

Sketch of the proposed new building for the Petroleum Engineering school. Members of the Board of Regents have indicated that this building is next in line in the University's general construction program. In the following article, W. H. Carson explains the need for the proposed building.

Petroleum school needs a home

By W. H. CARSON

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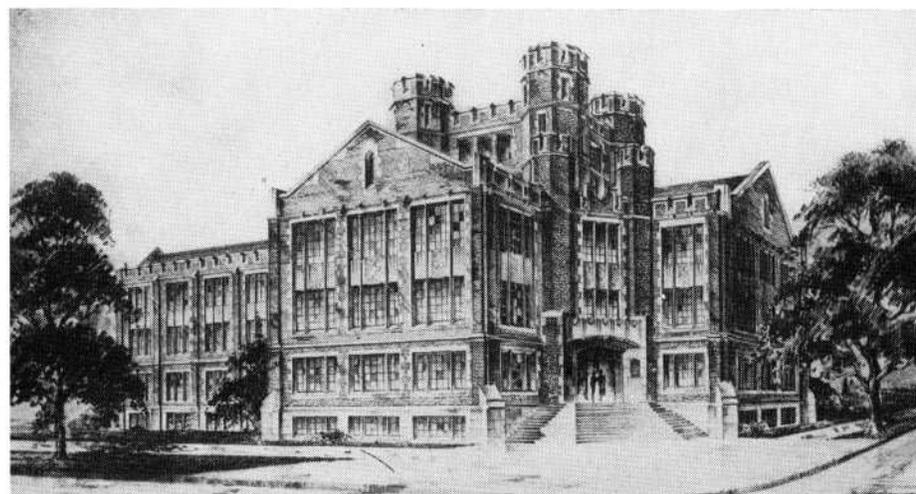
THE predominating thought which will soon be in the minds of many senior petroleum engineering students is: "Will I obtain employment after graduation?"

This question can be answered best by pointing to the fact that through the darkest days of the depression, University of Oklahoma petroleum engineers were in demand, and that last June, there were at least one hundred more positions available than there were students graduating. This satisfactory employment situation exists because the methods applied in the fields of drilling, production, transportation and refining are day by day becoming more scientific, and engineers with the proper training are much in demand.

The outstanding educational work which has been done at the University of Oklahoma has given the School of Petroleum Engineering an international reputation as being the best school of its type in the world. Students come here from practically every state in the Union and from many foreign countries. The slogan: "Wherever oil is produced, you will find an O.U. trained engineer," is just about correct. Statistics show that the greater part of the graduates have stayed in Oklahoma, but there are many who have scattered to the four corners of the world.

Although there are approximately 500 students including freshmen enrolled in petroleum engineering, this school does not have a home that it can call its own. The school is relatively young, yet it has proved its value to the state and nation and a building is needed to take care of the increasing enrollment.

The main structure which was assigned originally to the School of Petroleum Engineering was a small unfinished build-



ing which contained a limited space for laboratory equipment, a classroom, one office and a combination room which was used for office, library, graduate seminar and locker room.

The men of the petroleum industry realize the importance of developing an outstanding School of Petroleum Engineering and in a short time enough equipment was donated to fill the laboratory space to overflowing. It became necessary to erect metal buildings to house additional equipment. Before long, the scientific societies recognized the importance of the school and sponsored several research projects here. The extensive pieces of apparatus to be used in these projects were set up in other buildings on the campus.

At the present time the oil field laboratory equipment is housed in eight different buildings. Even this space is inadequate and as there is no additional room for expansion, much equipment which could be obtained without cost cannot be accepted. The efficiency of teaching laboratory work could be increased materially if all of the equipment were located in one building.

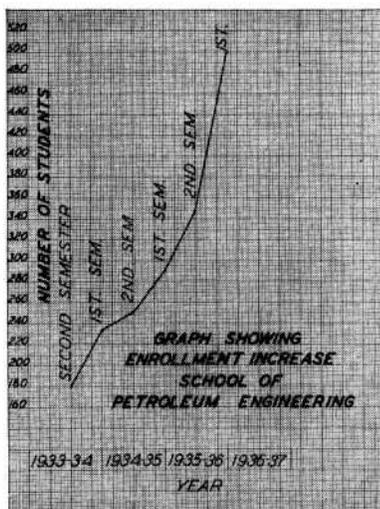
At present three dispensing rooms are required to serve the laboratories, whereas only one would be necessary if the equipment were centrally located. Expensive and highly sensitive apparatus must be moved from building to building as it is needed for the various laboratory tests. New laboratories for the advanced study of the many perplexing problems of the petroleum industry can be developed as soon as additional floor space is provided.

The one room provided for classes was quite inadequate, due to the heavy influx of petroleum engineering students. Classes were scheduled in other buildings wherever space could be found. That was six years ago. Today with the enrollment increasing as shown in the accompanying graph, the classes for professional petroleum engineering students have been spread out over a much larger area. It has even become necessary to utilize space under the football stadium.

If something isn't done, the classroom situation will be intolerable when the present large freshman and sophomore classes enroll in the professional courses during their junior and senior years. At present there are more students enrolled in the technical courses than can be taken care of properly. Certainly the courses could be taught more effectively if all of the classrooms were in one building; and the students would have more time for study and the necessary library reference books would be accessible to them at all times.

The offices of the various faculty members should be centralized so the students would not have to cover several blocks to confer with the instructors. More office space must be provided. Under present conditions three men must share a room 12 feet by 19 feet with the necessary book cases, filing cabinets and secretary's desk. Professional men in the business world would not tolerate such conditions, yet they exist in a professional school of the University where ideals are supposed to originate.

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been appointed professor in the school of education at the Stillwater institution.

1931

Garnette Glaze, '31as, spent the summer studying at the New York School of Music.

Resigning as assistant county superintendent of schools at Idabel, Doyle Crain, '31bus, has taken a position as traveling auditor for the Oklahoma tax commission.

Dr. Weldon Keiller Haynie, '31as, '33med, has started practicing medicine and surgery at Durant.

Dr. Walter Kerr, '31as, '33med, who has been connected for the last two years with a hospital at Picher, Okla., spent the summer taking a course in children's diseases at Howard university, Boston, Mass.

James Hare, '31ex, is now a reporter on the *Martinsburg* (West Virginia) *News*.

Clarence Frost, '31as, had a major operation for removal of kidney stones in a Rochester, Minnesota, hospital, in September. Frost is a newspaper editor at Hobart.

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PETROLEUM SCHOOL NEEDS A HOME

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There is an urgent need for petroleum engineering library and study hall. The present library is in a room which is also used for an office, seminar and locker room. A good technical library would be beneficial to the industry of the state as well as the students at the University. At present many men engaged in petroleum work throughout the state often consult our reference library in an effort to solve their problems.

The University of Oklahoma should lead all schools of the world in graduate research in petroleum engineering. This can become a reality only when proper facilities are provided. At present the graduate student must set up his research apparatus in the laboratory together with the undergraduate students who are working on routine projects. Scientific research cannot be carried on successfully under such conditions. Each research project should be in an individual room where temperature and light conditions can be controlled and the research apparatus would be free from disturbance. At least six research rooms are needed. A committee has been appointed to obtain industrial fellowships to provide funds for deserving students who desire to do advanced work at the University. The various companies will naturally be more interested in financing fellowships if they

are convinced the research is to be conducted under ideal conditions.

Last year 522 men from the industry attended the Southwestern Gas Measurement Short Course, a University-sponsored activity. Many other similar educational service courses for the men of the industry could be conducted if floor space were available.

Samples of all oils purchased by the State Board of Public Affairs for the institutions under its jurisdiction are tested in the University laboratories to determine if specifications are met. This work will be expanded to include all lubricants and fuels purchased by the board as soon as building facilities will permit.

From time to time a piece of museum type of equipment is received. There should be a historical museum included in the Petroleum Engineering building, to contain the old documents, photographs, and equipment that has played such an important part in the development of the petroleum industry. Wall space should be provided for paintings of the Oklahomans who have been responsible for making this state a leader among the oil producing states of the nation.

The School of Petroleum Engineering, University of Oklahoma, is known throughout the world for the high type of educational and research work that is being done here. The school has been successful in the past because the faculty have been untiring in their work, the alumni and other men of the industry have co-operated to the fullest extent, and the student body is made up of men whose primary purpose is to obtain an education.

If advancements are to be made and the reputation of the School of Petroleum Engineering is to be maintained, a suitable building must be provided.

Many of the schools of the North and East, such as the Universities of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan, have realized the importance of petroleum engineering education and have adopted courses of a specialized nature which are

Petroleum engineering courses at the University of Wisconsin are taught in this new \$575,000 Mechanical Engineering building.

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