

Kent Shartel Dies. Widely known as one of Oklahoma City's most successful corporation lawyers, Kent Shartel died February 21. He had suffered a heart attack two days before.

Although he was best known to the Oklahoma City public as attorney for the City Bus Co., that firm actually occupied a minor rating among the corporations he represented.

After injuring his leg in an auto accident in 1935, Shartel always walked with a cane. Bankers, builders and oilmen kept his office full. One oil man who became governor, Roy J. Turner, appointed him to membership on the Board of Regents of the University in 1949.

An expert on rate issues, he frequently appeared before rate-making bodies and guided them through mazes of complicated figures that he retained from memory. In hearings, oldtimers who knew Shartel's father, John Shartel, founder of the Oklahoma Railway Co., saw in him the same piercing quality of his eyes which not only found the law in books, but was effective in getting straight forward answers from witnesses and clients.

The death of the 61-year-old attorney came as a distinct shock to fellow lawyers throughout Oklahoma, and to the University Regents and president.

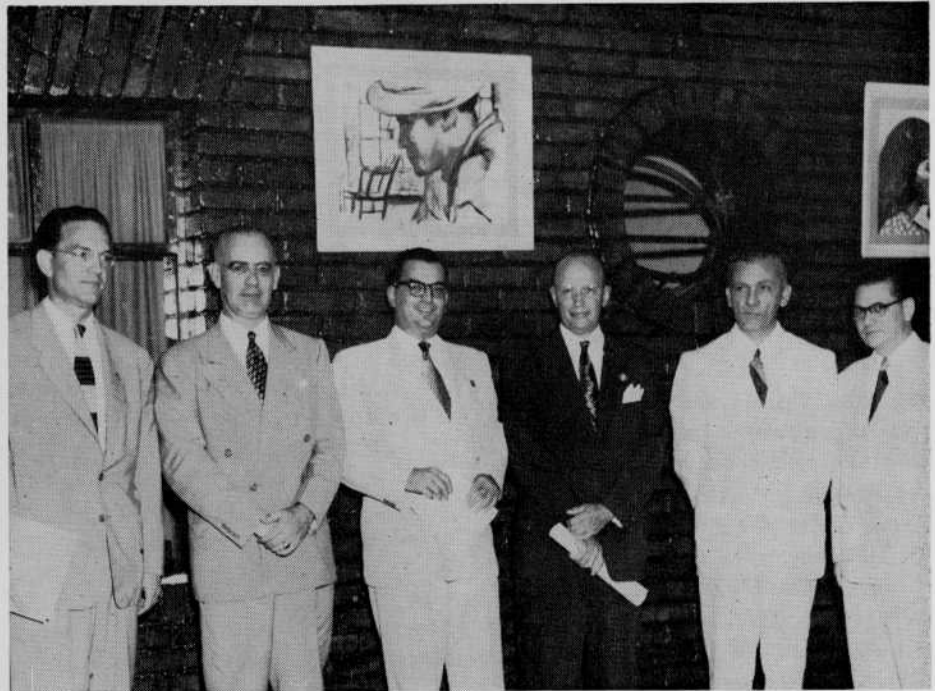
O. U.'s Foreign Students

Like most seniors graduating from college this year, red-headed Kamal Kharemani has more to worry about than finding a job. A 25-year-old petroleum engineering student, he has to cope with things military when he receives his degree next August. He is a member of the Iranian Air Force reserve, and his government will have its say on the question as to whether he will continue as a graduate student at O. U. or will pilot a plane for his nation.

Kamal's future is uncertain. The futures of several of the 75 foreign students enrolled in the College of Engineering are just as uncertain in a world suddenly made smaller by air power, the atom bomb and dealers in dialectical materialism. The futures of other foreign students are more certain: civilian jobs await them in their home countries or in the United States.

Whatever the coming years hold for these young engineers, they are being equipped to do a job. Theirs is the technical know-how which will help to power the

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When Dean Carson visited South America last year he met many former students. Here he is shown with five of the first Venezuelan students to attend O.U. Left to right are Dr. Raymundo Molina, '36bs, Public Relations Division Creole Petroleum Corp.; Dr. J. A. Delgado Figueredo, '35bs, Engineer, Division of Mines; Dr. Santiago E. Vera, '39bs, Minister of Mines and Hydrocarbons; Dean Carson; Dr. Jose Monsalve, '33bs, Technical Inspector, Ministry of Mines and Hydrocarbons; and Dr. Edmundo Cabello, Director of Economics of Petroleum, Ministry of Mines and Hydrocarbons.

O. U.'s Colorful Engine Dean Finds Official Globetrotting a Pleasure

During the past twelve months, W. H. Carson, Dean of the College of Engineering, has left the shores of this country on two occasions. In April, 1951, he went to Havana, Cuba to attend the Constitutional Convention of the Pan American Union of Engineering Societies as an official delegate from the United States of America. The second trip of the year was to Venezuela, where the Dean and Mrs. Carson were honor guests of the Venezuelan Government to the first National Petroleum Convention.

For Carson, a recognized good will ambassador, this was the third trip to Venezuela; the last was in 1949.

"I've never seen such a tremendous change in a country and particularly in the City of Caracas, all really within the last two years," Carson said.

"For one thing," he explained, "a large section of the old town of Caracas is being demolished to make way for new government buildings atop two levels of underground parking area. An express highway, six lanes wide, is being built through the

city, and in the old residential sections, typical of Spanish towns, new apartment, office and bank buildings are being constructed, all of modern simplicity in design."

"Also," Carson said, "modern waterworks and sewer systems and water treating plants are being installed throughout the country."

And in all this development, Carsons believes Oklahoma and the University can take some special pride. The progress is made possible through oil development, and in the oil industry in Venezuela are many graduates of O. U., including both South and North Americans. Also, an O. U. Electrical Engineering graduate is chief technical advisor for that part of public work relative to the electrification of the country. O. U. Civil Engineers are contributing to the road building program.

While the Carsons were in Caracas, Dr. Santiago Vera, '39p. eng, an imminent O. U. graduate who is Minister of Mines and Petroleum for the country, sponsored

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Switchboard Operator . . .

talking point now is stories about each other's grandchildren.

All the physical plant people got together upon the occasion of the president's open house last fall. Mrs. Cross invited every one who had anything to do with remodeling the house. Possessed of an unusual voice herself, she assured Mrs. McNatt that the party would not be complete without her.

Letters accumulated over the years show that other high ranking University people appreciate Mrs. McNatt's courteous manner and helpfulness. Hugh McDermott, '20ba, coach of the "Boy Scats" cited her for meritorious duty in 1938.

W. H. Carson, engineering college dean, commended her for "the excellent manner in which she took care of the numerous long distance calls which came in during the Southwestern Gas Measurement Short Course in 1950."

Thurman White, '40ma, extension service dean, in writing to Mr. Kraft about her stated, "As long as we have McNatt, you can have the dials."

Every Christmas, her mail is loaded with cards from her "telephone friends." The

late Dr. Alma J. Neill never forgot to send her a card.

One of her treasured letters is written in a boyish scrawl and signed "Graham B." (Johnson) whose tragic at Christmas last year grieved the entire campus.

But the one which brings sparkles to her eyes, over the tears underneath, says this, "I don't believe I'd be bragging too much when I say I've got two of the best people for Mom and Dad that anyone ever had."

"If I have any regrets," said this woman who never forgets a voice, "It's that I did not get to see Jimmy play in every basketball game in his life."

Another Was Outstanding . . .

accomplishments while at the University. He passed the state bar exam in 1942 with only two years of law school behind him. He made the second highest score in his law class. He was also elected to Phi Beta Kappa while a college junior.

Oklahoma City's outstanding young man is a vestryman of St. Paul's Episcopal church and is a delegate to the church's state convention.

Pearson Is Dead

Prominent Alumnus Dies. An active

member of the Alumni Association and friend of the University died last December.

John R. Pearson, '29ba, '29Law, Pawhuska attorney was preparing for a trip to Tulsa to meet his two sons, John and James, both students at Amherst College. Resting before the trip, when he arose he was stricken with a heart attack and died.

Pearson was a member of Beta Theta Phi and Phi Delta Phi at the University. In 1950 Pearson was listed in "Who's Who in the South and Southwest." He was active in Boy Scout work, a member of the county draft board at the time of his death; had served as president of the Rotary Club; president of the Osage County Bar Association, and had been active in Republican political activities in his area.

Foreign Students . . .

gears of industry in their home nations whether it be a war or peace economy to which they return.

Africa, Asia, South America, Canada . . . these are the places from which they come. They are all studying engineering, but each has his own story, his own reason for selecting the University, his self-styled ideals and hopes for the future.

Listen to Kamal, the Iranian, who

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lapses into a heavy accent as he speaks grammatical English . . .

"My father was chief of the Iranian Air Force before he died in a crash during a flight from Iran to North Africa. My country fights so that it may make progress . . . If my government calls me, I will return.

"There are few Iranian citizens who are oil technicians. That's why I selected petroleum engineering for a career—It's a fresh, new field, and my country needs engineers."

Kamal began his engineering schooling

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at the University of Iran, but when the curriculum was discontinued after his first year there, he came to the United States. First he studied at UCLA, then at Fresno State College, California. At Fresno, Dr. Arnold Joyal, president of the school and former O. U. professor of education, suggested that he come to O. U. to continue his petroleum engineering study. The suggestion was followed, and Kamal will receive his degree next August.

Unlike Kamal, Rene Najera, a suave, soft-spoken Bolivian, knows where he will spend the next several years. His four years of mechanical engineering training at the University have been financed by the Bolivian National Oil Company. His scholarship requires that he return home to Cochabamba—a Spanish word which rolls readily from his tongue—to work for the number of years for which the stipend was granted.

Handsome 26-year-old Rene will receive his degree in June. Then he will leave O. U., the school which he selected from three possible choices offered by the Bolivian scholarship. The choice was a shot in the dark. But he expresses no regret.

Norman Draper, a ruddy-faced Canadian, is going home to Canada when he receives a degree in electrical engineering in June. Home for the 21-year-old Cana-

dian is Calgary, where he has a job with Shell Oil Company. He came to O. U. when his uncle, S. R. Tompkins, history professor at the University, suggested that he enrol. He studied one year in Calgary before coming to Oklahoma.

Istani Moussa, whose home, Cairo, Egypt, is another current international hot spot, plans to ferret out a job in the United States when he graduates in June. A chemical engineering student, he studied one

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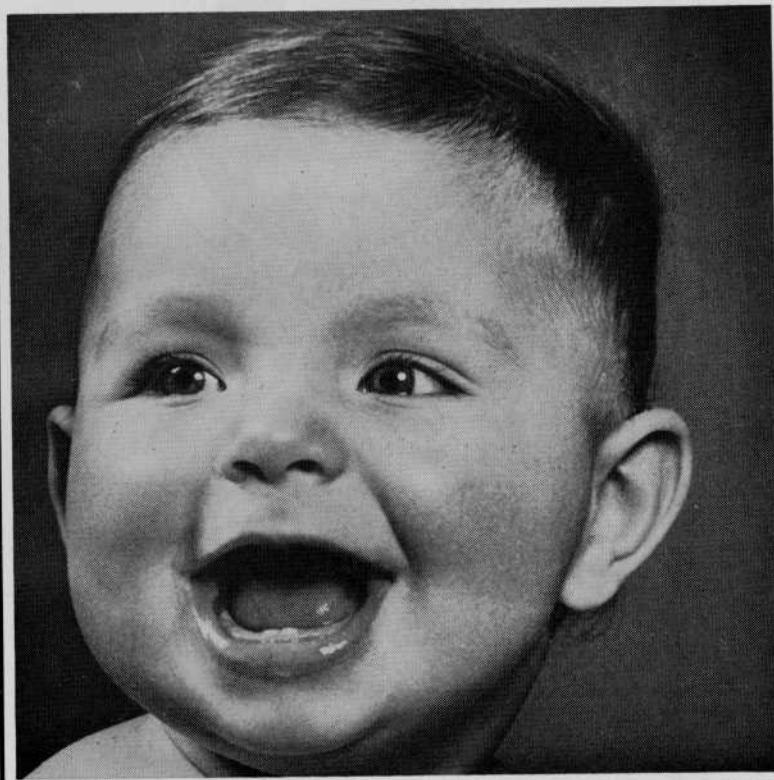


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year at the American University in Cairo before coming to the United States. All of his college work in this country has been at O. U. with the exception of two summers at the University of California.

Istani, like Kamal, the Iranian, selected his field because it is a relatively new type of work in his home country. After working for a time in the United States, he plans to return to Egypt.

These are vignettes of four foreign students; they are not typical. They can in no sense be typical, because each is a person, a person with his own ideas, his own brand of ambition.

Africa, Asia, South America, Canada . . . these are the places from which they come. Canada is represented by 38, Egypt 1, Iran 1, Iraq 1, Palestine 1, Trans Jordan 1, Turkey 1, Mexico 2, Honduras 1, Panama 1, Argentina 1, Bolivia 4, Brazil 2, Columbia 5, Peru 2, Venezuela 3, Hawaii 7, Puerto Rico 3.

They study many types of engineering: 39 are in architecture, 8 in civil engineering, 7 in geological engineering, 5 in mechanical engineering, 4 in architectural engineering, 3 in electrical engineering, 1 in chemical engineering, 1 in engineering physics, and 1 in natural gas engineering.

Add it up: the total is 75.

Should Business Help . . .

for new knowledge in many different directions. It is only in such places that major work in fundamental research can be carried on. And it is important to remember that it was fundamental research (exploration for knowledge rather than trying to solve a practical problem) that led to the radio industry, to the atom bomb, to penicillin—and to most of the other scientific achievements now shaping our destiny.

Will the educational institutions of Oklahoma continue to “get by” with modest budgets that put a ceiling on quality of the faculty, that limit fundamental research to a few inexpensive projects, that restrict the public services seriously needed for the development of the state’s economic and human resources?

Are the big businesses of Oklahoma interested enough in the college graduates they are going to hire to take a real interest in the kind of education those future executives receive?

Unless the money comes from somewhere—larger tax revenues, higher student fees, or substantial support from private sources such as business and industry—Oklahoma will continue to see much of its greatest resource, the cream of its brightest young people, exported to eastern and northern universities to prepare themselves for careers somewhere else than in Oklahoma.