A share-the-cost philosophy has taken hold of the student body at Norman this year, and the co-operative way of living has become more popular than perhaps at any time in the history of Soonerland.

Students are living together and eating together in order to cut down expenses, and also are co-operating socially, in sports and in scholastic endeavors through the Independent Men's Association.

The co-operative idea originated some time ago among progressive minds in the W. S. G. A., but the men stepped ahead and put actual co-operative projects into operation before the women completed their survey of co-operative ventures at other universities. The women are still planning, and they may start a co-operative house next year, predicts Ruth Clark, Tulsa, W. S. G. A. president.

As the second semester started, an I. M. A. co-operative dining room was opened in the Stadium and the Graduate club announced that a group of graduate men would move into their own co-operative rooming house in the old infirmary on University Place.

Both ventures have proved entirely successful, says Dean J. F. Findlay. About 55 boys are eating two meals a day at the I. M. A. dining table, and some 20 men are living in the graduate house.

Here and there on the campus may be observed other sure signs that an era of mutual help has come. Owners of rooming houses permit students to do light housekeeping. Students in twos and threes rent apartments, with permission of University authorities, in order to cook their own meals. Brothers and sisters co-operate frequently, to cut down the cost of attending the university.

The home economics practice house is actually a co-operative establishment, too.

The travel bureau of the I. M. A., begun last year, is a non-profit-making enterprise, operated chiefly by means of notices posted in the Union by would-be passengers and by drivers seeking fellow students to ride with them.

In a sense, too, the 21 social fraternities for men and the 12 for women are co-operative. Although the members do not divide up the work to be done, as in a true co-operative, they apportion their expense and charge each member an equal share. A survey just made by Dean Findlay shows that the men's social orders charge monthly assessments ranging from $35 to $47.50 a month. Some charge uneven amounts, such as $44.53, indicating a meticulous division of expenses.

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By Frances Hunt, '29
of Texas. Some are teaching in the high school and Southwestern State Teachers' colleges at Weatherford. At Denton, Miss Clark, a number of co-operative houses are operating, and their routine duties are so well organized that each girl needs to work only about an hour a day.

Co-operative living arrangements for University women should never become simply devices for living cheaply, in the opinion of Dean McDaniel, but should enable each girl to have social life and pleasant, cultural surroundings. This ideal will be sought in any co-operative homes that may be opened for women students in the future.

Inconspicuously, many small groups of boys and a few groups of girls are pooling their resources in co-operative living. Eighteen of the men's rooming houses permit light housekeeping. Eleven apartments, in approved houses, over garages and in duplexes, are being used by men students who cook their own meals. In several cases, boys bring their butter, meat and vegetables from home.

Three men, including one freshman whose grades recently brought him election to Phi Eta Sigma, are operating a small house and farm on acreage east of the campus.

Similarly six girls have rented the top floor of a woman's rooming house on Asp avenue and run their own home on co-operative principles. Two of them who have a talent for cooking prepare all the meals. Two do all the dishwashing. One does the marketing, going down every Saturday afternoon. Each has other specific duties. Some of these girls are working at NYA jobs in addition to their school work, but they all spend about two hours a day helping run their house.

"It costs me about half what I paid for room and board last year," said one of the group, "and I am better satisfied with what I get for my money."

Possible establishment of a women's co-operative house on a large scale next year will depend partly on what W. S. G. A. finds out about co-operatives at other schools when they attend the convention of the Intercollegiate Association of Women Students early in April at the University of Southern California. Miss Clark and the incoming president of W. S. G. A., not yet elected, will go. Miss Clark first began thinking about co-operative houses for girls when she heard the idea explained at the 1936 convention of the women students, held at Denison university, Granville, Ohio.

W. S. G. A. members at Norman have written to a number of schools inquiring about their co-operative ventures. Some of these institutions are Texas State College for Women at Denton, the University of Illinois, the University of Kansas, Denison university and Southwestern State Teachers' college at Weatherford. At Denton, says Miss Clark, a number of co-operative houses are operating, and their routine duties are so well organized that each girl needs to work only about an hour a day.

Co-operative living arrangements for University women should never become simply devices for living cheaply, in the opinion of Dean McDaniel, but should enable each girl to have social life and pleasant, cultural surroundings. This ideal will be sought in any co-operative homes that may be opened for women students in the future.