



This group of Sooners was on hand for the 54th anniversary celebration of the Cherokee Strip race held September 16 in Ponca City. Dr. George L. Cross, second row center, was principal speaker. (See story, 'The Big Race', on this page.)

The Big Race—54 Years Ago

Dawn broke on September 16, 1893, over more than 100,000 people assembled along the outside borders of the Cherokee Strip. Rich and poor alike had one thing in common—an undaunted pioneer spirit which longed for a chunk of one of America's last frontiers.

The long morning was an ordeal which tried patience and physical endurance. Restless, stamping horses filled the air with choking dust. Scalpers circulated through the crowds selling water at 10 to 25 cents a glass. Cavalrymen rode up and down the lines flourishing rifles which were to keep "sooners" from the territory.

Then with gunfire as a signal, the race was on. It was noon and the temperature was over 100, but horsemen, covered wagons, carts and trains all pulled out at full speed. Many had bought race horses which they expected to get them to a good location in a hurry—in time to stake choice claims. But it was the cow horses bred on the western range which were able to stand up to the endurance test of the long run.

It was 54 years ago that this historic land rush was staged, but many of the pioneers who made the run were on hand to celebrate its anniversary in Ponca City on September 16, 1947.

At the statue of the Pioneer Women, President George L. Cross, principal speaker for the celebration, presented facts of early Cherokee Strip history. He described how the Cherokees marched over the bitter "trail of tears" from Georgia to Arkansas, the first group arriving in 1817. Then in 1828 they were moved again, this time to Northeastern Oklahoma which included what is now known as the Cherokee Outlet.

Dr. Cross reminded the celebrators that the first president of the University of Oklahoma played

an important part in the events which led to the opening of the Cherokee Strip for white settlement. Former President David Ross Boyd, by making two trips to Washington secured a section in President Cleveland's land opening proclamation of August 19, 1893, which provided for section 13 in each township to be reserved for the use of O.U., A. & M. and the Normal School.

In tribute to the pioneer woman, under whose memorial Dr. Cross delivered his address, the president said:

"The pioneer has done his work well. To him we owe a debt of everlasting gratitude. Nor shall we ever forget the loyalty, courage, fidelity and love of home, husband and children manifested by the pioneer women who shared the cold, hunger, hardships, dangers and vicissitudes of pioneer

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life with their husbands, as they, together, wrested this civilization we enjoy today out of the wilderness."

Pre-celebration activities the night before the anniversary observance at the statue included a street dance and judging contest for Cherokee Maids. A huge crowd was on the streets during the evening for the dance and a carnival.

On the anniversary date, 50,000 viewed the chief morning attraction, a mammoth parade including bands, floats, Roundup Clubs and pioneer vehicles. Leading the parade was William H. McFadden, colorful pioneer figure, mounted on a Palomino mare. Dressed in silver studded chaps and other western attire, McFadden was mounted in a saddle which is a replica of one worth \$60,000.

At the rear of the parade was an air-conditioned Santa Fe bus, loaded with old settlers enroute to the reviewing stand at the Pioneer Women statue. At noon these old timers swarmed over North Park where they spread picnic lunches and settled down to talk over "the good old days," when the Cherokee Strip was in its infancy.

Many University alumni figured in the celebration. Among those participating in the administration of the event were William V. Cox, '21ba, '24 ma; Charles Duffy, '22law; C. D. Northcutt, '39ba, '38law; George W. Miller, '23law, and Joe Miller, all of Ponca City.

IFC Awards Scholarship

Ross Warren Cummings, freshman from Ponca City, has been named recipient of the first Inter-Fraternity Council scholarship award amounting to \$400 for the freshman year, Jack Biggerstaff, president, has announced.

The award, which will be paid in monthly instalments of \$50, will be paid through the University comptroller's office. To be entitled to the second semester half of the award, Cummings must maintain a 1.5 grade average.

Cummings was selected by three members of the faculty and Biggerstaff from a field of ten men, picked for their high rating on the freshman placement tests. Biggerstaff had no vote in the final selection. Final bases of the award were need, rating on the placement tests and interest shown in school activities.

Cummings, a pre-law student with a major in English, is the son of Mrs. J. Cummings. An independent on the campus, he was editor of his high school paper, member of the honor society and active in athletics.

"Although this is the first time the scholarship has been given, the IFC does not plan for it to be the last," Biggerstaff stated. "We plan to make it an annual award."

Debaters Meet at O.U.

State high school and college students met with educators at the University of Oklahoma Extension Study Center October 16-18 for a debate and discussion institute. Dr. James H. McBurney, Northwestern University speech authority, was the featured speaker.

Faculty members of six colleges and three high schools over Oklahoma and students from four high schools and colleges participated in the program at the North Campus center. Program features were a film forum, voice and diction clinic, demonstration debates, discussions and extemporaneous speeches.

Dr. McBurney, dean of the Northwestern speech school, is a leader in American speech education at both the high school and college levels. A former faculty member at the University of Michigan and Columbia University, he is second vice-president of the National Speech Association.

Dr. Carlton W. Berenda's article entitled "Termination of the Past by Future Events" will be distributed to periodicals in Germany, Austria, Japan and Korea, the University of Oklahoma associate philosophy professor has been notified by the state department.