



*A new aerial view of the campus, taken by the U. S. Army Air Corps, 22nd Photo Section*

# The Present Status of the University

By President W. B. Bizzell

**T**HE University is just now beginning its forty-sixth year, having opened its doors for the reception of students in the fall of 1892. Through the intervening years, since the first small group of students came to Norman to begin their work, much history has been made and many things have been accomplished. The territorial university has become a state university, resulting from combining the Indian and Oklahoma Territories in one commonwealth, and the institution has become the capstone of the public school system of the combined territories.

The University of Oklahoma has increased through the years in enrolment, as the state has grown in population, and it has also, in a measure, profited by the increase in wealth that has come to the state. The institution has also experienced the vicissitudes of fortune that has resulted from politics. It is inevitable that a state supported educational institution like the University must feel the effect of all the influences that control the destinies of the people served by it. When an adequate history of the University is written, it will be necessary to take into account the upheaval resulting from the World War, the adversity and distress that came to our people during the years of the depression, and the vision of shortsightedness of those that have directed the political destinies of the state.

The University was, perhaps, experi-

encing its greatest years from about 1923 to 1930. Beginning with 1930-31 the University began to feel the pinch of adversity. Appropriations were curtailed and the institution entered upon the most trying period of its history. While revenues were being drastically reduced, however, the problem of administration was complicated by virtue of a continuous growth in enrolment. Young men and women who had suddenly been thrown out of employment, joined hundreds of college students to swell the enrolment figures. There was nothing to do but to carry on, to make the best of a difficult situation and to hope for a better day.

The University enrolment reached the surprising total of 8,738 during 1936-37, the year that has just closed. This number included 6,212 enrolled in the regular session; 1,909 in the summer session of 1937; 1,585 correspondence students; and 77 students enrolled in extension classes. On a basis of these figures, the Board of Regents submitted a carefully prepared budget for the consideration of the Sixteenth Legislature and the governor of the state.

The Fifteenth Legislature had provided \$810,000 for salaries and \$228,200 for maintenance, and an appropriation of \$250,000 was provided for a Business Administration Building, which enabled the University authorities to secure an allotment of \$214,000 from the Federal

Government, for the erection of the first unit of a Biological Science Building.

It is apparent to every one familiar with the situation, that these sums were inadequate for the proper maintenance of an institution of this size. The Legislature appropriated for the University in 1930-31, \$1,194,000.00 for salaries and \$295,000.00 for maintenance. At that time the enrolment was approximately one thousand below that for 1936-37.

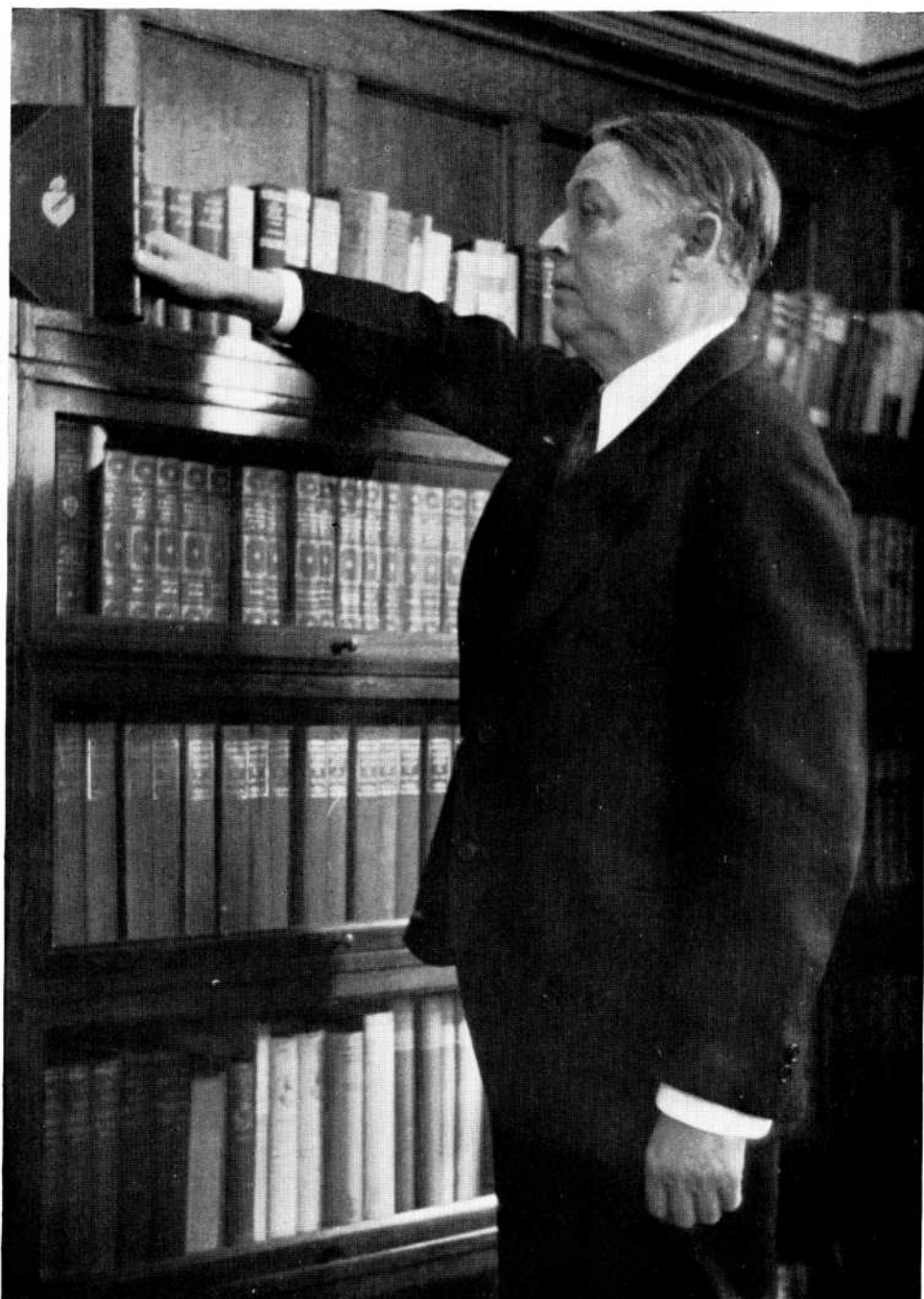
The Board requested the legislature to appropriate the following sums for the maintenance of the University for the current biennium:

	1937-38	1938-39
Salaries	\$1,059,848.29	\$1,151,388.29
Maintenance	340,870.80	342,570.80
Permanent Improvements and		
Repairs to Physical		
Plant	29,700.00	29,200.00
Equipment for College		
of Engineering	54,200.00	56,000.00
Buildings	350,000.00	250,000.00
Totals	\$1,834,619.09	\$1,829,159.09

The appropriations actually made for the University are as follows:

Salaries	\$ 950,000.00
Maintenance	223,780.00
Books	10,000.00
Equipment	34,000.00
Engineering—Shop Equipment	40,000.00
Repairs and Alterations	24,240.00
Permanent Repairs to Buildings and Equipment	25,000.00
For Extension Education and Co-operation With the Federal Government in the Training of Public Service	18,000.00
Total	\$1,325,020.00

President Bizzell, having guided the University through many perils during recent years, is glad to see bright prospects for the new school year. At the same time, he points to certain problems yet to be solved.



The above items do not include \$46,000 for furniture and equipment for the new Biological Science Building, and \$4,000 for the construction and equipment of a co-operative dormitory in the Stadium. While the legislative appropriation is an increase over that of the present biennium, the amounts allowed were disappointing in two important particulars.

In the first place, the appropriation actually allowed for salaries is more than \$109,000 less than the Board of Regents requested, and \$244,000 less than that appropriated for 1930-31. In the second place, the request for a Petroleum Engineering Building and a Geology Building was not allowed. The failure of the legislature to provide any funds for build-

ings at the University is one of the greatest misfortunes that has happened to higher education in Oklahoma in a long time. These buildings were not only needed because of the inadequate space for instruction purposes, but because the state has been deprived of the opportunity of securing federal grants for other buildings that will probably never be available again.

It was believed by the governing authorities of the institution that these two buildings also were of sufficient vital importance to the development of the mineral resources of the state, that the legislature would appreciate the contribution that could be made to the material welfare of our people through the addition of these educational facilities.

While the increase of \$140,000 in the salary appropriation has enabled the Board of Regents to increase slightly the salaries of some two hundred men and women in the lower brackets, the amount appropriated has not been sufficient to increase but a few salaries of those receiving more than \$3,000 per annum. Many institutions throughout the country have completely restored the salary schedules of 1929-30, for the current year. The University is one of the few institutions in the country that is still operating on the inadequate salary budget of the depression years.

As a result of this situation, the University has lost a few valuable men and women from its staff. Some of the newspapers have attempted to leave the im-

pression that we have had an exodus of faculty members from the University, as a result of this situation. This, of course, is not true. There have been fourteen resignations from the staff during the past summer. This is a relatively small turnover, all things considered. It is less than the normal number that we usually had to resign during the pre-depression years, and somewhat larger than the number from 1931-35. Four or five of those who have resigned are brilliant young men who have gone to more remunerative positions, and represent a real loss to the institution. Some of the others were requested to resign, and still others were not encouraged to stay by refusal to increase their salaries.

The Medical School has been operating for years on a totally inadequate budget. The Sixteenth Legislature did a little better by this branch of the University than in previous years. A total of \$142,000 was appropriated for salaries, maintenance, and medical research. This has enabled the University authorities to increase most of the salaries of the Medical School staff, but, unfortunately, no appropriation was made for buildings at the Medical School.

There has been need for years, for a new Nurses Home, and a building for the out-patient department. A more adequate power plant is also an imperative need of the institution. The laundry building and other service structures are of frame construction, and due to the oil development about the hospital plant, the fire hazard has been greatly increased. A strenuous effort was made to secure funds for buildings to replace these structures, but our efforts were unavailing.

There are several oil wells on the Medical School and Hospital property in Oklahoma City, and a bill was introduced to appropriate the income from oil for building purposes at this institution, but, strange as it may seem, it was impossible to get favorable action on this proposal. There is still serious danger that funds from this source, which rightly belong to the University, may be diverted to other uses.

In spite of financial difficulties, I believe the University is entering this year with the strongest faculty in its history. Fifty-three men and women have been employed during the summer. This includes one Dean of Women (Miss Margaret Stephenson, who succeeds Miss Edna E. McDaniel); one full professor; four associate professors; eighteen assistant professors; nineteen instructors, and ten technical assistants. This means that in addition to those employed to take the place of faculty members who have resigned, the University has this year thirty-eight additions to its staff, which restores the total faculty personnel to the pre-depression level.

But the number is still inadequate for

the increase in enrolment during recent years has made the teaching load too heavy. In other words, our total of teachers is just about adequate to carry the teaching load when the student enrolment was about 1,000 less than it is at the present time.

But, I want to emphasize the fact that with the small increase in the salary appropriation the University has been able to do two important things.

In the first place, we have been able to increase slightly the salaries of the members of our staff who have been receiving from \$1,600 to \$3,000. And, in the second place, it has been possible to increase the total number on the staff as a means of reducing the teaching load below that of the preceding year.

All in all, therefore, the University is beginning this year better off than it was during the last three or four years. But I can not emphasize too strongly, the fact that greatly needed appropriations must be made available to the University very soon, if the institution is to maintain its place of importance in the educational

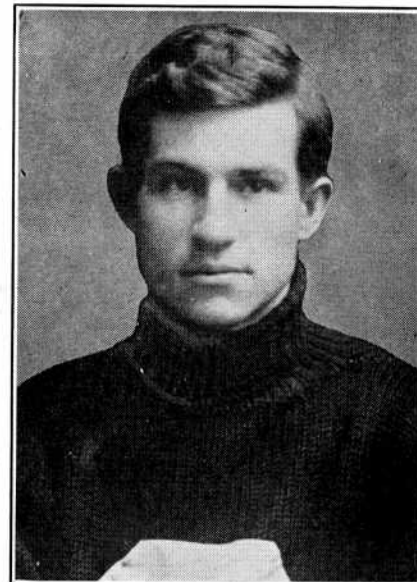
world. It is unreasonable to expect scholarly men and women to remain indefinitely at the University on salaries far below those paid in sister institutions throughout the country. It is equally apparent that the physical plant of the University must be greatly enlarged if the institution is expected to serve the cause of education effectively. These are imperative necessities that demand consideration.

The University must look to its alumni and other friends of education and see to it that the state's institution of higher learning is not relegated to a secondary place in higher education in this country. The University authorities had fine support from many of its alumni and other friends during the recent session of the legislature. Their influence was felt, and those of us who are bearing the burdens of administration are grateful for the help we received. I am sure if all of us unite our efforts in behalf of the University, we can maintain its present position as one of the important educational institutions of the country.

## New Athletic Council Members



*Mike Monrone*



*Fred Capshaw*

The two men shown above are new alumni representatives on the University Athletic Council for the 1937-38 school year. Fred Capshaw, '13, '14, Oklahoma City, is one of the "greats" in Sooner football history, and the picture above shows him in uniform while an O. U. gridman.

Mike Monrone, '24, Oklahoma City,

is a former president of the Alumni Association. The third alumni representative on the Athletic Council is Neil R. Johnson, '15, '17law, Norman, who was reappointed to serve another term.

The alumni representatives are chosen by the president of the University from a group of nominees selected by the Executive Board of the Alumni Association.