

The President Speaks

By DR. GEORGE L. CROSS

Financial needs of the University, apart from those covered by state funds, are discussed by President Cross. He explains what the University is doing to help itself through bond issues, and what could be accomplished with the support of alumni through the University of Oklahoma Alumni Development Fund.



Editor's Note: Quoted below is an extemporaneous speech delivered by President Cross before an alumni group which had gathered to assist in launching the University of Oklahoma Alumni Development Fund November 13.

Because of the context of the speech, it is reproduced in whole to allow alumni everywhere to better understand the purpose of the Alumni Development Fund and the needs of the University.

WHAT I have to say is unpremeditated. My intentions were very good this morning: I got up at a quarter to six and went squirrel hunting with my 12-year-old son, and planned to be in my office by a little after nine to spend from nine until eleven trying to decide which of the University needs should be discussed here today. There are so many needs that I scarcely knew where to begin.

But when I arrived at my office, I found Mr. Walter Kraft and the architect there waiting to talk with me about plans for enlarging the stadium. As you know, we have been worrying quite a bit about the stadium; if you were here for the Missouri game you understand why. We have had a considerable expression of opinion as to what should be done—whether we should complete one of the ends or build a second tier. The voting is about even. Approximately half of the fans think we should have a second tier and the rest think we should complete one of the ends. Under those circumstances there would appear to be only one solution, that is to do both. I shall recommend to the Athletic Council and our Regents that we endeavor to build a second tier, complete an end of the stadium, put a press box up above the second tier, and try to have the whole project completed for the opening of the season next fall. You will be able to see how near we come to achieving that goal when you come to the first ball game next fall.

Now this idea of Alumni funds, small gifts and so on, is certainly not a new one at the University of Oklahoma. I say that because so often the question is asked by alumni and other citizens of the state, "Why should we contribute money to the University when we are already contributing to taxes for the support of the institution?" Of course, there is some point to this question. However, every other institution of comparable size and prestige in this country is receiving financial support from the alumni.

Here in Oklahoma, I think we are especially justified in looking to the alumni for support because we have about the highest percentage of our youth going to state supported institution of any state in the union. Here approximately 85 percent of all those who go to school beyond the high school level go to an institution supported by state funds, leaving about 15 percent attending the privately

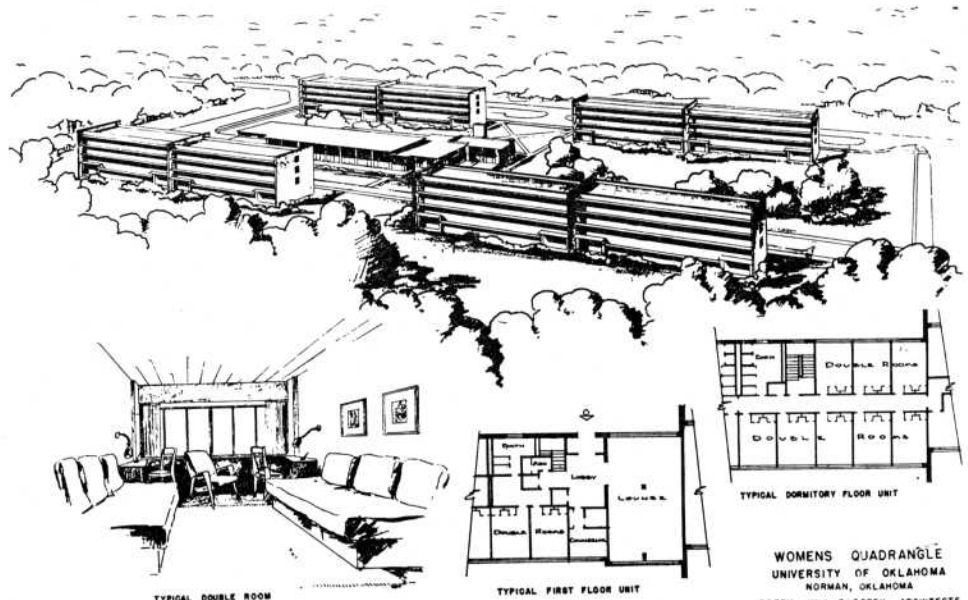
supported institutions. For comparison we might mention Missouri, where only 65 percent of the college students go to state supported institutions, while others attend privately supported institutions. Because so much of the cost of higher education in Oklahoma is borne by the state and so little by gifts to private institutions, it seems reasonable to expect that there should be gifts to state institutions, especially from those who have had the benefits of attending our state schools.

Moreover, the University has not been able, through the years, to get what we consider to be its fair share of the state funds that have been available. You might be interested in knowing that last year we took care of 34.5 percent of all the students enrolled in state institutions of higher education in Oklahoma. We granted 41.2 percent of all the degrees that were granted last year, and we operated with 33.2 percent of the state money that was available for higher education. The picture of the future is not too bright because the budget which the Higher Regents will submit to the legislature in January calls for a 51 percent increase in allocations for the Norman campus with more than a 61 percent average increase for all the other budget units in the state system of Higher Education. Obviously, if the University of Oklahoma is to develop and fulfill its functions to the extent that it can and should, we will have to have a little support other than what we receive from state funds.

You have no idea of the expanding needs, unless you can appreciate what it meant to grow from a student body of 5,254 the spring of 1946 to 10,125 that fall. This doubled in just a few months the problems of faculty recruitment, instructional facilities and student housing. Another increase in the fall of 1947 brought us 12,000 on the Norman campus and that is the number here this fall.

This institution has changed a great deal from what it was before the war and the new needs are tremendous. About 3500 of our students are married and housing is a problem. Of those who are married about 1600 have children. The obligation of the University in regard to the affairs of married students was a little vague; but we suspected that we had some obligations and we undertook to provide such facilities as were needed. We provided public health nurses, nurseries, kindergartens, and programs for the wives of married students. Of course it was necessary to provide much housing for single students also.

There is not time for me to tell you about all of our needs. I should like to tell you a little bit about our effort to do things for ourselves—quite apart from the things that we have been able to do with state funds. We face the problem of building a physical plant here to take care of about 15,000 students by 1960. You have heard of our plans to



An architect's drawing of the new Women's dormitories. The upper view is of the quadrangular set-up when all of the buildings are completed. Lower left is the sumptuous interior and the two drawings on the right are of the typical first floor unit and the typical dormitory floor unit.

expand the Union Building. We expect to build a wing to the south and a wing to the north, approximately tripling the present space of this building. When the contracts for this project are signed we shall have undertaken approximately 10 million dollars worth of construction since the war. Of that amount only about 2 million dollars have come from state funds. The rest we have secured through bond issues. Our present program, to be completed within the next 2 or 3 years, involves the expenditure of at least 15 million dollars. This will include enlargement of the stadium; a new field-house, and an extension to our Infirmary. We shall build additional dormitories; the project of the near future is designed to accommodate about 500 men.

If you have visited the campus this fall, you know that we are constructing four large dormitories immediately south of the South Oval. This project will house 848 girls, with a centrally located dining hall and lounge. Here we are trying to give the girls the advantage of living both in small and in large groups. The buildings are so arranged that the girls will live in groups of 52, each group with its own lounge and social program. However, all of the girls will have their meals at the same place and will use the centrally located lounge where they will get acquainted widely. This is a large housing project, but it isn't nearly adequate.

We are not undertaking to raise money for these dormitories through alumni gifts. I am merely explaining what we have done and are planning to do through our own efforts, not something that we are asking the alumni to do.

We found, when we undertook the huge building program, that our heating plant was inadequate to handle the requirements of the new buildings. The present University heating plant was built back in 1913. We had to devise a way to build a new one without state appropriations. We are building a \$1,800,000 plant, financed by a bond issue. I emphasize this as an extraordinary example of our efforts to do something for ourselves.

There are many other services that need to be performed, and a number of things that need to be done for which state money cannot be obtained. For instance, we will never be able to get an appropriation, I am sure, to build an art museum. We have not had an appropriation from the state to build any kind of a building for our College of Fine Arts, one of the finest colleges of fine arts in the country. We built an addition to Holmberg Hall with 70 soundproof practice rooms, but the state did not appropriate the money. This wing was financed by a bond issue.

We all know the Fine Arts are an essential part of a great university. Here in Oklahoma, we can get appropriations for education which will train individuals in the techniques of making money, but we can get very little support for the type of education that will enable people to enjoy the money after they get it. We have collections of objects in art, science and history valued at approximately 2 million dollars stored in various places; these should be housed in a museum building. That is just an example of one type of thing which, if we are to have it at all, will be secured through donations.

The Alumni Development Fund is something that I shall be greatly interested in, but I don't think I should get involved with it too much—certainly not to the extent that I might seem to be trying to tell our alumni what to do. However, I hope that from this meeting you will receive helpful information and that you will develop additional enthusiasm for your Alma Mater. It is a great institution, but like other great institutions, it needs the support of its alumni.



Gathered together in front of the church during the recital of the bells in Houston are, standing: W. Kendall Baker, '39ba, '41Law, chairman of the special committee; Wallace C. Thompson, '20bs; W. Frank Renfrew, '24ba, '24bs, '26med; Robert R. Durkee, '24bs; Richard L. Gilley, '38ba, '40Law, '43ma; Earl A. Brown, Jr., '38ba, '40Law; Walter Mahoney, '48bs. Seated left to right are: Mrs. John E. Eckel, wife of John E. Eckel, '29eng; Mrs. Eloise Reid Thompson, '20ba, and Mrs. Cynthia Baker, '40.

Houston Group Hears Carillon Bells

Houston alumni recently reported that they heard what seemed to be heavenly music in their cars.

The occasion?

Well, some of them attended a Sunday afternoon recital held at the First Evangelical Church in Houston. The instrument they heard demonstrated was the first 61-note Flemish Carillon Bell instrument to be installed in the Southwest. Mr. Arthur L. Bigelow, bell-master of Princeton University, was the recitalist.

The 10 members of the committee who were asked to report their reaction to the bells by Ted Beard, '21ba, alumni executive secretary, were headed by W. Kendall Baker, '39ba, '41Law.

According to Beard, "It is contemplated (pending final Regent action) that we will install in the new \$2,200,00 extension building program for the Oklahoma Memorial Union Building a set of the bells."

The unit which was installed in the church at Houston is an exclusive product of Schulmerich Electronics, Incorporated, Sellersville, Pennsylvania.

The various reactions of the members of this special committee are as follows:

W. Kendall Baker, '39ba, '41Law, said in part, "We met and visited with the organist of the church, Mr. Schulmerich, Mr. Sykes, Tulsa representative of the firm, Mr. Caner from Dallas and several others. We pumped them with a million questions. My wife and I personally believe that a set of these bells for the Student Union of the University of Oklahoma would be a wonderful thing."

W. Frank Renfrew, '24ba, '24bs, '26med, reported, "I thought that the bells had a very good tone and I believe they would be well-suited for use in the tower of the Student Union Building at the University of Oklahoma."

Other comments included those of Mrs. John E. Eckel, wife of John E. Eckel, '29eng, who stated, "I should like to report that it was most enjoyable. The aesthetic and cultural value of the Carillon Bells would be most valuable. The engineering involved in this instrument is extremely interesting as it is a product of the electronic field."

Wallace C. Thompson, '20bs, had this to say about the bells: "I feel somewhat out of my element, passing on any musical instrument, especially one as little known as the Carillon; however, I can say without hesitation that there was a certain majesty, along with the beauty, that always goes with chimes or bells. Actually I could not have told whether they were real bells or some other instrument."

As you know, I took the liberty of bringing my daughter's music teacher, who was an organist in Houston for a number of years. She was very much impressed with the music, and, after the concert, inspected the keyboard and talked with Mr. Bigelow. She had nothing but praise for the music and the instrument, but was also impressed with the difficulty of rendering such music effectively and pointed out that it would be necessary to have an expert and not just another organist. As far as I can see, the bells are a pronounced success."