

Second in a Series of Articles on Outstanding O.U. Professors

## No Need to Worry for the Future

"I wish there were something for me to point to as an achievement, a row of books or something that would show I've been at work. I've been so involved with doing things right now that I've not worried too much about something for the future."

Sitting in a small cubby-hole that resembles in size nothing more than a bathroom or a large closet, the man who built the University of Oklahoma Journalism School seemed a bit exasperated.

"Why, one year when I planned to be gone I had to resign 15 jobs around the campus." H. H. Herbert, David Ross Boyd professor of journalism, speaking, and giving verbal signs of being committed to death. But in the next breath he'll tell you with a youthful enthusiasm about the faculty senate committee he's working on or of the committees within the College of Arts and Sciences that take a portion of his time.

"You might say I produce very little from a scholastic point of view, but I have a wonderful time." Having a wonderful time the Herbert way means participation in University, journalistic, pedagogic and community affairs to the fullest extent of one man's abilities.

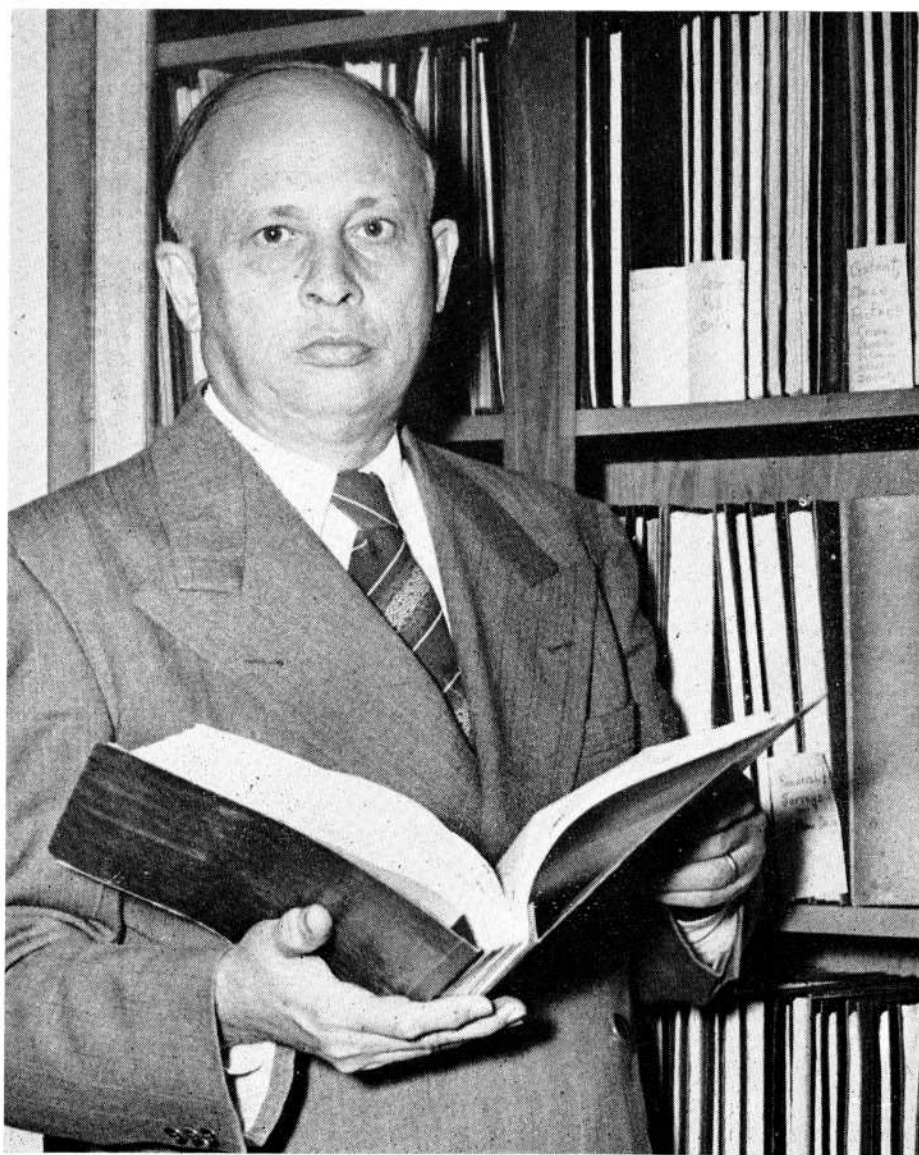
While I talked to him, a telephone call took him off to fulfill another of his self-imposed duties. "A lady called to say her family was stalled in Norman on the way to Louisiana without money or a place to stay. She thought maybe my church could lend a hand." A long-time Presbyterian, Herbert serves as a member of the church's board of elders. The first call necessitated another to try to complete the act of charity. After he had successfully handled the situation, Herbert was a bit more expansive. It wasn't at all difficult to see he had enjoyed helping out.

How Herbert came to the University of Oklahoma can best be described (and is by Herbert) as an accident. For a short period before 1913, students were agitating for a school of journalism. They presented an organized request to President Stratton D. Brooks. He complied by hiring Chester C.

Wells of Freeport, Illinois, as an instructor in journalism. Wells is remembered by Herbert, who was his highschool classmate, as a brilliant man. But his brilliance never had a chance to shine in Oklahoma. Before making the trip to Oklahoma, Wells was to have his tonsils removed. He died

on the operating table. When Herbert learned of his friend's death, he wrote Dr. Brooks and was hired.

It wasn't Herbert's first brush with Oklahoma. After he received his BA from the University of Illinois in 1912 (he received an MA from Wisconsin in 1918), he made



H. H. Herbert, David Ross Boyd professor of journalism, came to the University of Oklahoma in 1913 as the result of an accident. It was no accident that he has stayed here ever since instructing students in the various phases of journalism.

a trip to Oklahoma to look for a newspaper job.

He felt conditions in Illinois were static and that Oklahoma would provide a young man with something more than an ounce of ambition a great opportunity. (He still thinks he was right.) So with his newly acquired degree he strolled into the editorial offices of the *Daily Oklahoman* and offered that newspaper first crack at his abilities.

Herbert grins when he tells how unimpressed the managing editor was. "He told me to try Tulsa and several other Oklahoma towns, but they weren't interested either. So I went back to Illinois." He was working on a newspaper in Peoria when his summons to O.U. arrived.

"I had no intention of making teaching my career. I just thought it might be a chance to get acquainted with the newspapermen in the state," he said. But when Herbert became convinced that Dr. Brooks was determined to build O.U. to a top position among colleges and universities, he changed his mind about teaching and saw his opportunity here.

Herbert started teaching at O.U. in 1913. When he put in his appearance, only one course in journalism was being taught and that one by Professor Theodore H. Brewer (who, in 1913, became director of the school of journalism) and by Professor Jerome Dowd. Herbert served as an instructor from 1913 to 1917 when he was named director of the school. By that time two new faculty members had been added—Fred Tarman, '10ba, and Chester Westfall, '16ba. From 1917 to 1945 he served in the same capacity.

Chance seemed to have played a pucky role in Herbert's life. At least it would seem so. Born on a farm near Freeport, Illinois, his father had great plans for his two sons and one daughter. A self-educated man, Herbert's father encouraged his children to get a higher education ("my brother and sister didn't seem too interested"). Young H. H. drove or rode a horse five miles to highschool at Freeport. He was interested in debate and served as editor of his highschool newspaper in his senior year. Here's where Puck enters.

The editor of the *Freeport Daily Journal* was a judge at some of the debate tournaments and Herbert just happened to be competing. After he became interested in newspaper work through the highschool paper, he asked the *Journal* editor for a job. Of course the editor remembered the debates and of course Herbert got the job. By this time he had reached the point of no return and he's never been sorry of his decision in favor of journalism.

Both the editor and Herbert were in fa-

vor of college education and Herbert enrolled at Illinois U. in the fall of 1908. He continued to work on newspapers during the summer months, and when the editorship of the *Daily Illini* was filled in 1911, Herbert had the job. For a short time following graduation Herbert worked as city editor of the *Freeport Daily Journal* and then transferred his energies to telegraph editor of the *Peoria Evening Journal*. He was at work in this last job when he applied for the O.U. teaching position.

Some of the major roles Herbert has played so successfully at the University of Oklahoma include: chairman of the publications board from 1915-23, 1924-45; editor of the *University of Oklahoma Magazine* from 1916-19; founder of *Sooner State Press* in 1920; director of University Y.M.C.A. 1919-42 and chairman of the Y's board, '47-'49, consultant on Educational Policies Commission of the National Educational Association since 1936; member of the American Association of Schools and Departments of Journalism (secretary-treasurer, 1929-40); American Association of University Professors (president of Oklahoma U. chapter 1934-35, 1946-47); Southwestern Journalism Congress (president 1935-36); Press Congress of World; National Editorial Association; Oklahoma Press Association; long-time sponsor of Sigma Delta Chi and member; Faculty Club; Kappa Tau Alpha; Chi Bet (now Chi Psi); and hundreds of minor committee jobs.

Herbert says he would like to fill more visiting professor posts in the summer time. He's already managed a short season with the Texas State College for Women at Denton, the University of Kansas and the University of Texas. If something doesn't hinder his plans, that's what he'll be doing this summer.

In May of 1948, Herbert was selected as a David Ross Boyd professor of journalism because he had demonstrated over a period of years a "vigorous performance and leadership in teaching, counseling and guidance of students."

He says lots of his friends either congratulated or consoled him when they heard of his appointment. Some knew that the new title carried with it an honor that comes only to a handful of University professors. Others thought it was just a polite way of putting him out to grass.

Herbert still teaches a full schedule. Some of his courses are requirements for all students majoring in journalism. Along the line many big names in journalism have been students of his. Such men as Joe Brandt, '21ba, Mike Monroney, '24ba, Wesley Nunn, '17, Jack Fischer, '32ba, Ernie Hill, '33ba, Jack Bell, '25ba, Frank Dennis, '29ba, and Earnest Hoberecht, '41ba, indicate the quality of Herbert's instruction.

But even more they provide Herbert with the thing which he laments. More than a shelf of authored books, they prove that concentration on the things at hand have provided him with an enviable achievement.

## A Kind Word

Dear Editor:

You made a good beginning by choosing Dr. Joe Marshburn as one of the outstanding Oklahoma University professors for the series of articles, the first of which appeared in the November issue.

Even in the '20's, Oklahoma University was no small institution, and the amount of personal attention which anyone had in the classroom from any one professor depended on whether or not they were majoring in a particular department and, therefore, had an opportunity to take more than one course with a given professor.

Not being an English major, I was interested in literature, and the continuance of that interest over the years is directly traceable, first to Doctor Marshburn allowing me to enroll in the English literature class in the last half of my last semester as a senior, and secondly, not only allowing me to enroll, but helping me to get a set of notes over the first half of the course that enabled me to complete the English requirement so that I would be eligible for an A. B. degree, and thus be considered for election to Phi Beta Kappa.

I have always appreciated his human understanding and willingness to help without making such consideration a charitable act. Drawing the fine line between human understanding and sympathy, and assuming responsibility for a given result, (he) shows a discrimination which I have encountered in very few people in higher education in this country, or in Europe, during an experience going over more than a quarter of a century.

Somewhat tardily, I recognized the sympathetic nature of Doctor Marshburn's personality and understanding of students as persons by writing him a note upon his return from his 1948 trip to England, but you never can quite put into a personal letter the feeling of appreciation that may exist in one person for the acts of the other. While a letter to appear in the columns of a magazine for all to read is not quite so personal, any seeming over-statements cannot be construed to be in the nature of flattery. Therefore, I wish to commend the idea behind your series of articles on outstanding O.U. professors and am asking you to congratulate John Wagoner, '51, for the article on Doctor Marshburn.

Cordially your, Harvey A. Andrus, '24ba, president of Pennsylvania State Teachers College at Bloomsburg.