

Farewell to "Dean of Men"

It's Men's Counselor Now, And Fayette Copeland Has The Task of Organizing a New Kind of Dean's Office

THE journalism professor looked up at the freshman taking his order in the Union cafeteria. "Did you get that job?" he asked.

"Sure did," said the waiter.

"Let me know how you get along," the professor added.

The incident was a typical Copeland story, one of hundreds that might be cited to illustrate his friendly interest in students as individuals.

Last June the University Board of Regents selected Sooner-bred Fayette Copeland, '19ba, mild-mannered and deeply interested in students, as the University's first "counselor of men."

If you have met Fayette Copeland even briefly, you have been impressed with his kindness. If you have known him over a period of years, as hundreds of Sooner alumni and faculty members have, you are sure of his tolerance, his patience, his broad knowledge, his modesty about Copeland.

The man chosen by President Joseph A. Brandt for a key position in university administration is one of the most thoroughly human personalities on the campus. Mr. Copeland likes students, and students invariably like him. For 15 years he has been a "swell guy" or the equivalent in collegiate language with successive groups of student journalists. And there's no one more critical than a student journalist.

Mr. Brandt calls him "the ideal kind of person to act as adviser to men."

"His broad experience as reporter, editor, army flier, and as teacher, as well as his successful role as father, his genuine liking for people and his patience with them, all make him a standout for the job," said Mr. Brandt.

The former title of "dean of men" was changed when Mr. Copeland took over the position September 1, and the newer term "counselor" will be used. This change was made for the women's adviser in 1937 when Miss Margaret B. Stephenson became counselor of women.

Mr. Copeland's job will not be regarded as that of disciplinarian, but as that of confidential adviser to men, Mr. Brandt explained.

"I think part of the job is to help integrate the broader aspects of culture



Fayette Copeland, '19ba, O. U.'s first men's counselor.

which people in such an advisory capacity can do so well.

"So many students leave the University without anyone ever having taken an interest in the things apart from formal education which make for a richer life."

Mr. Brandt explained that the office will function in this way:

A student coming from a small town where the theater, for instance, does not exist, may have little desire to go to a Playhouse performance. A counselor, talking of other things, might casually ask the boy if he plans to go to the Playhouse and then describe the play, and discuss it in such a way as to arouse the student's interest in this form of art.

"The building of an appreciation of the arts—those things which determine taste—is something in which everyone should co-operate," the president commented.

Appointment of Mr. Copeland draws him from a successful career as a journalism teacher as unexpectedly as Mr. Brandt's appointment to the presidency of O. U. takes him from a publishing career at Princeton.

Mr. Copeland did not seek the counselor's job, and did not intend to give up his work in his own field of journalism. But he's a natural for the counseling job, and in fact has been getting ready for it in one way or another ever since he left Chickasha to come to O. U. as a freshman.

When he left home, he intended to become a lawyer, but on the way to Norman he changed his mind because he decided he wanted to make contacts with

people not through litigation, but through newspaper work.

He wanted contacts—and the years brought them. He worked as janitor in the old library, then as typist for Professor J. W. Scroggs in the Extension Division, got acquainted with all the 800 students then on the campus, helped organize Phi Delta Theta fraternity, became managing editor and then editor of the *Oklahoma Daily* in its first years. For a while he and a couple of other students ran a dry-cleaning shop—until a wreck of their delivery truck put them out of business.

While still an undergraduate, he volunteered in the air service during the World War, was assigned to Kelly Field, San Antonio, for flying training, and was commissioned second lieutenant. After the war he came back to school, got his degree in 1919, and went into newspaper work in New Mexico.

In 1921 Mr. Copeland was asked to return to Norman as publicity manager of the community institutes then held by the Extension Division, and for the next year or two traveled extensively all over Oklahoma in the interests of the University. In 1923 and 1924 he worked as city editor of the *Anaheim* (California) *Herald*, read copy in the *Los Angeles Herald* editorial room, and served as assistant to the Sunday editor of the *Los Angeles Examiner*.

Again returning to the campus, he became a journalism teacher and director of University publicity. For four years he also handled sports publicity, covering all games and writing for a number of out-of-state papers. He remained in charge of general publicity until 1936.

In 1936-37 he taught at Louisiana State University while doing graduate study there. Since 1937 he has taught at O. U. full time and has spent the summers in the L. S. U. graduate school doing advanced work in history and journalism.

"The appointment is a compliment to Mr. Copeland's accomplishments as a teacher," said H. H. Herbert, director of the School of Journalism. "He has a genuine interest in and feeling for people. He will do for the whole University what he has done for journalism students—take a friendly interest in their problems and bring them his own cultural interests, the things the University really stands for. He can open up for students the opportunities they often overlook."

Mr. Copeland hasn't been just a "professor" teaching academically. He teaches most from his experiences, not from second-hand information in books. His classes are run informally; he knows per-

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As a private geologist and operator, Mr. Smith is credited with having contributed a great deal to the oil development of Wilbarger County, Texas. He discovered several oil pools in the county.

Wilbur Wilcox Killed

Funeral services for Wilbur W. Wilcox, '25, Oklahoma City teacher and former graduate student at the University, who was shot to death July 6, were held in Lamont, Oklahoma. He was 52 years old.

Survivors include his wife, Cecile Procter Wilcox, '38soc.wk, a son and a daughter. Mr. Wilcox was graduated with a bachelor's degree from Northwestern State Teachers College at Alva. For the last seven years he has been gymnasium instructor at the Oklahoma City Youth Center.

Before moving to Oklahoma City, Mr. Wilcox was a teacher and coach at Jenks, Oklahoma, and also taught at Shidler and Vici.

Mr. Wilcox was shot at the home of a relative, and a nightwatchman at the home was held by police for investigation.

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sonally every student who ever took a course under him.

The criticism occasionally heard that "education is just a game played between students and professors" could never apply to the type of teaching Mr. Copeland does. He has never been known to "get hard" with a student nor impose his own ideas on anyone. He never argues, always gives the other fellow the benefit of the doubt, invariably displays a courtesy of innate tolerance and the greatest degree of self-control.

"Mr. Copeland can say 'no' and make you like it and admire him for saying it more than anyone I know," said an alumnus who worked in the University engraving plant during the two years when Mr. Copeland got the plant started.

Incidentally, only those closely associated with Mr. Copeland know that he spent many nights and whole week ends in the Press Building engraving room during those two years, endeavoring to establish a project which would benefit the whole University. The excellent pictures now appearing in the *Oklahoma Daily* as a matter of routine are the result of his foresight and the hundreds of hours of hard over-time he did to train student engravers and perfect the technical operations.

He doesn't like to be called an "authority" on anything, but he is considered just that on certain phases of American journalistic history.

He knows something of art, and took a number of courses in the Art School a

few years ago. He knows something of drama also, and in recent years has been teaching a course in the reviewing of fine arts productions. He studied economics as another sideline. He has taken many graduate courses in English.

He dug into these fields because, he said, "a journalism teacher has to know so many things." He also has been around the oil fields a good deal, did some leasing, and knows oil-field language. He taught oil and gas reporting as a journalism course.

The Copeland home on South Ponca avenue is a hospitable one, where casual conversation may range from detective stories to the history of the Mexican War, and students always have been welcome to drop in. Mrs. Copeland was Edith Jamieson, Class of 1920. Fayette, Jr., a 13-year-old in University Junior High, likes to make model airplanes and talk about aviation and swimming.

Mr. Copeland enjoys talking sports with the boys, and knows sports from A to Z. He hasn't missed a football game in years. For a long time he covered football and basketball games for the A. P. and the *Kansas City Star*. Former students in sports writing praise his system of keeping basketball scores. The Copeland system, originated some years ago when he found he didn't have enough facts on a game to dictate a good long-distance story to the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, has spread over this section of the country, and is considered standard. Mr. Copeland has served on the Athletic Council the past few years, and is vice president.

Journalism alumni writing back to the school regularly send special regards to "Copeland." Many got their jobs on the strength of small-city reporting technique learned in his classes.

Mr. Copeland understands O. U. history and the particular flavor of life on the Sooner campus probably as well as any man on the staff. Second-generation Sooners whose parents knew him as a student have been coming to college in the last year or two, and frequently call at his office to get acquainted.

They, and all callers, are made to feel at ease immediately. Though he may have two classes, a laboratory and three committee meetings coming up on his schedule, Mr. Copeland takes time to be friendly and gracious to everyone who comes.

As for committees, he has served on dozens of them, ranging from the celebrity series committee to the group selecting members of President-Emeritus Bizzell's honor class. Whenever a committee is being formed, someone is likely to suggest "There's Fayette Copeland over there—he has good ideas. Let's put him on."

Where the University's welfare is concerned, his loyalty is endless. He has had chances to leave the University staff for more highly paid positions, but has stayed in Norman to serve the school which is home to him.

DIARY AND LETTERS OF

Josiah Gregg

Southwestern Enterprises

1840-1847

Edited By

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