

FOR the first time in seven years, the University of Oklahoma Association has a president who isn't a lawyer.

It should be added, hastily, that we aren't trying to make any particular point of that—but just to report it as an interesting fact.

Strangely enough, the last non-lawyer president of the association was, like the association executive for 1940-41, an oil man. It was back in 1933 that Chester H. Westfall, oil man then living in Ponca City, was named to head the Association at a critical period in the history of the University.

Then there followed a series of attorneys serving as the head of the Association—Lewis Morris, Earl Foster, Lowrey H. Harrell, Charles B. Memminger, and Hicks Epton.

Now the responsibilities of heading the association's work have been turned over to Norman W. Brillhart, '17ba, oil producer whose home is in Madill.

The new president was already on the association's executive board when he was elected, having previously been named to serve as member-at-large. As a board member, he took an active part in committee work, particularly during the 1939 session of the Legislature. So he begins work in his new office well acquainted with the association program and the ways in which it functions.

Mr. Brillhart has a varied background as geologist and oil producer. During the period 1919 to 1930 he was geologist for the Empire Gas and Fuel Company, Bartlesville; Reiter-Foster Oil Company, Tulsa; Simms Oil Company, Dallas, Texas, and Cranfill-Reynolds Oil Company, Cisco, Texas.

He is now an independent oil producer and also is associated with T. H. McCasland, of Duncan, in phases of the oil business.

Although he points out with a grin that most of the companies he served as a geologist have since lost their identity and have been merged into other firms, the fact remains that he has had considerably more success than the average in the highly competitive oil business.

After studying geology at the University of Oklahoma, and learning it sufficiently well to become an assistant laboratory instructor in his senior year, he received the McGraw Fellowship in Geology at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and enrolled there in the fall of 1917.

However, he withdrew from school before the end of the semester to enlist in the army and serve during the World War. He became a second lieutenant in the 63rd Engineers and served in the A. E. F. in France.

As a student in O. U. he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, and won varsity baseball letters in 1915, '16

Man from Madill

Strengthening the Membership
of the Alumni Association Is
a Goal of the New President



Norman Brillhart, alumni president for 1940-41

and '17. His interest in Sooner sports has continued through the years and he is thoroughly at home around the Fieldhouse or the Stadium.

His interest in the School of Geology also has continued through the years. Last spring he established an annual scholarship award to be presented each spring to the outstanding senior student in the School of Geology. The award consists of a set of technical reference books, to be selected by the winner.

Although the nature of his work has required that he travel frequently, Mr. Brillhart has found time to take an interest in the affairs of his community. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge and American Legion, member of the Baptist Church, and a former Rotarian.

The new alumni president and Mrs. Brillhart (Mildred Winifred Colby, '22fa) are Life Members of the Alumni Association. Mrs. Brillhart is a member of the O. U. chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma. They have one daughter, Ellen Rowe Brillhart, 12 years old. In addition to her work as homemaker, Mrs. Brillhart has a business career as vice president of the First National Bank of Madill.

The new alumni president is particularly interested in expanding the association

membership. During the summer he kept in close touch with the Alumni Office in Norman, and has started plans for an active membership campaign.

With Executive Secretary Ted Beard, he plans to visit O. U. alumni at three cities in Texas in early October. A meeting has been scheduled October 10 at Houston. The next evening the Brillhart-Beard team will visit members of the East Texas O. U. Alumni Club at Tyler. And on Saturday morning, October 12, they will appear at the second annual O. U. Alumni Breakfast at Dallas, that being the day of the Sooner-Texas game.

President Brillhart is preparing to make other similar trips during the year, and devote a considerable portion of his time to building and strengthening the association membership.

Viewing the alumni association as a service organization—one that has the responsibility of going to bat as pinch hitter whenever the University faces trouble—Mr. Brillhart seeks no major alterations in the association's program, but rather a strengthening of the present program.

He claims that he "can't make a speech." But he talks straight and clearly, and alumni groups that hear him will be impressed by his sincerity and the directness of his thinking.