

# The President Speaks

BY DR. GEORGE L. CROSS

**And eloquently so of a gift to the University by a generous alumnus, and of the means by which that gift will be turned into a state asset.**

Oklahoma is considered by many to be a part of the arid Southwest, and this is perhaps true of at least a portion of the State. However, in recent years the citizens of the State have become increasingly aware of the possibilities of impounding water for the purposes of flood control, recreation and hydroelectric power. Through the construction of small dams State farmers have created something in excess of 71,000 farm ponds. The construction of large dams at points well distributed throughout the State has brought to Oklahoma some of the largest artificial lakes in the world, including Texoma, which covers more than 100,000 acres.

With the completion of projects under construction and planned, Oklahoma bids well to have as much water surface for recreational purposes as the State of Minnesota. Recreation based on fishing and boating will become a major industry in Oklahoma. The State will benefit in many ways through the improved health and morale of its citizens, and in addition the new recreational facilities will give added attractiveness to the State as a possible site for industrial developments in the future. It is well known that industries do best in an area where wholesome recreational facilities are available for the workers.

Most people are interested in lakes because they like to fish. During the past few years the lakes of Oklahoma have provided some of the best fishing in the country. But good fishing in our lakes will

continue only if we develop ways of managing our lakes so that favorable conditions for the development of game fish can be maintained.

Newly developed artificial lakes always provide good fishing. However, without proper management good fishing will continue for only a few years because the less desirable species of rough fish gradually take over and deplete the population of game fish.

The lakes of Oklahoma present unusual problems, and the solution of these problems will require careful study on a large scale. Most of our information concerning lake management has been derived from studies conducted in biological laboratories managed by state universities or other public agencies. There are many important biological stations located in the eastern and northern portions of the United States. However, there is no really good biological station in the South or Southwest.

The University of Oklahoma, realizing that it has responsibilities beyond the limits of the campus, for several years has sought ways and means of establishing a biological station in which certain information concerning our lakes could be obtained.

Because the development of a biological station involves the expenditure of a considerable amount of money, we have been able to do very little until recently. Then, early in the spring of 1949, Norman Brillhart, '17ba, of Madill, Oklahoma, broached officials of the University with a pro-



posal that two and a half acres of land located on the shores of Lake Texoma be conveyed to the University together with a partially completed cement block building. Mr. Brillhart thought that the University might be able to complete the building and use it for summer classes in field biology.

The building had been planned to serve as a resort hotel—a two story structure with a kitchen and storage section. The main section of the building includes a large room, approximately forty by fifty feet in size, with other space which was intended for a serving kitchen, office and serving facilities. Three apartments had been planned for the second floor of the main section.

Another section of the building, two stories high and approximately thirty-seven and a half feet wide and a hundred and one feet long, was designed for a hotel lobby and twenty-four bedrooms.

A third section, known as the kitchen section, is a one story structure located on the north side.

A preliminary investigation of the building revealed that all outside walls and all partition walls on the first floor and all partition walls on the second floor of the west section are of cement tile construction. It was apparent immediately that with only minor remodeling the structure could be completed in such a way as to provide one of the best biological experiment stations in the entire nation. The twenty-four bedrooms would be fine for students and the apartments and lobby would make excellent laboratories.

The building is located on a low hill that slopes gently to the water on the south and east. The location is ideal in that the Red River arm is directly in front of the building (about one hundred yards south to the water line) and Buncombe Creek Bay is one hundred yards to the east. There is a small inlet along the Buncombe Creek shore where a boathouse could be built—conveniently located to protect it from the wind.

The University immediately indicated a willing-

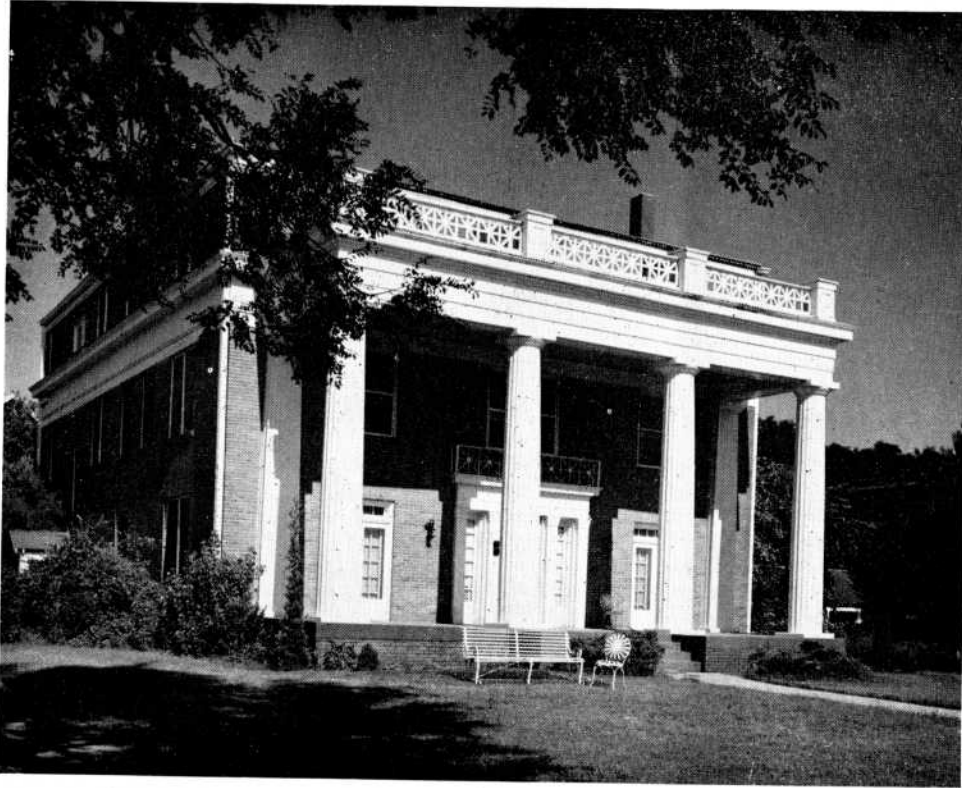


*The partially completed cement block structure given to the University by Norman, '17ba, and Mrs. Brillhart, (Mildred Colby, '22ja) of Madill.*

## Dr. Cross Still O.U. President

Wires, calls and letters poured in to Mrs. George L. Cross in late June asking her the same question. They wanted to know if her husband was still president of the University.

It all began when wire service stories on Negro enrolment mentioned Carl M. Franklin as acting president of O.U. Mrs. Cross had to answer again and again that her husband had just gone on a brief fishing trip to Colorado and was still president. Dr. Cross has long since returned.



## Pi Kappa Alpha

*Founded at O.U. In 1920*

Scholarship, athletics, social activities and participation in all-university functions—each plays an integral part in the life of a Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity man attending the University of Oklahoma. A healthy interest in all four phases, which are essential for the development of a well-rounded man, has accounted for PiKA retaining its enviable tradition of leadership at O.U. since 1920.

It was in the fall of that year when Pi Kappa Omicron was granted a Pi Kappa Alpha charter. This chapter, named Beta Omicron, now is one of more than 93 PiKA chapters scattered throughout the United States and Canada.

The history of Pi Kappa Alpha dates much further back than 1920, however. Shortly after the Civil War, on March 1, 1868, six war veterans founded the fraternity. Bonds of friendship which developed while they were fighting in the Confederate Army were strengthened while they attended the University of Virginia, where PiKA was born.

The growth of the national fraternity organiza-

tion has been exemplified by the development of Beta Omicron chapter. Since that day in 1920 when 20 O.U. students signed the Beta Omicron charter, more than 500 men have become PiKAs. Many of them have built enviable records in various fields. Lynn Riggs, '23, author of "Green Grow the Lilacs" from which the popular play *Oklahoma* was adopted, and Joseph Benton, '20ba, '21fa, '41ma, internationally famous opera singer who was with the Royal Opera House in Rome, Italy, before joining the University faculty, are two from Beta Omicron who have carved niches in PiKA's hall of fame.

Other alumni who are well known in their respective fields—all on the O.U. staff—include: Tom Benedum, '28Law, prominent Norman attorney and member of the University Board of Regents; Dean A. B. Adams and Professor James Powell, '38ba, of the business school; Professor C. C. Bush, '23ba, '32ma, history department; Professor Dale Vliet, '38Law, of the School of Law, and Ted M. Beaird, '21ba, secretary-manager of the O.U. Alumni Association and former PiKA

national vice-president. Many honorary and service organizations on the campus have listed members of PiKA on their rolls during the past year. Among these are Phi Eta Sigma, Delta Sigma Pi, Phi Delta Phi, Union Activities Board and the Petroleum Engineers Club. In the spring of 1922 the Pi Kappa Alpha corporation was founded, making it possible for Beta Omicron to build a chapter house during that summer. That year also marked the beginning of a traditional social event on the campus—the PiKA Apache party.

The colorful Apache party is one of the most looked forward to seasonal events and is but one of the outstanding festivities of the year. There is the annual Black and White formal, and the Dream Girl dance held last fall at which we crowned Miss Doris Hildenbrand of the Kappa Alpha Theta house as our dream girl of the year.

One of the newer traditions established on the campus since the war by the PiKAs is the annual PiKA-Sigma Chi Pinball Tournament.

Under his supervision certain advanced students are making studies of insects living in the lake and on the shores, and correlating these studies with insects found in the stomachs of fishes. Other advanced students are making studies of the life histories of various game fish, giving special attention to parasitic diseases common to game fish at different stages of their life histories.

Other advanced students are studying the relationships that exist between proper land conservation and the production of fish in the lake. Attention will be given to possible environmental improvements which might be made in the area and which might lead to a greater production of fish and game.

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ness to accept the property and on March 31, 1949, Mr. Brillhart delivered to us an agreement to convey the two and one half acres with the building.

It was recognized, of course, that funds would be needed to complete the development and the matter was brought to the attention of the State Legislature. A few key legislators immediately saw the possibilities of the project and the legislature generously appropriated a hundred and ten thousand dollars to complete the laboratory.

As a result of the generosity of Mr. Brillhart and the farsightedness of the legislature, the State of Oklahoma will have available one of the finest biological research organizations in the nation when the project is completed during the next year.

However, the University of Oklahoma will not await the completion of the Biological Laboratory before attempting investigations of problems at Lake Texoma. Professor Carl Riggs, Acting Director of the Oklahoma Biological Survey, and one of the most competent lake and fishery specialists in the country, is spending the summer in fishery re-

search at Texoma. He has with him several advanced students in biology and game management. Through the courtesy of the United States Army Engineers this group has been furnished a barge and other equipment difficult for the University to provide, and the barge is being moved from station to station on the lake as investigations in various areas are completed.

Professor Riggs is interested first of all in determining just what kinds of fish are present in Lake Texoma. He is interested especially in the ratio of game fish to coarse fish present in the lake. He would like to know the age and the extent of growth of the different kinds which are present. He is interested in the poundage of fish taken by various fishermen and the possible poundage yield when maximum catches are made. He is interested in the depth distribution of fishes at different times of the year, for such information made available to fishermen would, of course, increase catches considerably.

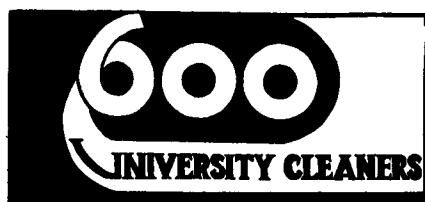
He and his group will make careful studies of

the chemical and physical conditions of Lake Texoma and consider these conditions in relation to the possible increase of fish production if such conditions were to be altered somewhat. He is making a careful survey of the aquatic plants of Lake Texoma, especially those plants which are significant with respect to the production of fish.

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**Hal Muldrow, Jr.**

'28

Insurance of all Kinds  
Bonds

Security National Bank Bldg.

Norman

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Houston, Texas, were married June 11 in the First Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City. The couple took an extended wedding trip through Northwestern states and Canada. They are at home in Houston.

CAYLOR-JOHNSON: Nila Jean Caylor, '49bs, Norman, became the bride of Zane Quentin Johnston, '47eng, Port Arthur, Texas, June 4 in Norman. The couple has established a home in Port Arthur. Mrs. Johnson is on the faculty at Robert E. Lee elementary school in Port Arthur.

### President Speaks

The general objective of the research is to procure information which may lead to a greater production of fishes in all Oklahoma lakes and which may be applied even to obtain a greater yield in farm fish ponds. The entire project is, of course, educational and one of the most important benefits will be the training and education of young men to carry out Oklahoma's wildlife research and management programs in the years ahead.

When the laboratory is completed the program can, of course, be expanded greatly, for it will be possible then to have research equipment and personnel on the shore of the lake which is available now only on the Norman campus.

Looking to the future, many problems are being lined up for investigation. Some of our biologists interested in human parasites, especially those which transmit malaria, are planning studies of malaria at the Lake Texoma area with reference to hazards to fishermen and methods of control of malarial outbreaks.

Other of our scientists are interested in the commercial possibility of using rough fish. Some work has already been done in methods of using rough fish for table use—fresh, canned, pickled, smoked and dried. Other studies involve the use of rough fish such as shad, carp, gar, etc., as fertilizer, as fish meal for stock food and even as food for pets. Enough information is now available to indicate that rough fish in Lake Texoma might provide the basis for a small industrial development and such development would, of course, be favorable to Oklahoma fishermen, for the taking of the rough fish from our lakes would make it possible for the game fish to develop in greater abundance.

Another project that will receive attention is the effects of climatic factors such as wind direction, barometric pressure, humidity, moon phases, etc., on fishing. That such climatic factors do affect the success of fishermen is rather generally admitted, but very little is known as to why and how these factors exert their effects.

The information obtained from the investigations now being conducted and planned for the future on Lake Texoma will be made available to the public in various ways—through publication in scientific journals; through publications of bulletins and pamphlets for distribution to those interested; and by the conduction of short courses on lake management, especially short courses on farm pond management. When the new laboratory is completed, facilities on the shore of the lake will be available for these short courses.

It is conceivable that the development of the new Biological Laboratory on the shores of Lake Texoma may be one of the most far reaching and significant educational developments in recent years. Certainly the project illustrates how a generous gift supplemented by State funds can lead to benefits far beyond those anticipated by the giver.

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