

A State Museum Service

FOR the purpose of preserving and collecting Oklahoma historical materials for Oklahomans, a state-wide museum service was established at the University May 1, 1938, with the assistance of the Works Progress Administration.

J. F. Malone, '36ex, director of the museum project, was aided by Dr. J. W. Stovall, assistant professor of paleontology, and Dr. Milton Hopkins, assistant professor of botany, in training more than one hundred employes in museum work. During a five-month period of training, the workers made display cases for rocks, minerals, fossils and botanical specimens. These were made to depict the natural history of Oklahoma.

The plan of the project is to establish small museums in the state, where historical

and scientific materials may be assembled and displayed as examples of Oklahoma culture.

The work of the museum project is supplemented by a Museum Service, directed by Herbert H. Scott, '26, '26ma, director of the Extension Division, which provides the museums with visual aids in education, package library material and lectures.

There are thirty-five museum units in the State with general headquarters at the University. The first formal opening was held at Carnegie, Oklahoma, September 28. A display of 263 weapons, contributed by Mr. D. R. Sheperd of Carnegie, is included in the collections at this unit. His collection of more than a thousand guns is said to be the largest assemblage of weapons west of the Mississippi. The guns are mounted on panels so that they may be studied in detail. African weapons of unusual design and primitive origin are included. The Carnegie unit is considered as typical of the units in all sections of the state.

The Federal Government has allotted more than eighty-five thousand dollars for the development of the educational program. One hundred and fifteen people have been employed to work in the local units. Research classes are being organized for adults and children.



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is director of the
new statewide mu-
seum service*



From Colts to Co-eds

THE recent address of a student member of the State Legislature, in which he expressed belief that University professors on the whole are too snobbish, was widely quoted in newspapers over the state. Following the address, Jim Flinchum, editor of the *Oklahoma Daily*, wrote for his personal column an interesting theory to account for the University's purported reputation for snobbishness in Oklahoma. The article follows:

I agree with Wilson Wallace that the University of Oklahoma has a reputation for snobbishness thruout the state, however false that reputation may be; but I disagree with the theory that the professors are responsible for the attitude.

Rather, it seems to me that the attitude of the state as a whole toward higher educational institutions is perhaps more responsible than anything else for this belief that the University is a breeding ground of snobs.

We are not so far from our frontier past—the dugout and single-action Colt days—that we can look with much tolerance upon such “fripperish” things as education.

To be sure, this is stretching a point. But

it must be remembered that Oklahoma is one of the newest states; comparatively, it is only recently that ours was a pioneer society.

And action, not reflection, is a characteristic of a pioneer society. Forty-five years ago, the settlers of this state did not have time to pore over textbooks. They were too busy engaged in making a living, in getting a foothold on the virgin terrain; it was logical that education could come only afterward.

I know old-timers who have only the utmost disdain for anything that is tinged with the schoolroom. Some of them have done well in life, their success motivated mainly by relentless urging for accumulation. Their success to them is a proof to “get ahead” means only early rising and careful transaction of their affairs—that practicality is the essence of virtue.

They fought that our educational institutions might be made possible, still they look upon these institutions as somewhat alien to themselves. Thus they are slightly hostile to anything that smacks of theory.

I think the condition is natural, and that it will pass away with new generations and new economic conditions. Right now, we are merely undergoing the regional growing pains that many older sections have experienced in the past. And there are indications that they will soon be over.

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