

AS students filed out of a University chapel service a quarter of a century ago, President David R. Boyd and Music Instructor Grace King watched the moving line of young people and passed a comment now and then.

As a slight young man with an earnest expression walked past, Dr. Boyd smiled with approval and said. "There goes a boy whose future I would like to read. Unless I am all wrong and experience has taught me nothing, he will be at the top before I die!"

The words, recalled recently by Mrs. J. D. Maguire, of Norman, the former Grace King, proved strangely prophetic. Dr. Boyd's death occurred only a few months from the time when the young man, whose name was Monroe Osborn, was elected Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court.

The story of Chief Justice Osborn is that of a young man filled with determination to make a career for himself in the law profession, in spite of scanty education as a boy.

Born at Brownwood, Texas, in 1887, Osborn grew up in Greer county, which was still in Texas at that time, and on a farm six miles from Sulphur where there were no schools.

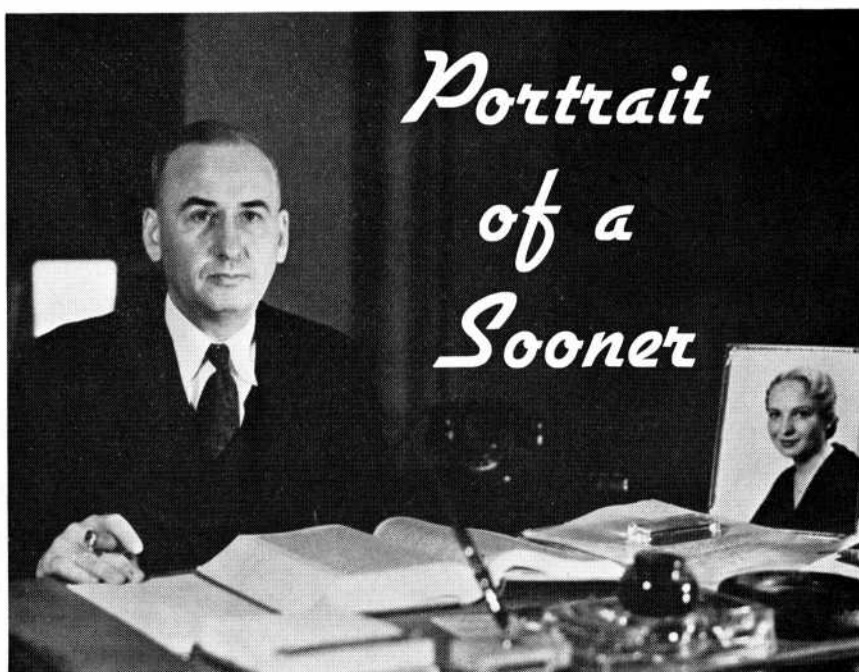
His mother had died when he was only five years old, and now he had to depend largely on his older sister for continuation of his education. In 1898 the family moved again, this time to the Norman vicinity, and the boy finished ninth grade work in a country school three miles south of Norman.

When he decided he wanted to enter the University Preparatory School, his father disagreed, but he was so thoroughly convinced that he must have a good education that he entered the preparatory school in 1900, and a short time later decided to shift for himself. At that time he was 13 years old and weighed 65 pounds.

The University then was still in its "swaddling clothes." It was conducted in the original three-story building, a short distance from the present Chemistry building. This building burned in 1902.

The enrolment at that time was about 360, of which about eighty or ninety were taking regular college work and the remainder were in the preparatory school or in the Pharmacy school. The total appropriation for the University was about \$20,000 a year.

To earn his living expenses, Osborn carried mail from the Post Office to the University, for which he received the princely salary of \$5 a month, and became secretary to the president of the University for which he received \$20 a month. He augmented this income occasionally



### MONROE OSBORN'S RISE TO CHIEF JUSTICE FULFILLED AN EDUCATOR'S PROPHECY

by cleaning out cisterns for Norman residents.

"The principal faculty members then," Judge Osborn recalls. "Were President Boyd, Dr. Edwin DeBarr, Dr. J. S. Buchanan, Professor J. F. Paxton, Dr. Van Vleet, Dr. Charles N. Gould, Professor J. W. Sturgis, and Miss Grace King.

"Professor V. L. Parrington later became head of the English department and acted as athletic coach. Dr. S. R. Hadsell, now of the English Department, was secretary to the president. In 1903 he became registrar, and I succeeded him as secretary to the president.

As secretary to President Boyd, Osborn wrote the letters that brought Bennie Owen and the late Fredrik Holmberg to the University faculty. He also wrote the letters that procured the funds for the construction of the old Carnegie Library building, now the Education Building.

"At the time I was in school, the student body included many persons who have since risen to prominence. Some of these are G. B. "Deak" Parker, editor-in-chief of Scripps-Howard newspapers; the late Walter Ferguson, newspaperman and business man; Mrs. Ferguson, the former Lucia Loomis, now a newspaper syndicate columnist; Fleta Campbell, a writer of note; and Dr. Guy Y. Williams, now head of the Chemistry Department who enrolled as a freshman in 1902 and

who at that time had attained considerable local fame by reason of his acrobatic ability on the horizontal bars.

"John Barbour, now a Norman druggist, was taking pharmacy and while in school rendered great service to the University by playing tuba in the band, in which I played tenor trombone.

"Jesse L. Rader, present librarian entered the University as a retiring lad while I was there. Bill Cross was quarterback on the football team. Dean Gittinger came to the University about 1902 and became head of the preparatory department. Dr. George A. Bucklin, who has been in consular service for many years, was in school at that time and acted as registrar."

To J. S. Buchanan, Judge Osborn gives credit for the University course that has proved the most valuable to him through a quarter-century.

"The most outstanding course I had was a course in Constitutional History taught by Dr. Buchanan. It has been of great value to me in attempting to understand the fundamentals of our government and constitution. I prize this course more highly than any law course I have ever taken.

"I recall the culture, charm and refinement of Mrs. James D. Maguire, who was head of the Music Department. His life has been an inspiration to me as well as to many of the old students through the years."

After going through the first two years of college work in the University, Osborn went to the University of Kansas in order to get a law degree.

In 1907 he worked as law clerk for Claude Weaver at Pauls Valley, and then

obtained a position as law clerk to one of the state's first Supreme Court Justices, Samuel W. Hayes.

Eighteen months later he returned to Pauls Valley to begin practice as a full-fledged attorney.

Except for one term as county attorney, he remained a practicing attorney until elected to the State Supreme Court in 1933. During the World War he enlisted and was stationed at officers' training camp at Louisville, Ky. He became Chief Justice in January of this year.

The esteem in which he is held in his own home town and over the state also was illustrated in March when he was honored at a dinner given by the Garvin County Bar Association.

Leading judicial figures from all over the state gathered for the occasion, and two hundred attorneys were present to greet the new Chief Justice. A dozen speakers paid tribute to his ability and his record as attorney and judge.

Judge Osborn is married and has one daughter, Nancy Trent Osborn, who was engaged in radio work at Denver, Colo., until her marriage in March to Harold West Genight, a newspaperman of Cheyenne, Wyo.



**Practical education praised**

Bennie McElyea, '27, '36ed.m, has won praise for a system of practical education he has established at Hobart, where he is Superintendent of Schools.

In general, the plan is simply the application of the idea of vocational agriculture education to fit various trades and industries. The federal Smith-Hughes Act provides for financial assistance for schools that provide education in trades and industries as well as agriculture.

The *Oklahoma City Times* compliments McElyea with this editorial:

Paste in the scrapbook of memory the name of Bennie McElyea, Hobart superintendent of schools, who has found a method to extend practical vocational training to every student who wishes it. Under the Smith-Hughes act of congress financial assistance was authorized for schools adopting a policy of vocational training in agriculture, trades and industry. Its benefits have been sought largely in the field of agricultural work. With advice and guidance of Oklahoma A. and M. college instructors, McElyea induced Hobart merchants to permit students to spend two to four hours daily in actual work, supplementing classroom studies. Students thereby are learning the technique of business. More than that, they are receiving an idea of what makes business go, and will be better equipped later to select university courses of study directed toward preparation for a definite vocation. McElyea is accomplishing something in the field of education, and his method should serve as an example to be followed by school officials in cities where the diversity of business firms should afford facilities for larger programs than are possible even in the thriving Hobart community.

# A new loyalty song

Mrs. Mary Catherine Franklin To Old O. U. Music Oscar J. Lehrer

Transcription  
Tempo di Marcia

Our hearts are true, To old O. U. To Alma Mater and our Boomer Sooner Land! We pledge our all, at every call, for red and white to take our stand To Okla-homa we will always be, most loyal sons and daughters true, We'll lift our voices in a happy cheer, for Old O. U.

**J**OHN PHILLIPS SOUSA, when acting as a judge in a contest for a new national anthem for which a prize of \$10,000 was offered, said, "National anthems were never created through the sponsoring of competitive prizes, for such things spring spontaneously from the hearts of the people."

Soonerland has a new loyalty song now, and it is one that sprung from the heart of O. J. Lehrer, the "Daddy" Lehrer who has been the warm friend of many school generations of bandmen.

This new O. U. Band March was "inspired by my love and admiration for the O. U. band and its worthy leader, Professor W. R. Wehrend," Mr. Lehrer said.

"In writing the march, I found that the melody of the trio suggested to me the words:

"Our hearts are true  
To old O. U.  
To Alma Mater and the  
Boomer-Sooner Land."

Mary Catherine Franklin, who is in one of Mr. Lehrer's classes in the the College of Fine Arts, wrote the rest of the verse to the music, and the result is shown above.

When the University band first tried out the new march, representatives were present from the *Norman Transcript*, *Oklahoma Daily*, and the Ruf Neks and Jazz Hounds pep orders. All expressed themselves as being enthusiastic over the melody of the trio as being suitable for an O. U. song, and the band members themselves found the music much to their liking.

First public presentation of the new march was in the band's annual home concert March 21, and the audience gave it enthusiastic applause.