

A Vision Is Fulfilled—Part IV

The Twenties Twinkled

By Paul A. Andres



DAVID R. MCKOWN
1922-23

1922-23 The twenty-second president of the Association was indeed a true son of Mercury.

At least it might appear as such because DAVID R. MCKOWN, '21geol, was always on the move. His record shows that he just couldn't sit still.

During his undergraduate years he played varsity baseball and basketball and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Tau Omega and Sigma Gamma Epsilon fraternities. He also served as president of both the Young Men's Christian Association and the Student Council.

He is the winner of the first Letzeiser medal for men and also Florence Eleonore Monnet, '22ba, only daughter of Dean and Mrs. Julien Charles Monnet. Mrs. McKown has eleven activities listed under her name including the much revered Phi Beta Kappa membership. It's records like this that we seldom run across—and it makes a fellow wonder if they proposed in four-syllable words of Chaucerian derivation or sign language.

McKown continued to move around even after graduation. In 1927 he served as vice-president of the Semco Color Press of Oklahoma City and shortly thereafter switched to insurance. In 1929 he was instrumental in the founding of the American Fidelity Insurance Company and served as secretary-treasurer of that organization.

In 1937 he became manager of the Oklahoma City branch of the Acacia Mutual Life Insurance Company. During the current year McKown founded the Dave R. McKown (Insurance) Company with offices in Oklahoma City.

Very active in civic circles, he is a past member of the Oklahoma City Board of Education, a member of the executive committee of the Men's Dinner Club and a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Fund and the Y.M.C.A. He is a major in the field artillery reserve corps and a member of the Wesley Methodist Church.

On May 10 of this year, McKown was elected by the Oklahoma Association of Insurance Agents as its president—a fact which testifies both to his leadership and ability.

As alumni president, McKown explained in several articles that "The Alumni Association is the only organization in the world that enables the former student to carry with him into business and professional life the active and tangible interests of his alma mater." His membership drives were strong and vigorous and his work showed tangible results when hundreds of students joined the Association upon graduation.

A native of Illinois, McKown came to Oklahoma in 1914 and taught school in Grady County for two years. He was an artillery lieutenant in the first World War and has lived in Oklahoma City since 1926.



C. C. ROBERTS
1923-24

1923-24 Although the minutes for the administration of C. C. "Lum" ROBERTS, '01ba, are somewhat incomplete, the history of his period that is available can be looked upon with admiration.

"Lum," who received his nickname because his first name was Columbus and his friends just decided to shorten it to the middle syllable, was president of the Association during the period when a millage tax was being contemplated for the support of state schools and also during the organization of the Board of Regents of the University.

Roberts and his committees were instrumental in persuading President Buchanan to form and appoint a committee on University expansion and growth composed of faculty members and alumni. This committee had as its principal duty the job of studying the University's needs and making recommendations to the president, who, in turn, was

to approach the legislators and Regents in an attempt to seek their endorsement. The committee that Buchanan appointed enabled the Alumni Association and the University to present a solid front for united efforts in securing the passage of needed legislation. Much of the expansion and growth of the University that took place during and following Robert's presidency can be attributed to the foresight and ability of the man who called signals as the captain of the Sooner varsity for four successive years. (Captains called signals instead of quarterbackbacks in Roberts' time.)

In an article written by Harold Keith for the *Oklahoma City Times* February 10, 1945, it is stated that "C. C. Roberts . . . was probably the most popular University of Oklahoma football captain of all time.

"A fullback who played during the coaching era of Professor Vernon L. Parrington, later a Pulitzer prize winner in history, 'Lum' Roberts, as he was popularly called then, was elected captain four years in a row, in 1897, 1898, 1899 and 1900. No other player at Norman was elected more than twice."

Keith goes on to say "Roberts was an oldish boy when he enrolled at the University in 1896, twenty-six to be exact, and exercised such a steady influence over the school's young football hotheads that they would never have anybody else for captain.

"There was a reason for Roberts' enrolling so late. For five years he had to postpone enrolling until he could prove up his frontier farm near Ora in Grant County. That done, he borrowed money on the farm to finance his education at the University, this starting a notable career in finance. He had won the farm in the Cherokee Strip land race of '93.



A. N. BOATMAN
1924-25

"In 1899 Roberts ran 70 yards to a touchdown against Kingfisher College to help the University win the territorial championship. He also played in the first Texas-Oklahoma game of all time (at Austin in 1900) and lost the distinction of being the first Sooner ever to score a touchdown against Texas. Roberts bucked eight yards off tackle to smash well across the Texas goal but fumbled as he crossed the line, Texas recovering. Texas, which was all-victorious that year, won 28-2."

Before his graduation, Roberts was active in other student affairs. He captained the Sooner baseball squad and once represented the University in the old territorial oratorical contest at Guthrie. Readers of the first instalment of this article will recall the incident related by Clyde Bogle, '02ba, pertaining to the boxing match wherein Bogle broke Roberts' thumb shortly before he was scheduled to pitch the all important game of the season.

Roberts' long career as a leader came to an end in February of 1945. He died at the age of 73 leaving behind him a life full of excitement and accomplishment.

He was born in Johnson County, Kansas, near Kansas City, and came to Oklahoma in the opening of the Cherokee Strip in 1893.

Entering the University four years after it was established and graduating in 1901, he became part owner of a bank in Lone Wolf, Kiowa County. In 1906 he came to Oklahoma City where he lived until his death.

For the first two years he was in the wholesale grain business, then, for 10 years, he was in the bond business. Later, he was a vice-president of the American First Trust Company. Roberts retired as manager of the bond department of the First National Bank and Trust Company in July of 1939 after serving the bank and its predecessors in that capacity for 21 years. In December of 1940 he accepted the job of treasurer of the Oklahoma City school district and worked in that capacity until his death.

1924-25 I've racked my imagination for many long moments trying to find appropriate adjectives to describe the president of the Association during this period. I found that I couldn't describe him with such words as "outstanding," "great" or any of the family of related words. You'll find, however, that when I say he's "amazing" I'm just about correct in describing A. N. "JACK" BOATMAN, '14ba, '16Law.

Just receiving two degrees from the University



GLENN C. CLARK
1925-26

makes him a little different from the vast majority of Sooners. But the way Boatman did it is, I believe, unique in O.U. history.

When he arrived in Norman in 1908, he was 21 years old and had just begun to read and write! Eight years later he could look back with pride upon a highschool diploma, a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Bachelor of Law Degree!

And as we take a quick glance at both his academic and professional records, we are even more amazed at this man *who could not read and write at the age of 19.*

Under an impressive list of honorary and scholastic societies, Boatman is listed as a member of Phi Delta Phi, the oldest professional fraternity in America and an international legal fraternity requiring a "B" average as one of its membership requisites. As business manager of the *University of Oklahoma Magazine* and the *Sooner Yearbook*, he attained recognition when asked to join Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalism fraternity. As one of the first members of the campus chapter of Kappa Sigma social fraternity, Boatman was elected to represent his fraternity on the Interfraternity Council and later to serve as District Grand Master for District XV Council; he was a member of the Student Forum, William's Club court and the Y.M.C.A. Cabinet. In addition Boatman was the second president of the Student Council and, in 1914, president of his junior class.

During World War I, Boatman was commissioned a second lieutenant from the first officer's training camp at Fort Logan H. Roots. He was discharged in December of 1918 with the rank of first lieutenant.

As a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Lions Club, the American Legion, the Boy Scout Court of Honor and the Masons, Boatman is active in civic affairs. He has a long record of public offices held which are certainly indicative of a patriotism and the kind of spirit that spells community welfare with every breath.

Boatman was a member of the State School Board Association, the Okmulgee School Board, of which he was president for six years, and the official board of the Christian Church of which he is now chairman.

During World War II, he served as assistant attorney general of the United States as hearing officer of conscientious objectors in Eastern Oklahoma. He also served as president of the Okmulgee County Ration Board during the same period.

His list of public offices includes the positions he held as assistant county attorney for Creek County in 1919; County Attorney for Okmulgee from 1925 to 1929; Member of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Oklahoma and, in 1940, vice-president of the Okmulgee City School Board.

When Boatman went to school things were a little different than today. Nearly everybody worked their way through or at least had a job to help support themselves. The University was small enough so that everybody could work that wanted to. Boatman had several jobs. He worked in the library, gathered up laundry, washed dishes and clerked in a hotel.

An incident which he tells with happy memory concerns itself with the time that he broke his leg in the Junior-Senior football clash of the school year 1913-14.

Most of you know Bill Stigler, '16. Stigler played tackle in the class football games and consequently played right next to Boatman. They got to know each other pretty well and became fast friends. 'Twas a good thing too because after the accident, Boatman might have been forced out of school since he could not work for six weeks. Stigler took over, as did many of Boatman's friends, and besides running the many businesses they all chipped



DR. H. V. L. SAPPER
1926-27

in (including the President of the University, Dr. Stratton D. Brooks) to take notes for Boatman in his law classes.

Boatman is again notable because once he started to school, he stuck with it till he had everything there was to offer. He didn't quit and take the summer off for vacation—he just kept on going.

As president of the Alumni Association in 1924-25, Boatman continued to keep going. He put on a special campaign for Association membership in Drumright where he was living at that time. He succeeded in getting every alumni in the city to sign up and was so happy with these primary efforts that he started a statewide campaign. Membership increased notably but Boatman recalls the campaign with a note of disappointment—he didn't succeed in getting every alumni to pay their dues!

Boatman, who is married to the former Lucille Maud Bowden of Virginia, is the father of three Sooners, two of whom are now attending the University. They are Edgar Ray Boatman and Lucille Marie Boatman. Jack Holland Boatman, who is now a practicing physician in Butte, Montana, attended the University from 1939 to 1941. Boatman is a member of the firm of Steele and Boatman in Okmulgee where, as his biographical information blank very aptly states, he is "chief ramrod."

1925-26 The term of office of GLENN C. CLARK, '13ba, was highlighted by the inauguration of Dr. William B. Bizzell as president of the University. The University forged ahead during his administration in spite of legislative troubles and the impending depression.

Clark first enrolled in 1905, but dropped out to return and receive his degree in 1913. Playing end on the varsity football team three years, he captained the team in 1912.

During his sophomore year at the University, Clark was president of his class and a member of both the Senate Literary Society and the Athletic Council. He was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity and president of the campus chapter in 1913.

Trimming hedges for the University, working for the Oklahoma Geological Survey and playing football didn't keep him from his studies as he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

After graduation he headed the department of mathematics of what is now East Central Teachers College at Ada. During the five year period which he spent at the teachers college, he also coached the school football team.

Since 1918 he has been a geologist with the Gulf Products Company, Empire Gas and Fuel and the Marland Oil Company. At present he holds the



ERRETT R. NEWBY
1927

position of senior staff geologist for the Continental Oil Company in Ponca City.

In the professional line, Clark has contributed numerous papers for the bulletin of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. He is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and a member of Sigma Gamma Epsilon and Pick and Hammer, honorary geological fraternities. As a past president of the Ponca City Rotary Club and a former member of the Ponca City School Board, Clark has proven of invaluable service to his community.

At one time he served as a member of the alumni executive board representing the 8th district and, in 1931, he was a member of the athletic council of the University.

He is married to the former Vera Gorton, '13ba, '13bm, and the couple have two daughters, Betty Lou and Jean.

1926-27 Following Clark we come onto the very brilliant career of Dr. H. V. L. SAPPER, '14bs, '14ba.

The activities of the Alumni Association were centered around his efforts to sell the alumni of the University on the necessity of establishing an alumni magazine. Sapper's file contains hundreds of letters to alumni soliciting their support in financing the new magazine, which began to take printed form during the second administration of Tom Carey, '08ba.

Sapper was one of the original guarantors who helped finance *Sooner Magazine*, and it may truthfully be said that he, with the assistance of an able staff headed by Richard H. Cloyd, '19ba, '28Law, alumni secretary, laid a firm foundation from the very beginning.

At the time of his death, at the age of 44, in June of 1932, Dr. Sapper was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Alumni Association and a member of the Board of Governors of the Stadium-Union corporation. He also was a veteran of World War I and served as treasurer of the Kingfisher College foundation.

He practiced medicine in Oklahoma City and also was engaged in the oil business. He assisted his brother-in-law, L. E. Trout, '12ba, '13ma, in drilling the Firestone test well in 1920, which was located in what is now the Oklahoma City field but which failed to go deep enough to find production. Shortly after graduation from the University, Sapper became an Instructor of Bacteriology and the bacteriologist for the State Board of Health, University of Oklahoma. University activities include membership in Sigma Chi, social fraternity, Phi Beta Pi,

honorary medical fraternity, and the Pan-Hellenic Council.

He was married to the former Lena Trout, '12bm, '14ba. The couple had one son, H. V. L. Sapper Jr., who received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1942 and a Doctor of Medicine in 1944.

1927 ERRETT R. NEWBY, '07bm, '08ba, was elected president June 6, 1927, but found it necessary to resign after a few months due to the fact that he was in California and did not want to handicap the Association by his absence.

Newby, who is president of the General Bonding and Insurance Company of Oklahoma City, can qualify as an authority on the art of leading a double life. In fact, he's spent most of his life holding down at least two jobs at one time . . . if not three or four.

A Kansas boy who came to Oklahoma in 1898, Mr. Newby first lived in Guthrie with his parents. As he puts it, "I have spent over 40 years of my life inside a 35-mile zone," but this statement hardly accounts for the liveliness with which he occupied himself.

Mr. Newby's dual existence began to rear its head the minute he stepped onto the then sparsely settled campus of the University in 1904. The State University wasn't much to look at in those days. No huge buildings, no flower gardens—and no Homecoming. But there was a lot to do, and Newby set about doing it.

He received his degree in 1908 and almost immediately became registrar of the University—not so bad for a freshly sheepskinned man—and continued in that position until 1920.

I would like to drop back to the year 1909, though, for just a minute, and pick up the thread of his second career. This one is a little different.

In the 1900's, college fraternities were just beginning to invade Oklahoma and Mr. Newby was one of the leaders of a local group which had petitioned Sigma Nu, a national fraternity, for a charter. In 1909 the chapter, known as Delta Epsilon, was installed, and Newby became the No. 1 Sigma Nu on the Sooner roster.

Perhaps this was the starting point, for from then on Newby did an amazing job of forging ahead both in the business world and in the fraternity world.

During the years from 1910 to 1920, while still associated with the University, Newby made himself valuable in the Sigma Nu organization as well, and was appointed inspector of the fraternity's 12th Division in 1915—a post he held until 1917 when he entered war work in Washington.

After the war, Newby's ambitions turned to the field of oil production, and in 1920 he entered the land department of the Pierce Oil Corporation, and from this position, went into the Buttram Petroleum Corporation in 1921. Since that time his work has grown increasingly valuable, both for his profession and for his greatest hobby—his fraternity.

At a time when most college alumni regard the "old frat" as just a place to go for lunch before the Homecoming game, Newby can point to a record of outstanding service. Appointed to the supreme governing body of Sigma Nu, the High Council, in 1933, Newby in 1935 became first vice-regent of the fraternity, a position roughly corresponding to vice-president.

This career was climaxed in 1937 when he became regent of the fraternity, or national president. As such, Newby enjoyed a position unique in that he was "top man" in an organization, founded in 1869, which numbered more than 40,000 members with chapters in 46 states of the union . . . an organization which could claim assets in the millions . . . and a fraternity of the type which only American colleges can produce.

During the first World War, Newby served as field director of the Vocational section of the Committee on Education and Special Training. He was awarded the Certificate of Merit for his excellent work by Newton D. Baker, former secretary of war.

Evidence of Newby's tireless energy is found in the list of activities that follow his name on the file I have before me.

Attending high school at Guthrie, he was a member of the track team, president of his class and editor of the "Royal Blue"—the school paper.

In 1905, while a sophomore at O.U., he received a varsity track letter and was active in class basketball. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Mu Alpha (music) Kappa Delta Pi (religious) and Sigma Delta Psi (athletic) fraternities. He was also president of the Senate Debating Society and wrote his senior thesis on "An Analysis of Bach's Fugues" which was later used as a textbook at the University.

While a student he was employed as a stenographer, ticket seller, grocery clerk, motorcycle salesman and finally as private secretary to President Boyd.

In civilian life, Newby has an equally active record. In 1939 he was selected chairman of the Will Rogers Memorial Scholarship Fund that administered some \$76,620 donated to the University for assistance to physically handicapped students. As a Blue Lodge Mason, he held the offices of High Priest and of Commander of the Commandery. He has served as vice-president of the Last Frontier Council of the Oklahoma City Boy Scouts of America, as chairman of the committee on religious activities of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce and as councilman from ward two in the Oklahoma City government.

Newby, who served on the Alumni Legislative Committee and the Stadium-Union Fund drives and is still serving his University in the capacity of a Trustee of the Life Membership Trust Fund, also can rightfully claim that his family is loyal to Soonerland.

In addition to the two degrees that Errett Newby received are those of Merle Newby Buttram, '06fa, '12ma; Jessie D. Newby, '10ba, '25ma; J. B. Newby, '12ba; Elaine Newby, '40speech; Ruth Newby Jones, '37bus and Warner W. Newby, '12ba. Relatives of the family by marriage hold several degrees also. They are Frank Buttram, '10ba, '12ma; Lola North Newby, '14ba; Mrs. J. B. Newby, '15ba and Faye Dougherty, '22.

An interesting incident that cannot be overlooked



ROSCOE COX
1927-28

is Newby's description of the first homecoming in 1915. In the November, 1928, issue of *Sooner Magazine*, he writes:

"We had been trying for years to stimulate interest among the former students and alumni which would bring them back to the campus at least once a year. Prior to 1915 the principal effort was made at commencement time, with lesser effort at all other important occasions. The result was that no pilgrimage ever proved especially noteworthy, and those who returned for one event missed many old friends who perhaps chose some other occasion to come back.

"Some of the alumni then on the faculty discussed the plan, and I drew up some sketches and presented them to Dr. Brooks, then president of the University, recommending that an annual affair to be known as homecoming be arranged in connection with the main football game each year, and that we make special effort to get back as many former students, alumni and friends as possible in order that they receive not only the inspiration of a visit to their Alma Mater, but so that they also could have the pleasure that comes from renewing old friendships of college days. No matter what the events of the day might be, they are more enjoyable if shared with old friends.

"Doctor Brooks approved the plan, the invitations were sent out, and more than 500 alumni and former students were on hand for the celebration. A big snake dance was staged between halves, and an informal reception was held before and after the game in the president's office.

The 'pep' demonstration held the night before the game was also a striking event, one that brought stares from the eyes of even the Norman residents, hardened though they were to years of shirt-tail parades. It was known as the "peripatetic pajama parade" and the *University Oklahoman*, student newspaper, reports that University seniors and sophomores wore the flowing robes of Grecian dancers, juniors appeared in flannel pajamas, and the Ruf Neks wore gaudy silk pajamas. The "frosh" the newspapers relates started a "back to nature" movement, but comprised on "beeveedees."

Fred Tarman, '10ba, relates that "The victory itself called for another big celebration; a bonfire and shirt-tail parade were held on Saturday night. The flames from pine boxes lighted the skies for miles as the tired but happy alumni trekked homeward from Oklahoma's first homecoming.

1927-28 June 4, 1928 produced an eventful alumni meeting. The constitution was amended to provide for life memberships at \$60 per life and ROSCOE COX, '13Law, presided as president of the Association. Cox, who was elected second vice-president, became president upon the resignation of Newby to complete the 1927-28 term of office.

One of the most notable things done at this meeting was the nomination of six well-known and distinguished professors of the University to honorary membership in the association. They were: Dr. David Ross Boyd, Dean LeRoy Long, Professor Charles Giard, Dr. Victor H. Kulp, Dr. Roy Temple House and Dr. Joseph W. Scroggs.

According to the best records in the alumni office, Cox died on November 13, 1936. Upon graduation from the University, he became a state livestock inspector for several years. He then entered the practice of law and became an outstanding barber in Chandler.

In the October 1949 issue of the Sooner Magazine it was erroneously reported in "A Vision Is Fulfilled" that Thomas B. Matthews, '06ba, Tulsa, was deceased. He is very much alive. Another Thomas B. Matthews, Oklahoma City, who attended school at the same time was the man who died in 1945.



Shown above are four members of the newly formed Stephens County Alumni group. From left to right they are Dick March, '14, Malcolm Rosser, '21, vice president; J. Gordon Stephens, '39m.ed, president; and Mrs. Wylla Leonard, '31ba, secretary-treasurer.

Stephens County to Organize

More than 50 persons attending a meeting of the Stephens County alumni October 24 for the purpose of organizing an alumni chapter. Mr. J. Gordon Stephens, '39m.ed, arranged the meeting.

The following officers were elected for their club: president, J. Gordon Stephens, '39m.ed; vice

president, Malcolm Rosser, '21; and secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Hugh Leonard, the former Wylla King, '31ba.

The program consisted of the showing of the Sugar Bowl film and short talks by Mr. Stephens and Guy H. Brown, '42ba, '48ma, field director of the Alumni Development Fund.



An open fire—weiners and marshmallows—ingredients of any successful garden party. The Washington D. C. Alumni Club had the necessary ingredients in abundance and lined up rather hungrily to accept the hospitality of Mr. Walter Emery, '34Law, and Mrs. Emery in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Over sixty alumni and children enjoyed the club meeting on September 24, and as the above picture will evidence, eating was the order of the meeting. Among those pictured waiting their turn at the open fire are Louise Pope, guest from Baltimore, Lt. Col. R. H. Schaller, '30Law, Arlington, Virginia; Paul A. Walker, '12Law, and Mrs. Walker, '12, Washington; Suzanne Morse, Arlington; Lora B. Furbee, '25ba, Washington; Mrs. Junior Knee, the former Ruth Ireland, '41ba, Fairfax, Virginia; Wilbur Morse, '28ba, '30Law, Arlington; Lt. Col. Merton Munson, '29ba, '31Law, Washington; and Mrs. Walter Emery, the hostess.