

SOONER MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

Sooner Staff Members: David A. Burr, '50 Editor; George Cummings, '49bus, Managing Editor, Charles Roper, '50, News Editor; John Wagoner, '51, Feature Editor; Bill Alley, '51, Roll Call Editor; Mrs. Mary Turnbull, Alumni Records; Harold Keith, '29ba, '39ma, Sooner Sports; Colbert Swanson, '50, and Glenn Copeland, '53, Mailing. Photography by University Photographic Service.

VOL. XXII

JUNE, 1950

NO. 10

The Cover

The spires of the old union form the back drop for the structural steel girders that form their skeleton in the south wing of the building. See page 7 for a complete story on the progress of the building program.

The Contents

A Beginning and an End	3
The New Dean	5
What Makes Him Tick	6
For the Union a New Look	7
The Shoe Fits a Little Better	12
For Some the First Opportunity	15
Sooner Portraits	17
Theta Xi	18
Roll Call	19
Alumni Clubs Keep Sooner Spirit Alive	26

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

Officers: Joe Curtis, Pauls Valley, President; Bradford Risinger, Sand Springs, Vice President; George Cummings, Executive Secretary; Grady Harris, Alex, Immediate Past President.

Executive Board Members: Herb Branan, Oklahoma City; Max Cook, Clinton; C. Guy Brown, Oklahoma City; Milt Phillips, Seminole; H. D. Grisso, Norman; George D. Hann, Ardmore; Bruce Carter, Miami; Roy Grantham, Ponca City; Judge Bob Howell, Holdenville—all members-at-large.

Bradford Risinger, Sand Springs, District I; William M. Dodson, Muskogee, District II; Tom Finney, Idabel, District III; Frank Crider, Ada, District IV; Dr. Ralph Morton, Sulphur, District V; Rolland Nash, Watonga, District VI; David Gish, Frederick, District VII; Harry Hughes, Enid, District VIII.

Trustees of Life Membership Fund: Errett R. Newby, Oklahoma City; Tom F. Carey, Oklahoma City, and Neil R. Johnson, Norman.

1949-50 Representatives on the O.U. Athletic Council: Granville T. Norris, Muskogee; Paul Reed, Sulphur, and Hal Muldrow, Jr., Norman.

Sooner Magazine is published on the fifth day of each month by the University of Oklahoma Association, Union Building, Norman, Okla. Entered as second-class matter Oct. 13, 1928, at the post office in Norman, Okla., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Subscription \$3.00 per year, of which \$2.00 is for the magazine and \$1.00 for Alumni Dues. Foreign, \$4.00. Life, \$80. Single copies 25 cents. Opinions expressed are those of the editor and do not necessarily represent official action of the Alumni Executive Board. Member of American Alumni Council.

FACULTY

A Beginning and an End

A systematic retirement plan has been initiated this year at the University. For 14 distinguished men and women, it marks the end of active duty.

Fourteen University faculty members, whose collective work at O.U. represents 396 years, will retire this summer. Their years of service cover the school's growth from a 4-member faculty and a handful of students through its booming postwar expansion.

In announcing the retirements, President Cross said:

"These retirements are the beginning of a systematic retirement plan made possible by the State Teachers' Retirement System and the University's own retirement policy established by the Board of Regents."

The regents' retirement policy provides that retirement is mandatory for all staff members at age 65. This year, for the first time, members of the State Teachers' Retirement System can retire at 65 years of age and receive benefits of the program.

"These retirements should not be confused with staff reductions being made in the University's 1950-51 budget for reasons of economy," President Cross emphasized.

"They are normal retirements which would occur regardless of financial circumstances."

Going on full retirement June 1 were: Dr. Roy Gittinger, '02ba, history; T. K. Davis, industrial education; Dr. John T. Hefley, '01ba, '35d.ed, education; Dr. Elmer J. Ortman, education; Dr. Roy T. House, modern languages; Harriet W. Kritser, art; Laura A. Miller, home economics; and Dr. Aute Richards, zoological sciences.

Scheduled for retirement July 1 are:

Vera Dixon, library; S. B. Hackett, book exchange; and Ben Owen, intramural athletics.

Retirements effective August 1 are:

Dr. John F. Bender, education; Dr. Allen M. Ruggles, education; and Lila M. Welch, home economics.

When President Cross announced the retirements, he said, "No university can be greater than its personnel. In a unique way, these persons gave themselves wholly and unselfishly in their many tasks and responsibilities. Through their work the lives of thousands have been enriched. Their contributions to the University and state will endure forever."

Dean Gittinger, who has served under every Sooner president, tops the list in years served by the retiring faculty members. During his 48 years with the University, he has served as principal of the preparatory school, dean of undergraduates,

registrar, acting dean of the graduate college, dean of administration and dean of admissions.

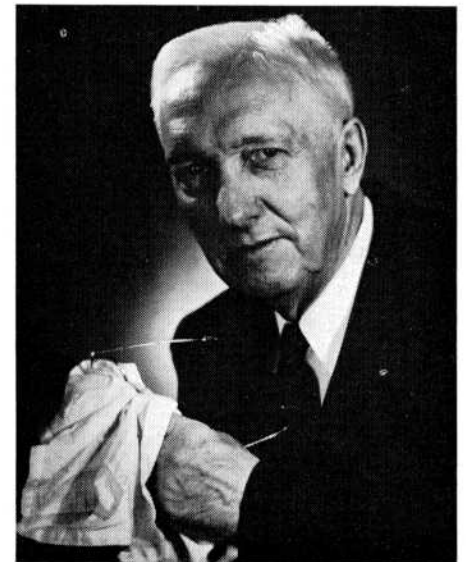
In the adolescent years of the University, he could call the entire student body by name. Awarded a Ph. D. degree in 1916 by the University of California, Gittinger selected history as his teaching field.

Known as "Dean Gitt" by thousands of students, he was named to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1946. The same year he was named a regents professor "for outstanding service in administrative and instructional fields over a long period of time."

Listed in *Who's Who in America*, Gittinger has written many articles and two histories—*The Formation of the State of Oklahoma* and *The University of Oklahoma, a History of the First Fifty Years, 1892-42*.

Davis, a teaching assistant in industrial education, began his career with the University in 1924. Previously, he was a mechanical engineer for an oil tank company.

Dr. Hefley, served as assistant professor of education from 1935 to 1946, when he was appointed librarian in the college of education. Over a period of 27 years before he took the University appointment, he taught in the city schools of Muskogee, Henryetta, Ponca City, Stillwater and Enid.



DR. ROY GITTINGER



DR. ROY T. HOUSE

The University of Chicago conferred a master's degree on Hefley in 1925, and he has a bachelor's and doctor's from the University of Oklahoma. He received his doctorate in education the year he came to teach on the campus.

Dr. House has focused world attention on the University through *Books Abroad*, international literary quarterly, which he founded in 1927. He established the review, published by the O.U. Press, with the purpose of "encouraging international understanding and working toward peace." He continued as editor until December, 1949, when he was named editor emeritus.

A specialist in French philology, Dr. House came to the University in 1911 as a professor of German. He was appointed a David Ross Boyd professor of modern languages in 1947. A year later he was elected to Oklahoma's Hall of Fame. He also was endorsed as a candidate by the South-Central Modern Languages Association for the Nobel Peace prize. His biography appears in *Who's Who in America*.

Miss Kritser is well known throughout the southwest as an artist and teacher. Her paintings have been exhibited in Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas. She was in the Texas school system



LAURA A. MILLER

for 19 years, much of the time as supervisor of art in Amarillo and Fort Worth schools, before teaching at the Sooner school. She holds a certificate from West Texas State Teachers College, a diploma from the Applied Art School of Chicago and a B. A. degree from Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas.

In 1901, before she was old enough to vote, Miss Miller began her work in education—She was appointed to the Sooner faculty in 1924. Miss Miller has served as vice president of the Oklahoma Home Economics Association.

Much of her work has been as an adviser to dietetics majors. Her degrees include a bachelor's from Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg, and an M. S. from the University of Chicago.

Dr. Ortman, professor of principles of education, has been a member of the college of education staff since 1928. He has specialized in school administration and the philosophy of education.

Before coming to the University, he taught in the public schools of Illinois and Oregon and served as dean of Fish University and president of Le Moyne College. He holds M. A. and Ph. D. degrees from Columbia University.

Dr. Richards, professor of zoological sciences,



T. K. DAVIS

had requested earlier that he be retired and announcement was made at the May regents' meeting. Appointed to the faculty in 1920, he directed the Oklahoma Biological survey from the time it was organized in 1927 until last June, when he asked to be relieved of his duties. In addition, he has served as director of the museum of zoology, the department of zoology and the school of applied biology.

Mrs. Dixon came to the University in 1929 with 21 years of experience in teaching and library work. She has a B. S. degree from Iowa State College, a master's from Drake University and a certificate from the Pratt Institute of Library Science.

An assistant professor of library science, she also has taught at Iowa State College, Columbia University and in the Des Moines public schools.

Hackett, University Book Exchange bookkeeper, has been associated with the University since 1927. He had previously practiced law in Antlers and served as an accountant for an Antlers bank and a Moyers lumber firm.

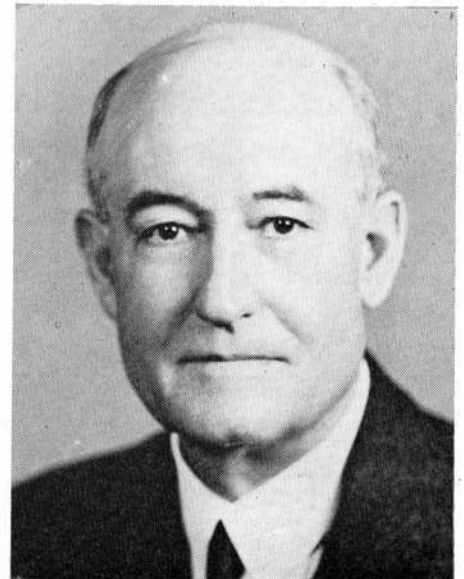
As football coach from 1905 through 1926, Owen laid the foundation for the University's modern athletic plant. He launched the intramural



DR. ALLEN M. RUGGLES



VERA DIXON



DR. JOHN F. BENDER



DR. JOHN T. HEFLEY

program in the early '20's and continued to direct and expand the department until 1949. From 1907 to 1933, he was athletic director, energetically mapping plans that produced Owen field, the field-house, baseball field, golf course, swimming pool and other facilities.

A pioneer coach in pioneer country, he was constantly thinking up new strategy for his short-manned teams. He is credited with being the first coach to make use of the forward pass as a mass offensive weapon. Some of his early football teams threw as many as 30 passes a game. And in 1910 he brought out the direct pass from center. About the same time he devised running plays from the long punt formation.

Dr. Bender, who was named a David Ross Boyd professor in 1946, is one of Oklahoma's leading authorities on school administration problems. Much of his work in education has been as a service to local schools, analyzing their needs and planning building programs.

In his 24 years on the college of education faculty, he has directed hundreds of students in writing master's and doctor's theses. He has been a mem-



HARRIET W. KRITSER



DR. E. J. ORTMAN



BEN OWEN

ber of the National School Administrators Association for 41 years, and his biography is listed in *Who's Who in America*. Dr. Bender received his doctorate from Columbia University.

Dr. Ruggles, professor of educational psychology, started teaching in 1903 in New York and was appointed to the University faculty in 1923. His field of specialization is adolescent psychology and his writings have been published in national journals.

He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin, and a master's and doctor's from Columbia University. He also has taught at Wisconsin, Simpson College and Bellevue Academy and College in Nebraska.

Miss Welch has been a faculty member since 1930. She has been active in setting up curricula for home economics departments in Oklahoma and conducted research on various phases of home economics education. Her degrees include a B. S. from the University of Missouri and an M. A. from Columbia University. She also has taught at Winthrop College, Universities of Nebraska, Missouri, Columbia, Chicago and Cornell.

A Profile

The New Dean

A brilliant young man has been named to lend his abilities and energies to the top post in the Law School.

By Morton Stone, '50journ

Softball, electric trains and law books have honored spots in the inner soul of Earl Sneed, Jr.

The 37-year-old law professor combines odd hobbies with his law—and masters each one with the youthful vigor that has placed this young man in the most coveted post of any university law professor. Sneed was recently appointed to the post of dean of the University Law School.

It's a long grind from student at the University to the post of dean of a school—but Sneed looks none the worse for the climb to success. His jovial nature and sparkling wit do not allow him to be submerged in the mire of administrative duties usually associated with his new-found job.

Sneed takes time out from work to play soft-

ball—he slugs a mean bat and plays right and left fields with the abilities of "Twinkletoes" Selkirk. But, his main extracurricular activities are his three children—Jim, 11, Ann, 8, and Bob, 4. The three young Sneeds have no legal ambitions, but they keep their dad busy with all their other activities.

Not to be outdone by Dadwood Bumstead, O.U.'s new law dean has a working partnership with son Jim and the "family" electric trains. Jim runs the trains, and Dean Sneed buys the equipment.

"There's something illegal about our partnership," Sneed says, "but I'm afraid Jim will get too good an attorney if I sue him for my share of the train equipment."

Sneed is the youngest law dean in the history of the University. When informed of his new appointment, Dean Sneed said:

"It's a big responsibility. I am honored that the president and board of regents have trust and confidence in me."

However, Sneed's children had a different reaction when they were informed of his new job. They chirped, when told that their father was now a dean:

"Really?"

"They acted surprised, but were not too impressed," Sneed commented on their reaction.

Sneed joined the University law school staff in October, 1945, as visiting acting professor of law. He was appointed professor in September, 1948, and was promoted to acting dean in 1949.

He holds a BA and LLB from the University and an LLM from Columbia University. He also is a candidate at Columbia for the degree of doctor of the science of law.

Sneed practiced law in Tulsa from 1937 to 1939, and then became secretary of the civic and legislative department of the Tulsa Chamber of Com-