

## O.U. Gets 60-Acre Tract Gift

President Cross announced recently the gift of a 60-acre tract of land to the University by Fred G. Oliver, Cleveland County farmer.

The land, located adjacent to the University's newly acquired South Campus, was donated to the University by Mr. Oliver for use by the zoological science department to promote a wild life sanctuary and for experimental purposes, President Cross said.

Dr. Arthur N. Bragg, assistant professor of zoology, reported that the area is a natural habitat of a large number of zoological specimens not found in quantity in any other place in Oklahoma.

The gift came about when Dr. Bragg, with several of his students in search of additional specimens for laboratory purposes, was on the land hunting for frogs and other fauna. Caught by Mr. Oliver, Dr. Bragg confessed. In the conversation that followed, the professor explained the unusual nature of the tract from a zoological stand-point.

Mr. Oliver, who for a long time had wanted "to do something for the University," thought the matter over and later called President Cross and offered the land for a wild life sanctuary and for experimental purposes. President Cross immediately accepted for the University and the state of Oklahoma.

The land is located on the map as NW ¼ SE ¼ and N ½ SW ¼ SE ¼, all in Section 7, Township 8 North, Range 2 West. Situated in the river flood plain near the city, the area is rich in source material for the study of frogs, toads and salamander. "It is the only known area in Cleveland County where one of the two species of salamander breeds," Professor Bragg pointed out.

President Cross said that the Oliver donation was the first gift of its kind to the University to be used for zoological purposes.

In accepting the gift for the University, President Cross wrote Mr. Oliver: "The University will be able to take care of this property in such a way that it will always be a source of pride to you."

Dr. Cross said that "at the proper time we want to make fitting recognition of this gift."

## Speech League Plans Programs

The Oklahoma High School Speech league, a non-profit organization for the high schools of Oklahoma, has announced speech activities for 1946-47, with the first events, a debate and discussion institute, scheduled for October 18-19.

Dates for other features, including six practice tournaments, nine district tournaments, two state tournaments and a regional and national tournament, have not been definitely set. Included in these tournaments will be debate, discussion, extemporaneous speaking, original and standard oration, oral interpretation of poetry, humorous and dramatic declamation, radio plays and one-act plays.

Oklahoma has won more national speech championships than any other state. In the 13 national tournaments held since 1928, Oklahoma high schools have won nine national championships in debate alone. This record has been greatly aided by the Oklahoma plan of qualification, which gives every team at least nine opportunities to qualify for the state tournament.

Sponsoring institutions other than O.U. are: Oklahoma A. and M., East Central State, Southeastern, Central State, Southwestern Institute of Technology, Northeastern State, Northwestern State, Panhandle A. and M., Phillips and Oklahoma Baptist University.

Dr. William M. Sattler, University of Oklahoma speech professor, spent a year on Guam as a Naval officer in the joint communication center during the war.

Dr. Oliver E. Benson, recently appointed chairman of the government department at the University of Oklahoma, spent three years in the Navy.

## James H. Day Winner Of Pe-et Award

Eighteen-year-old James H. Day, McAlester, a student of Latin and Greek who is equally enthusiastic over the music of Duke Ellington and Johann S. Bach, is the winner of the Pe-et award as outstanding student in the 1945 freshman class at the University.

Day was chosen for the award by a faculty committee after interviews with a group of freshmen men making a grade average of 2.75 for their first year's work. Day's grade average was only slightly below a straight "A" average.

A 1945 graduate of McAlester High School, Day entered the University in June, 1945, and by the end of July, 1946, had completed enough credit hours to qualify for junior standing this fall.

In addition to making almost perfect marks in his school work, the McAlester youth earns part of his education by working from three to four hours daily in the loan department of the University library.

For recreation Day turns to music. Although he likes the classics, he doesn't scorn the moderns. "The greatest of them all is Mr. Bach," Day sighs, "but that doesn't keep me from appreciating Duke Ellington and Danny Kaye."

Day played in the McAlester orchestra two years while in high school. The salutatorian of his high-school class, he was for three years the scholarship award winner. He was a member of the Latin club, Spanish club, and the state and national honor societies.

Day's ambition is to become a classical language teacher. He hopes to complete work for his master's and doctor's degrees as well as for his bachelor's.

There are over 2500 books in the browsing room of the library at the University of Oklahoma.

## Sooner Magazine Wins 2 Awards

The Sooner Magazine has received merit awards in two fields in the 1946 magazine competition of the American Alumni Council.

Notification of the awards was received recently by the Range Rider Ted Beaird. Recognition was given to Sooner Magazine for its coverage of college athletics with special attention to handling feature stories and art work on a basis of reader interest.

The second award of merit named Sooner Magazine for its "consistently interesting and outstanding pictures portraying student life and stimulating alumni interest."

This is the fifth time in the past eleven years that Sooner Magazine has been awarded national recognition by the American Alumni Council.

Other colleges and universities receiving council publication awards this year are: the University of California, Harvard, the University of Indiana, Cornell, and the University of Minnesota.

## Dr. DeBarr—Last of the First

Dr. Edwin DeBarr, a resident of Norman for 54 years, is the only living member of the University's first faculty. Dr. DeBarr, who will be 88 in January, was a professor of chemistry and physics.

From 1909 to 1923 he was vice-president of the University. In recognition of his long and valuable service to the Sooner school, officials named the chemistry building, erected in 1916, in his honor.

Dr. DeBarr also organized the University's School of Pharmacy and served for a time as its director. He also conducted courses in the School of Medicine during the first two years it was on the campus.

Seven modern languages are being offered by the university in the fall term.



*IT'S A HABIT!* The Norman Transcript, perennial winner of the sweepstakes trophy in the Oklahoma state fair newspaper contests, repeated the feat this year for the fourth time in a row. The Transcript received a total of 640 points. The Norman publication has won the trophy six times in the 11 years that the award has been made.

SOONER MAGAZINE'S staff photographer, immediately after the announcement of the award, sought out a number of the O.U. journalists in the Transcript's new plant in downtown Norman to learn who, behind the scenes, are responsible for such an excellent often repeated accomplishment.

Seated is Howard Van Dyke, '35ba, former news editor and now with the Carter Oil Company; left to right, standing, are Harold Belknap, '25ba, business manager; Ida Sloan, '35ba, Fred Tarman, '10ba, and Glenn Bradley, '43.