

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.*"

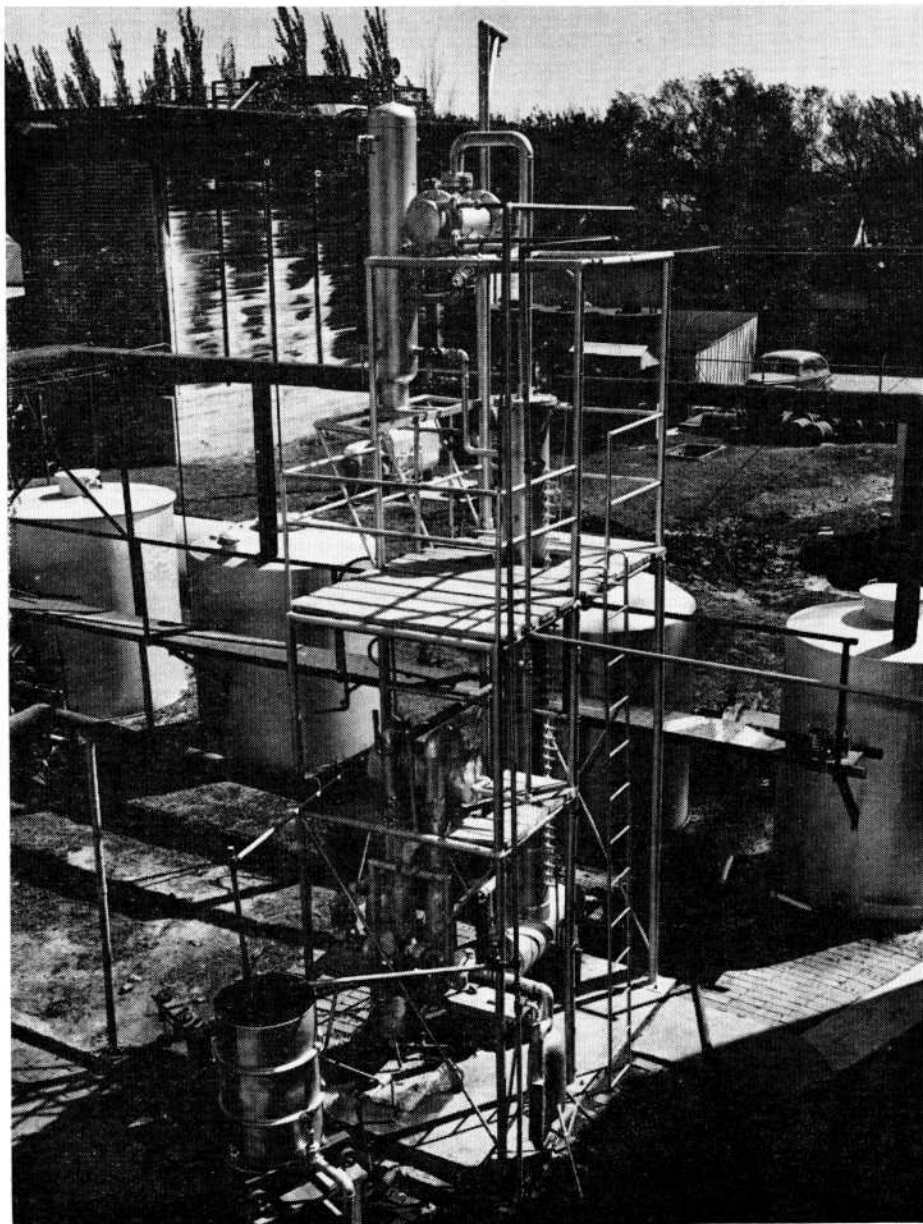
Many, including your reporter, have asked the question, "What is a *Chemical Engineer*?"

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



Typical of the practical laboratory equipment in use in the University's School of Chemical Engineering is this miniature cracking plant, which is in essence, a pint-sized refinery. With this and other such devices upper class Chem E's get practical training in their professional field.

a knowledge of "chemistry, physics, mathematics, economics and also a certain amount of training in operations which are common to all chemical plants."

What are these operations common to all plants?

Well, in order not to confuse those of us who are uninitiated, they consist of physical transformations which occur along with chemical reactions and involve such *items* "as the flow of fluids, heat transfer, distillation, absorption, drying, humidification, evaporation, filtration, crystallization and mechanical separation."

Whether you know anything about it or not, it certainly doesn't appear to be a *dry* subject.

This comparative youngster of the "slipstick" profession first saw the light of day at the University when Dr. Edwin DeBarr, former chairman of the school, foresaw the approaching opportunities for chemical engineering in the southwest, and therefore established the school of chemical engineering at the University in 1917. Dr. DeBarr still has his home in Norman and is living an active life at the age of 90 years. "His name will go down in history as an outstanding dean of chemistry and

chemical engineering for this state," Huntington said.

For the first twenty years the school of chemistry housed this youngest branch of engineering which was later to receive national recognition when it was inspected in 1940 by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Engineering Council for Professional Development only three years after its formal incorporation into the Engineering school. In the same year the school was fully accredited by those organizations.

In the records of the chemical engineering department is to be found a notable "first." It was the first chemical engineering school in the entire Southwest area to receive the recognition of the above mentioned societies which is indeed a very high honor and a tribute to the foresight and initiative of both founders and faculty.

But the greatest tribute that can be paid to the progress of a school is the multitudinous accomplishments of its graduates. They have paid high honor to their school by becoming leaders in the profession which began only shortly after the turn of the century and has today become such a vital part of our economy and industry.

Let's take a look at a few of the "products" and then pay tribute to Dr. DeBarr, Professor Guy Y. Williams, Dr. Cecil Langford, Dean W. H. Carson and the many others who are responsible for developing this "infant" into an integral part of the engineering curriculum and who, through their contributions and their products, have contributed so greatly to the industrial might of both Oklahoma and the nation.

Among the first graduates of the school after its establishment in 1917 was CARL E. REISTLE, JR., '22eng.

Today he is one of the directors of the biggest oil-producing company in America—the Humble Oil and Refining Company. As the company's manager of production, Reistle holds one of the top chemical engineering positions in the country.

After graduation from the University in 1922, he joined the staff of the United States Bureau of Mines at Bartlesville. He remained with the bureau until 1933, in which year he became chairman of the East Texas Engineering Association. In August of 1936 he joined Humble as assistant chief engineer, and in 1940 was advanced to chief petroleum engineer. In February, 1945, he was made general superintendent of the production department, and in August of the same year he became manager of production operations.

While at the University, Reistle was a member of two engineering fraternities, Alpha Chi Sigma and Sigma Tau, and was a member of St. Pat's Council in 1921. Other honors which have been bestowed on him include the vice-chairmanship of the national crude oil advisory committee, membership on the executive committee of the production division of the American Petroleum Institute and membership in the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. He also served as a technical advisor to District three, production committee of the petroleum industry war council.

An outstanding graduate of the following year, 1923, was HOWARD P. BONEBRAKE, '23eng.

Shortly after his graduation from the University, Bonebrake became associated with the Aluminum Company of America as a member of their sales department. Holding various positions as district manager with the company in Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Dallas and Kansas City, he was promoted to sales manager for the chemical products of the company in 1945.

Holding active memberships in such professional organizations as the Electric Club of Kansas City, the Kansas City Engineers' Club and the American Society for Metals, Bonebrake was active in student organizations while at the University. He belonged to LKOT, Alpha Chi Sigma, the varsity basketball and track teams and Delta Tau Delta, social fraternity.

Another prominent alumnus is DANA G. HEFLEY, who received a chemical engineering degree in 1926 and a petroleum engineering degree in 1927. He has established a reputation as an expert in several phases of oil and chemical engineering.

After graduation he went to work for the Marland Oil Company in the research laboratory. In 1928, he accepted a position with the Indian Territory Illuminating Oil Company at Bartlesville, as chief chemical engineer.

In 1935, Hefley accepted his present position as chief chemical engineer with Dowell, Inc., at Tulsa.

While working with the Indian Territory Illuminating Oil Company he designed and operated the largest lime-soda ash water softening plant in the state. His present work is limited to the acid treatment of oil wells producing from limestone formations.

While at Norman he was a member of Tau

Beta Pi and Sigma Tau engineering fraternities and Alpha Chi Sigma, chemistry fraternity. He was also a member of Pe-et, a group comprising the 10 foremost men on the campus.

One of the prominent graduates of the class of 1928 is W. P. GAGE, '28bs, '29ms in Petroleum engineering.

Gage was apparently a very active and enthusiastic engineer while at the University—a fact which undoubtedly contributed greatly to his attainment of the position of vice-president and director of the Shell Chemical Corporation.

While at O.U. he was a member of the Blue Key, the recipient of the Max B. Miller petroleum engineering fellowship, secretary and president of Tau Beta Pi, secretary and vice-president of Sigma Tau, president of Alpha Chi Sigma, president of the Newman Club, a member of St. Pat's Council, president of Delta Phi Epsilon, editor of *St. Pat's Whirlwind* and the *Sooner Engineer* and a member of the Engineers' Club and Pick and Hammer. In professional organizations, Gage is a member of A.I.Ch.E. and A.A.A.S. and is currently living in Scarsdale, N. Y.

Among other outstanding leaders in the field of chemical engineering who graduated from the University include CARL MAJOR COOPER, '36 eng, who is currently a professor at Michigan State College. Having received a Doctor's Degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he was employed by the Phillips Petroleum Company from 1936 to 1939 as a statistical engineer. He received a general graduate scholarship to M.I.T. and, while at the University of Oklahoma he was a member of Phi Eta Sigma, freshman honorary society, Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Xi and received both the Sigma Tau and the Alpha Chi Sigma awards.

RALPH L. HOCK, '37eng, is employed as a chemical and petroleum engineer with the Cotton Valley Operators Committee of Cotton Valley, Louisiana. During World War II he served as a captain of ordnance. At the University he was a member of both the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Petroleum Engineers Club.

FRANK P. VANCE, JR., '38bs, was employed after graduation as a chemical engineer for the firm of Black, Sivalls and Bryson, Incorporated. While at the University he was employed as an assistant Laboratory instructor and was a member of the student chapter of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. He is now connected with the chemical engineering department at the Phillips Petroleum Company in Bartlesville.

JOSEPH E. PENICK, '42eng, left the University after graduation to be employed by the Magnolia Petroleum Company as an assistant chemical engineer in Dallas. He is a member of the Alpha Tau Omega, social fraternity and also holds memberships in A.I.Ch.E., Tau Beta Pi and the Engineers Club.

GEORGE FRANKLIN RUSSELL, JR., '43eng, '44ma, worked for the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey as a chemical engineer on the staff of the Chemical Technical Service Department at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. During World War II he was appointed as a special instructor by the chemical engineering department of the University to teach the army trainees. He now is a consulting engineer in Houston.

Russell belonged to Sigma Xi, Sigma Tau, Tau Beta Pi, Alpha Chi Sigma and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers while at the University and also was the recipient of the American Gas Association fellowship. In 1946, he was appointed an associate professor of petroleum engineering at Louisiana State University in charge of the natural gas section of the petroleum engineering. In

1948 he resigned from Louisiana State to become a consulting engineer in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Huntington recently stated, "We are looking forward to the continued growth of our school both on the undergraduate and graduate levels. By growth we do not necessarily mean the graduation of a larger number of engineers from year to year but rather a gradual improvement in the quality of our instruction and the accomplishment of research which will contribute to the storehouse of engineering knowledge and the progress of the

nation. We appreciate the generous support, financial and otherwise, which our school is receiving from industry and from its alumni through the establishment of fellowships and the sponsorship of various research projects. This assistance makes it possible for us to attract better students and more capable faculty members than we could do otherwise. Only through such progress can we hope to pay the State of Oklahoma worthwhile dividends in return for the investment its citizens are making in the University from year to year.



Robert D. Smith, left, business junior, moves up to the Thomas C. Reynolds American Legion Post 303 commander's desk, taking the place vacated by Robert L. Lunsford, '43ba, '49Law, who graduated at the end of the first semester.

Legion Installs New Prexy

Thomas C. Reynolds Post 303, campus American Legion unit, elected a new commander, Robert D. Smith, Norman junior in business, to succeed Robert L. Lunsford, '43ba, '49Law, Pawnee, who graduated in January.

Lunsford served with the army in the Asiatic-Pacific theatre, being discharged with the rank of

mer lag, Bollinger was right.

captain. In addition to being Post 303 commander while at the University, he was a letterman in track, president of Union Activities Board, member of Scabbard and Blade, of Beta Theta Pi, social fraternity, and was in the band and men's glee club.

Smith, who claims Lamont, Iowa, as his home town, has been a member of the Thomas C. Reynolds Post for four years, serving in several offices, the most recent being Post Adjutant.

He served in the Marine Air Corps from September, 1942, until May, 1945, being discharged with the rank of sergeant. Smith is a member of Alpha Phi Omega and recently resigned as treasurer of Career Conference.

He was replaced as adjutant by Lyle R. Griffis, Norman Law junior.

Climatologist Picks Weather

A lot's been said about the weather, but C. J. Bollinger is one person who did something about it.

Last spring the University of Oklahoma climatologist predicted a drouth for the Oklahoma region. However, the rains came in June and July. Critics grinned sympathetically. But August followed the prediction. Then the autumn months were the driest in history. Except for the early sum-