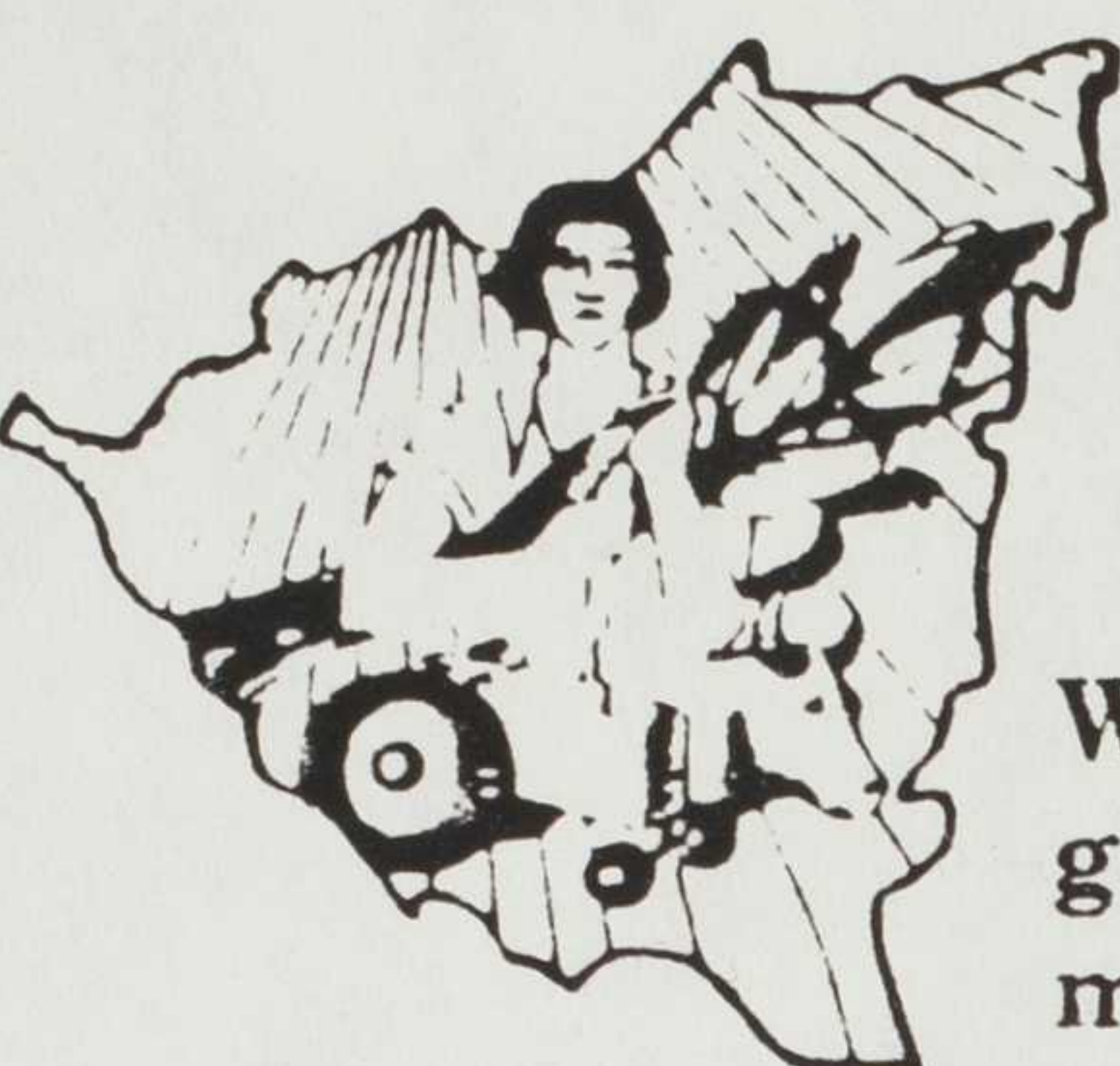


A²MISTAD Construction Brigade

Ann Arbor-Managua Initiative for Soil Testing and Development in Nicaragua



CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE INFORMATION SHEET

What is A²MISTAD and why does the name have that funny "2" in it? (Doesn't it get to be a pain to type the high "2" all the time? Don't people call it "A-two-mistad" or "Ann Arbor-mistad" and look at you funny when you say "amistad")?

The A²MISTAD construction brigade is an Ann Arbor-based group working on an international project to build a soil and water analysis laboratory in Nicaragua. The project is one of both technical assistance and solidarity with the Nicaraguan people. By working to help implement the agricultural goals of the Nicaraguan revolution, brigade members also hope to create lasting ties between Ann Arbor and Nicaragua and to support the right to self-determination and freedom.

The name "A²MISTAD" illustrates the dual purpose of the construction brigade. In Spanish, amistad is the word for friendship. In English, it is the acronym for Ann Arbor-Managua Initiative for Soil Testing and Development. Yes, people are often perplexed at first, but the smile that comes over their faces when they finally understand makes us hold on to the name, "2" and all.

Who are the people that make up the group? Are they builders? Do they all speak Spanish? Are they activists?

A²MISTAD is made up of men and women, skilled and unskilled, Spanish and non-Spanish speaking. Some of us have been active in several political organizations, some of us have not. Some of us have chosen to work on the construction brigade as a consistent step in our interest and work around Central America. For others of us, the construction brigade has been a starting point in our involvement. A few of us have been to Nicaragua before, most of us have not. We are students, professionals, workers.

At this point, we are very interested in having experienced masons, plumbers, electricians and health care workers join us.

How many people are in the brigade?

Since January 1987, there have been at least fifteen North Americans working with between seven and ten Nicaraguans on the construction site.