Some engineering success stories

TO attempt to compile up-to-date information about all Sooner engineering graduates who have been successful in various fields would require the writing of a book.

Instead, a comparatively small group of alumni have been selected and their success stories will give a cross-section of the whole body of alumni. These stories are typical of the O. U. graduates who by their technical training have advanced rapidly in the oil industry or in other engineering fields.

C. E. Turner, '32, is now with the comptroller's department of Phillips Petroleum Company. Since graduation he has worked up from the "ditch digging" gang, as he termed it, to a position of considerable responsibility. He is now directly responsible for oil, gasoline, and gas reservoirs. He has received special recognition for his investigations of the Oklahoma City field and the Texas Panhandle gas field. His work takes him into all of the fields in which the Phillips company operates.

As engineer for the Sunray Oil Company, Jack Abernathy has charge of development, planning and the completion of oil wells under modern methods of pressure controlled drilling. His work carries him to Kansas and the Panhandle of Texas in addition to the state of Oklahoma. He says that his greatest contribution to the field of petroleum engineering is his 2-year-old son who has already been around more than his dad had at the time he graduated from the University.

William H. Creel, who went to work for the Phillips Petroleum Company when he graduated in 1924, has remained with the same company throughout that period and now holds the position of chief engineer in the refining department.

P. O. Tauson started work for the National Supply Company of Delaware when he left the University, and was assigned to a research problem concerning the load characteristics of pumping equipment. Remaining with the same company, he is now senior engineer.

A job as field clerk for the Skelly Oil Company gave Richard D. Robey, Jr., his first experience in the oil business. He later decided to attend the University and entered school in 1926, working during the summer for the Noble-Olsen Drilling Company.

He received a petroleum engineering degree in 1930 after which he went to the Olsen company as engineer. In 1932

A CROSS-SECTION OF O. U. ENGINEERING ALUMNI THAT SHOWS HOW THEY ADVANCE

he was made production superintendent of the Olsen company and in 1934 was elected vice-president. In 1936 he resigned and entered business for himself, establishing the Robey Drilling Company. He now lives in Tulsa, is a member of the Oil and Gas Committee of the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce and belongs to the Engineers Club of Tulsa.

DANA G. HEFLEY, who received a chemical engineering degree in 1926 and a petroleum engineering degree in 1927, has established a reputation as an expert in several phases of oil and chemical engineering.

After graduation he went to work for the Marland Oil Company in the research laboratory. In 1928 he accepted a position with the Indian Territory Illuminating Oil Company, at Bartlesville, as chief chemical engineer.

In 1935 he accepted his present position as chief chemical engineer with Dowell, Inc., at Tulsa.

While working with the Indian Territory Illuminating Oil Company he designed and operated the largest lime-soda ash water softening plant in the state. His present work is limited to the acid treatment of oil wells producing from limestone formations.

"I am working in the designing of major dams," James Ralph Bollinger, '33 eng, writes from Colorado. "Soon after the first of 1936 I was transferred from the National Park Service to the Bureau of Reclamation here in Denver. I have been getting considerable experience and enjoyment from my work.

"I first worked on the construction of the concrete piers for the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge until their completion. I worked with the Henry J. Kaiser company, contractors doing various types of engineering analysis work, which I enjoyed.

"Later I had an opportunity to enter the Engineering Department of the National Park Service. San Francisco was my headquarters, but I traveled to the different parks and monuments doing general engineering work, consisting of road design and general improvement construction.

"I have taken a new step in life. I was married the fourth day of this year to a San Francisco girl whom I had known since I first came out here. She is a wonderful girl . . . ."

Kenneth Markwell, '29eng, is a Sooner who has been dealing with projects in the multi-million dollar class. Since his appointment as state PWA engineer for Tennessee in the fall of 1935, he has supervised the handling of more than $50,000,000 worth of material. He has been with the PWA since its beginning in Tennessee and is the fourth person to hold the position in that state.

His immediate predecessor, Major Thomas H. Allen, praised Markwell as "an excellent engineer and a splendid head officer." Although a native of Oklahoma, Markwell has made his home in Memphis, Tenn., for a number of years, where he served as engineer with the Memphis Harbor Commission and as senior engineering examiner for the city. At the time he became connected with PWA in September, 1935, he was consulting engineer in business for himself.

Newman B. Smith, '24, is another Sooner who has been asociated with the "big money," in his work as a precise surveyor with one of the distributing projects of Boulder Dam. Employed upon graduation by the Oklahoma Highway Department, he since has served with the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, the bureau of Engineering for the City of Los Angeles, the Bridge Department of the State of California, and is now employed by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, as assistant engineer assigned to supervision of oil field parties.

Mr. Smith is married to an Oklahoma City girl, Maysie Hughes, who attended the University one year and graduated from Baker University. They have three children.

Honored with associate membership in the American Society of Civil Engineers, he writes:

"In my work I have met numerous recent graduates and I do not see much difference in the '1936 models' as compared with the old '24s.' "

Joe Chastain, former Sooner polo star, has been with the Eason Oil Company since February, 1936, as production superintendent in charge of activities in the Oklahoma City and Seminole fields, and lives in Oklahoma City.

After graduating in engineering at the University and studying law for one se-

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SOME ENGINEERING SUCCESS STORIES

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mester, he went to work for the Phillips Petroleum Company, Bartlesville. By August of that year he was placed in the engineering branch of the production department at Oklahoma City. In January he was moved to Seminole to work in a pumping district and later was transferred back to Oklahoma City, in charge of experimental equipment. He left this position to take the post with the Eason company.

While in the University he played the key position on the polo team and made the trip to the national intercollegiate tournament on Long Island in 1930. The Sooners ended that season with only one defeat, and that was at the hands of the West Point team which won the tournament.

W. D. Owsley, who received a petroleum engineering degree in February, 1932, is now designing engineer for the Halliburton Oil Well Cementing Company, Duncan, Okla. He has been with this company since leaving school, and has served in the Kilgore field, in California and at Houston, Texas, in addition to his work at the headquarters in Duncan.

At Houston he was division engineer for the Gulf Coast of Texas and Louisiana and Southwest Texas division of the company. He has played an important part in the development of new methods of oil well completion, particularly in the case of deep wells or where other special hazards are encountered.

Mrs. Owsley is the former Mary Margaret Morrow, who was a Tri-Delt in the University.

There is a large colony of Sooner engineering graduates at Port Arthur, Texas, in positions with the Gulf Refining Company and the Texas Company.

V. W. Garton, '30as, '34ms, is foreman of a treating plant of the Gulf company which treats pressure still distillate in large quantities, as much as 35,000 barrels a day.

John Watters, '34as, is doing special research work on lubrication problems for Gulf, and Joe Johnson, '35as, and Ernest Cotton, '33as, are in the engineering testing department of the same company.

Arlan Hale, '35as, is in the research laboratory, Scott Reeburgh, '35as, in the analytical laboratory, and various other technical positions are filled by Thurman Dupy, '35as, Tyner Endicott, '34as, Haskell Armitage, '34as, '36ms, and John Weiland, '36as.

Sooners employed with the Texas Company at Port Arthur include Duff Smith, '31as, and Lawrence Boyts, '35, W. C. Patterson, '35, and Don Cowan, '36, the latter three all chemical engineering graduates.

ENGINEERS WILL CELEBRATE

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who are curious about their own emotions, a "passion meter" will be available for experimentation.

Chemical engineers will have in operation a distillation tower, which is used in the fractionation of the various hydrocarbons. A small model of a water filtration plant will be performing its functions, and a nicotine distillation process will show how to obtain the percentage of nicotine in tobacco. Visitors will be presented samples of artificial silk, known to the chemist as cellulose acetate.

Models of five different types of bridges will be seen in the Civil Engineering exhibit. Methods of attaining safety in modern highway construction also will be illustrated. A display showing the various types of low cost road surfaces feasable for use in Oklahoma will be of interest to motorists.

There will be a comprehensive display of various surveying instruments and equipment, and materials used in highway construction will be tested.

Some of the possibilities of flood control, a subject of particularly timely interest now, will be clearly shown.

A large exhibition of minerals and rocks will be offered by the School of Geological Engineering. Motion pictures will describe the use of the seismograph and other geophysical instruments. The methods used in surveying well holes with the