

David R. Milsten, '25ba, '28Law, Tulsa, one of the men instrumental in having Dean Julien Monnet's portrait painted, poses beneath the finished product with the subject and painter, Dean Monnet and Dr. Joseph Stigall. At the right, Mrs. Claude Monnet (Jeanette Barnes, '23ba), Oklahoma City; Judge Thurman S. Hurst, '12Law, Tulsa; Miss Jean Monnet, arts and sciences junior, Oklahoma City, and Claude Monnet, '20ba, '27Law, Oklahoma City are seen during a pre-banquet discussion.

## 'The Dean' Has His Day

More than 200 Oklahoma judges and lawyers, young and old, gathered December 11 to pay tribute to the man who had started them off on their careers.

Julien Charles Monnet, founder and dean of the University's Law School for 32 years, was honored by his former students at a banquet on the campus to which he came in 1909. A portrait of Dean Monnet, now dean emeritus, was presented to the University by the alumni. It was painted by Dr. Joseph Sigall.

Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Alfred P. Murrh, '28Law, serving as toastmaster introduced David R. Milsten, '25ba, '28Law, Tulsa, who in conjunction with John F. Butler, '22Law, Oklahoma City, had conceived and completed the arrangements for the painting. Milsten presented the portrait to the Law School.

He said, "I shall never forget that eventful day in 1927 when I arranged for the class picture to be taken on the steps of the 'Law Barn.' There we were—all posed for the picture, when it was sud-

denly discovered that we could not find our dean. We invaded every class room, his private office and the library. We even looked through a volume of Williston on contracts, but he was nowhere to be found. The class was large and Mr. Truby, the photographer, impatient; hence the picture was taken without our dean. At a later date we placed an inset photograph of our dean above the class picture, and for the first time I explain publicly that the reason the inset appears in the picture, which now hangs in the library of the Law School, was occasioned by the fact that our beloved dean was out playing golf."

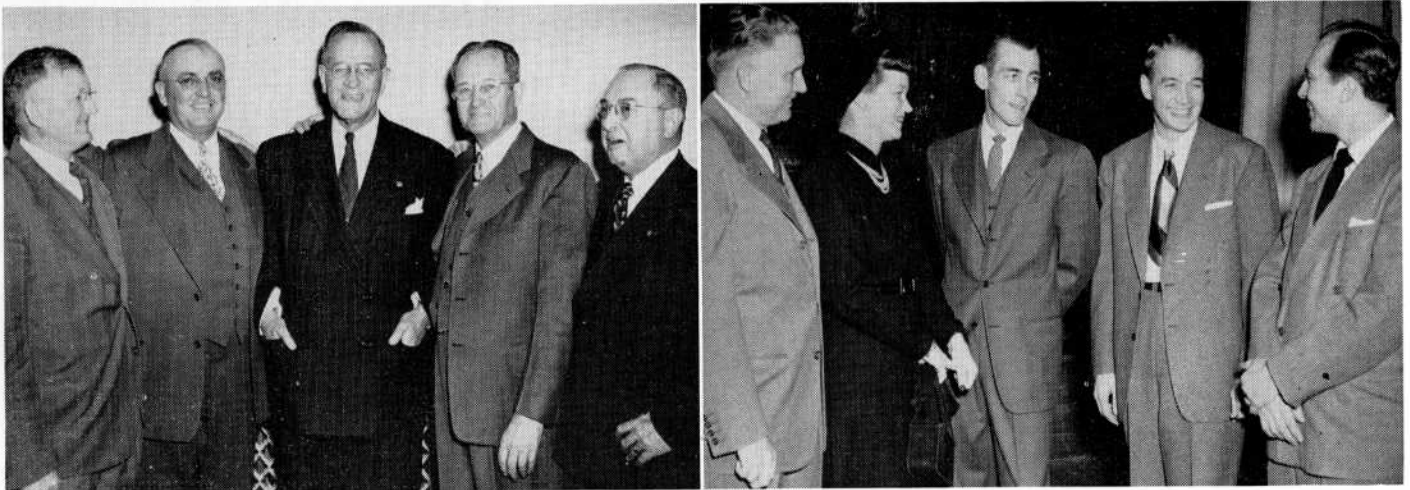
Milsten continued, giving the history of the painting which was being presented.

"The episode of the class photograph provides an interesting commentary, and when my good friend, John F. Butler, conceived the idea of having a portrait painted of our dean, I felt a sense of gratification that he had requested me to join with him in the project. The privilege of participating in this unveiling ceremony has found its way into my

heart as a corollary to the photographic event.

"It was not difficult to choose Dr. Joseph Sigall as the artist because of the reputation which he enjoys as an international portraitist who has painted such eminent individuals as Emperor Franz Joseph and Emperor Karl of Austria-Hungary, . . . President Hoover . . . and such prominent Oklahomans as W. G. Skelly . . . and the most honorable Royce Savage, '25ba, '27Law. This assignment has been an interesting experience because through it, I have come to know even better than before, the subject, and the artist whose dexterous hands and erudite mind have captured and recorded for eternity the physical likeness and unique personality of the man we honor on this momentous and historic occasion."

Outlining briefly the history of the Law School and Dean Monnet's role in building it, Milsten rolled back the years to 1909 when Dean Monnet first came to Norman. That year was also the beginning of the University's Law School. The faculty consisted of Dean Monnet and John Begg Cheadle.



Some of Dean Monnet's early students recall fond memories. From left to right: Judge Hurst, '12Law, Tulsa; Harry Diamond, '12Law, Holdenville; Mac Q. Williamson, '19, state attorney general, Oklahoma City; Floyd Wheeler, '10ba, '12Law, Oklahoma City; and Earl Welch, '11, state supreme court justice, Oklahoma City. Earl Warren, '36ba, '38Law, associate professor of law, Mrs. Warren, Norman; and Jim Armstrong, law senior, Oklahoma City, seem to enjoy the conversation between Ben Head, '42bus, '48Law, Oklahoma City, and Ed. H. Moler, '47ba, '48Law, Oklahoma City.

The old science building was the first edifice to house the Law School and in 1910 the basement of the Carnegie Library served a like purpose. In 1914, March 4, a new building was ready for occupancy. It was called "Monnet Hall." Milsten said, "At that moment, Julien Charles Monnet ceased to be an individual, and became an institution."

In conclusion, he remarked, "From all these milestones, we say to you, Dean, in the words of Walt Whitman, 'What joys, What joys were thine!'"

"And now, we the alumni, unveil, dedicate and present to President Cross, and through him to the University of Oklahoma Law School this portrait of Julien Charles Monnet on this 11th day of December, 1948, in his presence, and in presence of his wife, his children, his grandchildren, his colleagues, his students, and his friends."

Dr. George L. Cross accepted the painting for the University and the Law School. He stated that it was through the efforts of Dean Monnet that the University's Law School had come to national recognition.

Many fine tributes were paid Dean Monnet from the speaker's rostrum, but the tributes which must have moved him the most were those voiced in the pre-banquet get-togethers. Constantly changing groups of fours and fives relived many of their experiences while under the tutelage of the honor guest. Some remembered hard work, some remembered the good times, and all recalled the warm humanness of their dean.

Hicks Epton, '32Law, Wewoka, remembered a great deal of all three. Commenting on the ability of Dean Monnet to know everything about the Law School and its students, Epton reported a clash between the law students and the engineers.

"Some of you may remember," he said, "that a number of years ago there was a feeling between the lawyers and engineers on the campus which was something less than cordial. As a matter of fact these sentiments often found expression in physical form. The lawyers, of course, being peaceful by nature and incidentally in the minority, did not start any of the trouble. But, of course, when the engineers attacked them they had no alternative but to defend. The late great Dr. Bizzell very wisely decreed that with one more physical encounter St. Patrick's Day—revered by engineers—would be abolished. Some of us thought this was a very good idea.

"On the night preceding St. Patrick's Day of that particular year, three of us liberated several gallons of green paint from a nearby establishment and in the quiet hours of the morning proceeded to paint the 'Law Barn' with it. Of course, it was purely incidental that after this was done a few drops of the green paint were allowed to spatter on the sidewalk in the direction of the engineers' building and the empty cans were thrown in the shrubbery around the negineers' building.

"The campus cops had no trouble in fixing liability on the engineers. Of course, the next morning righteous indignation boiled in the 'Law Barn' and presently one hundred freshmen engineers were sent by higher authority to wash the 'Law Barn.' Some of you may have wondered why the bottom part of the 'Barn' is considered cleaner than the upper part. It is because of the washing these engineer students gave it.

"Those who did the act were sworn to absolute secrecy and I'm sure none of them told. Yet, a few days later I received a firm tap on the shoulder and was invited by the Dean himself into his office. It is appalling how much bigger that office seemed then than today. There he told me, after allowing me to quake in my boots for the necessary eternity, that we had better be very careful that the word never got out who painted the 'Law Barn.'

Yes, . . . Dean Monnet always knew what was going on around the Law School.

"Of the many fine attributes of character possessed by him whom we honor tonight, to me, one has stood out above the rest. It is that trait of character which made him relentlessly pursue his ideal. While he had many interests in life he had only one ideal; that was to train lawyers—to build a law school—to develop character in the men he taught—to develop honest stamina in their thinking. If the practice of law is the greatest of professions, as we all readily admit, then surely the teaching of lawyers is nothing short of a calling. Dean Monnet never lost sight of what he was doing. . . .

". . . There was always a oneness in his thinking. Many of us have scatterbarrel lives but not Dean Monnet—he was a rifle man. With St. Paul he could say "This one thing I do." Like the steeple on a cathedral he always pointed in one direction—and that was upwards."

Concluding his tribute, Epton said, "I think it interesting and only natural that wherever Sooner lawyers meet the subject sooner or later turns to 'The Dean.' He is always referred to as 'The Dean.' No one has to ask which dean is intended because there is only one to whom 'The Dean' can refer. The 'oneness' of his purpose has created a singleness of affection seldom bestowed on one man by his fellows.

"It has been and is the happy privilege of all of us here assembled to know a great and good man who could not be lured from his ideas—a man who through all of the years has been patiently loyal to the royal in himself."

## State Safety Drive Is Being Conducted

Highway patrolmen halted autoists coming into Oklahoma and asked them to drive carefully through the state. Troopers made 848 moving vehicle arrests. Judges handed out fines up to \$700 and sentences for as long as 60 days for drunken driving.

These were the opening guns in Oklahoma's war on highway deaths initiated recently by Public Safety Commissioner Paul W. Reed, '21, the state highway patrol, and county and city law enforcement officers.

The spur for the get-tough safety policy was the nearly 50,000 highway casualties in Oklahoma in the past eleven years. Since the state highway patrol was organized in 1937, a total of 5,478 men, women and children have been killed on state highways and more than 42,868 have been injured.

In other words, a number of people equal to the entire population of Pauls Valley are dead from auto accidents, and the number injured equals the combined populations of Elk City and Norman.

The highway patrol, more and more alarmed by the rapidly increasing number of traffic deaths and injuries, has gone all out in its war on death on state roads.

Civic and law enforcement groups over the state have been mobilized. Many more such groups are still being recruited.

Judicial officers have co-operated with the drive by assessing heavy fines, and in several instances, jail sentences against traffic violators.

In Payne county court a man was fined \$700 and costs for "driving while under the influence of intoxicating drink."

Mail received by Commissioner Reed since the campaign began shows ever-increasing approval, by citizens, of the war on traffic violations.

Typical letters agreed with Reed that "the main solution is firm enforcement."

# BOOKS

## Battles, Bottles, and Bullets

*THE BATTLE OF COGNAC and Other Soldier Rhymes*, by Josh Lee, '17ba. Harlow Publishing Corporation, \$2.50.

The rhymes contained in this book were written while Mr. Lee was a doughboy during the first World War. Various happenings, stories told around camp fires and in cafes, were incorporated into these rhymes during his tenure in the Army, starting with a training camp in the States and continuing until he wrote the last, "The Battle of Cognac" on the boat coming home from France.

The first portion of the book is prose, also describing his World War I experiences, and much more well-written than the verses. But, as Mr. Lee said in the Foreword, "I started writing my rhymes for pastime; I finished them for pleasure. Without apology for their weaknesses, I offer them to you merely as the jottings of a doughboy." They do have weaknesses, but they are entertaining. They range from the sad "Court Martial" and the romantic "Red Cross Nurse" to the rollicking "Crapshootin' Bill." There are seventeen rhymes in all.

Each rhyme has an illustration by Ruth Monro Augur. She adeptly caught the spirit of each rhyme and portrayed it.

Josh Lee graduated from the University in 1917. During his undergraduate days he was a champion debater. He was a professor of public speaking at the University, a member of Congress, a Senator, and is at present a member of the Civil Aeronautics Administration in Washington. He is well-known as an effective and entertaining speaker and author. *Thellys Hess, '47bus.*

## Disney Is Named Editor

The Board of Regents November 8 named Richard L. Disney, Jr., '37journ, as editor of the *University of Oklahoma News of the Month*.

Disney, who is a former Muskogee and Washington, D. C., newsman, will publish the first issue of the news publication in early 1949. He also serves as senior assistant in the bureau of public relations.

After four years on the *Muskogee Phoenix* and *Times-Democrat News* staffs, he entered the signal corps. He was in the service four years, including 19 months in Europe, and was discharged as a captain.

He served with the National Housing Agency one year as news analyst and joins the University Public Relations staff after a year as general assignment and medical reporter for the *Washington Star*.

Disney is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalism fraternity.

## Enrolment Ranking Given

The University of Oklahoma ranks 19th among the nation's colleges and universities in number of full-time students, a survey of 726 institutions reveals.

Figures compiled by Dr. Raymond Walters, president of the University of Cincinnati listed 12,174 resident students at O.U. In eight Oklahoma four-year colleges, the survey listed 29,406 full-time students.

Enrolment has more than doubled since the spring of 1946 when a student body of only 5,254 was in attendance.