

The University of Oklahoma's building program has reached \$18 million. When all of the buildings are completed O.U. will have one of the finest university physical plants in the nation. It's been made possible through

Enterprise and Ingenuity

By Roscoe Cate, '26ba

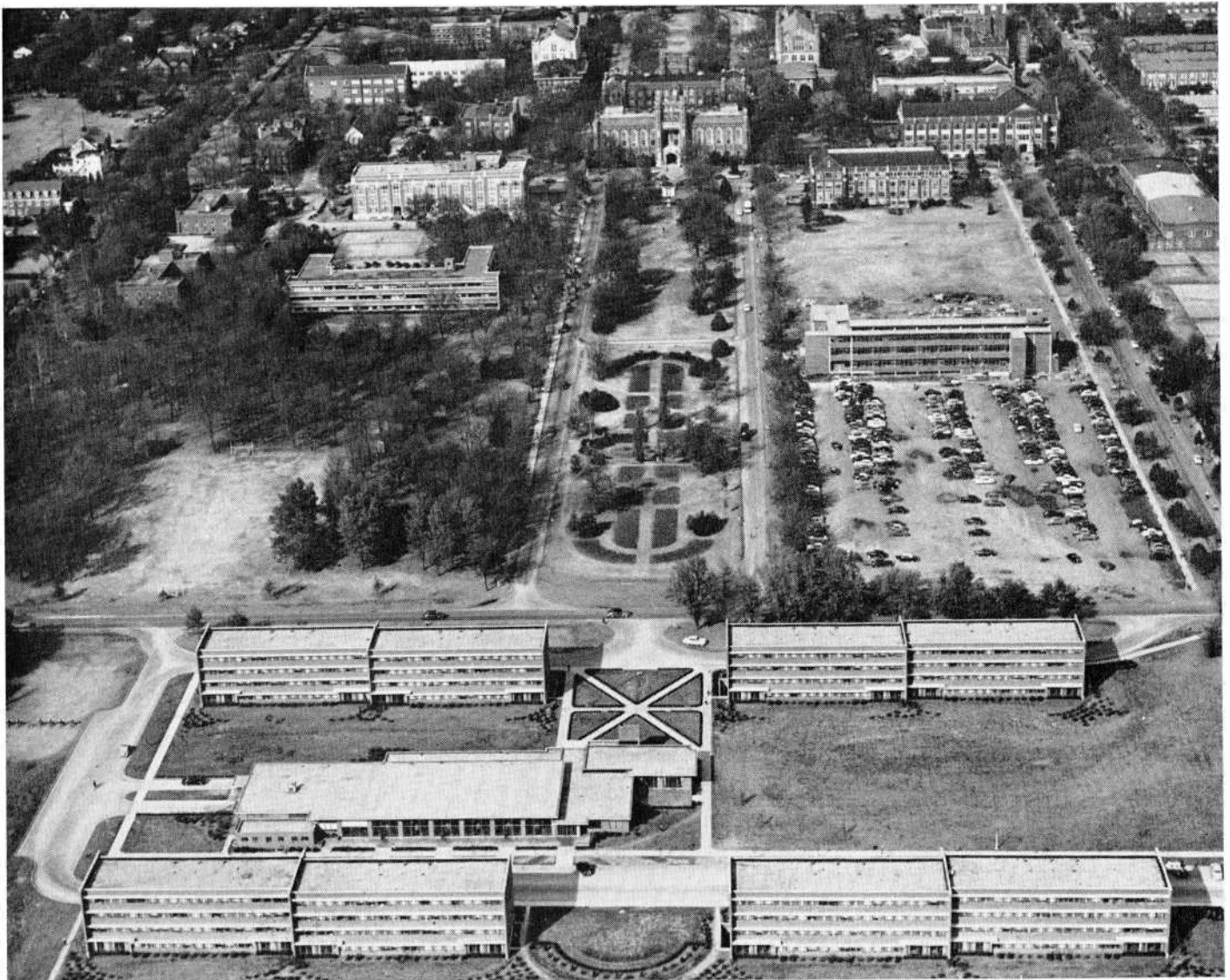
The school year 1950-51 will see the beginning of the remaining building projects in an \$18,000,000 building program on the Norman Campus of the University of Oklahoma.

Approximately \$15,500,000 has been added to the University's plant investment on the Main Campus since 1945, in build-

ings already completed or now under construction. Money already is available for another \$2,500,000 investment in buildings which are now in the planning stage. It is hoped that bids can be taken on these remaining buildings not later than January, 1951.

In 1945, the University's investment in

buildings on the Main Campus was slightly less than \$4,500,000. Thus the \$18,000,000 expenditure since 1945—on buildings completed, now under construction or soon to be started—amounts to four times as much as the building expenditures for the entire first fifty-three years of the University's history. Even making allowances for the



Looking north toward the South Oval, the first wing of the new Mineral Industries Building is seen just above the parking lot. A new social sciences building will be constructed on the left side of the oval. The new Women's Quadrangle is in the foreground.

fact that a dollar spent on new construction now does not buy as much building as one dollar invested in construction before World War II, impressive progress has been made toward a more adequate physical plant.

The enterprise and ingenuity demonstrated by President G. L. Cross and the Board of Regents in formulating and advancing this \$18,000,000 construction program is shown by the fact that less than one third of this amount consisted of state-appropriated funds, and more than two thirds of the amount came from other sources. These sources were chiefly earnings from intercollegiate athletics, and sale of revenue bonds under terms of special acts passed by the Oklahoma Legislature in 1945 and 1947.

There are four additional projects which are urgently needed to round out the current building program. These are a \$1,350,000 Addition to the Chemistry Building, \$650,000 for a Plant Sciences and Public Health Wing in the Biological Sciences group, a \$1,250,000 addition to the University Library, and a \$500,000 Military and Naval Science Building.

The Chemistry Department, with 1,428 class enrolments in the Fall Semester of 1950-51, has one of the heaviest teaching loads in the entire University. The old building, which was erected in 1916, is extremely inadequate in size and its laboratories are not well designed, according to modern standards.

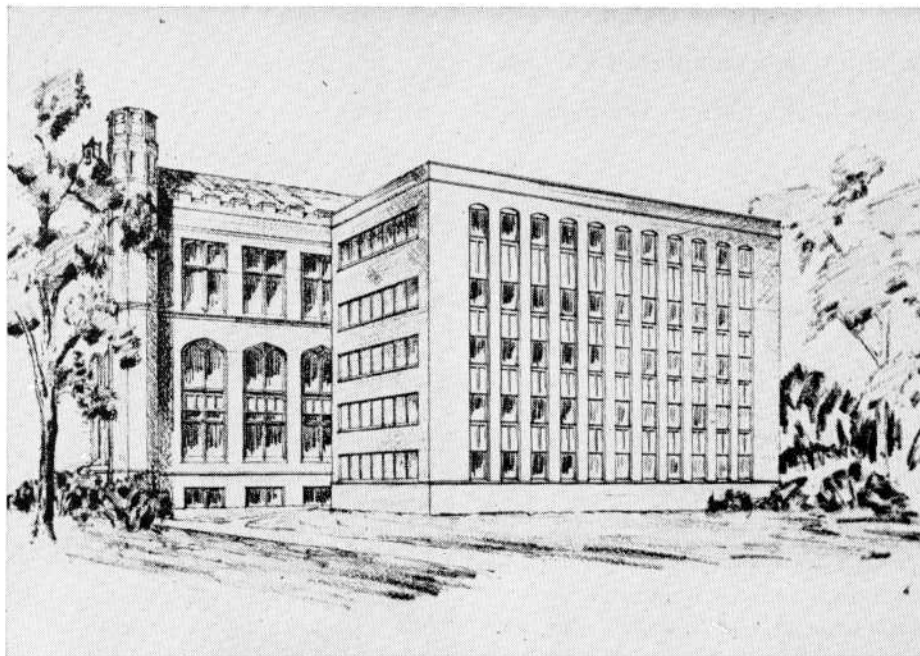
The construction of the Plant Sciences Wing is essential to relieve congestion in the present Biological Sciences Building, and to complete the plan which was started in 1936 with construction of the first Biological Sciences Wing. Present facilities will not provide enough laboratory space to accommodate all the students wanting to take Plant Science and Zoological Sciences courses.

The urgent need for a large expansion of the University Library was stated emphatically by Ralph R. Shaw, Librarian for the United States Department of Agriculture and widely-known library consultant, when he made a survey of the library situation at the University of Oklahoma in June, 1950.

"The present facilities for care and maintenance of the collection and for servicing readers are miserably inadequate," Mr. Shaw stated in his report to President Cross.

The lack of space, he said, "interferes with educational and research programs of the University to such an extent as to make extension of the Library Building a problem of utmost urgency."

The total seating capacity of reading rooms on the Norman Campus, including



Above is the architect's drawing of the library addition to Monnet Hall, the law building. The addition, now under construction, will be on the east side of the present building, extending toward the Student Union. Elaborate stonework will be omitted.

departmental branch libraries, is less than 900. Good library facilities provide seating space for one third of the student body, and average building design calls for seating space for a minimum of 25 per cent of the student body, Mr. Shaw said. He stated that the University should have seating space for at least 3,000 students and preferably should provide for 3,500. He also emphasized strongly the need for proper

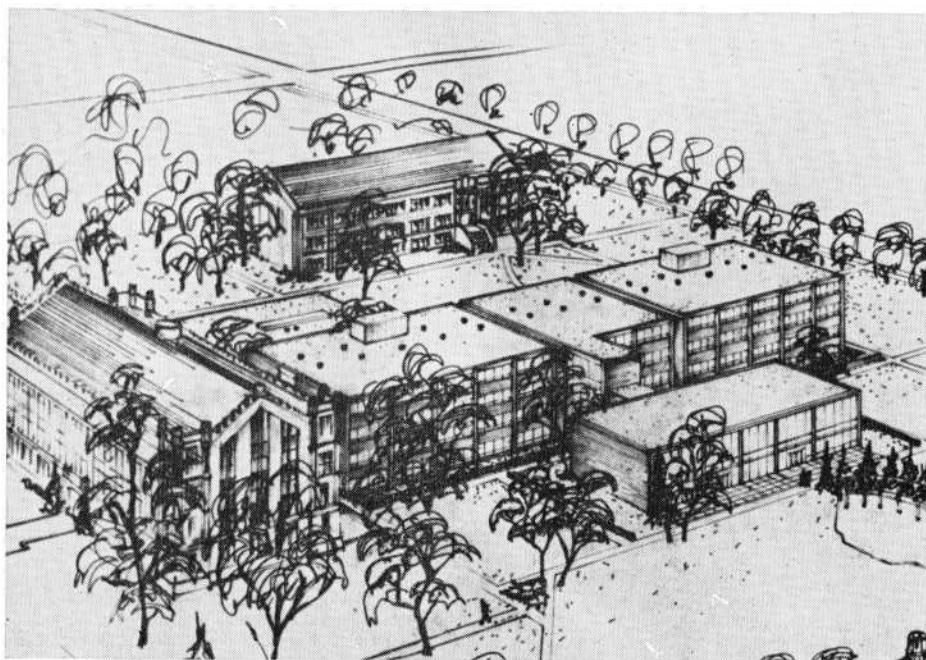
library working facilities for graduate students.

Reading room space in the present Main Library is about the amount which would be designed for a college of 1,000 students, Mr. Shaw said.

He recommended that the present library facilities be enlarged by extending wings back to the Administration Building, with the court so created in the center

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This drawing shows the proposed additions to DeBarr Hall, the first unit of which will be constructed in the near future. The old building, which was erected in 1916, is extremely inadequate in size and the laboratories don't meet modern standards.



formation upon which such plans can be based.

A study is proposed by the College of Education to show the relation of teacher preparation to teacher success. For a nominal sum this important study can be completed, and it would be a definite contribution to the improvement of teacher education in this area.

It is important that the University secure funds for the publication of research and specialized information. For regardless of how important these studies may be, they are of very little value unless they can be published and disseminated among those who are interested and in a position to profit from them.

The Development Fund Board proposes to continue the President's emergency fund in order to take care of unusual expenses which often arise in connection with the administration of the University program.

The final objective for this year is to begin a fund for a chapel and religious activities center. There is an awakening interest among the students and faculty members of the University in the power and significance of religion. Serious planning and study has been devoted toward increasing the opportunities for religious activities among the students. Nothing could be done on the campus that would be more gratifying to the students and to alumni than the construction of a beautiful chapel.

These many projects may sound expensive and beyond our reach. However, I assure you that if you and each alumnus contributes a modest share, these things can be accomplished.

Building . . .

of the area to be filled in with book stacks, running a tower up in the center if necessary.

He was complimentary about one point, however—he said the location of the University's Library is ideal, since it is in the center of the campus.

The need for additional Military and Naval Science facilities is obvious. The present Armory was constructed 31 years ago, immediately after World War I. Since then there has been a tremendous expansion in ROTC programs, and it is believed very likely that Congress in the near future will pass legislation further enlarging the ROTC program. Instruction now being given in Military and Naval Science is greatly handicapped by a lack of adequate space for large pieces of equipment used in connection with such instruction. Also, there is a serious need for more office and classroom space.

The varied items in the University's building program since 1945 include all kinds of facilities, ranging from a golf course (paid for with athletic income) to a research building.

The instructional buildings constructed, now under construction, or to be constructed with funds now available include: Kaufman Hall, Petroleum Engineering addition, Research Institute-Physics Building, Music Practice Building addition to Holmberg Hall, Geology-Mineral Industries Building, Aeronautical Engineering Building, Law Library addition, Social Sciences Classroom Building, Graduate Education Building, Home Economics Building, Journalism Building, Public Health-Biology Building, Chemistry addition.

Student housing facilities constructed, purchased or now under construction include: Niemann Apartment-Dormitories, Whitehand House, Wilson Center Dormitories for Men, Sooner City Family Dwelling Units, Women's Quadrangle, and the new Men's Dormitory System now under construction.

Improvements in athletic facilities include: Stadium enlargement and remodeling, new running track, and new golf course.

Specialized facilities include: new plant for the publishing and printing divisions of the University Press, Power and Heating Plant, WNAD Transmitter Station, remodeling and enlargement of Union Building, Commissary and Cold Storage Building for use in connection with University dining rooms, central cooling plant to provide air conditioning for the Student Union, and remodeling of Holmberg Hall.

While the extent of the University's post-war building program may come as a surprise to many alumni who have not been on the campus recently, it is no hastily conceived development. In November, 1944, President Cross submitted to the University Board of Regents and to the State Regents a building program in which 12 building projects were listed as "present needs," 13 more projects were listed as "post-war needs," and 6 others were listed as "long-range needs."

Examination of this 1944 program shows that 10 of the 11 top priority projects in the program have now materialized—either already constructed, under construction, or in the planning stage with money already provided. One of the projects in the second priority group is now under construction and three others in this group are now in the planning stage with funds available.

A few changes in priorities have been made (although only one change in the top eleven priorities of the program) in order to adjust to changing circumstances. The University has a Campus Planning

Committee which makes a continuing study of the University's space needs and makes recommendations to the President with respect to the relative urgency of proposed building projects. The committee has as member and consultant, the University Architect, whose office co-ordinates the details of campus planning.

The committee has hearings for representatives of the various departments and subject fields, so that decisions on building priorities are made on a basis of full understanding of needs.

As the current building program nears completion, it will become obvious that a pattern is being established in the arrangement of buildings on the campus. So far as possible, facilities for the larger departments of the College of Arts and Sciences are being grouped around the South Oval. These will include the various languages departments, the social sciences departments, the biological sciences, geology, physics, and others.

With a few exceptions, the north portion of the campus will be devoted to professional schools and colleges—Engineering, Fine Arts, Law, and Pharmacy. Chemistry, which is a department in the College of Arts and Sciences but which serves basic needs of the College of Engineering, the College of Pharmacy and the School of Home Economics, will remain in the DeBarr Hall location on the North Oval where it can the most conveniently serve these large programs depending upon Chemistry.

The School of Home Economics Building will be the first to be located on the Wentz tract (the former Oklahoma School of Religion property) located just west of the Pharmacy Building, between Elm and College, and Cruce and Brooks Streets, and also including part of the block west of College and between Cruce and Brooks.

As new buildings progress south on the South Oval, the style of architecture becomes more functional. There are two reasons for this—economy, and more comfort and convenience for the users of the buildings.

The use of elaborate ornamental stone work, such as that on the University Administration building and the University Library, has become so prohibitive in cost that even such institutions as Princeton University with its long tradition of Gothic architecture, are turning to more functional buildings.

Alumni interested in the question of functional vs. traditional would find it interesting to inspect Kaufman Hall, which is an example of conservative functional architecture which has won the favor of students and faculty members who use it.