

The campus goes co-operative

A share-the-cost philosophy has taken hold of the student body at Norman this year, and the co-operative way of living has become more popular than perhaps at any time in the history of Soonerland.

Students are living together and eating together in order to cut down expenses, and also are co-operating socially, in sports and in scholastic endeavors through the Independent Men's Association.

The co-operative idea originated some time ago among progressive minds in the W. S. G. A., but the men stepped ahead and put actual co-operative projects into operation before the women completed their survey of co-operative ventures at other universities. The women are still planning, and they may start a co-operative house next year, predicts Ruth Clark, Tulsa, W. S. G. A. president.

As the second semester started, an I. M. A. co-operative dining room was opened in the Stadium and the Graduate club announced that a group of graduate men would move into their own co-operative rooming house in the old infirmary on University Place.

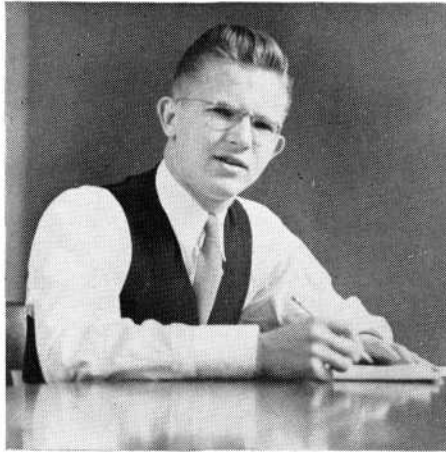
Both ventures have proved entirely successful, says Dean J. F. Findlay. About 55 boys are eating two meals a day at the I. M. A. dining table, and some 20 men are living in the graduate house.

And here and there on the campus may be observed other sure signs that an era of mutual help has come. Owners of rooming houses permit students to do light housekeeping. Students in twos and threes rent apartments, with permission of University authorities, in order to cook their own meals. Brothers and sisters co-operate frequently, to cut down the cost of attending the university.

The home economics practice house is actually a co-operative establishment, too.

The travel bureau of the I. M. A., begun last year, is a non-profit-making enterprise, operated chiefly by means of notices posted in the Union by would-be passengers and by drivers seeking fellow students to ride with them.

In a sense, too, the 21 social fraternities for men and the 12 for women are co-operative. Although the members do not divide up the work to be done, as in a true co-operative, they apportion their expense and charge each member an equal share. A survey just made by Dean Findlay shows that the men's social orders charge monthly assessments ranging from \$35 to \$47.50 a month. Some charge uneven amounts, such as \$44.53, indicating a meticulous division of expenses.



David Westmoreland, freshman who sponsored the co-operative eating plan.



Ruth Clark, W. S. G. A. president, is studying co-operative housing for University women.

The average assessment at men's houses is about \$42.50. This figure includes dues and assessments for social affairs, as well as room and board.

Women's fraternity house charges vary from \$35 to \$47 a month, and average about the same as the men's expenses. The cost of dances and the dues are included in the monthly payment.

Another type of co-operation is developing on the campus, also, through a program which Dean Findlay describes as planned for "personality adjustment." Some 1,500 men are taking part in I. M.

A. activities this year. The I. M. A. includes all men living outside fraternity houses, even those fraternity members who elect to room outside. Those who commute from Oklahoma City and elsewhere and those who are tied down with jobs away from the campus are practically the only men who do not take part in the program.

Activities of three groups are arranged: first, those for social expression, such as dances, smokers, discussion groups, picnics and varied kinds of parties; second, the intramural sports program; third, the scholastic program, which provides tutors for slower students and scholarship cups for I. M. A. districts in which men students make high grade averages.

The women, too have a co-operative program of activities, directed by the house council. But the girls never call themselves "independents."

No doubt one reason why the co-operative dining room of the I. M. A. is pleasing everyone concerned is that both students and University officials planned the whole thing with great care in advance. Another reason is that a high standard of good taste and dignity is required at all times in the dining room. And the meals are "swell," the boys report.

The brain child of two freshmen, David Westmoreland of Sallisaw and Glen Milam of Atoka, the project received University support from the first. A faculty committee of supervisors includes Dean Findlay, E. R. Kraettli, University secretary, W. W. Kraft, superintendent of utilities, and J. L. Lindsey, financial clerk. Dr. Helen B. Burton, director of the School of Home Economics, makes out the menus scientifically.

It costs each student only 40 cents a day, or \$12 a month, for two meals at this college table. The boys buy the food under the direction of Boyce Timmons, Pawhuska, president of I. M. A. and director of the dining room. Their chief cook is Mrs. Bonnie Battles.

Students participating in the movement are carefully selected on the basis of merit and need. A number of them are NYA workers. University officials do not expect the co-operative table to affect adversely business of boarding houses or campus shops.

The graduate house is not just a rooming and boarding place, but is a social center for all graduate activities. Men living there have employed a cook and three students to do the housekeeping duties. In this respect, it is not entirely

By Frances Hunt, '29

a co-operative. But if any money is left over each month, it is divided equally among all members. The monthly charge is \$22.50.

Government rests in the hands of a five-man house council headed by Dr. J. Teague Self, instructor in zoology, to whom the house manager is responsible.

Since only men students who hold the bachelor's degree may room in the house, they are allowed more freedom than the usual University student. Warren Mateer, of Norman, a graduate student in geology, acts as house manager.

Other universities, notably the University of Chicago, have successful graduate houses.

Inconspicuously, many small groups of boys and a few groups of girls are pooling their resources in co-operative living. Eighteen of the men's rooming houses permit light housekeeping. Eleven apartments, in approved houses, over garages and in duplexes, are being used by men students who cook their own meals. In several cases, boys bring their butter, meat and vegetables from home.

Three men, including one freshman whose grades recently brought him election to Phi Eta Sigma, are operating a small house and farm on acreage east of the campus.

Similarly six girls have rented the top floor of a woman's rooming house on Asp avenue and run their own tiny home on co-operative principles. Two of them who have a talent for cooking prepare all the meals. Two do all the dishwashing. One does the marketing, going down every Saturday afternoon. Each has other specific duties. Some of these girls are working at NYA jobs in addition to their school work, but they all spend about two hours a day helping run their house.

"It costs me about half what I paid for for room and board last year," said one of the group, "and I am better satisfied with what I get for my money."

Possible establishment of a women's co-operative house on a large scale next year will depend partly on what W. S. G. A. finds out about co-operatives at other schools when they attend the convention of the Intercollegiate Association of Women Students early in April at the University of Southern California. Miss Clark and the incoming president of W. S. G. A., not yet elected, will go. Miss Clark first began thinking about co-operative houses for girls when she heard the idea explained at the 1936 convention of the women students, held at Denison university, Granville, Ohio.

W. S. G. A. members at Norman have written to a number of schools inquiring about their co-operative ventures. Some of these institutions are Texas State College for Women at Denton, the University

of Illinois, the University of Kansas, Denison university and Southwestern State Teachers' college at Weatherford. At Denton, says Miss Clark, a number of co-operative houses are operating, and their routine duties are so well organized that each girl needs to work only about an hour a day.

Co-operative living arrangements for University women should never become simply devices for living cheaply, in the opinion of Dean McDaniel, but should enable each girl to have social life and pleasant, cultural surroundings. This ideal will be sought in any co-operative homes that may be opened for women students in the future.



Senate hears Lee oration

Senator Josh Lee, '17, made his first important speech in the United States Senate when he spoke for adoption of the Pittman neutrality bill which was finally adopted by a vote of 62 to 6.

Senator Lee, long an advocate of anti-war measures, implored the Senate to support "the peace act of 1937, designed to keep America out of the line of fire in the next war."

"I had no intention of taking part in this debate until I heard arguments to the effect, or leaving that impression on me at least, that property and property rights were to be considered in the same balance as blood and human rights," Senator Lee said. "I cannot restrain myself from speaking on this subject."

"You can't go into the asylums filled with shell-shocked boys and talk property against life," he declared, urging the Senate to "remember those who can't talk."

In supporting the resolution to place an embargo on munitions to belligerents, Senator Lee opposed two outstanding Senate orators, Borah of Idaho and Johnson of California.



O. U. display planned

Mrs. Dorothy Hudson Moyer, '32as, of Kansas City, Mo., is chairman of the University of Oklahoma Division of the All-University display to be presented by the Kansas City chapter of the American Association of University Women April 2, 3, and 4.

The display is held annually by the Kansas City A. A. U. W. in order to acquaint young people with information about the various universities over the country.

The O. U. alumni office arranged to supply Mrs. Moyer a complete exhibit of information about the University of Oklahoma and its activities.



Sooners head Wewoka Schools

Two Sooner graduates are school executives at Wewoka this year, and many others are teaching in the high school

there. Harry D. Simmons, '24as, is superintendent, and James R. Frazier, '24as, '32 ed.m, is high school principal. The Sooners teaching in the high school are Mrs. Ruth Dilworth Fell, '28as; Alice Dougherty, '24as; Margaret Gladden, '28 as, '35ed.m, Henry W. Hooper, '26as, '32ed.m, and John R. Richards, '30fa.



Grasshoppers old story

Biological data compiled by some of the first explorers to visit Oklahoma territory reveals that clouds of grasshoppers were common in the early days as well as now, Dr. A. O. Weese, University biologist, said in a public lecture delivered recently.

Thomas Nuttall's party of explorers was greatly impressed by the beauty of the Oklahoma plants and the abundance of the grasshoppers. Thomas Say and John R. Bell, biologists who accompanied two parts of the Stephen Long expedition to the Rocky mountains, found along the Canadian river bison, deer, wild horses, elk, and turkeys in such numbers that the hunter could kill any quantity he wanted, Dr. Weese recounted.

Josiah Gregg, who traveled through Oklahoma in 1839 and 1849, was a keen observer and recorded many valuable facts about animals, plants and geological features, Dr. Weese said. Gregg said that the mustang was by far the noblest animal of the prairie to the traveler.



Film library proposed

Recommendation that a program of visual education such as that used in Illinois be adopted in Oklahoma has been given the Oklahoma Education association by H. M. Armstrong, director of the Public Relations Department of the University.

Under the Illinois plan, each school would contribute one sound film, or film with synchronized record, and a library would be opened at the University. Then each contributor would be eligible to draw on the library for any film desired, paying only a small assessment to defray the cost of maintaining the service.



Honor class chosen

Members of President W. B. Bizzell's honor class of outstanding juniors in the College of Arts and Sciences are:

John Gittinger, Jack Luttrell, John Dell Hadsell and Richard Gilley, all of Norman; Earl Appleton Brown, Oklahoma City; Arthur Ellsworth, El Reno; Spofford English, Chattanooga, Tenn.; William R. Flood, Eufaula; Vernie Harris, Elk City; Lee Albert Jacobson, Oklahoma City; Olen Jeffries, Tuttle; Howard Wilson, Oklahoma City; Howard Pickard, Mangum; Roy Sanford, Perryton, Texas; William Lester Tippitt, McAlester, and John Jacob Hamilton, Jenks.