

Who saved the elm?

THE lovely spreading elm tree in front of the Administration Building has been named "Pe-et Tree," because of the affection which Pe-et has for the tree.

The fact that Pe-et does "have an affection for the tree" is pretty evident. But that fact, and the fact that the tree is really there seem to be about the only facts in this case that *are* very evident. Or at least that is the impression finally gleaned by this tired and somewhat bewildered journalism student after having interviewed eight different people on the subject and having received about eight different answers.

The Regents at a meeting last year decided to christen the tree "Pe-et Tree." The story of the historical connection of Pe-et with the tree is a little vague, because most of the alumni members in Norman now were not here when Pe-et was first organized and so naturally cannot vouch absolutely for the veracity of all the things that have been told since then.

There is a beautiful little story in circulation about Indian arrows floating around on the top of the tree. And the fact that we are forced to be a little skeptical of its truth need not keep us from appreciating its beauty. Besides, you can't prove it *isn't* true. The story goes like this:

Back in the days when the tree was not very tall (this was before the Administration Building was erected in 1912), members of Pe-et used to bend down the top of the tree, attach to it an arrow bearing the names of Pe-et pledges, and then let the tree fly back up.

I find myself wishing I could be sure this story were true, because of its charm. But alas! I can find no one who saw the arrow. Not even the prominent Pe-et members with whom I talked were willing to say that this was ever actually done.

But then, why worry about it? It is a pretty story.

At any rate, Pe-et *did* hold its initiation ceremonies under the tree, according to Mr. R. W. Hutto, president of the Security National Bank of Norman, who was a charter member of the society.

It also seems that the tree required some one to save it at the time the present



By
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Administration Building was constructed. Just who did this seems also to be a point of discussion. It is commonly rumored that Pe-et did. Yet Fred E. Tarman, editor of *The Norman Transcript*, declines to claim that he and fellow Pe-et members stood guard over the young tree with axes and clubs and dared any one to touch it. (He did, however, insist that the tree is there.) And none of the other members I asked about it took credit to their organization for saving it.

On the other hand, Dr. Edgar Meacham, Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, gives the credit to Mr. Tom Ferguson, now warehouse foreman, who at that time was Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds.

According to Mr. Ferguson, a landscaper was appointed about that same time to take over a part of Mr. Ferguson's duties. The landscaper decided that the tree should be cut down, because it obstructed the view of the building from the front and because he thought it could not be made to grow, anyway.

When Mr. Ferguson learned of this plan, he went to Dr. David R. Boyd, President of the University at that time, and

remonstrated so strongly that the result was a decision to let the tree stand.

At any rate, it's still standing and it adds immeasurably to the charm of the Administration Building entrance.

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Sooners given posts

A shakeup in the Norman City Hall following the election this spring resulted in appointment of two Sooners to city positions. Maurice Crownover, '26, was appointed city clerk, and Claude Eurton, '30, was named assistant city manager. R. H. Cloyd, '19, former O. U. alumni secretary, who is Ward Three Commissioner in Norman, was elected mayor pro tempore by the Commission.

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Acacia has conference

John G. Hervey, '23, '25law, now dean of the Temple Law School in Pennsylvania, was principal speaker at a Midwestern Conference of Acacia fraternity held in Norman recently. Harold S. Cooksey, '24, Norman, was toastmaster at the Founders' Day banquet.

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Given state appointment

M. G. Orr, '29ma, has been appointed assistant state superintendent of public instruction. He formerly was state high school inspector. Before that he served eight years as registrar at Southeastern State Teachers college, Durant, and spent 12 years as school official at Hugo.