



Endow a freshman

A signal opportunity for Oklahoma millionaires who have made their fortunes from Oklahoma's oil was presented in a challenge to the state by Walter Harrison, managing editor of the *Daily Oklahoman* and *Oklaohoma City Times* in an editorial recently. He was commenting on the hazards many freshmen run in coming to the university with practically no funds, seeking an education. A fund should be created to help them through he declares. Mr Harrison's editorial:

More young men are trying to make their way through the state university this year, on a shoestring than ever before. Scores of likely lads have registered at Norman and launched their higher education with less than \$50 ahead of them. They positively do not know where another dollar is coming from. More than 600 have made applications for work and declare they must get some help to remain in school. Unless something happens, many of these will drop out before the close of the first semester and join the ranks of the jobless, looking for a means of bread and butter, instead of help to secure an education.

Among the first 400 who applied for jobs a study was made, disclosing that 300 of the students have \$100 or less. A careful planner, whose appetite for society and shortcake is under control, can get by at Norman for \$500 a year. If a student confines himself to just bare necessities he has been known to make the grade on \$450 a year. The student who has a cash reserve of \$100 must earn at least \$315. He can't do it without a board and room job. Such a place is the equivalent of \$315. So situated he

must earn a minimum of \$35 at odd jobs to keep his head above water. There are only 300 board jobs in Norman. Most of these jobs have been staked by second year men. There is very little chance for the majority of ambitious freshmen who think the Lord is going to provide some way for them to spend four years at a university.

There may be some fellows in this mob who care nothing about the university except the chance to make a college fraternity. There may be others who are going merely to try to stay close to the girl they have made up their minds to marry. There may be still others who are the makings of great engineers, scientists, lawyers, doctors, and so on. The pity of the situation is that there is no sifting process, no method by which the school authorities can spot the budding Bantings and seek particular financial assistance on the basis of present merit. Then too, there is that amazing metamorphosis which often turns a highschool dullard into a brilliant man on the college campus. The problem is to give them all a chance.

There is no foundation that will lend money to a first year man or woman in the university. Those who get up against it in sophomore and junior years have ever present help, but the lowly freshman must shift for himself until he gets past the first year. But if he cannot finish the first year nor the first semester, what chance will he have of the help higher up? None at all. Just as Lew Wentz has worked out a foundation that is doing splendid work in the upper classes, so might some far sighted millionaire invest in the frosh of this year and next, for a broken freshman is gone forever. Whenever a man quits school in his freshman semester because he is out of funds, he has finished his scholastic education. He never goes back. It takes too many years to get to where there is a balance

in the bank that makes such a thought possible. In all probability, a family and more mouths to feed help to make an unbridgeable gap. Sometimes the freshmen in their silly caps and devilish pranks don't seem worth saving, but from the meek and lowly first year man whom the seniors spurn as the sluggish clod, come the great men of tomorrow. The path to seniority is along the freshman's belittled way.

Among the men at Norman who have been struggling with this problem are George V. Metzel, Y. M. C. A. secretary; Emil R. Kraettli, registrar, and Dr J. T. McClure, of the McFarlin Memorial church. I said above there is no way to separate the sheep from the goats, no college sieve which has shaken out some budding talent that needs only small financial support to startle the world in geology, medicine, the law or the laboratory. If any men at Norman know the particularly promising young men, the trio mentioned above are the ones. If you don't feel like endowing the whole freshman class, you might consider taking a foster son over the hills. There is an investment which fluctuations in Wall street never could touch.



«Elijah»

One of the most ambitious musical undertakings in recent years was to be the presentation by the University Choral Union of the university of the oratorio *Elijah* in the university auditorium January 15. Professor R. H. Richards directed the 120 singers.