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Potholes, Cleanup Highly Rated, Too

RATING cities by statistics as places to live appears to be about as rewarding as judging a queen contest. The judges make the winner happy and incur the wrath of the losers.

That doesn't stop the rating or the judging. In January, a Cleveland State University professor rated 142 metropolitan areas and concluded that San Francisco is the best all-around location and rated Tulsa as the worst for racial minorities. Tulsa Chamber of Commerce filed suit for \$26 million and researchers blamed a key-punching error.

In February, Rand McNally's "Places Rated Almanac" put Pittsburgh as the No. 1 city in the coun-

try. Oklahoma City, which wasn't mentioned as best or worst in any category of the Cleveland study, jumped from 83rd to 46th in the Rand McNally Almanac in a year. Tulsa and Lawton slipped a few notches but Enid was listed for the first time — in 262nd place.

It is doubtful that such ratings will lead people to relocate. Personally, I'd rate many cities ahead of either San Francisco or Pittsburgh.

Twenty years ago there was a great enthusiasm to rebuild the downtown section of Oklahoma City into an outstanding metropolitan center. A plan was adopted and federal money was obtained to tear down buildings to make room.

As years passed, citizens were

turned off by the gaping holes and numerous delays in reconstruction. Edward L. Gaylord, editor and publisher of *The Oklahoman*, has offered a \$10,000 reward for the best suggestions for revitalizing the central business district. Probably someone (or several) will offer workable suggestions by May 1, but it will take more money and more time to complete them.

Meanwhile, much could be done. The City could fill up the potholes that batter cars and drivers on nearly every street and residents could clean up weeds, trash and litter.

Spiritual and personal values are of primary importance in choosing a place to live but clean physical surroundings can go a long way toward producing happiness.