

# They Gave 235 Years of Service

That's the amazing record established by the seven professors whose retirement was announced recently by University of Oklahoma Officials

By Richard L. Disney, '37ba

Representing more than two centuries of devotion to Oklahoma students, seven University of Oklahoma faculty members received special tribute from O.U. officials as their retirement was announced in late May.

A total of 235 years of service with the University is added up by:

Dr. Charles E. Decker, research professor emeritus of paleontology.

Dr. John B. Cheadle, David Ross Boyd professor of law, legal adviser to President Cross.

Dr. A. J. Williams, professor of geology.

Dr. Oren F. Evans, professor of geology.

Dr. Sandford M. Salyer, professor of English.

Dr. Nathan A. Court, professor of mathematics.

Margaret J. Moore, assistant professor of modern languages.

"No one ever can measure the vast contributions these teachers have made to a better Oklahoma," said President George L. Cross as he announced that they will retire this summer. "As teachers of young people, as leaders in research, and as donors of thousands of 'extra-curricular' hours in direct service to Oklahoma and Oklahomans, they have exerted influences that will extend into the far future."

Oldest member of the retiring group, in point of service, is Dr. Cheadle. This "elder statesman" of the campus joined O.U. in 1909 as one of the two original members of the Law School faculty. He is completing 42 years of University service.

Born in Ohio, Dr. Cheadle lived as a youth on a ranch in Southwestern Kansas. He received an AB degree from the University of Kansas in 1898; LLB, Kansas, 1902; JD, University of Chicago, 1916, and SJD, Harvard University, 1916.

He was superintendent of schools at Pleasanton, Kansas, 1898-1900, and from 1903 to 1908, practiced law at Altus.

The widely-known "lawyer's lawyer" is author of a casebook on Indian land law, and joint author of another book, *No More Unemployment*, as well as articles in leading journals. A member of the American Bar Association, he has served on a number of its committees. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Order of Coif, Phi Delta



DR. JOHN B. CHEADLE  
... Law

Phi, the Oklahoma Bar Association, the Association of American Law Schools, the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

While chairman of the Norman Chamber of Commerce Civic Committee, Dr. Cheadle prepared the petition for election under which the city's commission form of government was adopted.



DR. CHARLES E. DECKER  
... Geology

Dr. Decker, internationally-known paleontologist, particularly for his research with graptolites, is completing 35 years on the faculty.

Thirty-eight years old when he got his AB degree from Northwestern University in 1906, he went on to win an AM degree, University of Chicago, 1908, and Ph. D., Chicago, 1917. In 1935, Oklahoma City University awarded him an honorary Sc. D. degree.

Going into delayed university study after managing his family farm near Dixon, Illinois, he thought of entering the ministry. He became interested in geology while in school, and before coming to Norman, taught biology and geology at Allegheny College.

Present at the organization meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Dr. Decker was its secretary-treasurer from 1919-1925, and in 1927 became one of its first honorary life members. He was grand secretary-treasurer of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, national geology fraternity, from 1918 to 1924, and grand president 1924-1932—longest period of office in the history of that organization. He has been president of the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, president of the Oklahoma Academy of Science, a fellow of the Geological Society of America, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a member of Sigma Xi and Phi Sigma.

Known to students as "Daddy" Decker, the veteran geologist also is an outstanding authority on iris culture. He has developed many new varieties and is an accredited judge of the American Iris Society. He is an active member of McFarlin Memorial Methodist Church.

Dr. Williams, like Dr. Decker, joined the University teaching staff in 1916, and is completing 35 years of service. Born in Albany, Wisconsin, he received his BS degree from the University of Chicago in 1912; MS, University of Iowa, 1914, and Ph. D., Iowa, 1923. Until late in his college career, his major study was physics.

Throughout his teaching career, Dr. Williams has maintained a close, friendly relationship with students. Thousands of



**DR. A. J. WILLIAMS**  
... Geology

freshmen have turned to him as an official adviser and counselor, even before they had major-subject advisers. For many years he has handled the difficult task of co-ordinating and correlating laboratory and field instruction in elementary geology courses.

It is Dr. Williams who has built up the School of Geology's display materials and collections.

He is author of two laboratory manuals in beginning geology, and a number of scientific papers. He is member of Sigma Xi, Sigma Gamma Epsilon and the Oklahoma Academy of Science.

Dr. Court, pioneer teacher of college geometry and an international authority on synthetic geometry, began 35 years of service at O.U. in 1916. A native of Poland, he received his M. A. degree at the University of Ghent (Belgium) in 1909 and Sc. D. 1911. Coming to the United States, he was an instructor at Columbia

**DR. NATHAN A. COURT**  
... Mathematics



University, the University of Washington and the University of Colorado, then moved to O.U.

Dr. Court was author of the first textbook on *College Geometry*, developed from courses taught. The idea of a sequel course to high school geometry quickly was adopted by other schools. Dr. Court also was collaborator on a *Source Book in Mathematics* and author of *Modern Pure Solid Geometry*, as well as a long list of scholarly articles. An enthusiastic teacher, he also is an indefatigable student of mathematics, constantly working on new problems and developing new theorems.

The mathematician is a member of the board of governors, Mathematical Association of America, and former vice-president of the organization. He has been a member of the reviewing staff of *Mathematical Reviews* since it was founded in 1939, associate editor, *American Mathematics Magazine* and co-editor of the problem department, *National Mathematics Magazine*. He is a member of Sigma Xi, the Belgian Mathematical Society, a fellow of the Oklahoma Academy of Science, and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Born in Michigan, Dr. Evans, who began teaching in public schools "when by modern standards I should have still been in high school," began his University work in 1920. He is completing 31 years of service. He is nationally known for his research on shore processes.

Dr. Evans received a diploma and life teaching certificate from Michigan State Normal College. In 1910 he received an AB degree from Albion College; M. A., University of Michigan, 1920, and Ph. D., Michigan, 1939. His work before coming to O.U. included teaching in Michigan public schools; instructor, Adrian College; superintendent of schools at Casnovia, Michigan, and then Thompsonville, Michigan; teaching at Kalamazoo (Michigan) Highschool and then the State Normal School, San Diego, California, and Albion College. He also worked in industry—with the Sheffield Car Company, as an engineer and surveyor.

Dr. Evans is author of "Elementary Meteorology" and many technical and semi-popular articles. Deciding to study the problem of scientific writing seriously a few years ago, he took the University's courses in professional writing.

In addition to his teaching and research, the geologist is an active outdoor man, interested in archery, rifle marksmanship, tennis, boating and other sports. He is a member of Sigma Xi, the American Meteorological Society, Sigma Gamma Epsilon, the Oklahoma Academy of Science



**DR. OREN F. EVANS**  
... Geology

and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Salyer was a member of the University's faculty from 1917 to 1922, then returned again in 1927. He is completing 29 years at O.U.

He is author of *Marmee: The Mother of Little Women*, a book which went into three editions shortly after its publication in 1949 by the University of Oklahoma Press. The book received wide attention and James Hilton directed a radio dramatization on a nationwide network. His research for the book was aided by a Rockefeller Foundation fellowship.

Dr. Salyer now is working on another book, a biography of Mrs. John Hancock.

Born in New York, the professor of English received his B. A. degree in 1904 from Amherst College; M. A., Harvard

**DR. SANFORD M. SALYER**  
... English



University, 1914, and Ph. D., Harvard, 1921.

Before coming to O.U., Dr. Salyer taught at the University of Georgia, where he played an active part in success of *The Georgian* which for years was known as one of the country's best college-sponsored literary magazines. He also taught at the University of Minnesota. In the interval from 1922-27, he headed the English Department at Sweet Briar College, then at Agnes Scott College, and taught at Duke University.

He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the Modern Language Association of America and the Association of University Professors.

**M**rs. Moore joined O.U.'s faculty in 1923. She has nearly 28 years of service with the University.

Born in Kaufman, Texas, she attended elementary and high school at Norristown, Tennessee. She received a B. A. degree from Martha Washington College, Abingdon, Virginia, in 1902; B. A., University of Oklahoma, 1920, and M. A. Oklahoma, 1925. She also studied extensively at the University of Mexico.

Before joining the University faculty, Mrs. Moore had taught at Evansville and Morristown, Tennessee; Waycross, Georgia; and in Oklahoma schools at Perry, Lawton, Yale, Okemah and Henryetta.

Her research has included studies of ancient Mexican culture, and investigation of Mayan legends of creation and their different versions in the prophetic books of Ancient Mexico, Chilam, Baiam and Popul Vuh.

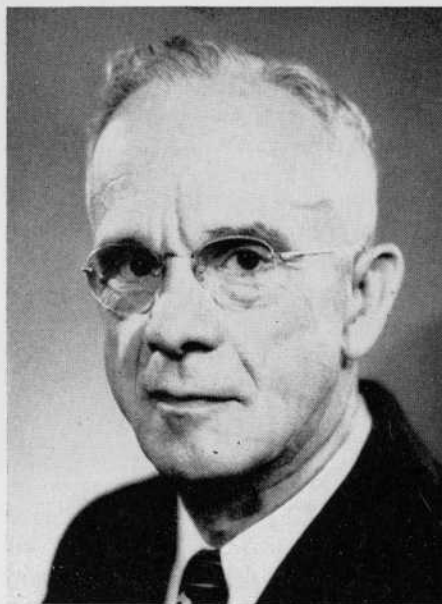
As a teacher Mrs. Moore has been par-



**MARGARET J. MOORE**  
... Modern Languages

ticularly interested in helping students learn the Spanish language so they can use it as quickly as possible. She was an early promoter and teacher of University courses in commercial Spanish.

She has been president and vice president of Kappa Gamma Epsilon, O. U. honorary modern language fraternity; member of Las Dos Americas, Spanish club; American Association of Teachers of Spanish, American Association of University Professors and American Association of University Women.



**DR. HARVEY C. HANSEN**  
... In Line of Duty

### Extension Leader Dies

**Dr. Harvey C. Hansen**, '28m.ed., '35d.ed., extension specialist in evaluation and testing at the University, died May 9 while giving a final examination to highschool teachers at Frederick.

Apparently suffering a cerebral hemorrhage, efforts by the Frederick fire department failed to revive him.

Hansen had been a member of the University staff since 1938 and was well known throughout the state because of his work with the Extension Division.

Joining the O.U. faculty as instructor in sociology, Hansen was named director of the extension service in 1947 and also served as consultant for the National Educational Testing service. In addition to his O.U. degrees, Hansen held degrees from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Normal School and Jamestown College.

He had held teaching positions at elementary schools in Minnesota, Arkansas and Oklahoma before coming to Norman. He was dean of the College of the Ozarks for three years from 1935-38.

### Briefs . . .

**Carl M. Franklin**, executive vice presi-

dent of the University, has returned to the University after a leave of absence at Yale where he completed residence requirements for a doctor of juristic science degree.

Franklin, whose leave started last October 1, studied under a Sterling fellowship in the field of international law. Next fall he will teach a course in international law. Recently, he was named chairman of the committee on International Law of the Association of American Law Schools.

**Dr. John E. Fellows**, dean of admissions and registrar, has been elected president of the American Association of College Registrars and Admission Officers. He was named new president of the organization, which includes representatives of more than 1,600 institutions of higher learning, at its annual convention in Houston.

**Col. Jerome J. Waters**, recently retired ROTC commandant at the University, was appointed warden of the state penitentiary in McAlester by Gov. Johnston Murray. Waters took office in June. He was retired from active duty with the army as a brigadier general previous to taking the post.

**Walter Kraft**, director of the physical plant, and the University's faculty representative to the Big Seven Athletic Conference, has been elected chairman of the Association of Big Seven faculty representatives for the 1951-52 school year.

**Earl Sneed, Jr.**, '34ba, '37Law, dean of the law school, was elected president of the Alpha of Oklahoma chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at a recent meeting. He was vice president during the past year.



**Kenneth Harris**, '39ba, '49Law, recently resigned his position as senior public relations assistant at the University of Oklahoma to become executive secretary of the Oklahoma Bar Association.