

Faculty Page

BY DR. S. R. HADSELL, '04

PROFESSOR J. F. PAXTON, "Uncle Joe," whose picture appears on this page, is now the oldest member of the faculty in continuous service. He has been on the campus for forty years, with the exception of periods of leave. In 1900, he was absent from the University one year for study in Rome, Italy. In 1922, he was absent for a year for study in California. He has long been a familiar figure on the University Boulevard, for walking has been a hobby and an exercise for him all his life.

In earlier days the end of the line in his daily walk was Barbour's Drug Store, where, as his cronies dropped in, they began to speak of the gathering as the "Mermaid Club." Brewer, Morgan, Swank, Guy Williams, were charter members.

Professor Paxton studied in the University of Missouri and Harvard University. He was president of the first Oklahoma Harvard Club. He has taught Latin, Greek, Archaeology. He was editor of the *Oklahoma Anthology of Poetry*, and encouraged many a youthful poet. His own poems appear with the name, Francis Paxton.

In the period 1892 to 1900 the University was housed in one building, since burned. Professor Paxton had a classroom, (all teachers had classrooms which they called their own then) near the chapel on the third floor. He was annoyed frequently by the racket in the chapel next door, because young orators shouted there, and young piano aspirants ran the chromatic scale there and vocalists sang *My Rosary* world without end. The professor complained. Some waggish students retaliated by hanging, one night, a bottle of patent nerve medicine on the classroom door. Mrs. Paxton, Fantine Samuels, was a student then; the professor still suspects her of initiating the joke. Mrs. Paxton was the first woman to receive a degree from the University (1901). (Mrs. J. M. Wadley was the first to graduate from a department of the University—music.)

Professor Paxton has two married daughters, Adelaide, now Mrs. H. P. McCrimmon, living in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Josephine, Mrs. Neil Sanborn, living in Muskogee, Oklahoma. He has two grandchildren.

When Professor Paxton came to the University, there were possibly ten on the faculty, counting the janitor and the man who ploughed the grounds. Now there are nearly four hundred giving instruction, living in Norman.

It was possible five years ago to get together in Norman for a picture all the members of the first faculty. Now the



J.F. Paxton, now the oldest faculty member in years of service, photographed on the lawn at his home

ranks are broken. David R. Boyd was the first to go. F. S. E. Amos left the University for a number of years to edit a paper in Vinita, then he returned to teach Government for ten years. Lately he has resigned, and has moved to California. Mrs. Grace King Maguire, who used to be the whole school of music and dramatic art, director of glee clubs, operas, quartets, etc., is still in Norman. She is employed in the University Library. Professor Rice is in Capitol Hill. Dr. DeBarr is not teaching, but he lives in Norman. His friends were pleased to see him in the Commencement procession, and upon the platform at the June Convocation.

G. A. Bucklin, first registrar and later, after studying at Yale, an instructor in economics, returned to the University for a brief visit last Fall. He has been in the Consular Service for years, in Germany, France, Mexico, Canada. He was last in New Zealand, but was retired with pay, January, 1938. He now resides in California, in Berkeley.

Professor and Mrs. J. W. Sturgis spent the summer in Michigan. Sturgis came to the University as instructor in Latin in 1900.

Mrs. Vernon L. Parrington (Julia Williams) with her son, Vernon L. Parrington, Jr., visited Oklahoma City and the University for a week recently. She was

the guest of C. C. Roberts and Mrs. Roberts (Maud Rule, first librarian). Several parties were given for her in Norman, one especially on the lawn at J. L. Rader's where all the old timers congregated.

Professor E. Marsh Williams and his wife visited in Norman a day this summer. They are teaching in Oskaloosa, Iowa. Father, mother, daughters, are all graduates of the University of Chicago. Professor Williams taught biology here.

Mrs. Parrington is associated with the Registry Office in the University of Washington. Her son is an instructor at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. He is working toward his doctorate there in American Literature. By the way, Randall Stewart, former instructor in English here, is professor now in Brown. He married Cleone Odell, of Oklahoma City.

Mrs. A. H. Van Vleet lives in Norman. Her phone is still 212; it has always been 212.

David C. Hall, first physical director, has been in the University of Washington, Seattle, since leaving Oklahoma in 1907. Dr. Hall married Kate McBride, once teacher of voice at Oklahoma University.

Old timers who have passed through the Reed and Foster and the Barbour drug stores within recent years are Dr. L. N. Upjohn, who began here the first courses in medicine, and Dean C. S. Stocking, once in the School of Pharmacy.

Jay Ferguson, once librarian here, and Mrs. Ferguson, Rosa Barnett, now live in Brooklyn, New York. For years, Ferguson was state librarian of California. He has been president of the American Library Association.

Before many years, we shall be compiling a roll of those who have passed on. Still alive in our memory are: David R. Boyd, A. Grant Evans, Dean A. H. Van Vleet, Dean J. S. Buchanan, Dean Fredrik Holmberg, Professor W. A. Schmidt, Professor R. H. Richards, Sam Crawford.

Professor Jerome Dowd has done his round of golf nearly every day this past summer. Many old students will remember his curves in the faculty-senior baseball games. Professor and Mrs. Dowd drove to Florida in August.

Professor John McLucas, (married Virginia Brewer, teacher of piano here) once librarian at Oklahoma University, has been for years a teacher of English at Boulder, Colorado. L. W. Cole and Homer Washburn are still at Boulder. Professor Cole taught psychology here; Washburn was dean of the School of Pharmacy.