

The newly landscaped South Oval, looking toward the University Library.

Beautifying the Campus

By Frances Hunt, '29

GRADUATES who returned to Norman for commencement saw for the first time the new gardens, trees, hedges, stone walls and sidewalks that have just been completed and which give promise of much future beauty for the Sooner campus.

For the first time, the sunken garden back of the Library is really a finished work. No more mud in this shaded spot.

And the South Oval, largely an imaginary place until this year, now is landscaped and has a sunken garden with a stone wall, and other formally plotted gardens. From Lindsay Street on the south, one may look up the long expanse to the Library and realize that within a year or two the scene will be as beautiful in its own way as the older North Oval.

Flowers are blooming around the margin of the campus north and west of Holmberg Hall, as well as in the many gardens scattered over the campus.

No more puddles will form on campus sidewalks, news which should please the students of former years who made frequent complaints about cavities in walks, especially in the walk going east from the Ad building in front of Buchanan Hall and on toward the Press Building. This has been replaced, with a double branch near Asp avenue. The walk from the Ad Building to the Union, which carries the heaviest traffic on the campus, has been widened four feet. Many other new walks have been laid in all parts of the campus.

The traffic load on the east side of the

campus has increased considerably since the Business Administration building and the Biological Sciences building were completed in 1936. Consequently, a great many of the improvements have been made in the general area east of the Library and the Ad Building.

All these improvements are the result of a \$32,000 WPA project on which W. W. Kraft, superintendent of University utilities, and Howard Jensen, landscape gardener, have been keeping men employed for some time. Sixty WPA workers were employed six days a week for six months. Twenty-five students also were employed on a project of their own, constructing flower beds around the Pharmacy Building, the Union, the Art Building and Holmberg Hall.

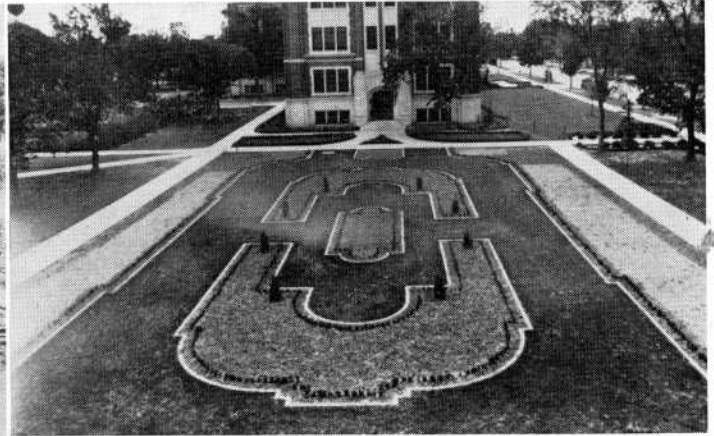
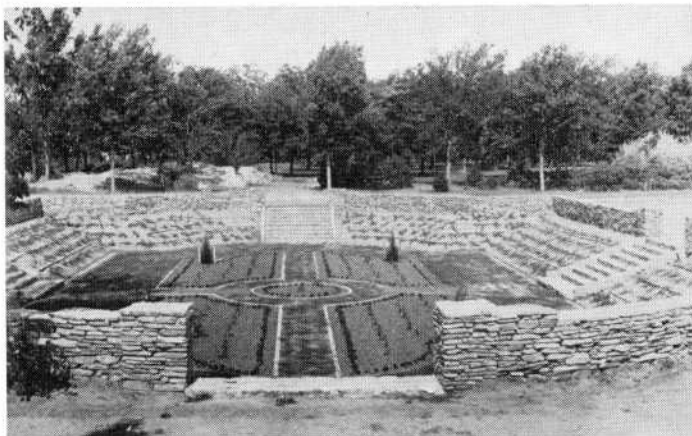
More than three hundred evergreens, one hundred shade trees and more than six thousand tiny hedge plants have been set out.

Jensen has been scientific in attacking his problem of keeping the campus at its best despite the dry weather of Oklahoma. For example, he has been studying what types of trees are best adapted to the particular conditions found on the campus, and has found that the western sugar maple and a hybridized Chinese elm will do well in Norman.

Nurserymen had believed that the true sugar maple could be found no farther west than the eastern border of Oklahoma, but recently many sugar maples were found in the canyons of Caddo county, in western Oklahoma. Since these western type trees grow ten times as fast as the eastern type, Jensen brought 1,000 tiny trees from Caddo county and has been raising them in the campus nursery. Only a few have been set out. He will plant the others on the campus next fall.

Hybridized Chinese elms have been set out all over the campus, but particularly near the Geology Building and on the south side of the campus between the South Oval and the baseball field. Seed was obtained originally from a Chinese elm tree growing

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The sloping walls of the new sunken garden on the South Oval (left above), will be carpeted with red verbenas, and the young trees just set out will grow high. The garden is seven feet deep from the top of the stone wall. On the right is the new formal garden between the Library and the west end of the Business Administration Building, which ultimately will be a garden of old-fashioned perennials. The border hedges will grow four and a half feet tall, and benches will be placed around the garden.

words in articles on South American countries. Dr. J. M. Hernandez, professor of Spanish, is author of an article on developments in Latin American literature.

... Mrs. Oscar Jacobson, of Norman, writing under her pen name, Jeanne D'Ucel, contributed an article on the University's oriental art collection to a recent number of *Holland's* magazine, Dallas, Texas. . . . Edward E. Keso, '35ex, instructor at Central State Teachers College, Edmond, is author of a new book dealing with the life and career of Robert L. Owen, former senator from Oklahoma.

... Elgin Groseclose, '20, of Washington, D. C., former O. U. faculty member, is author of a new novel about Mount Ararat to be published in the Autumn by Carrick & Evans. . . . The Duke University Press has published *The Life of Braxton Craven*, by Jerome Dowd, professor of sociology at O.

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call number LH 1 .06S6 in
Bizzell Memorial Library.

U. The book is a biography of the first president of Trinity college, now Duke university.

... Roy P. Stewart, '31, of Stillwater, executive secretary of the Future Farmers of America organization in Oklahoma, will be represented in poetry anthologies to be published this summer by Henry Harrison, New York.

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practically under a large American elm, effecting hybridization of about 90 per cent. The resulting tree is about the best that can be obtained for Oklahoma, Mr. Jensen believes, for it has larger leaves than the Chinese variety, grows more rapidly than the Chinese, and will withstand adverse weather conditions. The hybrid elms west of the Geology Building are tall trees this season, though only four years old.

Jensen also chose his hedge plants and border plants carefully. He picked the pyracantha or fire thorn for hedges and the dwarf privet as ideal for borders of flower beds. The pyracantha is a broad-leaved evergreen shrub with sharp thorns, and in winter has clusters of brilliant orange berries. It belongs to the same family as the hawthornes and apple trees. In a year the small plants will grow to be 4 feet high, and will take the place of fences.

Several miles of dwarf privet border have been planted around flower beds. Although the dwarf privet doesn't grow so fast as other varieties, it is the hardiest plant that can be chosen, Jensen found. It never has been winter-killed in this section of the country.

As for the flower beds themselves—each year should see them more colorful. This year the drouth and cool weather kept beds a month behind, but the campus showed a wealth of color at commencement time. The problem on the campus has been to select flowers that bloom beyond the spring and to plant many perennials to conserve the time of the gardeners.

Jensen has been planting a new perennial purple verbena which lasts all summer, as well as lantanas, petunias, Chinese hibiscus, red verbenas and lythrum.

The retaining wall around the sunken garden between the Library and the Ad building was needed greatly ever since the Library was completed and beautification of this space was undertaken. The wall is made of red brick, with a cap stone. Just inside it a new brick sidewalk, laid on concrete, was put in.

The sunken garden on the South Oval promises to become a show place. It is 7 feet deep and eventually will be a real rock garden. Red verbenas have been planted along its sloping sides, to form a carpet eventually, and Chinese hibiscus are growing in the beds at the base. The dwarf privet hedge will be solid by this time next year. The yellowish stone which makes the wall was brought up from Dougherty, in the Arbuckles, at small cost.