

SOONER MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED EVERY MONTH BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

Sooner Staff Members: David A. Burr, '50, Editor; Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37Law, Managing Editor; John Wagoner, '51, Feature Editor; Helen J. O'Dell, '52, Roll Call and News 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.

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The Cover

With his foot resting on the spade that's to turn the first dirt on the new Norman-Oklahoma City highway, Gov. Johnston Murray talks with State Senator Joe Smalley, '34ba, '37Law, Norman; D. H. Grisso, '30geol, Alumni Association president, Norman, and State Highway Commissioner Joe Curtis, '20ba, '22Law, Pauls Valley, at the recent ground breaking ceremonies held on the North Campus.

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On The Sooner Scene

By Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37Law

Will Rogers had a way of understanding human nature and was an effective interpreter of ideas. In one place he wrote these words: "Course we are all just a-hangin' on here as long as we can. I don't know why we hate to go, we know it's better there. May be it's because we haven't done anything that will live after we are gone."

Of course, Will Rogers did many things that live after him. Numerous monuments have been built in his memory. His life is the story of kindness and optimism. In order that the goodness of such a man would be continued, the Will Rogers Memorial Commission established the Will Rogers Scholarship fund at the University years ago. This fund is to provide loans and gifts



Trustees of the O.U. Foundation met April 13 for a business session. Interrupted in the Memorial Union hallway for a picture were T. Howard McCasland, '16ba, Duncan; Ward Merrick, Ardmore, Board president; Grady Harris, '18, Alex (not a trustee); D. H. Grisso, '30geol, Alumni president, and Fred Tarman, '10ba, both of Norman.

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

Officers: D. H. Grisso, Norman, President; Boyd Gunning, Executive Secretary; Dr. Dan Procter, vice president; Joe Curtis, Pauls Valley, Immediate Past President.

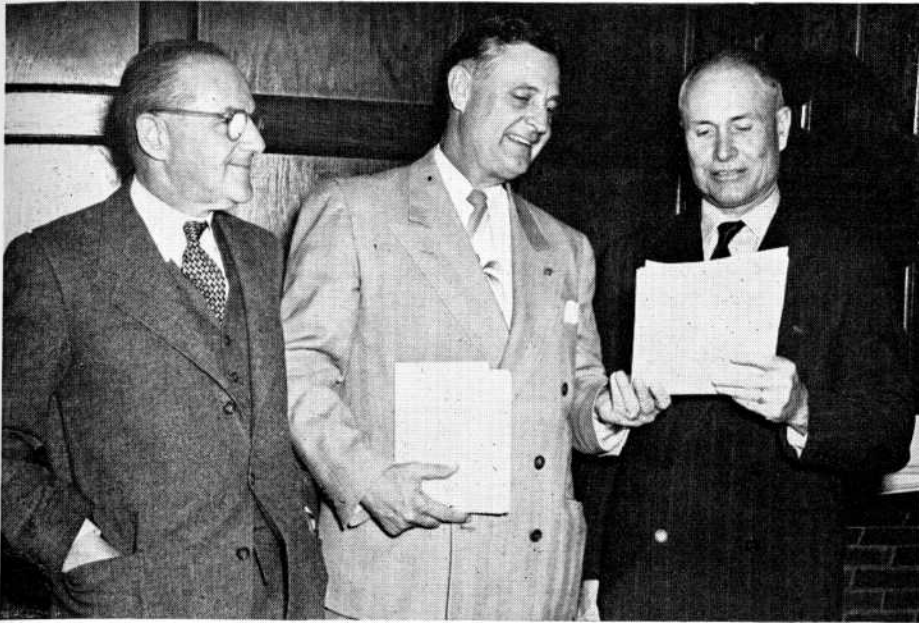
Executive Board Members: Dr. Dan Procter, Chickasha; Granville Norris, Muskogee; Richard Virtue, Oklahoma City; George D. Hann, Ardmore; Bruce Carter, Miami; Roy Grantham, Ponca City. Judge Bob Howell, Holdenville—all members-at-large.

Judge Royce Savage, Tulsa, District I; James R. Frazier, Okmulgee, District II; Tom Finney, Idabel, District III; Dudley Culp, Wewoka, District IV; Dr. Ralph Morton, Sulphur, District V; Ralph Enix, Kingfisher, District VI; David Gish, Frederick, District VII; Ed Fleming, Enid, District VIII.

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

1949-50 Representatives on the O.U. Athletic Council: Granville T. Norris, Muskogee; Paul Reed, Sulphur; Mart Brown, Oklahoma City.

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Apparently approving the Foundation business at hand are Foundation trustees Walter Neustadt, Ardmore; J. Phil Burns, '27ba, Oklahoma City (not a trustee), and J. Dawson Houk, '14ba, '14bs, '21Law, Fairview, at the April 13th meeting.

to students who are physically handicapped or teachers training to work with such students.

There are nearly fifty endowment funds at the University today, and they are growing in importance as the need for them grows.

These funds established in a carefully managed Foundation, such as the University of Oklahoma Foundation, come nearer to being something "which will live after we are gone" than any instrument previously devised by man.

Though many of the recently organized Foundations have received a lot of publicity because of their size and good work, this is certainly far from being a new idea. The first foundation of which we have any record was established by Plato at the Academy at Athens in about the year 387 B. C., for the pursuit of philosophical and scientific research. This foundation flourished for 800 years, until the Roman Emperor Justinian closed the schools of Greece and confiscated their endowments. The great library at Alexandria was endowed for 500 years, until it was consumed by flames. There are records of many endowments formed to further the purposes of the Christian Church in its early years.

The old foundation idea expanding along broad humanitarian lines has opened new vistas of service and research for mankind. The work done by the American foundations has immortalized the names of Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, Henry Ford—all farsighted men.

Under the educational foundation plan, you need not be a Ford or a Carnegie to play a real part in joining with others of like purpose to endow the future of the

University of your choice. More than 500 universities and colleges now have such foundations. The benefits of these programs range from providing a \$2.50 medal for an outstanding student to the construction of a several million dollar building. You also find programs in research, public service programs, endowment of professorships, and all types of aids for students.

It might surprise some to know that many of the most successful educational foundations are located in the State Universities. The Universities of Texas, California, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, and many others have endowments running into millions of dollars. This development is no accident. It is rather the result of careful study of the opportunities for service which these great universities can never hope to fulfill relying on state funds alone. The first responsibility of these institutions is, and must be, to do the best possible job of teaching those young people who attend them as regular students. But even this job cannot be adequately done unless there is also an opportunity for highly specialized research by both the faculty and advanced students. To do less is to waste the skills and to lose the interest of some of our best men. Nearly every important scientific discovery made in this country in recent years, came from research financed by private money.

Incidentally, this is one phase of American life for which Russia has no answer. This is directly opposed to the communist claims about democracy, and a point on which communism has absolutely nothing to offer.

The alumni and friends of the University of Oklahoma have already recognized the

need for private endowments. Cash endowments at the University are already well over the one-half million mark, and endowments in land and other real property is approximately six millions.

The University of Oklahoma Foundation, with an independent board of trustees, is organized to receive gifts and bequests for the University. The chairman of this board is Ward S. Merrick of Ardmore. Members include Neil Johnson, '15ba, '17 Law, first vice-chairman; T. Howard McCasland, '16ba, Duncan, second vice-chairman; Norman W. Brillhart, '17ba, Madill; Errett Newby, '07mus, '08ba, Oklahoma City; C. A. Vose, Oklahoma City; Fred E. Tarman, '10ba, Norman; Dawson Houk, '14ba, '14bs, '21Law, Fairview; Walter Neustadt, Ardmore; George Ade Davis, Oklahoma City; Tom R. Phillips, Holdenville; Henry B. Bass, Enid; D. H. Grisso, '30geol, Norman, and President G. L. Cross, Norman.

The foundation provides a means by which the friends and alumni of the University can invest in the future by participating in the enterprise of building sound character in young people, and by shaping the future of humanity through education and research.

It is a means of perpetuating the usefulness of money or property that might otherwise become dissipated without accomplishing any lasting good. It gives you the opportunity of sharing in the most enduring, the most satisfying and the most exciting enterprise on earth.



Neil R. Johnson, '15ba, '17Law, Norman, and George A. Davis, Oklahoma City, both Foundation trustees, attended the April 13th get together of the board.