

grave under the brick floor of the Electrical Engineering shop to avoid capture by University officials but was exhumed by President Stratton D. Brooks and carted off while Engineers went into mourning. Since then makeshift noisemakers have been employed to herald the dawn on St. Patrick's Day.

With the election of the first Engine Queen in 1920 the Lawyers had another subject for their abducting activities and the election of the first student St. Pat representative in 1923 provided a third objective.

Two celebrations had a sombre ending, one when an explosion at the open house caused the death of a student, and the other when the bursting of a cannon barrel seriously injured an Engineer. Festivities since have been somewhat less spectacular but safer.

The present Engineering Building was completed in January, 1925. It has been expanded since the end of World War II. W. H. Carson, present Dean of the College, joined the faculty in February, 1925. At that time the college included nine subordinate schools. The Schools of General Engineering and Natural-Gas Engineering were added in 1932.

In its fortieth year the College of Engineering, from its height of national prominence, can look back upon two generations of engineers it has trained for peace and war, two generations of engineers who are Oklahoma's and the nation's builders.

St. Pats Give Highlights

Always one of the highlights of the Engineers' celebration is the election of a student St. Pat. This custom was originated in 1923 and since then 22 outstanding engineers have been named campus representatives of the patron saint. Since they were all highly active during their undergraduate days, we felt that a short article by each one would be of interest to Sooner alumni. Some could not be contacted and some replies were received too late for inclusion in the Special Engineering edition, but a representative group was obtained beginning with the first St. Pat of them all, Harold L. Patterson, '23eng, who was also chief gunner of LKOT in 1923.

Although he took a degree in civil engineering at the University, he is now engaged in the oil business, being district superintendent in charge of drilling and production for the Pure Oil Co. Patterson is now at West Poison Spider, Wyoming, where he has the deepest flowing well (14,309 feet) in the world. There in Wyoming he is able to indulge his favorite hobbies, hunting and fishing, to the fullest extent.

The next St. Patrick election came in 1926 when John H. Coffman, '26eng, received the honor. He recalls, not without pleasure, that that was the year the owls on the Law Barn turned green, apparently with envy of the engineers. Perhaps today, though, such an occurrence would displease Coffman, for he is now an Attorney-at-Law in Washington, D. C. He is also a retired Lt. Colonel of the Ma-

rine Corps, having served for 20 years in that service.

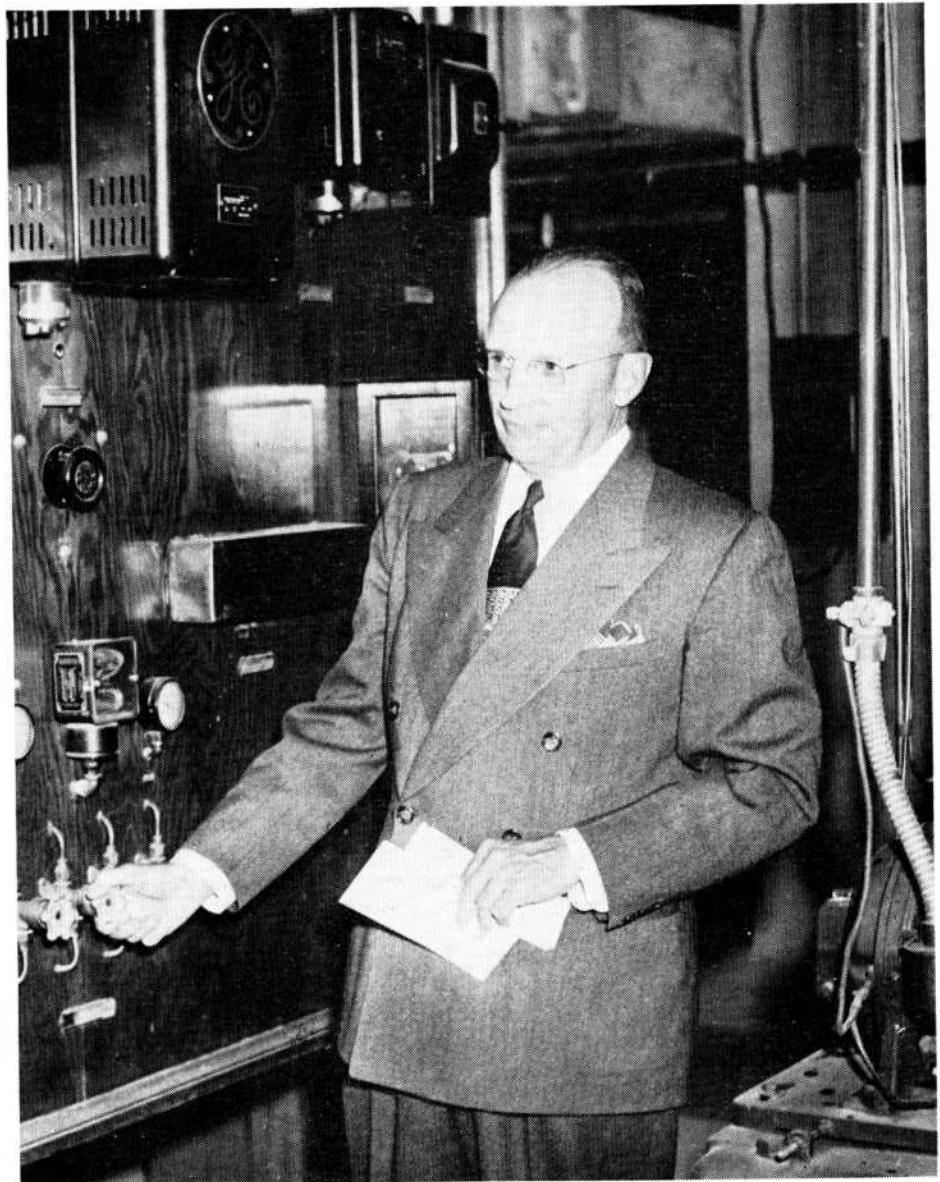
After another lapse of three years, Paul Turnbull, '29eng, Corpus Christi, Texas, was named St. Pat in 1929 and the election became an annual affair, continuing to the present.

In 1930 James H. Pernell, '30eng, Dallas, received the honor. That was the year the Engineers' sign, which Pernell helped to design and build, was put atop the Engineering Building. It was taken down last year.

Paul Thurber, '31eng, now of Caracas, Vene-

cloded a general bird's eye view of the University. Although I had been told of the expansion during the war by individuals who have visited there within the past year or so, I was astounded at the changes, particularly over in Engineering.

"These fifteen years must also have made changes in personnel there. Dean Carson was Professor Carson then. I owe to him the support which obtained for me that additional loan from the Lew Wentz fund which I needed that last year so much. That year I was president of the local chapter of American Society of Mechanical Engi-



W. H. Carson, dean of the College of Engineering, and professor of mechanical engineering, invades a new field as he tests some electrical equipment. Dean Carson has been attending the World Engineering Conference in Cairo, Egypt.

zuela, was named St. Pat his senior year. The following year Ray Lynch, '32eng, Oklahoma City, was elected, while Lee Minter, '33eng, Bradford, reigned in 1933.

Lewis McBride, '34eng, now Chief Engineer of Panama Engineering District, Corps of Engineers, at Ancon, Canal Zone, was 1934's St. Pat. He writes as follows:

"Your letter has been the first of its kind received since I graduated in 1934. Have often wondered whether St. Pat still reigned on March 17.

"Recently I received a publication which in-

cludes and Tau Omega, which, though it meant much extra curricula work, added much to my senior year."

1935—J. Bruce Wiley, '35eng, '41m.eng, now associate professor of electrical engineering at the University and mayor of Norman, was named St. Pat.

1936—Louin Roberts, '36eng, Blair.
1937—Floyd Hildebrand, '37eng, Tulsa, remembers his term as St. Pat very well:

"I am sure that every Engineering graduate of the University has fond memories of St. Pat's

celebration during the week of Engineers' Open House. I particularly have some pleasant memories, having had the honor of being St. Pat in 1937. You may recall that the 1937 celebration was quite a rough one so far as the Engineers and Lawyers were concerned. I will try to give a brief summary, even though I'm sure I could write pages on the one day's hectic activities.

"During the week a number of us spent almost 100 per cent of our time guarding our queen. We had a number of encounters with our friends, the Lawyers, but she arrived safely for the coronation. As St. Pat I arrived to crown the queen after considerable difficulty with several lawyers who succeeded in taking my top hat, tearing away part of my costume, as well as inflicting some physical damage on me and my bodyguard."

1938—Ed Schlafke, '39eng, who died in 1948.
1939—Dwight Cain, '39eng, Grand Prairie, Texas.

1940—Nick Tinker, '40eng, Tulsa, who writes: "Each of my five years at O.U. had highlights that would require pages to summarize, but of course, the sweetest and freshest memories of all concern the last year when the end of all I had worked for was in sight. Academically, the last year was "down hill" all the way. The freedom from long hours of study allowed me to become more active in extra-curricular activities which culminated in my election as St. Pat.

"Needless to say, the week of the Engineers' celebration was glorious and all of the events will live in my mind for many years. Among other things, it was during this week that I first met my wife."

1941—John D. Taylor, '41eng, New Orleans:

"To write in two or three paragraphs about outstanding people and events connected with my experience at four St. Patrick celebrations is utterly impossible. At least two or three volumes would be required for that.

"There was no really big brawl in 1941 over the possession of the queen but there were several minor scraps with lawyers who apparently did not know how big and tough John Lesch, '42eng, Captain of the Guards, and some of his colleagues were.

"The coronation went off in grand style with Bill Ford and two or three hundred good engineers building one of the most elaborate coronation stage settings ever seen at O.U."

1942—James D. Richardson, '46eng, Oklahoma City:

"When I think of 1942 at the University and the events that took place, I immediately think of the United States' entry into World War II and its effect on O.U. Studies and activities went on as usual, but the general theme of everything was the war and how it would affect each of us. It seems that all of the engineers looked at the class room work as to how we could use the information in the service rather than how we could use it later in civilian life.

"The Engine Club continued to be the most powerful organization on the campus, led by 'Big John' Lesch and ably guided by Professor Wiloughby. The *Sooner Shamrock* developed into a real engineering magazine during its second year."

1943—Bob Hines, '43eng, Tulsa.

1944—Earl Patterson, '44eng, '47m.eng, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge:

"The 1944 Engineers' celebration was started by an extremely close race for queen. We had three candidates, and although I cannot remember the exact tabulation of votes, a half dozen one way or the other could have changed the outcome for any of the three candidates. Elizabeth Cook, '44 eng, was the winning candidate.

"The first attempt to kidnap the queen was made

the first of the following week. It was pure luck that it was not successful. The Navy trainees were at evening muster, leaving only 3 civilians to act as guard. It was only by luck and plenty of fight on the part of the three guards that the queen was saved. That was the only chance the opposition was allowed, for the queen was hidden from then until the coronation.

1945—Lester Roberts, '46eng, Pensacola, Florida: "Naturally the highlight of my college life was during my senior year when I had the honor of being St. Pat. In '45 veterans were commencing to fill the college ranks but the Law Barn still remained dormant and the traditional feud was something to be talked about rather than be experienced.

"However, nearly all the non-engineering male students on the campus, led by the football team, took up the quarrel of the Lawyers and several times almost whisked away the queen. The situation was made more dangerous by Captain Donelson's order to all navy men to take no part in the action."

1946—Tom McIntyre, '47eng, Calgary, Alberta, Canada:

"Your letter has followed me all over the north country before finally overtaking me. In order to make your deadline, I will just send you this short wire. The oil boom in Canada has kept us running but I still stop long enough to remember the wonderful times we had during the St. Pat celebration. I hope that LKOT will wire a shot for me if the Law School has not yet succeeded in stealing Old Trusty. I wish I could be there with Roberts and Sully and Wirges and Hopps and Proff and of course your lovely queen. The best of luck to your engineering edition of the *Sooner Magazine* and to the St. Pat celebration. Erin Go Braugh!"

1947—Gordon H. Dempsey, '47eng, Dallas:

"The break of three years for army service between my starting year of 1940 and the return for my final year in '46, with an increase in O.U. enrolment from some 6,000 to 11,000 students, seemed to make little difference in the Chem E School, where Dr. Huntington and his staff were able to continue giving their students individual attention and help, which is such an important part of our professional training as engineers. Organizational highlights for me were memberships in the strictly engineering groups, Sigma Tau and Tau Beta Pi. Dean Carson and his faculty are to be congratulated for the encouragement and backing given the student organizations, headed by the "pappy" of them all, the Engineers' Club.

"The dream of every wearer o' the Green was realized when notification came of my selection as St. Pat for the coming celebrations in '47. The coronation of the queen, the dance following, and the Engineers' Banquet comprised one of my most memorable weekends at O.U."

1948—Harrold Stanley, '48eng, Smackover, Arkansas:

"I was only at the University for three years but in that short time I saw the College of Engineering make many large and important improvements. The new addition to the building was completed and new equipment in the laboratories helped the schools to accommodate the increased enrolment.

"Paralleling the growth of the College was the growth of activities and organizations. In 1946 the Fieldhouse was large enough to accommodate the annual St. Pat's dance, but in the past two years it has had to be held out at the south campus.

"The *Sooner Shamrock* has grown from a circulation of 800 in 1945 to approximately 3,000 at the present time."

The Infant Comes of Age

By PAUL A. ANDRES, '50
Sooner Feature Writer

(ED NOTE: Due to the non-availability of space, it has been impossible to include in the Engineers' edition of *Sooner Magazine* a story of each respective school in the College of Engineering. For the sake of the school of architecture and architectural engineering; the school of civil engineering; the school of electrical engineering; the school of engineering physics; the school of general engineering; the school of geological engineering; the school of mechanical engineering; the school of mining engineering; the school of natural-gas engineering, and the school of petroleum engineering be it here stated that there was no partiality intended when we selected the school of chemical engineering to fill the available space. The story of the school of chemical engineering and its achievements as measured in part by the success of its graduates, is we believe, exemplary of engineering at its best and is a credit to the College of Engineering.)

THEY'VE GOT NOTHING ON US!

This, in effect, is what Dr. R. L. Huntington, professor of Chemical Engineering and chairman of the school of chemical engineering, said during the course of a recent radio broadcast over WNAD, student broadcasting service of the University.

He might have been referring to the recent decision by the Board of Regents to grant Ph.D. Degrees to chemical engineers. The "infant" has come of age and Dr. Huntington smiled as he said:

"Where the architectural engineer finds his highest expression in enduring and beautiful structures, and the civil engineer can point with pride to Boulder Dam, so can the chemical engineer be proud of great plants for the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen, refining of petroleum, manufacture of synthetic textiles and plastics, and for the production of plutonium and other by-products of uranium for the release of atomic energy."

Many, including your reporter, have asked the question, "What is a Chemical Engineer?"

Dr. Huntington answered this by saying, "To this day I have never been able to define it in a few concise sentences, and usually resort to telling what the chemical engineer does, more or less in the following vein:

"Like civil, mining, mechanical and electrical engineering, chemical engineering was born of necessity in order to meet the demands and problems of industry, in this case, the chemical industry. It is important to remember that there was no chemical industry, as we know it today, in 1800. In fact the American chemical industry has come into prominence since 1900, so that it is less than fifty years old and already a veritable giant among industries. No wonder, then, that chemical engineering is the newest of the engineering professions.

"Designing, building and equipping chemical plants as well as operating them has always posed engineering problems of a difficult and highly specialized nature. The increasing number and complexity of these problems soon brought the realization that there was not only a place but actually a great need for a new and distinctive branch of engineering capable of solving these problems. So chemical engineering was evolved, not as a mixture of chemistry and mechanical or civil engineering, but a profession based largely on various unit operations."

Chemical engineering looks like a terrifically complicated but interesting field especially when Dr. Huntington tells you that you have to have