-will and unflinching courage, Joyce Cary battled the last months of his life to complete a novel on a theme which he had several times set aside. His stoical indifference to pain and paralysis paid off as he, before his death, had completed successfully the fable part of his novel, leaving only minor stylistic revisions to be worked out by a trusted aide.

Cary's last will and testament to the public, *The Captive and the Free*, has for its central character a faith-healing minister, Reverend Walter Preedy, who just as pointedly as do earlier Cary portraits of professional men as heroes (lawyers and artists, for example), illustrates the extreme and eccentric aspects of human nature. But this is as it should be: great comic writers in all generations have singled out man's foibles and his whimsicalities for artistic emphasis, thus pointing up the incongruity of the human being's eternal quest to make of himself something that he is not.

Cary very clearly points out that man is only man, and is just as much a captive (by society, by his own nature, by nature at large) as he is free (to believe or not to believe, to conform or not to conform). However, the sympathies of the author seem to rest on the side of those who think they are free, who feel that they do not have to maintain the status quo, and who feel that some larger freedom can be gained intuitively, individually. Such a man is Preedy, who operates the Pant's Road Mission dynamically and defiantly in whistling distance of the established church and its congregation, ably shepherded by the Reverend Syson until they are spellbound by the eccentric, yet dynamic, voice of Preedy. These deflections give the author a means to develop his theme, which he does by the principle of compound irony.

For it turns out that those who are "free" are, in reality, "captives" and vice versa. Preedy, foremost among the free, is in bondage to his transcendentalistic inner self, which produces a fanaticism in him, which is at times both arrogant and ahumanistic, as its outreach makes captives of others who come to him for freedom. For example,

there is Alice Rodker who yields him both her flesh and her spirit, gaining, on the one hand nothing but disgrace in the eyes of society, but on the other an increasing awareness of her sense of humanity; also there is the Reverend Syson, whose pitiable stand to fight the faith-healer along the conventional ways of his social order, loses him his church, his family, and his faith, only to learn that by so doing he has become alarmingly close to the nature of the figure he thinks is his enemy; finally, there is Harry Hooper, a young newspaperman "on the make," who will go to any limit to get the true story of the faith healer from Pant's Road Mission in order to boost the circulation of his paper. He gets the story all right, but in the end loses his newspaper.

On the contrary, and as richly ironic, are the "captives" who, in reality, are "free." Lady Rideout, who has the controlling interest in the paper for which Hooper works, and her daughter Joanna, who late in the novel marries Hooper, are such people. For years they have pursued their little inanities freely until they become enmeshed in the Preedy controversy. Likewise, the Rollwrights, whose child could have been saved by competent medical authorities while they were outside the influence of the faith healer, sacrifice it when they place it in the hands of the quack. But in all the cases mentioned, the people elect of their free wills to follow Preedyism. That they fail does not discredit Preedy, for the author carefully shields him by making him openly admit time and again that he has shortcomings. In fact, he willingly separates himself from the mission and goes out into the great sea of humanity, where presumably he will be able to recharge himself, and thus repeat the whole cycle.

Here the novel ends, and rightly. For to Cary each generation is blind to its own freedoms and is thus willing to follow the eccentricities of its would-be-liberators like Preedy. Thus, life is one eternal comedy which has as its major redeeming grace the fact that man survives, *not despite, but because of, his eccentricities.*

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