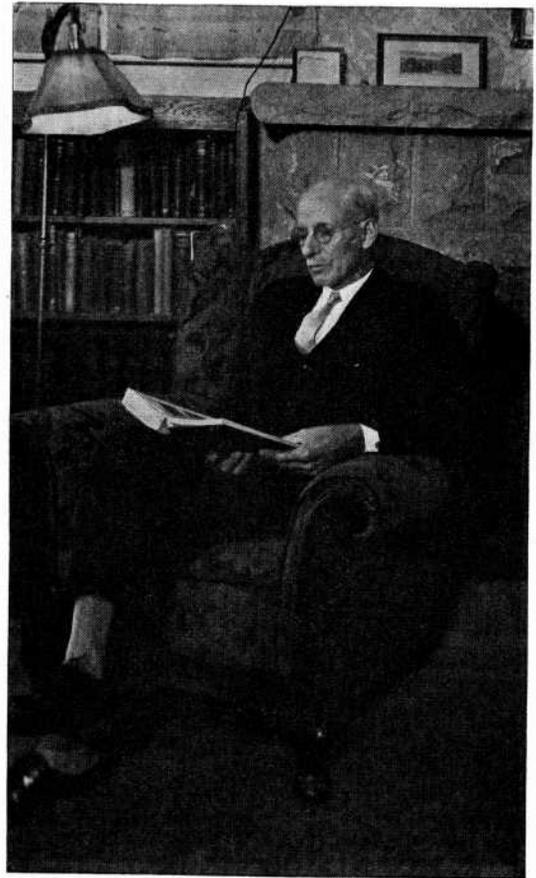


Dr Charles E. Decker, professor of paleontology, has served three terms and is now serving his fourth, as national president of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, geological fraternity. He was elected in March as national president of the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, another national recognition of this distinguished scholar. At home Doctor Decker is a specialist in irises



## National geologists' president

BY TOM YARBROUGH, '32

If you should happen by the home of Dr C. E. Decker late some spring afternoon you probably would see him digging in his flower garden, loosening the dirt around a beautiful iris that he is watching develop into maturity under his care. Flowers are his hobby. He says they keep him young. The relaxation which he gains from his gardening enables him to establish a record as a busy man.

He has spent many years in classroom routine and numerous birthdays have greyed his hair, but "Daddy Decker," as the students affectionately call him, is a young man. If he goes home after a particularly hard day of work at school somewhat lacking in vitality, a few minutes with his flowers renews his enthusiasm and he tackles some new job. In the picture you see him at home with his books. He is a scholar. Always a hard worker, he is the author of numerous works on geological subjects. Right now he is working on a new map of the Arbuckle mountains.

Doctor Decker keeps busy. Since 1924 he has been national president of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, the honorary geological fraternity. He was secretary-treasurer from 1918 to 1924. While he has been a national officer the fraternity has grown from four chapters to twenty-three. In March 1931 he was elected president of the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists at its annual convention at

San Antonio, Texas. The society is a national organization with 230 active members and forty associate members.

Honors have been heaped upon him. He is a fellow of the Geological Society of America, a fellow of the American Association of Advanced Scientists, an honorary member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, a member of the Paleontological Society of America, the Oklahoma Academy of Science, Sigma Xi, an honorary scientific Fraternity, and Phi Sigma, an honorary biological fraternity.

He was reared on a farm near Dixon, Illinois, prepared for the university in Dixon high school and the academy of Northwestern university at Chicago. Entering the university he chose Greek as major subject and had worked at it for two-and-a-half years when his parents became ill and he had to leave school. He returned to the farm, started to work helping his father, dropped his Greek entirely, and found little time to study anything else. After an interim of ten years he found a chance to return to the university. Once more he took up his study of Greek and in a year-and-a-half he took his A. B. degree—ten years after the graduation of his original class. That was in 1906.

The following year he began a study of political economy but was attracted by brilliant members of the geology faculty, which included the late great Chamber-

lain, author of the famous Planetsimal theory of the earth's formation. Political economy lost Decker. In the summer of 1906 a member of the faculty recognized the brilliance of Dixon high school's apt late pupil and took him on an extended field trip into the iron and coal regions of Wyoming. The following summer they worked in the lead and the zinc regions of Wisconsin. In 1908 he took his master's degree at the University of Chicago and immediately began to instruct there in regular courses in physiography and geology. From Chicago he went to Allegheny college in Meadville, Pennsylvania, where he taught geology and biology for six years.

He came to the University of Oklahoma in 1916, beginning as an instructor in mineralogy and the first courses in geology. During the World War he taught paleontology, petrography and economic geology besides his classes in mineralogy and elementary and advanced geology. In 1917 he took his Ph. D. degree at the University of Chicago. That year he was promoted to assistant professor of geology. In 1919 he was made associate professor. From 1925 to 1929 he was professor of geology and now he is professor of paleontology.

His master's thesis was written on "Petroleum and Natural Gas of the United

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## THE UNIVERSITY INVESTIGATION

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to discharge them on a basis of such statement. Some of these instances revealed that the witnesses, testifying to such threats, had been discontented for sometime, while others apparently had been in agreement and showed no such discontent or prejudice. Kraft and Craven testified that they had talked with a number of persons whom they understood had given statements and had requested them to explain the nature and contents of such statements and had admonished them to tell the facts about the various matters.

They denied, however, that they had threatened to discharge any of such persons or had used any form of abuse or coercion in an attempt to affect a change in their testimony. In one particular instance a witness made a statement to McDonald to the effect that he had done certain work for Kraft on state's time. Thereafter Kraft produced and exhibited to him the check with which he had paid the witness for the work and the witness recalled that Kraft had paid him out of his private funds for this employment and that his former statement was incorrect in that regard.

This check was introduced and is contained in the record. All of these things considered in the light of the entire testimony, the committee is unable to state that any form of force or coercion was used by any of the parties concerned in the investigation on any of the witnesses. It is possible that any conversation had with any such witness by any such official with a view of ascertaining the contents of such statements made to McDonald by them might be considered by such witnesses as an unwarranted attempt to have them reveal the substance of the testimony which they expected to give, while at the same time the sole purpose of such questioning by such officials might have been with an honest intention to ascertain what the witnesses actually knew.

We do find that a number of the witnesses made written and signed statements to Mr McDonald, containing certain purported statements of fact to which the witnesses did not testify under oath before the committee. Be this as it may, the only evidence and testimony which the committee could consider, in arriving at the findings, conclusions, and recommendations herein, is that which was made under oath, before the committee in open session, and on the basis of such evidence and such evidence only, it has been our attempt to conduct this investigation in a judicial manner with fair and impartial treatment to everyone concerned.

All parties concerned in this investigation, including Mr McDonald, were represented at all times by able counsel, and it is the desire of the committee that such counsel be thanked by this committee for the aid and assistance given in this investigation and the fair manner in which they conducted their part of the same. On a basis of statements which Mr McDonald received, we cannot say that his report and conclusions, or the conclusion of any other persons from a reading thereof, were unwarranted. As Mr McDonald has stated repeatedly his investigation was not ended when this investigation by the senate committee began, and had he continued with his investigation to a satisfactory conclusion, it is possible that he would have reached the same conclusion which was reached by the committee and contained herein, on a basis of all the testimony and evidence brought before the committee.

We desire to state that Dr W. B. Bizzell, the president of the University of Oklahoma, has shown a complete willingness to co-operate in this investigation and it has been his purpose to arrive at the true facts covering all phases of the same. He has been present at all the sessions of the committee and has advised and counseled with the committee and the individual members thereof. We desire to thank the president of the university for his co-operation with the committee.

Conclusion: As a brief summary of the record consisting of 1,308 pages of testimony and exhibits, your committee finds that the charge of flagrant cases of immorality and the misuse of thousands of dollars of state funds is not substantiated in fact.

We further find that the administration of affairs at the university is in the hands of officials who are competent and who are sincerely and honestly devoted to the true purpose of higher education. We, therefore, recommend that the supervision and guidance of the university affairs be left to the board of regents and president of the university, free from interference.

Without further findings and conclusions, your committee recommends that the report submitted herewith be adopted by the senate and the committee discharged.

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## NATIONAL GEOLOGISTS' PRESIDENT

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States." His doctor's thesis on *Studies in Minor Folds* was published as a book by the University of Chicago Press in 1920. Collaborating with C. A. Merritt he wrote a bulletin for the Oklahoma geological survey on *Physical Characteristics of the Arbuckle Limestone*. His bulletin on *The Simpson Group of the Arbuckle and Wichita Mountains of Oklahoma* was published last year by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Several of his papers were published by the Illinois Academy of Science and the Oklahoma Academy.

The Oklahoma geological survey will soon publish his bulletin, *The Simpson Group of the Arbuckle and Wichita Mountains*, upon which C. A. Cooper and Rex McGehee are working with him. The new map will be included in the bulletin.

And so Doctor Decker works on. Hard work is a joy to him. He will always smile and patiently help students who come to him for assistance. Students love him. They are quick to return his courtesy. They willingly exert extra effort to do well in his classes. Most of Doctor Decker's time and energy are spent for students—but there's always time for the flowers. They keep him young.

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## ALUMNAE LEADERS

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Lucia Loomis Ferguson is the second of the group born in the Indian Territory, Choctaw nation, at old Boggy Depot. Little can be said of opportunities in that section for a white child of that period, except that there were few distractions, no recreations—but a whole world of time to think and read.

This is what Mrs Ferguson did—became an inveterate reader, which habit has grown stronger, if anything. She took her high school work in a convent in Texas; then she majored in music at Hardin College, Missouri, and received

her degree in music from the University of Oklahoma in 1908.

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If work can be made better by love, then the work of Frances Smith Catron, '26 arts-sc., has been refined many degrees by her love for music, and therein lies the secret of her success. This year marks the silver anniversary of her coming to Ponca City to become director of music in the city schools.

Mrs Catron is nationally known in musical circles, being president of the Southwestern supervisors conference, and a member of the board of national federation of music clubs.

She is solicitous for the advancement of her pupils and the extension of music into every grade and high school in the state. To that end she is selling music to Oklahomans, not only in its vocational aspects, but for its culture and as a means of expression and achievement. Mrs Catron was one of the organizers of the state federated music clubs, and later became president of the organization when choral music was made the goal for every high school in Oklahoma.

Largely through her influence, contests in group singing have been made a part of the annual interscholastic meets.

Born in Linneus, Missouri, Mrs Catron received her early education in the public schools there. Later, she was graduated from Central college, Lexington, Mo., in piano, voice and dramatic art. She has also studied in New York, Chicago, and the University of California. In 1926 she took a bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma.

Mrs Catron has been influential in developing the music department of the Ponca City schools into one of the best small systems in the United States, having ten assistants in the department, with Mrs Catron as director.

Students from the school have taken part on outstanding musical programs, state and national.

So much for work she has already done. As for work now in progress, her everyday program would tax the endurance of half a dozen women—until her friends ask "How do you accomplish so much?"

Possessed of a happy philosophy of life, she rejoices in her work and secures her greatest relaxation through it. She has traveled and studied extensively. In the summer of 1929, she represented the United States at the first Anglo-American conference of music supervisors held in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Mrs Catron has one son who also attended the university. Her husband died a number of years ago.

The promotion of music in the public schools of the state has brought appreciations from hosts of music lovers to Mrs Catron.

Through work, worlds of it, each of these women has contributed her part