

Emil R. Kraettli, competent assistant to President Bizzell, is secretary of the University and secretary of the board of regents.

Rounding Out a Decade

By ERNIE HILL, '32as



WILLIAM BENNETT BIZZELL this month starts his tenth year as the President of the University of Oklahoma—the last mile across a convulsive decennium whose perilous turns are strewn with a depression's wreckage.

Few decades in history exhibit instability comparable with its economic and social gyrations: the giddiness of the boom, the peak, the hysteria of the crash, the despair of recession and the renewal of hope in slow reconstruction. And through the entire panorama of disorder and uncertainty, the problems of the University have been multiplied, changed in texture, confused, re-multiplied and at times appeared insolvable.

William Bennett Bizzell became President of the University of Oklahoma in July, 1925. Even during the blatant four years before Autumn, 1929, there were unusual problems in administration—the boom. Students, generally, were receiving checks that allowed them activities that conflicted with the purposes of the University.

The school was a rapidly growing and expanding institution under Doctor Bizzell's wise and capable leadership. New buildings were being constructed to care for the increasing enrolment of students. The making of plans for the future was an important phase of the President's work. But the problems of these four years were minor in comparison with the times that followed. Soon, the problems became concerned not with the future but with the impending disasters of the immediate present.

Here were years far more trying than those of the World war. During the war, the number of students decreased and the focus of the nation was centered on the cause.

But economic catastrophe brought with its decreasing appropriations, students in larger numbers. Citizens looked to the universities of the country to provide both an outlet and a training ground for the

jobless. Many unemployed came to school, bringing with them barely enough resources to carry them through the year. An all-time enrolment record was set in 1930-31, the lowest point in the depression.

And then, appropriations began to decline steadily, reaching a low point for Doctor Bizzell's administration during the current biennium. Enrolment, strangely enough, held close to its peak at the University although declines were reported during the last two years, generally, throughout the country.

The problem became one of offering university work to more students at a materially lessened cost. Construction of buildings was curtailed, faculty salaries cut and savings made in a hundred ways. The story of the University during these years is one of dramatic courage, on the part of Doctor Bizzell, the faculty and the students. Too much praise can not be given the faculty for the manner in which it remained loyal to the leadership of Doctor Bizzell as he battled against tremendous odds to keep the University together during these days of despair.

And the extent to which his personality was instrumental in keeping a loyal faculty and student body hopeful can not be over-estimated.

William Bennett Bizzell has steered a cumbersome craft in a remarkably adroit fashion through turbulent and uncertain seas. The strain has greyed his hair at the temples, at times slowed his pace, cost him innumerable sleepless nights, but certainly a reward awaits him for his patience and diligence.

It is with hope and a vision made keener by the experiences of the past few years that Doctor Bizzell looks into the future. Today, the University is the tenth largest state institution in the country and the twenty-fourth largest institution of higher learning in the United States. Only Texas in the middle and southwest has a greater student body.

Much of the despair of the lowest per-

iod is evaporating, leaving the campus with a healthier outlook. This despair was not the kind that accompanied such upheavals as the D.D.M.C. affair, the big probe, the ticket recount and the bloodless revolution. It was a despair of a university fighting for its life and its gains made over a third of a century of work. But today, the atmosphere is clearing.

The threads of progress must be picked up from where they were dropped during the worst of the crisis. Building programs abandoned must be resumed and plans must be formulated for the future of the University. Doctor Bizzell sees better than anyone the need for revived activity to keep apace with the growing enrolment and increasing demands of the time.

Up to the time when conditions turned, considerable had been done under the leadership of the President to provide the University with badly needed buildings. A dozen have been constructed and put to use since he became president. The need today, however, is an ever growing one.

The Liberal Arts building, recently renamed Buchanan Hall, was completed in the Spring of 1926. Today its 29 classrooms are used by modern languages, English, philosophy, history, Greek and Latin departments, as well as some classes in education and business administration.

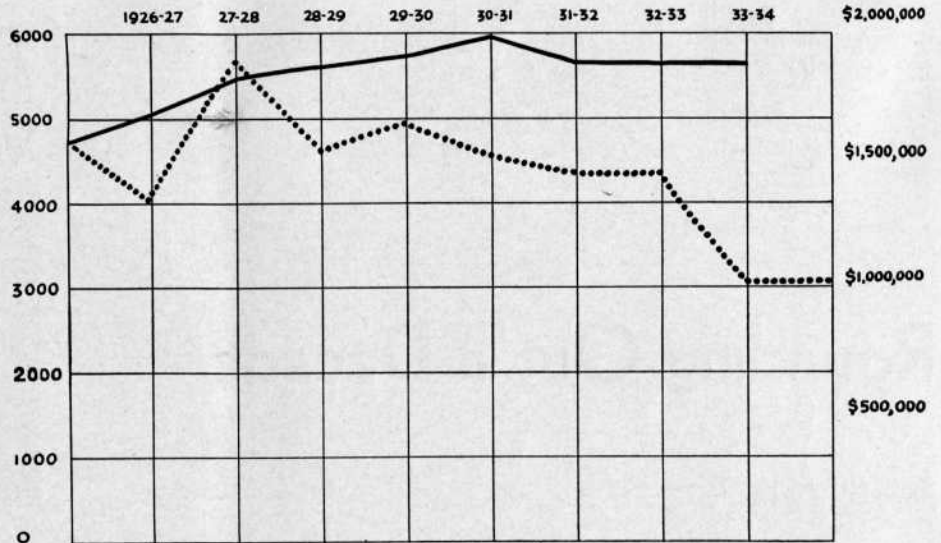
The Women's Residence Halls, Robertson Hall and Hester Hall, were completed for use in the Fall of 1926. Included in the twin dormitories are 172 bedrooms and dining facilities.

The Physical Education building, known as the Fieldhouse, was finished the following year and is used for physical education classes, tennis meets, basketball games and wrestling tournaments.

The Greenhouse, where plants and shrubs used on the campus are grown, was constructed in 1927-28. Its space is five thousand square feet.

Ellison Infirmary, formerly Hygeia Hall, was completed that year to care for cases

This chart shows comparative enrolment and appropriation figures for the University since Doctor Bizzell became president of the University in July, 1925. Using the enrolment appropriations of that year as a base, the registrations are shown by the solid line and the appropriations by the dotted line. Below, the Fieldhouse.



of illness among students. Examination, treatment and operating rooms are included in the three-story building.

The second wing of the stadium was finished in 1928, increasing the seating capacity to thirty-two thousand. Last year, the west wing was partitioned and education classes have been held there because of a scarcity of classrooms.

The Oklahom Union, the center of campus activities, was built in 1928. Here are facilities for alumni and student meetings. Its lounge and recreational features are used daily by more than half the student body. Reunions and meetings of alumni groups are held in its banquet rooms.

In 1929, the Press building, housing the school of journalism, offices of the student newspaper and yearbook and the University Press, was completed.

The Utilities building, with offices of the maintenance department and storage rooms, was completed the following year. The Petroleum Engineering laboratory and

refinery also was finished then, giving the school modern laboratories.

In 1929, the half-million dollar library was finished, to give the University one of the finest libraries in the country. Its seven stack levels provide ample room for expansion of book collections.

A one-room shack, known as the University Observatory, was completed two years ago to house astronomical instruments. Its completion was made without aid of appropriation.

The south oval, south of the Library building, has been conditioned and trees planted, looking forward to the growth of the University. It is large enough to allow three buildings to be constructed on either side. It will be a duplicate of the north oval with the Library holding a key position similar to that of the Administration building.

Enrolment increases anticipated within the next few years will bring the University into the limited class of schools with six thousand students or more. Following

are comparative full-time enrolment and state appropriation figures for the years Doctor Bizzell has been President of the University:

Year ending	Enrolment	Appropriation
1926	4,714	\$1,552,650.00
1927	5,008	1,318,565.31
1928	5,416	1,877,500.00
1929	5,589	1,562,875.00
1930	5,781	1,642,500.00
1931	5,955	1,509,000.00
1932	5,731	1,431,562.27
1933	5,737	1,431,562.27
1934	5,731	1,000,000.00
1935		1,000,000.00

During the first four years of Doctor Bizzell's administration part of the appropriations were used for buildings. During the latter years, the entire amount has gone toward the maintenance of the University.

Enrolment figures include only full-time students registered during regular sessions. Summer session students are not counted. Neither are August session, correspondence nor extension students.

