

Telesforo, Pedro, and the Young Citizen

(A True Story)

By Antonio Muñoz

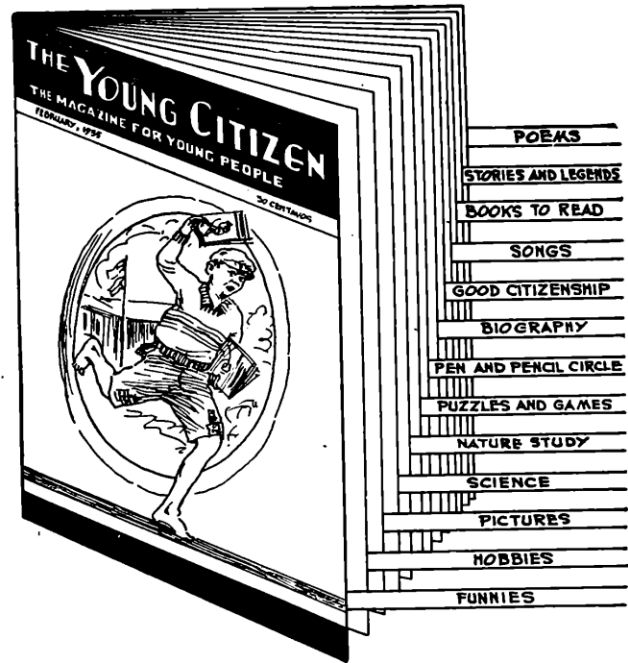
TWO boys were going home from school one afternoon. One was happy for he obtained a high mark in the periodical test given by the supervising teacher on the previous day. The other boy's rating was a little below the passing mark. The latter's face was a picture of sorrow and disappointment.

"Say, how did you get that high rating, Telesforo?" he asked of his companion. "In classroom work, I don't think I am inferior to any of you who got high marks. As a matter of fact, it was only last week when our teacher said that we had the best of chances to be in the honor roll."

"Yes, Pedro, it is true that we are good pupils. Our classroom record shows that we are better pupils than most of our classmates, but a supervising teacher's test is different from that of our teacher's. In the former there are many things to be taken into consideration," Telesforo replied.

"Will you please explain what you mean by things to be taken into consideration?" asked Pedro.

"I think you noticed that there were ques-



tions whose answers we did not discuss in class. That was because they do not appear in our text books," explained Telesforo.

"I believe those questions should not have been included in the test," observed Pedro.

"Why not?" Telesforo asked.

"Because we do not study them," Pedro tried to reason out.

"But we are encouraged to read newspapers and magazines and it is in these materials that we find information which are not found in text books," Telesforo further explained.

"Yes, but these magazines and newspapers in the library are hard to understand. They do not appeal to me," Pedro tried to defend himself.

"There are magazines in the library whose contents are intended for older people. Those do not appeal to us very much, it is true. But there is *The Young Citi-*

(Please turn to page 42)



TELESFORO, PEDRO AND...

(Continued from page 9)

zen, the magazine for young people. Have you not read it?" asked Telesforo.

"I have seen copies of *The Young Citizen*," Pedro admitted. "The covers are attractive but I thought the contents were not interesting so I did not care to look into them. Why do you like that magazine, Telesforo?"

"*The Young Citizen* helped me get a good rating in the test," said Telesforo. "The answers to the following questions are found in that magazine: (1) Explain why the Ethiopians are Christians. (2) What is Draco, the Dragon? According to legend, why is it in the sky now? (3) What is character? Why should we build good character?"

"Is that so?" exclaimed Pedro in surprise. "What else does it contain?"

"Oh, it has many good things

for young people. It has a message every month. The message tells us how to be good boys and girls. There is the Hobby Page which teaches us how to make useful things. There are also folklore stories and songs which cannot be found in books. Then there is the Pen and Pencil Circle which encourages us to write letters and gives us a chance to know children in other parts of our country," Telesforo explained.

"I made a bad mistake in not reading *The Young Citizen*," sighed Pedro. "Now I want to be a subscriber. What is the subscription price, Telesforo?"

"Three pesos a year," was the answer. "There is one thing more. *The Young Citizen* is not only for children. The old folks will surely enjoy reading its pages," he added.

"Goodbye, Telesforo," Pedro shouted from his garden gate, "and thank you very much."
