

Third in a Series

A Royal Fellow

By John Wagoner, '51

For 47 years the problem of getting people and books together has kept Jessie L. Rader as busy as a bumble bee in a clover patch. He began working as a student assistant in the University library when it was little larger than the office from which he now directs the Bizzell Memorial Library. At 67 he's still busy with books and people.

"Operating any library is a problem of getting people into the closest possible contact with books with a minimum of machinery," says Rader. All of which sounds like cold, cut and dried administration work. But it isn't anything of the sort for Rader because he has the unique quality of giving life to the process. The way he strokes the binding of a rare volume reveals that there is a man within the man who is the efficient administrator.

Forty-one of the 47 years he has spent with books and people have been the years he has been University librarian. During those years the man within the man has crept out into the open so often that it was inevitable that someone would notice. The Oklahoma Historical Society named him an honorary member in 1949. "You have developed your department at the University of Oklahoma to that high point of efficiency and power which has made it respected throughout Oklahoma and America," the society members observed. Last year he was one of four state librarians honored for "distinguished service to the profession and to the people." The recognition came from the Oklahoma Library Association during its annual meeting on the O.U. campus.

Last December the Royal Society of Arts, after examining his work in library science, awarded him a fellowship in the organization. Purpose of the British society is to advance knowledge and interest in various fields of art throughout the world.

Membership in the organization was once held by such persons as Samuel Johnson, Oliver Goldsmith and James Boswell, literary figures who have filled a niche in Rader's life since he started working with men and books. In fact, he probably would be on speaking terms with Goldsmith's



JESSE L. RADER
... Books and Men

ghost if such a thing were possible; some years ago he edited a high school edition of the writer's novel *She Stoops to Conquer*.

Books which list writers refer to Rader as an author, historian and bibliographer. The rank as author comes from a collaboration with E. E. Dale in writing *Readings in Oklahoma History*, which also qualifies him as a historian. In 1947 the University Press published his bibliography, *South of Forty*. It is a listing of nearly 4,000 printed works relating to the Southwest, from the earliest period of discovery to 1939. Rader spent more than 25 years in its preparation, and the book was heralded as the most extensive record in book form of source material about the American Southwest that had yet been assembled.

When I called at Rader's office to ask him about his years at the University, I mentioned *South of Forty*. He took the large volume from a shelf next to his desk and commented, "Compiling that was quite a job." With that he dismissed the subject like it was yesterday's newspaper. The point of interest at the moment in the librarian's literary life is an anthology—he says it isn't an anthology but a collection—of poems and short prose items he has gleaned during his years in the library.

"I'm going to get all of these things together some of these days and publish them under the title *Here it Is*, or some title like that," he says. "These are things people are always asking for at the call desk, and it seems no one has seen fit to put them under one binding where they can be found."

Then he reads some of his favorite poetry from clippings tucked away in the back of the folder where he keeps tentative items for *Here it Is*. Rader doesn't exactly read his favorite poems in the literal sense. He starts reading and then lets his eyes rest on the lines while he actually recites them from memory. When he finishes one, he inhales smoke from his cigar which he has foregone during the reading, and lets the total effect soak in for a minute.

Asked another question about his writing, Rader says, "I've written a lot of things, so much that my secretary tells me I'm the worst paper collector she's ever seen. I have to remind her that there is writing on all that paper I hoard."

He fingers through a stack of manila folders and selects one. "Here's a story I've been working on from time to time for years. He says it's about the phantom stranger, the phantom within every person known only to himself. He tells you the plot, and you ask, "Why have you never finished it?"

"Because something like that has to be good, and I've never developed it to the point where it is good enough. I'll do it someday, though," he vows.

There's something about Jessie Rader that identifies him as a man very much in contact with the world in which he lives. He takes a book from the library's treasure room collection, thumbs through it to the page where the date is printed in Latin, translates it, and then discusses the book in language that even a sophomore could understand.

The Treasure Room could well be called the Jessie Rader room. With Dr. W. B. Bizzell, the late president of O.U. for whom the library is named, he was instrumental in getting the appropriation for the present library building. Rader conceived the idea of a room in the library in which rare and valuable books could be kept. Today the Treasure Room houses some of the outstanding collections in the country.

Rader has a penchant for collecting first editions for his personal library. "It's a modest collection—between 2,000 and 3,000 volumes," he says. He has built his collection around the literature of the west and the southwest, the area in which he writes as a historian.

He also collects original prints. Some of

Continued page 26

ciety of Mechanical Engineers. The couple is living in Oklahoma City.

CHISHOLM-BELL: Miss Mary Chisholm, '48-'50, ba, Wewoka, and Benjamin Enloc Bell, '49bus, Muskogee, were married August 26 in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Holdenville. At the University Mrs. Bell was a member of Delta Delta Delta social sorority and Bell was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity. The couple is living in Oklahoma City where he is employed by the veterans' administration.

McBRIDE-BUHR: Miss Joan McBride, '48-'50, Oklahoma City, and Sgt. Walter Joseph Buhr, Jr., Hermosa Beach, California, were married December 2 in Wesley Methodist Church in Oklahoma City. At the University, Mrs. Buhr was a member of Mu Phi Epsilon, national honorary music sorority, and the Choral Club. Sgt. and Mrs. Buhr are living in Oklahoma City where he is stationed as a communications chief at Tinker airforce base.

Francis Langdon, '48ba, and Mrs. Langdon, Henryetta, announced the birth of twins born December 10 at Haynes Hospital. The daughter was named Jo Nell and the son was named James Francis.

ALEXANDER-McCOSKRIE: Miss Isabel Ann Alexander, '48fa, '50m.ed, Tulsa, and Joseph Whitfield McCoskrie, Kansas City, were married November 25 in the First Presbyterian Church, Tulsa. At the University, Mrs. McCoskrie was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma social sorority and Delta Phi Delta, national art fraternity. The couple is living in Kansas City where McCoskrie is employed as an architect.

Almon Henson, '48Law, is the newly elected county attorney of Pottawatomie County.

DICKINSON-KEMP: Miss Nina Dickinson, '49fa, Prague, became the bride of Kenneth Kemp, Norman, November 7 in the First Methodist Church in Prague. Now a student in the University graduate school, Mrs. Kemp is a member of Sigma Alpha Iota music society. Mr. and Mrs. Kemp are living in Oklahoma City.

'49 DAVIS-GRIFFIN: Miss Dolores Davis, '49-'50, Borger, Texas, became the bride of Dr. William Griffin, Elk City, November 24 in the First Baptist Church in Borger. At the University, Mrs. Griffin was affiliated with Alpha Chi Omega social sorority. The couple is making their home in Elk City.

SCHENCK-WOODS: Miss Joann Schenck, '49ba, Ada, became the bride of James H. Woods, '46-'49, Oklahoma City, November 11 in the First Methodist Church in Ada. At the University Mrs. Woods was a member of Chi Omega social sorority. Woods was affiliated with Sigma Alpha Epsilon social fraternity and was a member of the University glee club. The couple is living in Oklahoma City.

William E. Bishop, '49Law, Seminole, was recently chosen assistant county attorney in Seminole County.

Rev. John Rankin, '49ba, and Mrs. Rankin, the former Elizabeth Ryan, '49ba, Mineola, Texas, announced the birth of a son born November 21 in Mineola. The baby was named Phillip Henry.

MASON-ROBINSON: Miss Delma Jo Mason, '49-'50, Oklahoma City, and Frank DeRossitt Robinson, Jr., also of Oklahoma City, were married November 18 in Olivet Baptist Church. At the University Mrs. Robinson was a member of Pi Beta Phi social sorority. Robinson, who is attending the University at the present time, is affiliated with Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. The couple is living in Oklahoma City.

GLICKMAN-HERZFELD: Miss Iris Ann Glickman, Norman, and John Richard Herzfeld, '49bus, also of Norman, were married December 15 in the home of the bride's parents. The couple is living in

Lawton while Herzfeld is stationed at Fort Sill with the United States Army.

DUBOIS-LOAR: Miss Jeanne E. Dubois, '49ba, Oklahoma City, and William Robert Loar, '49ba, Okmulgee, were married December 20 in Westminster Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City. A member of French Heels, Mrs. Loar was also a member of Chi Omega social sorority and Kappa Gamma Epsilon honorary modern language fraternity at the University. Loar is a member of Delta Theta Phi law fraternity. The couple is living in Norman where Loar is a senior in the University law school.

PENFOUND-WOODWARD: Miss Frances Ann Penfound, '49ba, Norman, and Pfc. H. B. Woodward, Jr., Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, were married December 23 in the University Faculty clubhouse. While attending the University, Mrs. Woodward was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma social sorority. The couple is living in the Lackland Air Base area.

McDANIEL-HENDRIX: Miss Carol McDaniel, '49ba, Ardmore, and Gus Hendrix, '49bus, Dewey, were married December 16 in the First Methodist Church in Ardmore. Mrs. Hendrix was a member

of Pi Beta Pi social sorority at the University, and Hendrix was affiliated with Alpha Tau Omega social fraternity. The couple is living in Dallas, Texas.

'50 Charles W. Offermann, Jr., '50eng, was recently employed by Stanolind Oil and Gas Company in their exploration department at Duncan.

Frank Jones, '50eng, has been employed as a structural engineer by the University since December 1.

LOWREY-HOUSTON: Miss Barbara Ann Lowrey, Woodward, became the bride of Winfrey David Houston, '50Law, Stillwater, November 26 in the First Presbyterian Church in Woodward. Houston was a member of Kappa Sigma social fraternity, Xi Mu, pre-law fraternity, and Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity. The couple is making their home in Enid.

KISER-HOGGE: Miss Helen Ann Kiser, '49-'50, Pampa, Texas, and William Russell Hogge, '50eng, Amarillo, Texas, were married November 25 in Holy Souls' Catholic Church, Pampa. At the University Mrs. Hogge was a member of the Newman Club and served as president of Gamma Alpha Chi, national honorary fraternity for women in advertising. Hogge was affiliated with Lambda Chi Alpha social fraternity and a member of the student senate, vice-president of the American Society of Civil Engineers and of the Newman Club. They have established a home in Amarillo.

MILLSPAUGH-CLARKSON: Miss Germaine Millsbaugh, '48-'50, Oklahoma City, and Rowland Albert Clarkson, '50bs, also of Oklahoma City, were married November 22 in a single-ring ceremony in St. Paul's Episcopal cathedral in Oklahoma City. At the University Mrs. Clarkson was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta social sorority and BVG Club. Clarkson was affiliated with Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and Phi Lambda Epsilon. They are making their home in Oklahoma City.

Rader . . .

his Currier and Ives items line the walls of his office. And he's proud of a pre-French Revolution woodcut print retouched in colors by hand. It hangs on his office wall. "Traded a fellow a book for that print," he recalls.

Rader ranks near the top of the roster of persons who have been with the University the greatest number of years. "I was working as a student mail carrier in 1904 when an opening occurred in the University library," he remembers. "I applied for the job as a student assistant, and I've been with the library ever since."

"The library was housed in the second administration building which had been built after the original one was destroyed by fire. There weren't many more books in it than there are right here in my office."

Rader moved with the library when the Carnegie Library building was built on the North Oval. When the stock of books outgrew its stacks in 1928, he packed up the library and moved to the building which later became the Art Museum. "In 1928 I informed Dr. Bizzell that the building was

The Poll was Stopped

15 Years Ago

University students—480 strong—voted six to one for repeal of state prohibition laws during a test ballot sponsored on the campus by the Oklahoma Campus Temperance Association. The poll—originally planned for two or three days—was stopped after the first day with the announcement by the group's state president, Harlan Mendenhall, '37ba, Oklahoma City, that "we have learned what we were interested in finding out. We will spend six weeks during February and March conducting an education campaign. Talks will be scheduled at various times and places on the campus. Speakers will be sent to fraternity and sorority houses." The tabulation of the one day's votes showed 414 students favoring repeal and 66 standing with state prohibition. Tabulation of the ballots showed that fraternity members were wetter than independent students.

J. D. "Dub" Wheeler, '30-'36, first All-American NEA selection, returned to the campus following participation in the East-West game. He announced he would continue work toward a degree and steer clear of professional football. Recently Wheeler was named superintendent of the State Training School for boys at Stringtown.

Lois Haskell Straight, '35Law, Bartlesville attorney, scored the highest average when 27 new lawyers took the bar examination and were admitted to practice in Oklahoma in January 1936. She was the only woman taking the examination.

John Runyan, '31-'37, Oklahoma City, editor of the *Covered Wagon*, was listed as one of the college editors of *College Humor*, national magazine which was revived after being suspended for several years.

too small for the growing library, and he set out to get half a million dollars for the building which we now occupy," Rader recalls.

A year later, in 1929, Dr. Bizzell called Rader to his office and told him he wanted the University to open a school of library science. "You are to be its director," he told Rader. Since the school opened that year, he has schooled hundreds of young men and women in librarianship and helped them in securing employment. It is still the only accredited school of library science in the state.

Rader was born in Missouri but has spent most of his life and all of his professional career in Oklahoma. After receiving his BA degree from the University in 1908, he was named to the post of librarian. He later received the MA degree from O.U. and subsequently studied at Earlham College and the University of Illinois.

"I don't measure the man by his degrees," Rader says. Brushing aside his own academic accomplishments, he comments, "It's what a man can do that counts, not the degrees he holds."

A member of the Oklahoma Library Commission since 1920, he was one of the founders and charter members of the Oklahoma Library Association. Other organizations to which he belongs are the American Library Association, National Geographic Society, Sigma Delta Chi, Sigma Nu and Phi Beta Kappa. He is married to the former Frances Simpson, '10ba, and has one daughter, Virginia Katherine, '36ba, '40ma.

Through the years Jessie Rader has kept up with men just as he has kept up with his books. And when men moved into the air age, he moved right along. He made his first flight, a trip from Dallas to Norman, after a coming out party for his book, *South of Forty*.

"I didn't want to ride home in the summer heat, so I decided to fly back with Joe Coulter, '40ba, University airport manager, in the plane he had flown to Dallas. I questioned my decision when we got into the air and I saw how high up we were." Rader admits he now has no aversion to flying.

His present problem is what to do about getting more space for the library which is filled to stack capacity. "Any library should be built with an eye on the future," he says. "I knew we should have built a larger one while we were at it."

Patterson, Dr. DeBarr Die

Maj. Gen. Robert U. Patterson, first full-time dean of the University Medical School, and Dr. Edwin DeBarr, one of the original four faculty members at O.U., died in December. Their lives represent milestones in the progress of the University.

The only surviving member of the orig-

inal University faculty, Dr. DeBarr, 91, died December 18 in Ellison Infirmary after suffering a heart attack.

During his tenure at the University he organized four of the present schools: pharmacy, chemistry, physics and petroleum engineering. He came to the campus in 1892 along with Dr. David Ross Boyd, first University president.

General Patterson, who served as head of the Medical School from 1935 to 1942, died December 6 in Walter Reed Hospital. He was 73.

He entered the army in 1901 as a first lieutenant assigned to Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Maryland. He became surgeon general of the army in 1931 and served until his retirement when he took the Oklahoma deanship.

Lake Murray Lease Granted

10 Years Ago

University Board of Regents gave final approval of plans for organization of the University of Oklahoma Research Institute—the first of its kind to be established in the southwest. Although a separate corporation, the institute was so constituted that the major portion of its work would be carried out as an integral part of the research and educational program of the Graduate School.

Also in 1941—a 99-year lease on a tract of ground situated on the south shore of Lake Murray, east of Ardmore, was granted the University School of Geology by the Oklahoma State Planning and Resources Board. The tract comprised approximately 300 acres. It was to be developed as a base for instruction and research in the fields of geology, mineralogy, paleontology and geography. The Lake Murray site was chosen because of its situation in the center of one of the most interesting geological areas in the United States.

David R. Milsten, '25ba, '28Law, Tulsa lawyer, was named national president of Sigma Alpha Mu social fraternity. He was the first president in the history of the fraternity to be chosen from a western state. Previous to his election as president, Milsten served as regional adviser, national director and national vice-president of the fraternity.

Four full-time engineering defense training courses were offered at the University during the spring semester of the 1940-41 school year. The courses were approved by the Federal Office of Education as part of the defense program. Courses offered included aeronautical engineering, material inspection and testing, machine design and engineering drawing.

ROTC's . . .

the full four-year course. He, like the cadets in advance training, receives a monthly stipend and assumes the responsibility of serving his country for a period following graduation, in times of national emergency, or at a time the Navy requires his services.

Each summer during a midshipman's four year college course he must take a training cruise. Captain Dalton explains that the Navy tries to assign trainees to different oceans for their summer cruises. The past two years, for example, O.U.'s midshipmen have been assigned to the Pacific Ocean and to a cruise to Panama. Unless the plan is disrupted by emergencies, they will probably be assigned to the Atlantic Ocean this summer. The cruises are of six to eight weeks duration.

To the question concerning a quickening of interest among the midshipmen due to the national emergency, Captain Dalton said, "Yes, I can see several changes. First by the number of "bull sessions" that are conducted. Secondly the men are thinking progressively and are thinking about being prepared to meet responsibility." As in the case of Air ROTC and Army ROTC there have been no changes at the present time in the training program. Again it is a matter of already being set up to meet the present needs.

Captain Dalton thinks that one of the reasons the midshipmen feel the need for the best possible preparation can be found in the visits of naval officers now on duty who have been commissioned here. Their visits provide conclusive proof that the men, now in school, will soon be needing all the training they can get. Commissioned as ensigns, the graduates will probably see active duty much quicker under a national emergency.

At present, Captain Dalton's staff is composed of seven officers and seven enlisted men who train O.U.'s 1/52 of the NROTC program. There are 52 schools conducting the same program as that found at O.U.

An Annapolis graduate of '27, Captain Dalton appears pleased with the results of the training here. So do Colonel Waters and Colonel Moore. As a part of the faculty they are quick to point out that much of the success of their respective programs is attributable to the general support of their fellow faculty members. Yet it is the interest and support of the students that in the end determines the degree of success the programs enjoy. And all of the commanders seem to feel that the students are doing a good job, one that proves the merit of the three training programs.