



Almost ready for occupancy, this structure is the first two units of the Geology and Mineral Industries building which the School of Geology will occupy as its new home in the near future. Ground already has been broken for two additional units of the building.

With nearly 50 years' of service and an international reputation, the School of Geology is readying for a move into new quarters.. It's a

Payoff for Geologists

University of Oklahoma's School of Geology commemorates its 50th year as a separate school or department this year with an established reputation as the leading school of geology in the nation and with a partially completed new building. Employing glittering generalities, it can be said that the School of Geology has had a tremendously successful half-century. The men and women who have contributed their efforts to "nursing and diapering" the school through the years are responsible for the success. And in large measure they are responsible for gaining a high priority for building the new classroom and office structure.

With Geology classes and labs now scattered around the campus as if an unwary hunter had discharged a sawed-off shotgun, the new building will help solve the decentralization problem. Located on the South Oval, the new structure is being constructed in four units which will house the School and the Geological Survey. At pres-

ent, the two units which will house the library and graduate study area plus administrative and faculty offices are complete except for the installation of an elevator, lights and partitions in the basement.

As soon as the construction is completed the two units will be occupied while work on the remaining two units is underway. The last two units will house the Survey and classrooms for freshmen and intermediate level students.

When the building is complete, construction will have cost in the vicinity of \$1,100,000 an outlay which is a far cry from the day 50 years ago when Dr. Charles N. Gould founded a department of Geology here in 1901. With the first classrooms in the Old Science Hall, the Department shared its bed with a number of other schools and departments. Even in 1912 the department was using chiefly the top floor and attic as its headquarters.

All this was to be changed in 1919 when the Geology Building that stands north of

the Union was built. At a cost of some \$90,000, the new structure seemed the answer to the overcrowded conditions of the Old Science Hall. By the time the building was occupied, however, the school had again outgrown its pants and much of the space utilized in the Science Hall had to be retained.

The physical growth of the School to the point where it currently needs the lower floor of the Science Hall, a building on the South Campus, two on the North Campus, two rooms in a temporary frame building on the Main Campus and a room in the engineering building plus the present Geology Building emphasizes the size of the school. It does not indicate the quality of instruction or the sustained growth of the school student-wise.

When the department opened for business in 1901, the classes were spare indeed. No emphasis was placed on the application of college training to the petroleum industry. Graduates could expect a

teaching career or work with state or federal bureaus.

All this changed during the latter part of the first decade when application of geology to the exploration of oil became a recognized principle among oil companies. The school had been founded at a propitious time. The first group of graduates were in an enviable position and out of their numbers came the men who were later to become chief geologists and presidents of corporations.

Each year an increasing number of graduates went into oil work and their success naturally swelled the enrolment of the Department. Prior to U. S. entry into World War I, the faculty had increased to five men—men who were to help raise the prestige of the School to record heights. Included in their number were Dr. Charles E. Decker, Dr. A. J. Williams, Dr. M. G. Mehl, Dr. Irving Perine and Dr. V. E. Monnett.

New ideas in teaching enhanced the position of the Department. O.U. was one of the first universities to offer courses in the direct application of geology to petroleum. An example was a course established with the purpose of studying well samples. Another was a course in the study of well logs. The Department also pioneered in the geological interpretation of aerial photos.

The standard fundamental courses plus the innovation of practical work put the spotlight on O.U., and students from all over the U. S. and foreign countries on the graduate and undergraduate level began to matriculate here. The Geology Department was one of the first at O.U. to offer extensive graduate work, and was among the first to offer the Ph.D. degree.

Shortly after World War I, veterans flocked back to a field that had seen its petroleum supply drop to a record low. From that time until World War II, the period of expansion was maintained on an increasing basis. Maximum enrolment followed the last war when students in graduate or undergraduate work above freshman level was in excess of 800.

The above enrolment figure does not begin to tell the story of how many students were instructed at the same time the 800 were enrolled, since the school serves as a service unit for petroleum and civil engineers and offers some work for chemical engineers and physics majors. In addition freshmen students filling a science requirement in Arts and Sciences skyrocketed the total.

Within the School of Geology there is a paper school. Set up with a separate curriculum and granting a degree but utilizing the faculty and administrative offices of the School is the School of Geological En-



Dr. V. E. Monnett, head of the School of Geology since 1924, believes he holds a national record for length of service as chief of a geology school or department.

gineering. As would be expected the School of Geological Engineering was an outgrowth of the School of Geology. A further outgrowth brought the School of Petroleum Engineering into existence.

Heading the School of Geology is Dr. V. E. Monnett, '12geol, who laughs when you ask him if he is a native Oklahoman. "If you mean by birth, I suppose not," he says. "I was born in Missouri." The implication is clear that he believes that after being affiliated with the University for more than 40 years he could be considered a native.



V. B. Monnett, O.U. graduate and son of Dr. V. E. Monnett, is head of Oklahoma A.&M. department of geology. He and his father form a unique geology team.

Dr. Monnett did geological work in New Mexico and the Dakotas during the summers of his undergraduate days. His experience proved so helpful to him that he pioneered in the establishment of summer field trips for his students in later years. He took graduate work at the University of Michigan and earned a Ph.D. from Cornell in 1922. He continued to gain practical training through the years and returned to the University shortly before World War I as an instructor.

Two years after gaining his Ph.D he was named chairman of the Department of Geology and has served in the same capacity with the title change to chairman of the School of Geology in 1927. Dr. Monnett believes he has served longer as a department or school chairman of a recognized school or department of geology than any present chairman in the U. S.

Dr. Monnett is not the only geologist in the family. His son, V. Brown Monnett, '37geol, helps form what is believed to be the only father and son duo of its type. Both are department or school chairmen. Brown heads the Department of Geology at Oklahoma A.&M.—giving the Monnets the top geology jobs at the states' two leading schools.

Asked about his undergraduate days at O.U., Dr. Monnett recalled that many of the students and faculty members were busy writing the history of the school. He also remembers working his way through school as a partner in a laundry business. His partner was another familiar name, Harry H. Diamond, '12Law, Holdenville, now chairman of the Alumni Development Fund.

Still serving on the faculty of the School are several men who have been familiar figures to hundreds of graduates. Topping the list is Dr. Charles E. Decker, a research professor and international authority on graptolites. He was and is known as Daddy Decker to his students. (In addition to his work on graptolites, he is also an authority on iris.)

Dr. O. F. Evans is another faculty member who has distinguished himself and the School. He's a national authority on shore line features and processes.

Dr. A. J. Williams is probably better known on the campus than any other Geology staffer. For many years he's brushed elbows with freshmen geologists and other freshmen fulfilling their science requirements. As the man in charge of all freshman work for many years, he's outwalked many a younger professor on the field trips that are a requirement of the freshmen courses. All three are still active and are



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performing research and/or teaching in the School.

Dr. Monnett is understandably proud of his faculty. He lists the nationalities and degrees of some of his professors to help indicate the diversity of viewpoints present on things geological. Currently there is a Swiss, a Hungarian and a Chinese professor as well as Ph.D.'s from Cornell, Syracuse, Harvard, Chicago, Michigan, Wisconsin, Northwestern, Columbia and several other leading institutions. Only one member of the staff has his doctor's degree from O.U. To make sure that the student will receive the highest type of practical and academic training, faculty members were chosen who have spent from 3 to 7 years with oil companies. Their teaching has little waste motion.

As a guide to the quality of instruction, an observer would need look no further than a roster of the graduates. The names read like a *Who's Who*, not only of top geologists but of top citizens of the south and midwest.

Names like Ben C. Belt, '10ba, Houston; Laurence Muir, '30bs, '33ms, Enid; Ed McCollough, '24bs, '25ms, Tulsa; E. L. DeGolyer, '11ba, Dallas; Norman Brillhart, '17ba, Madill; Glenn C. Clark, '13ba, Ponca City; W. Harold Hoots, '21bs, Los Angeles; Lynn K. Lee, '25bs, Chicago; Chester A. Reeds, '05bs, New York City; Gentry Kidd, '25bs, Houston, and Grady Laughbaum, '25ba, Gladewater, Texas. These few names are merely a superficial scanning of the graduates' roster. A hundred names could be listed and all would be familiar.

Nor is the field of geology limited to men.

Although the School of Geology has percentage-wise had few women graduates, their success in geology has been something just short of phenomenal. Consider alumnae like Miss Marie Spencer, '28ba, '30ms, Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Mrs. Ellen Posey Bitgood, '28bs, '32ms, Wichita Falls, Texas; Mrs. Dolly Radler Hall, '20ba, '21ms, Tulsa; Miss Virginia Fowler, '45bs, Shreveport, Louisiana; Mrs. Louise Houssiere Herrington, '40bs, Houston, and Mrs. Mary Wood Massie, '28ba, Dallas, and you can see why Dr. Monnett is proud of his women graduates.

Professional or School societies help provide an out-of-class meeting place for geology students to get a share of their informal education. Founded in 1903, the Pick and Hammer Club is the granddaddy of all geology clubs. On a small bronze plaque just outside the door of Dr. Monnett's office, a citation reads: Dedicated to the founders of the Pick and Hammer Club (and then follows the charter members with years, degrees and addresses added by the reporter), Ralph Sherwin, '03ba, Listerhill, Alabama; Rose Catlett (Edwards), '08ba, deceased; John Merkle, '06ba, Norman; Dr. Julian Field, '03, Enid; Charles T. Kirk, '04bs, '05ma, deceased; Mrs. Minnie Gould (Hefley), '03ba, Norman; Charles A. Long, '05bs, Goiania, E. Goiaz, Brazil; Willard Gorton, '03ba, deceased, and William H. Low, '06ba, deceased. In a prominent position is the name of the founder, Charles N. Gould. The Pick and Hammer includes in its membership any student or person interested in geology who indicates his desire to belong.



Dr. A. J. Williams has brushed shoulders with freshmen geologists for many years. In charge of freshmen field trips, he has outwalked younger geology professors.



Dr. O. F. Evans, Geology faculty member has distinguished himself and the school as a shore line process authority.

Two other organizations, both on a national level, select their membership on scholarship. Sigma Gamma Epsilon, national professional fraternity for geologists, picks its members from men of junior rank or above who are in the upper-third of their class. Chi Upsilon is a national women's professional fraternity in geology. It is organized on the campus as a corresponding group.

These then are some of the men and women who have set the precedent for excellence in performance and the traditions of a School that will be moving into the new Geology Building which will be named after the founder of the Department, Charles N. Gould. It is interesting to note that the new structure should meet the requirements of a proud School. Space will still be a problem but the building has been gently and lovingly planned for most other exigencies.

Let's move inside the two completed wings for a look around. On the top floor of the four-floor building, the mineralogy division will hold forth. Moving down one flight of stairs we come to the paleontology division. Again moving downward we find the library and its reading and stack rooms, classrooms and general offices.

There is a special plan for the placement of labs and class rooms. The labs will all be on the upper floor so a dismissal of classes downstairs will not interrupt them. The classrooms are located as near the front entrance as possible in an attempt to curtail between class confusion.

On the ground floor the graduate stu-

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dents will have their small offices for study and research.

The entire building has been built with an eye to natural lighting and to fireproofing. Another interesting innovation is the small office for each of the faculty members with a private research room opening off each one.

In the near future the first two wings will be occupied. The School that started as a department in the Old Science Hall has come a long way. It is obviously proud of its accomplishments, yet not so proud as to rest on its record. When the Fall semester begins, the School will start the second half-century. There is every reason to believe that its students will carry on the tradition of success as geologists and citizens that the students of the first half have set for them.

Job Opportunities

(As a service to the alumni, the *Sooner Magazine* is offering a list of job openings. The positions have been reported to the *Sooner* by University deans and department chairman through the co-operation and direction of Frank A. Ives, director of the University Employment Service. Because of deadline problems, some of the jobs may have been filled before this magazine is in alumni hands.)

1. A Wisconsin paper manufacturer has an opening for an Engineer or chemist with a minimum of at least three years experience in boiler water treatment, and who has a knowledge of the causes and prevention of corrosion. Salary, \$400 to \$500 per month.

Ford Motor Company is seeking the following experienced graduates for its Chicago Pratt and Whitney Engine Plant:

2 (a). Mechanical engineers with five years experience in aircraft or automotive engines for project engineer assignments.

2 (b). Design analyst with mechanical engineering degree and at least two years experience with automotive or aircraft engines.

2 (c). Electrical engineering supervisor with four years experience in engine instrumentation.

2 (d). Drafting supervisor with six years of experience in engine drafting or layout.

2 (e). Drafting Checker, Auto Detail Draftsman, and Layout Draftsman.

3. The Texas branch of Eastman Kodak Company has an opening for a mechanical engineer and a civil engineer with three to six years of experience.

All inquiries should be sent to the *Sooner Magazine* with accompanying information to make the particular position desired easily identifiable.