

THE SOONER MAGAZINE

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◆ OKLAHOMA ALUMNI NEWS ◆

June, 1936

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Oklahomans at home and abroad

The Cover

The north oval joined with other beauty spots on the University campus to delight returning graduates and former students. The fine arts building has been supplanted by the fieldhouse as the setting for commencement exercises. Even that building is rapidly becoming inadequate for seating the nearly thousand graduating seniors, their families and friends.

Soonerland in Brief

Dr. and Mrs. W. B. Bizzell have left the state on a European tour. They plan to visit Scandinavian countries particularly and perhaps to see part of Russia. They will spend several weeks in England immediately following their sea journey.

Dr. E. Nicholas Comfort, director of the Oklahoma School of Religion, has been elected president of the Norman Forum which will hold open discussion meetings in the fall.

The huge task of moving and readjusting a half dozen schools and colleges into the new buildings will be directed by W. W. Kraft, superintendent of utilities. The problem will be complicated by the fact that the biological sciences building will not be ready for occupation until after the fall term of school starts.

The college of business administration probably will be transferred into its new structure during the latter part of August. Departments which will be given the third floor of the administration building will also be moved.

But botany and zoology departments will not be able to take possession of their building until November or perhaps later. It will be the largest movement of departments in the history of the university.

Charles Follansbee, Eufaula, has been granted a graduate study scholarship at

Harvard University. Follansbee was editor of the yearbook during the past year and was business manager the previous year.

Dr. and Mrs. Maurice Halperin are spending the summer in Mexico City where he is collecting material for articles for *Current History*. He reached an agreement with the national publication concerning a series of three articles before leaving for the summer. He also will represent the *New York Times* in Mexico.

Harry Jordan, '35as, who has been teaching history at the Coffeyville, Kansas, junior college, is attending the summer session at the university. He is engaged in graduate study.

Ruth Robinson, Pawnee, is editor of the summer issue of *The Oklahoma Daily*, student newspaper. Included on her staff are Charles Adams, managing editor; Millard Purdy, city editor; Eleanor Lain, feature editor; Betty Jo Chitwood, society editor; John Runyan, columnist; and Ira Rice, sports editor.

Runyan's column is called *Don't Look Now*. He was editor of the humor magazine during the past year and put out one of the finest publications the humor departments has ever seen. Among other

things he recommends in his daily column is a warning to business graduates. "We hope some of the new-fledged business graduates who happen to work in banks don't think they are still in college and start taking home notes."

The four main problems of educational institutions pointed out by President Bizzell in his summer session convocation address included: first, to bring out of chaos existing since the World War and dismiss the feeling of uncertainty which has prevailed; second, to broaden the base of employment; third, to feel that man is master of forces that have been unleashed by science; and fourth, to find some way back from supernaturalism to normal attitude toward our country.

A combination textbook and work book compiled by Miss Martha Lucille Searcy, instructor in English at the university, and Miss Jean Sugden of the Southwestern State Teachers college, was recently published. It is a complete work book for students of grammar and includes exercises in compositions.

A year's leave of absence has been granted Dr. Duane E. Roller, '23as, '25 M.S., professor of physics, to serve as research associate at Columbia University on a grant made by the Rockefeller foundation. He will compile source material in the field of physical sciences suitable for the purposes of general education.

Suzanne Arnote, editor of the student newspaper during the past year, has joined the staff of the Oklahoma Publishing company in Oklahoma City.

Work on the university's new swimming pool was moving forward rapidly during June. The pool was tested several times and purification machinery was being installed.

The Memorial Union tower also was nearing completion. It gives the Union dignity and provides needed space. The

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radio studios and offices will be installed in the tower late in the summer.

Dr. Ralph Records, '22as, '23M.A., associate professor of history at the university, is teaching on the staff at the University of Virginia during the summer session.

Dr. Jack Salter, who was a member of the university staff of citizenship and public affairs before resigning to accept a position at the University of Wisconsin, is teaching at the university during the summer.

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Durant Alumni Have Luncheon

Dr. W. B. Bizzell was the guest of honor at a luncheon of University of Oklahoma alumni May 14 at Durant.

James W. Batchelor, '28as, '29law, was in charge of the event which was attended by twenty-six alumni of Durant.

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Merrill to Join Law Faculty

Dr. Maurice Merrill, '19as, '22law, professor of law at the University of Nebraska, will take an appointment to the faculty staff of the university law school in the fall.

An outstanding student and an outstanding alumnus, Dr. Merrill will teach several new courses in the law school, allowing students to select several elective subjects during their last two years.

Dr. Merrill did graduate work at Harvard University after graduation from the university. He practiced law in Tulsa for a time and then joined the teaching staff at the University of Idaho. He became a member of the University of Nebraska faculty in 1926.

As editor of the Nebraska law journal for several years, his articles attracted national attention. He has been particularly active and outstanding in the Association of American Law Schools.

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Hume Host at Dinner

C. Ross Hume, '98as, '00M.A., attorney, was host at a dinner honoring Dr. W. B. Bizzell when he delivered the Anadarko high school commencement address in May.

A number of university alumni of Anadarko attended the dinner which preceded the commencement exercises. Mr. Hume is one of the first two graduates of the university. His daughter, Betty, was graduated from the university this month.

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Verses by Mueller Published

Dr. Gustav Mueller, associate professor of philosophy at the university, recently received copies of a new volume of his verses which were published in German in Bern, Switzerland. The title of the volume is *Sinnbilder*, meaning both symbolic images and images to contemplate.

A Swiss critic said of the volume, which



Erik Rhodes, film star who was known as Ernest Sharpe when he was a University student, is shown here at a recent fancy dress ball in Hollywood. He chose to wear the costume for which Oklahoma is most widely known—that of the Indian.

is the fifth of Dr. Mueller's published by A. Francke in Bern: "They form a cycle of concentrated and artfully structured poems. Human gestures and moods, historical and natural shapes, philosophical meaning and content are poetically unified and transfigured. Mueller is never abstract, his love for those symbols is too passionate for that."

Dr. Mueller left for Switzerland early in June to be with his wife and two daughters who went there last fall. His two daughters are attending school in Switzerland. He will return to the campus in the fall, while his family plans to stay another year abroad.

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Wright Added to Faculty

Tom Z. Wright, '29bus, '34law, who recently moved to Farview from Beaver, has been appointed instructor in business law and will take his position on the university faculty in the fall.

Business law classes taught by James C. Powell, '21as, '24law, have become so crowded that many students have been unable to enrol for the courses. Wright will take over part of the courses so that sections may be added to accommodate a larger number of students. Some of the courses are required for students majoring in business administration. Many geology students have been anxious to take the courses, but have been prevented from the lack of classroom space. Wright was a member of the last legislative house of representatives from Beaver county.

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Bass Book Recommended

A fifth University of Oklahoma Press book has been accorded recommendation by the Book-of-the-Month club.

The new volume is *Cherokee Messenger* by Althea Bass, '21M.A., Evanston, Illinois. The book, released early this year by the Press, was on the recommended list of the popular book distribution organization for April.

No other university or college press in the United States has a list of volumes comparable to those which have received book club recognition. The others which have been selected were *Wah-Kon'Tah* by John Joseph Mathews, '20as, Pawhuska; *No More Unemployed* by Dr. John Cheadle, Dr. Howard O. Eaton and Dr. Cortez A. M. Ewing, all faculty members; *Five Civilized Tribes* by Grant Foreman, Muskogee; and *Deserts on the March* by Dr. Paul B. Sears of the faculty.

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Discussion Forum Organized

Plans for bringing nationally and internationally known speakers to the university campus during the fall and winter were made recently with the organization of the Norman Forum.

Membership in the organization will be open to all persons in the state. Faculty members of the university were the organizers of the forum. Fifty members of the faculty held a meeting in April to discuss the possibility of such a group. In May, the forum was perfected.

Purposes of the Norman Forum will be "to furnish information on vital issues of the day, to keep open a channel through which members and invited guests may exchange ideas and stimulate their intellectual activity, and to help maintain in theory and practice the American tradition of free speech, free assemblage and intellectual integrity.

"The organization sponsors no particular school of thought but seeks first-hand

information on all schools of thought," the purpose states.

Included on the list of suggested speakers for the program are such names as Charles D. Mahaffie, Charles A. Beard, Paul Walker, John Dewey, Smedley Butler, Rex Tugwell, Henry Wallace, Phil LaFollette, Elmer Thomas, Neils Bohr, Gomer Smith, George Norris, Harry Emerson Fosdick, Upton Sinclair, Norman Thomas, J. F. Owens, Paul DeKruif, Morris Fishbein and Frances Perkins.

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Dow Hamm is Houston President

Dow Hamm, '22as, outstanding geologist for the Shell Petroleum company, has been elected president of the Sooner Alumni club of Houston, Texas, to succeed Dr. Joe Dudgeon Walker, '20bs, '22M.D., Mr. Hamm recently returned to Texas from Holland where he was sent in an official capacity by the Shell company.

Other new officers of the Houston group include Eugene Gentry, '25bus, of the federal land bank at Houston, treasurer; and Louis Fratcher, '30ex, of the Texas company, secretary.

Frank Rentfrow, '21geol., is the retiring treasurer, and Hazel Herd Crosby, '27ex., is the retiring secretary.

Mrs. Crosby has been the guiding force in the unusually active Houston group which has been holding banquets, picnics, dances, and meetings regularly for the last few years.

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Tracy Powell Films Operation

An article concerned with an unusual motion picture directed by Dr. Tracy O. Powell, 28bs, '31M.D., Los Angeles, physician, is included in the May issue of the national magazine, *Home Movies*.

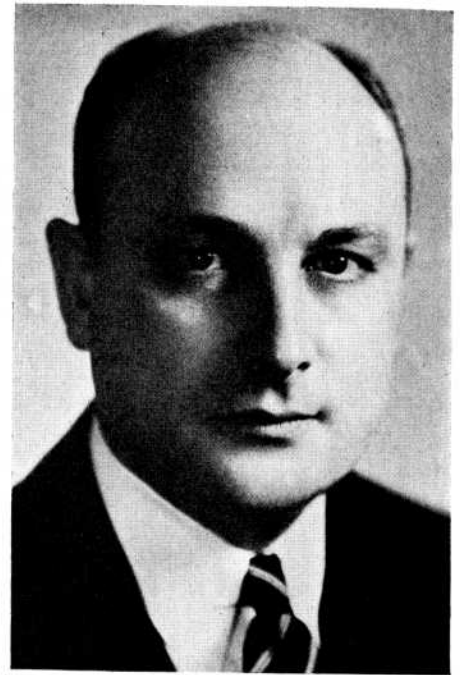
The article tells how Dr. Powell, with the aid of a physician, rigged up a 16 millimeter camera and filmed a perineal prostatectomy in the San Francisco hospital under the combined auspices of the medical schools of Stanford University and the University of Southern California.

Dr. Powell, who was graduated from the University of Oklahoma medical school, formerly lived in Idabel. The picture is considered an advanced use of the camera in filming difficult operations.

The operation was done by Dr. Powell. According to sketches accompanying the article, the camera was placed attached to a portable adjustable x-ray photographic stand where the x-ray bulb had once been.

It was raised over the head and to the right of Dr. Powell. With a motion of his hand, he signalled when pictures should be shot. A remote camera control was led to the viewing gallery where

Frank S. Cleckler, competent and congenial University Alumni Secretary, is beginning his third year as a member of the board of directors of the American Alumni Council. In this capacity, he has been in close touch with all national alumni affairs and has given Oklahoma excellent representation in this influential board.



the physician in charge of taking the pictures was posted. The camera was wrapped in sterile towels.

Two photographic light units were focused in the general direction of the operating sphere to increase the amount of light. The picture has been shown at a meeting of the American College of Surgeons and has been praised highly by members of the medical profession. Through motion pictures, records of important operations may be filed for future reference and for study by both students and physicians.

Before he entered the medical school, Dr. Powell was an outstanding university student, holding membership in Scabbard and Blade, Delta Tau Delta, and the Interfraternity council. He later was a member of Phi Beta Pi, medical fraternity.

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Houston Alumni Hold Banquet

Forty University of Oklahoma alumni and groups from other schools with which Dr. W. B. Bizzell has been connected, honored the university president at a banquet during May in Houston, Texas.

Many Texans who knew Dr. Bizzell during his early teaching days were present and related experiences of years past. A meeting of the Oklahoma alumni group was held following the dinner.

Following are O. U. graduates and former students who attended the banquet at the Rice Hotel, Houston:

Dan Boone, '34; Floyd O. Bohn, '35; Curtis Cannon, '35; Donald W. Crosby, '27; Hazel Herd Crosby, '27; Dolly Duvall, '15; Josephine Duvall, '15; John Eckel, '29; Raymond Goodrich, '21; Byron Griffith, '22; Eugene Gentry, '25;

Lucy Belle Duncan Gentry, '25; Newton E. Gorton, '03; Dow Hamm, '22; Helen Berry Hamm, '22; Dr. R. M. Hargrove, '17; Frank Holmsley, '31; Alva Lee Kerbow, '26; Slick Mallory, '28; Burr McWhirt, '13; Doris Mundy McWhirt, '13.

Donald Mathis, '22; Mrs. Donald Mathis; Dr. Leonard Myers, '21; Mrs. Leonard Myers; Buford Miller, '23; Stanley McCune, '30; Clarence Orman, '25; B. F. Orr, '14; Dr. Guy Orr, '26; W. E. Parry, '23; Mable Wells Parry, '22; Paul Hunter, '23; Frank Rentfrow, '21; Ernest Reed, '27; Dr. Lucille Robey, '15; Marion Setzer, '35; Jack M. Sloan, '25; C. B. Truitt, '31; Harold Ward, '29; Owen B. Wood, '35; Louis Fratcher, '30; and Mr. and Mrs. Sangster.

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A Pat on the Back

In a half-page of comments on affairs at Norman and the university, Frank S. Cleckler, '21as, secretary of the Alumni association, was the subject for a news item. It appeared in the *Norman Transcript*.

On the page, which is sponsored by J. M. Acree, Dixie agent, the following comment appeared:

"We saw Frank Cleckler, that energetic alumni secretary for the university, eating down town Sunday and were reminded of his fine executive ability. The way in which he handled the details for the Julien C. Monnet reunion and his manner in bringing about successful alumni reunions at commencement time are certainly to be envied. We're willing to bet that Mr. Cleckler can call by name almost as many alumni as can some of the older members of the university faculty."

Judge Cornelison is Coach

J. R. Cornelison, '28law, Beckham county judge, Sayre, took over the coaching of Argy Belle Brownlee, 16-year-old 100-pound Doxie school girl, for the Olympic tryouts which were held at the university May 30.

Judge Cornelison was a cross-country runner when he attended the university and learned his track and field work under Coach John Jacobs. Miss Brownlee had never before run in track shoes until she came down to the university during May to get ready for the Olympic trials. Miss Brownlee finished second in the 100-meter dash, Miss Juanita Hods, Ponca City, being the winner.

Seven Advanced Degrees Given

Two doctor of philosophy degrees and five doctor of education degrees were awarded to advanced students at the forty-fourth annual university commencement exercises in June.

Among the five doctor of education degrees were three with teaching fields granted for the first time in the seven years of history of the advanced school. These include history, government, modern languages, physiology and home economics.

Candidates for doctor of education degrees included Mrs. Martha O'Daniel Rinsland, Norman; James C. Krumtum, professor of foreign languages at Southwestern State Teachers college, Weatherford; Simon B. Spradlin, Canute; Mrs. V. V. Russell, head of the department of home economics at the Eastern Illinois State Teachers college, Charleston, Ill., and Caroline L. Laird, head of the department of English at Oklahoma College for Women, Chickasha.

Mrs. Russell has done her work in physiology and home economics, Krumtum studied modern languages, and Spradlin majored in history and government.

The two who were candidates for doctor of philosophy degrees are Lewis

Lucky and John T. Self, both of Norman. Self's major is zoology with a minor in paleontology.

Lucky's major subject is education devoted to the study of school administration. The adoption of the county unit school system to replace the present district system is urged by Lucky in his thesis, which is an investigation of the financial effects of a proposed plan defeated in the fifteenth Oklahoma legislature.

Parker Gets Pulitzer Award

Gaining the highest recognition attainable in his field, George B. "Deak" Parker, '08as, editor-in-chief of Scripps-Howard newspapers, was awarded a Pulitzer prize for excellence of editorials written during the past year.

He received a cash award of five hundred dollars. In a letter to the Alumni office, he said the award was forthcoming on general performance rather than any one particular editorial.

Mr. Parker was commencement speaker at university exercises three years ago. He has been with the Scripps-Howard organization for many years in New York. During the past year, he has been in Washington, D. C., to be in closer touch with legislative matters.

Luther White Joins Sunray

Luther H. White, 14as, Alumni association president during the year 1930-31, has resigned as chief geologist for the J. A. Huil company and has been elected head of the land and geological department for the Sunray Oil company, Tulsa.

"I find the Sunray to be a company well staffed by experts in every department," he wrote to the Alumni office recently. "These men are all young, ambitious, well qualified, with a vision of the future of the oil business. I think this means that Sunray is destined to go places. I consider it an honor and opportunity to be connected with such a live-wire organization."

Senior University Trend

THE table on this page reveals a very definite and striking trend in the makeup of the University of Oklahoma student body over the last twenty years. These figures, prepared by the university registry office, show clearly the extensive growth in the percentage of advanced students attending the university.

Twenty years ago, the freshman class comprised 40 per cent of the entire student group. This year, freshmen comprised one-fourth of the entire group.

The most revealing fact is in the development of the advanced classes. Twenty years ago, juniors, seniors, and graduates made up 36.3 per cent of the student body. The upper divisions have steadily grown until today juniors, seniors, and graduate students make up 55.2 per cent of the university.

In other words, the freshman and sophomore classes, once the largest in the university, have only 44.8 per cent of the student body.

All groups have grown in the past twenty years, and yet the upper divisions have grown much more rapidly. Many high school graduates have been attending junior colleges in their home towns. If they become interested in higher education, they come to the university for their last two years and for graduate study.

Then too, there has been a marked effort during the past year to help senior students close to graduation finish their final year.

RESIDENT ENROLMENTS—REGULAR SESSIONS
(Unclassified Students not included)

| YEAR | FRESHMEN | | | SOPHOMORES | | | JUNIORS | | | SENIORS | | | GRADUATES | | |
|---------|----------|-------|-------|------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|
| | MEN | WOMEN | TOTAL | MEN | WOMEN | TOTAL | MEN | WOMEN | TOTAL | MEN | WOMEN | TOTAL | MEN | WOMEN | TOTAL |
| 1915-16 | 406 | 187 | 593 | 173 | 111 | 284 | 178 | 99 | 277 | 156 | 62 | 218 | 26 | 14 | 40 |
| 1920-21 | 958 | 446 | 1404 | 356 | 214 | 570 | 271 | 144 | 415 | 307 | 165 | 472 | 36 | 34 | 70 |
| 1925-26 | 1013 | 430 | 1443 | 819 | 355 | 1174 | 621 | 355 | 976 | 427 | 380 | 807 | 109 | 84 | 183 |
| 1930-31 | 1159 | 475 | 1634 | 1027 | 404 | 1431 | 912 | 437 | 1349 | 706 | 457 | 1163 | 201 | 168 | 369 |
| 1935-36 | 1012 | 543 | 1555 | 842 | 383 | 1225 | 1081 | 451 | 1532 | 973 | 472 | 1445 | 226 | 192 | 418 |

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ENROLMENT

| YEAR | FRESHMAN | SOPHOMORES | JUNIORS | SENIORS | GRADUATES |
|---------|----------|------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| 1915-16 | 40.0 | 19.1 | 19.0 | 14.6 | 2.7 |
| 1920-21 | 32.3 | 19.2 | 16.0 | 15.9 | 2.4 |
| 1925-26 | 30.6 | 24.9 | 20.7 | 17.1 | 3.8 |
| 1930-31 | 27.3 | 24.0 | 22.6 | 19.6 | 6.2 |
| 1935-36 | 25.2 | 20.0 | 25.0 | 23.4 | 6.8 |