



#### WHEN UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD WAS RESERVED FOR BICYCLES

University Boulevard, back in the '90s, was a bicycle road out across the prairie. Students pedaling south to school saw corn and wheat fields where the landscaped O.U. campus is today. This picture, taken looking south, shows the tower of the first Administration Building faintly visible through the trees at the right. Note the boardwalk.

## This Is College

By EDITH WALKER

EDITOR'S NOTE: The University is celebrating its 50th anniversary and in this article Edith Walker reviews the highlights of student life on the campus during the first half century.

SINCE the first class was called to order in 1892, the Sooner campus has been the four-year proving ground where successive classes have lingered and passed on, each leaving its contribution to Univer-sitiana.

Though student life at the University has changed from year to year, a glance over the last half-century shows several dominant trends. For instance, O. U. students have always indicated a strong impulse to organize all kinds of societies and clubs, particularly those for writers, debaters and departmental groups.

As a result, University history is embroidered with classic club names such as the Blue Curtain, Blue Pencil, Meletanian Literary Society, the Razorback Club whipped up by students from Arkansas, Stadia Club composed of Civil Engineering students, the Eudelphian Literary Society and a chummy assortment of small clubs organized by students hailing from various Oklahoma counties.

A student organization which will long be remembered and hashed over when grads gather is the famed D. D. M. C., which carried on its weird activities for more than 20 years before meeting an ignoble end in the early '30s. Those secret initials used to designate the hooded clan were imprinted in several campus sidewalks and bear mute witness today to the mysterious goings-on which went before. Originally composed of leading students motivated by high ideals, the order suffered later when Ku Klux Klan tactics were adopted.

Another dominant characteristic of stu-

dent life during the last 50 years has been the urge to write. A great deal of the extensive literary output of students has been well preserved in several publications. The first and grandfather of them all was *The Umpire*. Others which have appeared down through the years are the *University Oklahoman*, forerunner of the present *Okla-homa Daily*; the *Whirlwind*, humor magazine later succeeded by the *Covered Wagon*; and the *Mistletoe*, predecessor of the *Sooner Yearbook*. More recently, another literary magazine, *Flux*, was written and edited for several years by a group of enterprising students.

In addition to these main characteristics threading the whole pattern of student life, there have been myriad occurrences and personalities which combine to make the University's history lively and interesting.

Football games with Owen Stadium jammed with spectators yelling and munching popcorn in true take-me-out-to-the-ball-game style—Bonfires at Campus Corner on the night before the game, with Ruf Neks snake dancing and rah-rah's splitting the air—Homecomings and reunions galore—the Engineers' sign (now blacked-out for the duration)—the strident whistle now dormant on the shelf, succeeded by mellifluous chimes—the Mirror Pool where countless pledges have been unwillingly dunked—ubiquitous Morris Tenenbaum, who probably knows more about student wardrobes than mothers do.

Student life during the University's cradle days is perhaps worthy of more mention than any other phase. Those early students, few in number, were the ones who had the job of laying the groundwork on which future generations were to build. Among other handicaps

which they had to overcome, fire several times destroyed the University building and records.

Those early-day students didn't know that in 1942 campus clothing stores would be stocking such things as sloppy joes and wedgies. Around the turn of the century, middle hairparts and wide uncomfortable-looking collars were in vogue for men, while co-eds, following the conventional styles of the times, wore lots of puffs and ruffles and did their hair on top.

But just because the group pictures in old annuals show those grand ancestors in stiff and haughty poses was no sign they didn't unlimber when they felt like it. Besides regular school work, there were lots of extra-curricular activities, like debate, glee club and athletics.

In 1902, the Forum Literary Society was incorporated. The zoology museum was augmented to interesting proportions with the addition of four deer, nine antelope and several grey wolves and coyotes. *The Umpire* announced that the "athletic girl at the University is no longer a curiosity" and went on at length describing the two women's basketball teams, the Pleiades and the S. I. C.'s.

The first residential house for women, the Arline Home, was established about this time and was advertised for its "home cooking, home comfort and home restrictions." Table board charged was \$3.00, while the average price of room and board was \$4.00 a week.

The enduring love of the students and faculty members for the University was revealed in an account of the fire of 1902 in which the one building which housed the University was destroyed.

"What do you need to keep classes going?" asked the president (David R. Boyd) at a faculty meeting, while the

smouldering books in the old library were still blazing with each gust of wind. Professor Elder's reply, "Two yards of black-board and a box of chalk," was characteristic.

The second building erected was called University Hall. It was situated at the head of the North Oval, then known as the Common. The structure was later renamed Administration Hall and it, too, was destroyed by fire.

One of the popular entertainments of the early-day students consisted of gym exhibitions in the Opera House. Programs included calisthenic drills by the young ladies, parallel bar and dumbbell drills by the boys, as well as impressive tumbling and pyramid acts. Organizations functioning were the Senate, Forum and Websterian debating societies, the University Apollo Music Club, the Y. M. and Y. W. organizations. Later a Geological Society was organized while a group of geology students were on a field trip and picnic in the Arbuckles.

A popular gathering place for students was Joe Christoph's, three doors east of the Opera House, where "Red Hot Chili" was among the chief attractions.

In 1903, enrolment skyrocketed to 464 students. No tuition, of course, was charged and students from Indian Territory were admitted free, the same as Oklahoma Territory students.

Among other favorite diversions were class yells which were delivered at football and basketball games and on other special occasions. Now, the same few yells are given over and over, but in the younger days of the University yells were quite original and often changed from one year to the next.

The graduating class of 1905 had the following yell, "He, Ho Hive! Let Her Drive! Senior! Senior! 1905!" And the juniors were not to be outdone with this one, "Booma Licka-Booma Licka Booma Licka Lix-Junior-Junior! 1906!" Sophomores, using poetic license, still managed to rhyme with this one, "Whang! Bang! Boomer-rang! Hulla-ba-loo, ba-leven! Sophomore! Sophomore! 1907!"

Successor to *The Umpire* was the *University Oklahoman* which first appeared in 1913 with Earl Christmas, '13ba, as editor, and Hiram Impson, '15ba, as circulation manager. That year Jack Boatman, '16law, was president of the Student Association, and Orel Busby, '14law, president of the Young Men's Democratic Club. Ed Meacham, '14ba, won a \$7.00 fountain pen for his original *Poem to Co-ed*, which was entered in a poetry contest sponsored by *The Umpire*. Leonard Logan, '14ba, took over the editorship of the new *University of Oklahoma Magazine*.

Students often went downtown to the Mystic and Orpheum Theaters. Among other productions which played in Norman about this time was *Tess of the D'Urbevilles* billed as "Thomas Hardy's sub-

lime drama," starring Minnie Madden Fiske and presented by Daniel Frohman.

In 1914, seven literary organizations flourished on the campus and debates on timely topics, especially woman suffrage, were held. Poll taken by a professor showed that his class was six to one in favor of woman suffrage. Paul Walker, '12law, was a candidate on the Democratic ticket for county judge of Pottawatomie County. Lorena Cruce, '16ba, daughter of Governor Lee Cruce, christened the battleship *Oklahoma*, launched at Camden, New Jersey. She is now Mrs. Hern-don Norris.

John Rogers, '14law, and William Armstrong, '16law, debated together as students and became known for their ability to outtalk opponents. Co-ed legs were resplendent in many hues, with hosiery manufactured in the following



colors; black, white, tan, brown, taupe, grey, pink, rose, light blue, navy, king's blue and kelly green. The Art Department announced its first art graduate and Frank Long, '08ba, '09ba, traveled 5,000 miles from Brazil to attend his class reunion.

In 1916, the *Oklahoma Daily* succeeded the *University Oklahoman*. Material for the 1915 class memorial arrived, and 19 new professors were added to the faculty. There was much talk of freshman caps and a rigorous campaign was carried on to see that they were purchased and worn. One of the most popular student hang-outs was the Green Frog Fruit Stand, run by genial Ed Hale whose obvious trademark, a large green frog swung outside his place of business.

Especially active about this time were the secret D. D. M. C. and its weaker rival organization, the I. M. P. S. The D. D. M. C. stripped its foe of all prestige one dark night by adding "S" in front of the I. M. P. S. signs, ostentatious on campus sidewalks. On one memorable occasion, the D. D. M. C.s entered the *Oklahoma Daily* printshop just after the paper had gone to press and stamped their mark on all issues, while holding *Daily* staff members and shop men at bay. Following that incident, the paper was locked until delivery boys were ready to make their routes.

Errett Newby, registrar, worked 36 hours without sleep to complete enrolment so classes could be started on schedule. J. William Cordell, '13-'16, and

Merle Woods, '17ba, were members of the *Daily* staff and Lewis Morris, '17law, was social chairman of the Y. M. C. A. An intruder entered the Beta House and walked out with eight watches and \$300 filched from Beta pockets.

In 1917, the University received national recognition when Josh Lee, '17ba, won the National Intercollegiate Prohibition Debating Contest with his oration, "Lay the Axe to the Root of the Evil." Students began to get steamed up about the war and many dropped out of school to enlist. The *Daily* ran extracts from the Infantry drill regulations.

Dick Cloyd, '19ba, '28law, withdrew to go into aviation service at Fort Sill, and Norman Brillhart, '17ba, taking graduate work at Cornell University, also withdrew from school to enter active service. The Engineering edition of 1917 ran the following strong sentiment above the nameplate, "St. Pat ran the snakes out of Ireland and the engineers will run the Kaiser out of Germany."

By 1925, the University had reached sizeable proportions, with campus boundaries expanding as enrolment increased. The Stadium-Union Memorial Fund drive got under way. For co-eds, bobbed hair became fashionable and skirts too came in for a trimming. Sporty men students gadded about wearing wide-brimmed straw hats and flamboyant ties.

Among those on the membership roll of Blue Pencil, writers' organization, were Foster Harris, '25ba, Betty Kirk, '29ba, John Woodworth, '25ba, Bob Brandenburg, '26geol, and John Hervey, '25law. Big Maurice (Doc) Ruppert, '25ba, won his third basketball letter as he wound up the season rating high in the scoring columns. Co-eds for the first time held a track meet and the girls, unabashed, entered all events on the roster. The *Oklahoma Whirlwind* breezed through the year edited by Willard Egolf, '25law. Harold Cooksey, '24ba, represented the University in the Missouri Valley Oratorical Contest held in St. Louis.

In 1926, Lee B. Thompson, '27law, wrote in the *Daily St. Pat's* edition that the old-time feud between the lawyers and engineers had been almost forgotten. Soonerland's first musical comedy, *Under Water*, included more than 15 student-composed songs. Men journalism students presented the seventh annual Gridiron in the basement of the McFarlin Memorial Church with attending notables including Stratton D. Brooks, former president of the University; Elmer Thomas, senator, and Luther Harrison of the *Daily Oklahoman*.

Tom Yarbrough, '32, appeared on the *Daily* masthead as managing editor. A four-reel film, "The Einstein Theory of Relativity," was secured by the University for showings to O. U. and Norman High School students. John W. Frank,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 38)

# Sooner Sports

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

to a restaurant to partake of the pre-game meal, two of the players astonished Coach Mark McMahan by asking for coffee, which was then considered taboo as a training drink.

McMahan frowningly consented but himself righteously joined the remainder of the squad in ordering milk. However, the milk had been "doped" by Lawrence gamblers and the entire Oklahoma squad, except the two who had presumed to ask for coffee, became ill and performed only indifferently in the game.

The Sooner team of 1906 suffered a different experience. After playing a scoreless tie with Pete Houser's strong Pawhuska town team, the University boys piled into carryalls to ride the seven miles from Pawhuska to the nearby railroad junction of Nelagoney. However the carryalls broke down on the rocky roads and the football squad had to get out and walk the last four miles.

Financing football was so difficult in early days that occasionally the Sooners had to play three games on one trip to meet expenses. For example, in 1909 Oklahoma played St. Louis University at St. Louis, Texas Aggies at Dallas and Texas at Austin in five days, spending nearly all their time on the train. They defeated St. Louis 11-5, lost to Texas Aggies 8-14 and by the time they got to Austin were so worn-out and crippled that Texas shot through them 30 to 0.

Trips to Arkansas were probably the worst-dreaded of all then. In 1919 a strong Sooner team practiced at Norman Friday afternoon, drove to Oklahoma City in automobiles, caught the midnight train to Fayetteville, Arkansas, rode it with nothing to eat but some fruit and sandwiches until 2 p.m. the day of the game, dressed on the train, rushed out on the field and was beaten 7-6 by Arkansas after drubbing the Razorbacks 103-0 at Norman the year before.

## Senor Gill Reports In Two Uniforms

A South American student, who innocently reported wearing his undershirt and drawers beneath his football uniform, raised the Oklahoma Junior Varsity football squad to 53 men late in September but nearly caused reduction of the Sooner Jay-Vee coaching staff from two to one.

The lad's name is Hector Gil. He is a petroleum engineering sophomore from Colombia. He is short, dark and swarthy and has never played American football although he has played some soccer.

John Jacobs, veteran Sooner track coach who is helping Basketball Coach Bruce Drake handle the Junior Varsity, threw up his hands when he first spied Gil's curious blending of civilian and football attire. Jacobs made Gil take off everything and

then showed him how to correctly put on his uniform, piece by piece.

Jacobs doubts if Gil will be with the Sooner Jay-Vees very long, anyhow.

"If he starts talking about those South American snakes again, one of us has got to leave," declares the Sooner track coach, positively. "It's either him or me."

Because Jacobs and Gil had met before, when Gil came out for track last spring. It was then that Jacobs began to call Gil "Snake Eater" because of the South American lad's weird stories about the multiplicity of snakes in his Colombian homeland.

"He told me that snakes in South America grow so big they coil in two piles," Jacobs relates. "I got so I couldn't sleep at night from thinking about those snakes. I finally had to take up Gil's track suit so I could get a little rest. And now he's out for Junior Varsity football and I suppose I'm going to have to go through that snake business all over again."

Gil's spirit is characteristic of the Oklahoma Junior Varsity. Head Coach Dewey (Snorter) Luster's idea to ready under-sized students as potential fighting men of war by letting them play a six-game schedule against nearby state college and junior college teams, thus toughening them by rough contact sports.

The Sooner Junior Varsity schedule:

- Oct. 16—Murray Aggies at Norman.
- Oct. 23—Cameron Aggies at Lawton.
- Oct. 30—Central Teachers at Norman.
- Nov. 6—Murray Aggies at Tishomingo.
- Nov. 13—Central Teachers at Edmond.
- Nov. 20—East Central Teachers at Ada.

## Star Freshmen Athletes Join O. U. Sports Ranks

University minor sports teams, as well as the Sooner football squad, have drawn several star freshmen athletes, the current enrollment shows.

An early check of them reveals the following high school stars are now within the Sooner fold:

**BASKETBALL**—Charles Pugsley, Oklahoma City Classen; James Mitchell, Oklahoma City Classen; Paul Merchant, Tulsa Webster; Harold Hines, Oklahoma City Central; Roy Gray, Vinita; Lynn "Hobo" Gilstrap, Ardmore; Duane Ross, Tulsa Central; Roy Longmire, Friendship.

**GOLF**—Keith Fowler, of Bartlesville; Charles Coe, Ardmore.

**TRACK**—Andy Cary, Duncan; Lynn "Hobo" Gilstrap, Ardmore; George Viney, Lawton; Bill Tooke, Tulsa Central; Jimmy Jones, Tulsa Central; Bill Johnson, Tulsa Central; Shelby Ross, Tulsa Central; Owen Roof, Thomas; Joe Bailey, Macomb; Eugene Baker, Shawnee; Leroy Esadoah, Lawton.

**TENNIS**—Albert Pick, Oklahoma City Classen; Stanley Draper, Oklahoma City Classen.

**BASEBALL**—Jack Southwick, Garber; Earl Perry, Tulsa; Charles Pugsley, Oklahoma City Classen; James Mitchell, Oklahoma City Classen; Merrell McDonald, Garber; Harlan Sherman, Oklahoma City Capitol Hill; Olin Corley, Friendship; Lyman Bryan, Newcastle.

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## This Is College

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

founder of Frankhoma Pottery, supervised ceramics in the Department of Art where he stressed the use of native clay in pottery manufacture. A roller skating rink was established in the Fieldhouse with special music provided by a campus orchestra. Charles Brown, '33ba, '34ma, won a \$100 prize offered by the Commission on Inter-racial Co-operation for the best essay on "The Quest for Understanding." As the 1932 school year drew to a close, Max Gilstrap, '37journ, left the campus to spend the summer as a forest ranger in Yosemite National Park.

During the economic depression, student life assumed a sober aspect with many undergraduates self-supporting and both individual and institutional budgets leaner than they had been for some time. Men and women students knuckled down and found they could make good grades, carry work outside of classes and still have an enjoyable time going to school. Expensive entertainments were almost entirely abandoned in favor of occasional movies, informal student dances and free intramural athletic events.

A year ago, the University welcomed home its first alumnus-president, Joseph A. Brandt, who had been in the newspaper and publishing business since graduation in 1921. Constructive steps were taken during his first year as president to tie the administration and student body closer together, and to treat the students as future alumni.

Since Pearl Harbor, the University naturally has made many adjustments in order to meet changing conditions. Approximately 3,000 University alumni are now known to be in active service, as well as many faculty members who were granted leaves of absence to take defense positions requiring special knowledge and skill. During the year many students withdrew from school to enlist in the various branches of service, repeating University history of 25 years ago.

This year, besides the regular curricula, there will be a number of reserve classes for students who wish to enlist and continue their college education while training to be of greater service to the country. Student life will center, to a great degree, around war work and local naval projects for the next few years.