

# Nine New Life Members

[Association Progress]

**N**INE new life members were added to the Alumni Association roster last month, bringing the total number of living life members to 445.

The new life members include a Sooner couple living in Washington, D. C., Edward A. Evans, '12, and Mrs. Evans (Grace Millar, 11).

Mr. Evans is editorial writer for the Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance. Since leaving the University he has served as reporter for the *Oklahoma News*, reporter for the *Denver Express*, reporter and later managing editor of the *Cleveland (Ohio) Press*, editor of the *Oklahoma News*, associate editor of the *San Francisco News*, and editor of the *Columbus (Ohio) Citizen*. He has been editorial writer for Scripps-Howard papers for the last five years. As a student at the University of Oklahoma Mr. Evans was a member of Kappa Alpha fraternity, Pe-et, and was assistant editor of the student newspaper and the yearbook. He was initiated as an alumni member of Sigma Delta Chi in 1926. He is the son of Dr. A. Grant Evans, president of the University from 1908-1911.

In sending in his application for life membership Mr. Evans wrote: "Now that I'm a member of Paul Walker's committee for the District of Columbia, I really should join the University of Oklahoma Association. I can't rightly call myself an alumnus, since I had to quit and go to work just after starting my senior year, but the University played a very large part in my life and, through all my wanderings, which have been sometimes very far from Norman, I have always retained a very great affection for it."

Mrs. Evans was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority at the University.

Another Sooner couple added to the life membership list is Elbert Vance Winningham, '33ba, and Mrs. Winningham (Lottie Belle Shanks, '33nurse) of Oklahoma City. Mr. Winningham has been head x-ray technician at Wesley Hospital in Oklahoma City for the last seven years. He had formerly done laboratory work at Cimarron Valley Wesley Hospital, Guthrie, University of Oklahoma Infirmary, at Norman, the Bacteriology Department of the University School of Medicine at Oklahoma City and the State University Hospital at Oklahoma City. Mr. Winningham has been taking work at Oklahoma City University and is scheduled to receive a business administration degree there this spring.

Mrs. Winningham, in addition to her

degree from the University of Oklahoma, has a postgraduate certificate from the University of Chicago, where she took special training in obstetrical nursing.

Also new on the life membership list are Cleo C. Ingle, '24ba, and Mrs. Ingle (Helene S. Eakin, '17), of Tulsa. Mr. Ingle is secretary-manager of the Tulsa Federal Savings and Loan association. He has served as president of the Tulsa Real Estate Board, president of the Tulsa Institute of Government Research, is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Masonic lodge, Shrine, Society of Residential Appraisers, and the Officers' Reserve Corps. As a student Mr. Ingle was a

## The List of Life Members Is Growing Fast — Help Raise The Total to 500 This Year!

member of Pi Kappa Phi, Alpha Kappa Psi, Sooner and Whirlwind staffs, and was a cadet major in the R. O. T. C.

Another new life member is Mrs. Edna Muldrow, '18ba, '27ma, assistant professor of English at Southwestern State College of Diversified Occupations at Weatherford. Before going to Weatherford in 1936 Mrs. Muldrow was English teacher in Norman High School.

As a student in the University she was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority. In addition to her teaching work she has done creative writing for a number of years and has written articles published in the *North American Review*, *Scribner's*, *Harper's*, *Oklahoma Teacher*, and various newspapers. She is chairman of the college section of the American Association of University Women in Oklahoma, is active in the Oklahoma Council of English teachers, and has served as president of the council. She has two sons, one a cadet at West Point and the other a student in the University of Oklahoma.

Robert S. Trippet, '39ba, who is scheduled to receive his law degree in June, decided to add his name to the life member list before leaving the University campus. He is a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, served as president of the Junior class and belongs to numerous honorary and departmental organizations which earn his listing in the 1941 edition of *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*. His future home is Enid, where he will be associated with the law

firm Simons, McKnight, Simons, Mitchell, and McKnight.

The ninth new life member during the last month is Margaret McKinney, '24ba, a teacher at Cleburne, Texas. Miss McKinney, as a student, was a member of Alpha Xi Delta and Spanish Club and was chosen Engineers' Queen, and honorary colonel of the R. O. T. C. She is said to be the only woman student ever given a pin by L. K. O. T., secret engineers' fraternity. She has been teaching Spanish in Cleburne High School since 1931 when she received a master of arts degree from Southern Methodist University.

## Advisory Councils

The following changes in alumni advisory council membership have been announced by Executive Secretary Ted Beaird.

Miss Jane Wilder, '34ba, of Cherokee and Lee Sommers, '31 of Helena, have been appointed to the Alfalfa County council.

Louis A. Palmer, '40law, of Frederick, county attorney of Tillman County, has been appointed a member of the Tillman County council.

Everett Rauh, '35law, of Alva, has succeeded Brette M. Tanner, '24ba, as chairman of the Woods County council. Virginia Katherine Rader, '36lib.sci, '40ma, has been added to the Woods County council.

Dr. Paul G. Sanger, '31med, has resigned from the Craig County council because of moving to Fort Sill for army duty.

M. Leonard Hart, '40bus, has been appointed to the Woodward County council.

Two new members of the Delaware County council are Mrs. Nola Mae Carpenter, '38ed, of Jay and Christian A. Vammen, '40m.ed, of Oakes.

Oakley M. Woodward, Jr., '38eng, has resigned from the British West Indies advisory council because of moving to Oklahoma City.

Mrs. Jack B. Deahl has been appointed to the council at Denver, Colorado.

Members of a new council at Buffalo, New York, are Dr. W. B. Hamby, '28 med; Mrs. Muriel Luper, '37ed; Peter O. Tauson, '34eng, '36ms.eng, and Dana Pickup, '36bus.

Randolph Earl Wright, '38geol, has resigned from the Effingham, Illinois, council, because of moving to Okmulgee, Oklahoma.

New council chairman at Seattle, Washington, is Charles K. Ittner, '30eng.

Dr. Ray E. Bullard, '24med, has succeeded I. F. Bingham as chairman at Waco, Texas.

Alvan Muldrow, '33law, has resigned from the council at Lubbock, Texas, because of moving to San Antonio.

David St. Clair, '33ba, '33geol, formerly chairman of the council in Cuba, has moved to Reno, Nevada.

**A**BOUT a century ago in Hawaii an Oklahoma industry was born. A number of scientists sent out by the United States Government, while visiting the crater of Kilauea, the world's largest volcano, discovered a soft, woolly substance blanketing the side of the mountain.

"Pele's hair," was the response of the natives when questioned about it. "When the Goddess Pele becomes angry, she pulls out her hair by the handfuls and casts it out of the crater."

The scientists smiled, then frowned, then investigated. They found that the fibrous substance was created when strong jets of steam blew up through the molten lava. That was information enough.

Back in the United States, they went to their laboratories and simulated the process. Research men tried variations of method and variations of material until they brought forth a product that found its way into commercial manufacture under the name "rock wool." An industry made up of small units appeared. Centralization was not practical. The finished product was too bulky to be shipped cheaply and it could not be compressed and baled like cotton.

By 1935 a plant had been erected in Texas. Its owner, in the course of business, sought to locate nearby sources of "woolrock." A railroad interested in finding suitable rock in the area served by its lines aided in the search.

It was with this prelude that J. D. Kerr, Jr., natural resources development agent for the railroad, in the summer of 1935 came to the offices of the Oklahoma Geological Survey in Norman. Robert H. Dott, newly appointed director of the Survey, welcomed him.

"Is there any rock in Oklahoma suitable for the making of rock wool?" Mr. Kerr asked the geologist.

Mr. Dott had scarcely more than heard of rock wool. As an insulator it was a new thing. In fact, the building insulation idea itself was still rather uncommon.

Mr. Kerr explained that the kind of rock needed was impure limestone, the impurities consisting principally of sand or other forms of silica. Pure limestone, he said, when heated forms only crumbly lumps. With the impurities in it, it melts and can then be blown by steam into tiny fibers or "wool." Pure silica, on the other hand, forms glass. A proper mixture of silica and limestone is necessary to produce the flexible, wool-like fibers.

Visions of the answer to a great problem of Oklahoma and the Southwest gradually took shape in Mr. Dott's mind. The area is subjected to extremes of both heat and cold that effect living comfort, especially in homes of low-cost construction. There is particular need for a moderately-priced, efficient insulating medium. Rock wool produced locally would find a ready market throughout the region.

# Pele's Hair

By SIGFRID FLOREN

## The Stimulating Story of How An Entirely New Industry Has Been Established in Oklahoma

Mr. Dott pondered. It is his job to recognize the part that undeveloped natural resources may play in the future of the state; to consider the possibilities of establishing new industries that will make use of those resources; to examine geological deposits in the state and investigate their potentialities.

Mr. Kerr, as a representative of his railroad, was just as keenly interested in getting new industries started in Oklahoma. The two men envisioned the same possibilities—had the same hopes.

They both knew at once that the first thing was to determine whether there was suitable rock available, and where, and in what quantities. Yes, the first thing—but one of the many things that the Oklahoma Geological Survey finds easier to discuss than to accomplish. The matter was forced to lie dormant for several months. A limited staff and limited funds did not permit Mr. Dott to undertake all the work he felt was needed.

Then in February, 1936, Director Dott attended the annual meeting of the Association of American State Geologists in Washington, D. C. As if plotted by Destiny, the subject of rock wool was thrown

onto the conference table by the chief of the Illinois Geological Survey, Dr. M. M. Leighton.

Mr. Dott had not anticipated any mention of the matter, but there it was—authoritative information ably presented. He went to Dr. Leighton after the meeting adjourned and explained his interest in it.

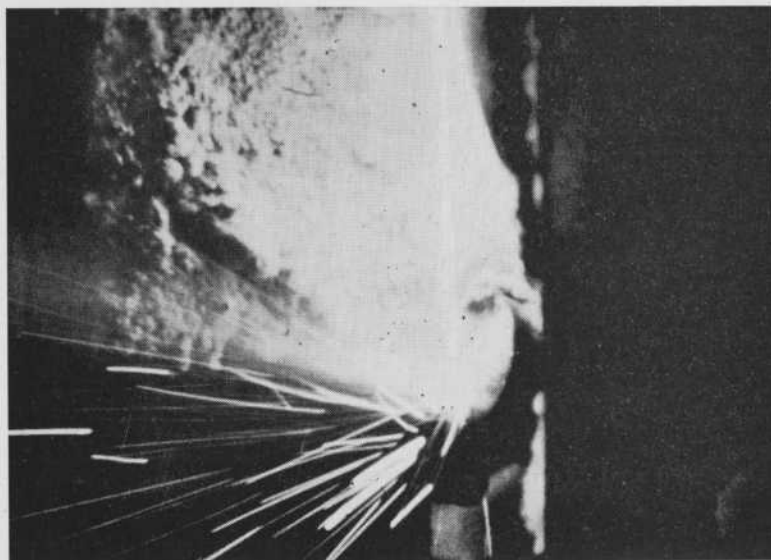
The Illinois Survey, he learned, had done considerable work in the field and in the laboratory with woolrock, and all the information it had accumulated was available as a foundation for any Oklahoma work. Dr. Leighton, enthusiastic about rock wool possibilities in other sections of the country, was glad to lend whatever aid he could to the Oklahoma Geological Survey. He invited Mr. Dott and other representatives of the Survey to attend the Illinois Mineral Industries Conference in April.

Mr. Dott and F. C. Wood, mining and metallurgical engineer of the O. G. S., were at the scene of the conference a day early. Dr. Leighton, the Illinois geologists and chemists spent the day showing their guests the laboratory equipment used in their work with wool rock and in describing technical and economics phases of rock wool production.

The Oklahomans came back to the state with a store of information in their minds and copies of the Illinois Geological Survey's published report on woolrock in their brief cases. Illinois investigators had worked out criteria for rock suited to wool production. They had devised tests and equipment. In fact, as far as the scientific basis was concerned, everything was ready to be applied to Oklahoma geology.

Again inadequacy of time and funds threatened to stymie the study of the state's rock wool possibilities. Direct work on the problem was out of the question at the moment, but a W. P. A. pro-

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 33)



*The artificial volcano that has perfected nature's way of making rock wool*