

Josh Lee this fall inherited leadership of the Democratic party in Oklahoma as a result of winning the runoff primary race for the United States senate nomination. His Republican opponent will be Herbert K. Hyde, a former University student.

Two candidates for senator

BACK in 1917, one popular student orator received a B. A. degree, while another young orator was taking his first semester's work in the University and enjoying the thrill of being president of the freshman class. Then both were swept into the World war.

In November, 1936, when Oklahomans go to the polls to vote for United States senator they will see the names of those two men—Josh Lee, Democratic nominee, and Herbert K. Hyde, Republican nominee, on the ballot.

Although Hyde was in the University only the one semester, his school career was somewhat like that of Lee, in that he was deeply interested in debating and oratory. He was busy earning a living and had time for few other extra-curricular activities.

Both the Sooner candidates for Oklahoma's highest political office are young—Lee is 44 and Hyde 39. Both have been accustomed to hard work and determined effort all their lives.

Lee has been a teacher, public speaker, rancher and congressman. Hyde has been an assistant county attorney, secretary to a senator, practicing attorney, and United States district attorney for the western district of Oklahoma.

Josh Lee entered the University in 1914, and although working part-time in campus shops to maintain himself he found time to take part in glee club, debate and oratory. Something of an artist, he developed a knack for making chalk talks and these, along with readings and impersonations made up a part of glee club programs presented at various places over the state.

The next year he spent at the Baptist

university at Shawnee, as assistant instructor in public speaking and athletic coach.

As he was regularly enrolled in school, he was in the unique position of playing on athletic teams that he coached. He tells a story about one time when he ordered himself removed from a game because of a poor performance.

He returned to the University of Oklahoma, however, and became so popular as an entertainer that he no longer had to work in shops to make his expenses.

In 1916 he brought the University its first national championship in oratory by winning a tournament held at Lexington, Ky. His subject was "Lay the Ax to the Root of the Evil."

The glee club, with Lee as featured entertainer, made one long trip to the Pacific coast, at the expense of a railroad, giving concerts along the route.

In addition to his University degree, Lee has an LL.B. degree from Cumberland Law school, Lebanon, Tenn., and a M.A. degree in political science from Columbia university, New York City.

Political observers, surprised by Lee's strength in the first primary, predicted that he would win the runoff against Gov. E. W. Marland, but few suspected that he would win by the remarkable margin of 114,256 votes.

Hyde served in the navy during the World war, and after his discharge he worked with the Shipping Board while attending George Washington university. He worked for a time as night watchman and as a dish-washer in a restaurant in order to finish his law studies in the Boston law school. He was elected president of the senior class there.



Hyde came back to Oklahoma in 1923 to practice law and was soon named assistant county attorney of Logan county. From Guthrie he went to Washington, D. C., as secretary to Sen. W. B. Pine. He resigned after a year and a half and returned to Norman, later moving his growing law practice to Oklahoma City.

On his thirtieth birthday he was appointed assistant United States attorney for the western district of Oklahoma. When his superior, Roy St. Lewis, went to Washington, Hyde, who had made good for three years, was promoted and made Lewis' successor.

Not ashamed of the days when he delivered clothes his mother had washed to customers in the University district, Hyde recalls that the list of patrons included Frank Buttram, now an Oklahoma City oil man; Deak Parker, who later became executive editor of Scripps-Howard newspapers; Dr. Tom Lowry and Dr. Dick Lowry, now of Oklahoma City; and E. L. DeGolyer, later president of the Amerada Petroleum corporation.

"I remember I was terribly thrilled during the football season and dreamed of being a football hero, but I always had work to do," he says.

Undismayed by the assumptions of political experts that the Republican ticket has little chance in Oklahoma this fall, Hyde is making an active campaign.

Lee, as nominee for the senate, became virtual leader of the Democratic party in Oklahoma, and his aides were chief motivating force in the Medicine Park Democratic rally in early September which formally launched the Democratic campaign.