

## Dr. Stovall Gets His Museum

By LARRY STEPHENSON

After lying in the ground for millions of years, it probably wouldn't matter a lot to a fossil if he were stacked in a basement to gather dust for another decade or so. But Dr. J. Willis Stovall, director of the University Museum and professor of paleontology, can't accept such an indifferent attitude. Some very interesting paleontological specimens are available for museum visitors, but lack of floor space has prevented their being displayed.

At last, though, Stovall has convinced the administration that more space *now* is imperative. As a result, the former R.O.T.C. buildings near Sooner City are being converted into a museum research and storage center. Most of the space in these three buildings is being made available.

The directorship of the new museum will remain in the competent hands of Dr. Stovall, whose work along this line stems from many years spent in the geological field.

"If I believed in predestination," muses Dr. Stovall, "I would say I was cut out to be a geologist."

Forty years ago as a youngster living in Greer County, he used to make calls with his pioneer-physician father, riding over the short grass country in a buggy. He was an outdoor lad, loving the sagebrush prairies, but not caring especially for fishing or hunting. His love for the outdoors was built around the beauty of wildlife and scenery. Too, he spent long hours during the lazy summer afternoons under a western Oklahoma sun, roaming the gyp hills in search of odd rocks and Indian relics.

A favorite pastime, which was almost an obsession with this dreaming teen-ager, was reading and looking at pictures in books on natural history. One picture that is stamped vividly in Stovall's recollection is that of two Irish hunters being attacked by a huge anaconda while rowing down an African stream. One of the hunters is shown slashing off the pythons head. Caption for the picture is, "The Irishman Severed the Monster's Head in One Fell Swoop."

The "predestined" geologist could have been a landscape painter, although he emphatically denies being an artist. Yet, he has completed numerous paintings, several of which now hang in the Geology Building on the campus.

But even "predestination" almost let Dr. Stovall miss his calling at one time. After three years of undergraduate work at Texas Christian University, he went to Memphis to enter the Tennessee Medical School. He was not admitted, however, because he was deficient in organic chemistry. To take this course in chemistry, Dr. Stovall went to Union University, Jackson, Tennessee, where he completed work toward the bachelors degree.

After receiving his degree and teaching a couple of years at Union, he started fishing around for a fellowship in either zoology or geology. His best offers were in geology, so that is what "thrust" him into the field in which he has made such outstanding accomplishments.

Yale and Johns Hopkins Universities both offered him fellowships at that time, but the best offer was a \$1,000 stipend, which he accepted, at Vanderbilt in Nashville. Upon receiving his masters at Vanderbilt in 1927, Stovall again put out feelers for a fellowship. He received one at Yale and studied there a year. From there he went to the University of Chicago to work with Professor A. S. Romer, international authority on vertebrate paleontology.

Then in early 1930 he came to the University of Oklahoma, and has been here since. During this lengthy tenure he has taken time out to return to the University of Chicago to complete work toward the Ph. D., which he received in 1938.

In his 18 years at O.U. he has discovered, described and reported 14 species of prehistoric animals entirely new to science.

Dr. Stovall has a special yen for naming his discoveries after personal friends. One 20,000-year-old fellow he dubbed "bizzelli" for the late Dr. William B. Bizzell, University president. During the many years he has followed research which resulted in such spectacular discoveries, he has also carried the normal classroom load of teaching.

He loves to teach, and has been doing it off and on since 1912. At that time, for two years he was busy in Canada organizing Indian schools and acting as chief "medicine man" in the villages where he worked. It was there on the bank of the Manigotogan River, just east of Lake Winnipeg, that he had a close matrimonial call. This is the way it happened:

On the first day school opened, old man Clark, an Irishman with a brogue as thick as the blarney stone itself, brought his eight kids to school. The oldest was Mary, a 17-year-old buxom miss.

Clark felt obligated to give the new schoolmaster a tip. He told him it might be a good idea to start off on the right foot by "beatin' the daylight" out of one of them just to show who was boss.

The kids did fine in school, and Stovall became very fond of the entire family. He hung out at the Clark place quite a lot and Mrs. Clark did his laundry.

Without a doubt Stovall had the best "long-handle" underwear in the Dominion of Canada. He wore the "Hudson Bay" brand, a garment that was not too heavy, but yet was thick enough to keep the crisp winter wind out.

It was because of his underwear that he had his close matrimonial call. He had just finished up the school year and had decided to go back to

Texas. Mrs. Clark was getting his clothes ready to go, and was pretty well put out over seeing such fine underwear leave the community.

She hit on the idea of swapping Stovall out of them. She was convinced that he wouldn't need them in Texas. So she approached him on the idea. He declined. She pleaded. He asked what she'd swap.

"I'll give you Mary," she answered.

"But I have a girl friend in Texas," he countered.

"A big strong man like you needs a couple," she parried.

"But it's against the law in Texas," emphatically insisted Stovall, trying to close the matter.

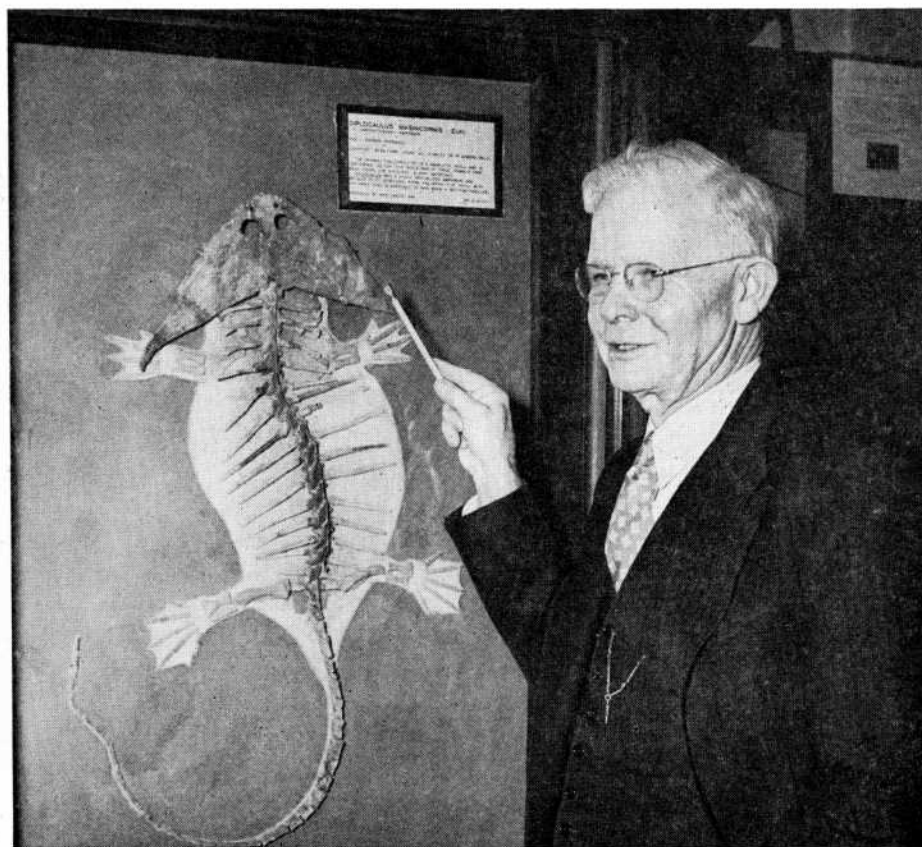
But the matter wasn't closed. Mrs. Clark wasn't about to let such fine "woolies" get away from her without a fight. So Stovall shivered his way out of Canada, minus his underwear, but carrying an ancient shotgun, an heirloom of the Clark family.

Since coming to O.U. in 1930, Stovall has continued to find teaching a very gratifying experience. Up until the recent war he took graduate students with him every summer and toured the Central Plains from Canada to Mexico. To encourage these students and to get their names before the editors, he has permitted them to share by-lines with him on formal reports of discoveries made on field trips and in research.

One such student is L. I. Price, '30, who is now the world's leading authority on Permian reptile skulls, and who draws illustrations for books. Another is the late C. Stuart Johnston, who was a recognized authority on tertiary mammals.

Stovall has written 42 technical papers which have been published in leading journals. His first was an article entitled "Does the Brain Grow?" Written as a class assignment while in Union University, he received a "B" on the paper. He sent it to *Forum Magazine* which published it and sent him a check for \$75.

While in Vanderbilt he regularly wrote features



Dr. J. Willis Stovall, professor of paleontology and director of the University Museum, calls attention to the *Diplocaulus magnicoinis* Cope, of the Garber (Persian) age, found at Bean Farm 10 miles northeast of Edmond in Logan County. This specimen will soon be removed from its present "resting place" in the Geology Building to the new University Museum being planned.

for the *Nashville Banner*. These features were not necessarily of a scientific nature, but rather were on various subjects which interested the author. During this same period he contributed feature material to many other publications.

In private life Dr. Stovall has been married to Evelyn Wyche Love of Elizabethan, Tennessee, since 1928. The couple has one daughter, Anne, who is nine years of age.

Stovall's museum organizing at the University is not his first such job. He organized one at Union University which is now a memorial to him.

He wants the new University museum, for which he has fought 18 years, to be different from any other in the nation. Plans are elaborate. They include huge outdoor displays. Among these will be a full size Osage bark lodge, Pawnee earth lodge, Mound-Builder's spiro hut, Navajo hogan, Kiowa tepee and a Wichita grass lodge. In most cases the Indians themselves will do the construction.

Also among the outdoor displays will be a fossil garden, cactus and rock garden, terraces for lectures and movies, with flowers, trees and hedges.

The University owes a lot to Dr. Stovall. As Dr. E. D. Meacham, '14ba, dean of Arts and Sciences, says, "Dr. Stovall has been the driving force who made this museum possible. All of his thinking and planning have been directed toward the ultimate goal—a museum of which the state of Oklahoma could be proud. While there are many curators interested in the project, Dr. Stovall has furnished the necessary continuity."

## Dr. Carr Brings Daniel Lecture

"Segregation is on the way out," believes Dr. Robert K. Carr, chairman of the department of political science at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire. Dr. Carr, former member of the University government faculty, delivered the annual Daniel lecture March 10 in the Business Administration Auditorium.

Segregation cannot be ended overnight, according to Dr. Carr, but the Supreme Court will eventually rule it unconstitutional. He said that if the states do not take proper steps to enforce civil rights, it is the "obligation of the federal government" to do so.

The former secretary of President Truman's civil rights committee outlined two methods by which progress in civil freedom can be outlined. The first way is by "private voluntary action," which he termed the "educational approach."

The second method he explained as the "government approach," that of compulsory regulation. The latter way, although more "controversial," would be more rapid and bring better results, Dr. Carr believes.

He served as instructor and assistant professor of government at the University from 1931 to 1937. He received his B. A. degree from Dartmouth in 1929, his M. A. from Harvard in 1930 and his Ph. D. degree from Harvard in 1935.

Dr. Carr is now co-operating with Professor Robert E. Cushman of Cornell University in a research program on constitutional law of civil rights. He is the author of several books on political science, one of which was awarded the Toppan prize by Harvard University.

## Dr. Dangerfield Receives Leave To Serve on War College Faculty

Dr. Royden J. Dangerfield, executive vice president and professor of government at the university, has been named as one of the five civilian experts to serve on the faculty at the National War College, Washington, D. C., during the fall semester, it has been announced by President George L. Cross.

Dangerfield, whose appointment came from Vice Admiral H. W. Hill, commandant of the college, has been granted a leave of absence by the Uni-

versity Regents from September 1 to December 31.

Students at the college are selected not only from the Army, Navy and Airforce, but also from the departments of state, treasury and commerce, from the bureau of the budget and the central intelligence agency.

Each year the military staff of the college is augmented by five prominent civilian professors. Civilian instructor function as leaders of seminar groups and discussion groups whose major objective is to study the objectives and capabilities of the great powers.

Students and faculty members at the college have access to a mass of secret and confidential information. In addition, they have an opportunity to obtain first hand information of conditions in all countries of the world through a series of "off the record" discussions by experts who have just returned from trips abroad.

Dangerfield, who joined the O.U. staff in 1928, served for 16 months during the war as chief international law officer in the judge advocate general's office in Washington, D. C. Last summer he was one of the 100 experts invited to attend a two-weeks seminar on American foreign policy sponsored by the Brookings Institution at Dartmouth College. Recently he attended a meeting in Washington, D. C., to assist in planning the Brookings Institution's summer conference on American foreign policies to be held at Stanford University.

Dangerfield served in 1930 as a research assistant on President Hoover's committee on recent social trends. During 1936-37 he was granted another leave of absence to organize and direct forums for the U. S. Office of Education.

## Faculty Notes . . .

Dr. Royden J. Dangerfield, executive vice president of the University, attended a conference sponsored by the Brookings Institution on February 12 to 14 in Washington, D. C. The conference was for the purpose of planning the agenda for the second annual seminar on U. S. foreign policy, which will be held at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California, June 21 to July 3.

Carl Coke Rister, research professor of history,

has been invited to become visiting lecturer on United States history at the University of Glasgow for the year 1948-1949. This professorship was established in 1946 through the American embassy in London by Allen Nevins, professor of history at Columbia University.

The election of Dr. J. Rud Nielsen, University research professor of physics, to a two-year term as member of the national council of the American Association of University Professors was announced recently in St. Louis, Missouri.

Francis R. Cella, Associate professor of economics and director of the bureau of business research at the University, has been elected district representative for the American Statistical Association.

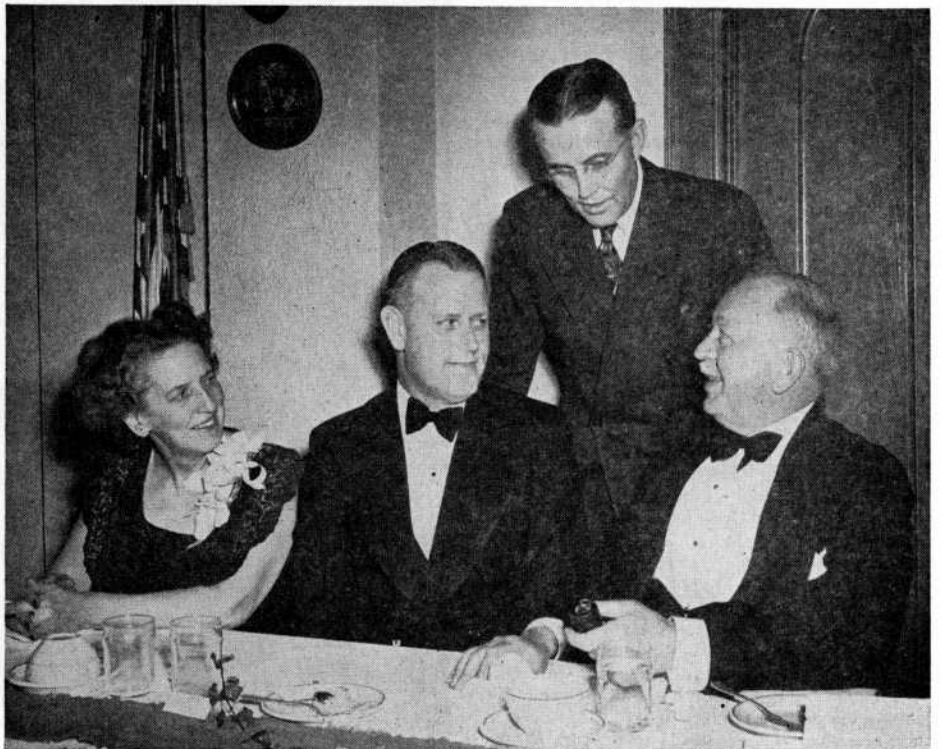
Kenneth Baker Horning, associate professor of business communications at the University, has been named editor of the Better Letters Service of the National Retail Credit Association. He succeeds W. H. Butterfield, former chairman of the department of business communication at O.U., who resigned the editorial position to become vice-president of DePauw University. Mr. Horning will handle his duties from his office on the O.U. campus.

Dr. J. E. Fellows, dean of admissions and records, was designated by President Cross as the official O. U. representative to the national conference on higher education scheduled by the National Education Association. The conference was held March 21 through 26 in Chicago.

Dr. E. E. Dale, '11ba, and Dr. Cortez A. M. Ewing, well-known Sooner authorities in the fields of history and government, shared the spotlight at the Southwestern Social Science Association meeting March 26 and 27 in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Dale, University research history professor who is noted for his many books and articles on western history, served as principal speaker at the Friday night general meeting of the group. He spoke on "Twin Problems of the Plains." Dr. Ewing, president of the Association and O.U. government professor, discussed "De Maistre and Marx in the Modern World."

Edmund Pendleton Duval, University of Oklahoma associate mathematics professor, is a specialist in the field of algebraic analysis.



President Cross, standing, chats amiably with Victor Barnett, managing editor of the *Tulsa Tribune*, at the Faculty Club banquet in March at which Barnett was principal speaker. Mrs. Barnett and J. Ray Matlock, '25eng, president of the Faculty Club and director of the School of Civil Engineering, listens.