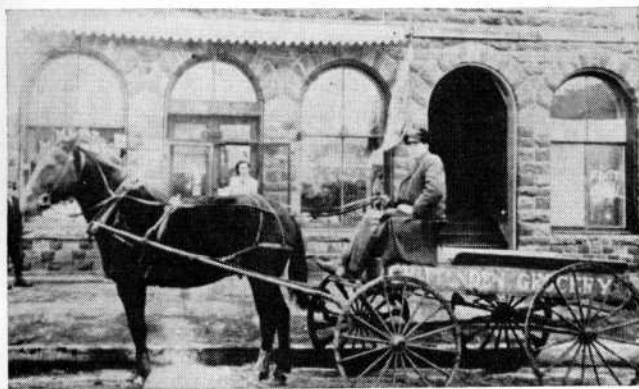


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No Longer Painfully Bashful . . .



NEWLY COMPLETED HOME of the School of Home Economics provides an interesting comparison with the building that first housed the University of Oklahoma. As temporary quarters, the second floor of the building at left served as the first classroom. Much has been accomplished by the University of Oklahoma in 60 years.



. . . A sketch of O.U.'s first 60 years

BY CARL MASON FRANKLIN
Executive Vice President

(From his August 4 Commencement Address)

“ . . . The theme of my brief remarks this evening is “Sixty Years of Service.” Tonight we are participating in the last commencement of the first sixty years of the University of Oklahoma, and it seems most fitting for us to reflect a moment on the contribution which the University has made to the people of the great state of Oklahoma, to the southwest, to the nation, and to the world, during that period. Time will not permit us to make a complete inventory. However, a hurried check of records in the alumni office reveals the following: approximately 42,000 students have been graduated from the University during the sixty year period. An additional 95,000 have been enrolled as students even though they did not complete all requirements for graduation. Thus, the University of Oklahoma family of alumni and former students numbers about 137,000.

In every field of human endeavor, graduates of this Institution have held, and now hold, positions of high responsibility. In the field of government our graduates command the following titles: Ambassador to Turkey; Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission; member of the Civil Aeronautics Board; three United States senators, including both senators

from Oklahoma and the senate majority leader who is a senator from Arizona; numerous Congressmen from Oklahoma and other states.

In the field of Education, several college presidents in and out of the state hold degrees from O.U. The Chancellor of the State Regents for Higher Education is an alumnus, as is the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. In every one of the 77 counties one finds elementary and secondary schools staffed by teachers and administrators who have received all or part of their university education here. Twenty-two Rhodes Scholars to Oxford University are graduates of O.U.

In Journalism alumni and former students of the University of Oklahoma hold many high positions, including fifty-four publishers within the state; head of the Washington Bureau of the United Press; head of the Washington Bureau of the Associated Press; the United Press General Manager for Asia; Assistant Manager of the Washington Post; state and regional managers in both the United Press and the Associated Press; and head of the Journalism Department of the University of California at Los Angeles.

In the field of Business and Industry all

of the key positions held by graduates of this University are far too numerous to mention. The president of the largest independently-owned refining company in the world is an alumnus, as are the presidents and executives of several of the major oil companies. O.U. graduates have contributed more than any other single group of alumni from any university in the world toward the development of the petroleum industry. These graduates are found in key positions in every oil producing area of the globe.

I feel sure that the women in the audience will take pride in the fact that one of the vice presidents of American Air Lines is a graduate of this Institution. She holds the highest office ever attained by a woman in commercial air lines work.

The University of Oklahoma Law School counts among its distinguished alumni the chief justice and vice chief justice of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma; numerous district court judges; all three judges of the Criminal Court of Appeals in Oklahoma; and the attorney general of the state. In addition, the law graduates either head or hold key positions in the legal departments of several of the major oil companies and other industries in

the southwest. The deans of our own Law School and the Tulsa Law School are alumni of O.U.

With regard to our contribution to the security and defense of the United States, perhaps the most important fact which I could mention is that the University of Oklahoma has furnished more than 3,000 officers for the United States Army. In addition, high ranking officers in the Army, Navy, Airforce and Marines include many of our graduates and former students. The University has contributed three Congressional Medal of Honor winners.

In the entertainment world of radio, theater, the movie industry and opera, one finds that some of the most talented artists are graduates of O.U.

Sketchy though this inventory has been, I do not want to leave the subject without recognition of the wonderful contribution which the thousands of graduates and former students have made to the on-going of civilization in an infinite number of small ways. All too often we have a tendency to emphasize the great people in the great walks of life and give little or no heed to the equally great, though lesser known, people in the little walks of life. I think particularly of those thousands of women graduates and former students whose occupation is so often described simply as "housewife." It is a most noble occupation and, because thousands of our women graduates and former students have become competent housewives and mothers, civilization has inched forward. It has been truly said that when you educate a man you educate an individual, but when you educate a woman you educate an entire family.

It is apparent from this brief resume that those of you who are being awarded your degrees tonight are joining distinguished company as you receive your membership card in the great "University of Oklahoma family."

While thinking about this general topic of "Sixty Years of Service" by the University of Oklahoma to the people of this state and nation, I re-read Dean Gittinger's memorable book *The University of Oklahoma: A History of Fifty Years—1892—1942*. It may be worthwhile to sketch briefly the contrast between the fall of 1892 when the Institution first opened its doors to some 57 students, and the fall of 1952 when we shall welcome approximately 2,000 freshman students in addition to some 5,000 sophomores, juniors, seniors, and graduate students.

In 1892, according to President Boyd, the first act of the new faculty of four at its initial meeting was to cut and eat a

watermelon. I am sorry that this custom has not been retained down through the years, unless, of course, it was the responsibility of the President, or his substitute, to purchase the requisite number of watermelons. With our present faculty of some 500, it would be a rather expensive way to begin a faculty meeting each September.

One of the members of the early faculty drew a word picture of the University in 1892 as he remembered it twenty years later. In *The Sooner*, published in 1912, he wrote: "In comparison with the magnificent plants of older and wealthier states, it seemed a gross exaggeration to call that



CARL MASON FRANKLIN
... August Commencement Speaker

stone building and its modest contents a university. Only three rooms without ornament, barely comfortable, cheaply furnished with tables for teachers' desks and with chairs for the students; no libraries, laboratories, traditions; a toddling present, a hope for the future, but no past.

"Recall the scene on that opening in September 1892, three and a half years after the 'run.' Up the steps of the old stone building came the University students to enroll. All are very quiet, some painfully bashful, and not a few extremely awkward. Most of them are the unspoiled products of pioneer life, without pretension and without conventionalism. But, best of all, they are in dead earnest and feel that they are facing a great opportunity. After a short conference with President Boyd, in which they make known their attainments and deficiencies, he gives them a tentative list of subjects which it is presumed they will be able to pursue successfully."

By contrast, the thousands who will come to the University this fall, either for the first time or to return for further study, will see not a single stone building "barely

comfortable," but a magnificent campus with dozens of buildings adequately furnished and equipped with extensive libraries and modern laboratories. Thanks to the vision and generosity of state legislators, other public officials and friends of the institution, the land, buildings, and equipment of the University of Oklahoma are currently valued at more than forty million dollars.

How different the student body must have been during that first year from what it has been, say, during this past year. Dean Gittinger reports that "In 1892 on every school day the students met in the Chapel with all of the faculty present. There were few invocations or other provocations."

Of course, it is a little difficult for the present administrative staff of the University to imagine a student body so docile, so unimaginative, so quiet, and orderly. Perhaps part of the reason why the students were so "dead earnest" may be found in the fact that the men particularly were so busy learning to read and write that they had no time to spend in quest of the 1892 counterpart of 1952 lingerie. Dean Gittinger's book records this statement of a faculty member, "I am constrained to admit that the work was very elementary. Many found it necessary to take a course in reading, spelling, arithmetic, grammar, geography, physiology, and history of the United States. Nearly all were required to begin Latin but only the most advanced took civics, general history, algebra, compositions and kindred subjects."

It is evident that the student body of the University in 1952 is quite different from what it was in 1892. Few of our students are "painfully bashful" or "extremely awkward" as some of their great-grandmothers and great-grandfathers apparently were. Today our entering freshmen are far more learned, even though their longing for Latin is obviously no greater now than in 1892. Our admissions tests reveal that great numbers of those who enter each September can read and write and we assume that they can spell. The University no longer offers a course in spelling, although some thought has been given lately to introducing such a course at the senior level. When the June, 1952 graduates filled out their cards for bachelor's degrees, they managed to mis-spell bachelor twenty-one different ways. Certainly no one can question the ingenuity of some of the 1952 students.

Seriously, when we take cognizance of the achievements of many of the outstanding graduates and former students we may take pardonable pride in the fact that great progress has been made during the sixty year period toward the development of a

distinguished institution of higher learning in America.

Each one of us who is a member of the administrative staff or the faculty of the University at this time can only hope that the contributions which we are now making will parallel in significance the contributions made by those selfless servants of the institution during its early days.

If we can build as many peaks of excellence during our years of service as our predecessors built during theirs, we shall be humbly grateful, even though those who are to guide the destinies of the University when it celebrates its centennial in 1992 or its 120th year, sixty years hence, may laugh a little at our backwardness and naivete and perhaps even at the quietness and orderliness of our student body of 1952, as we have laughed today with respect to the student body of 1892.

Let me hasten to add that no one I know among the faculty or the administrative staff of the institution feels that we are now doing as good a job as can be done to build a better University of Oklahoma. The minutes of the faculty meetings of the various departments, schools, and colleges, and the minutes of the multifarious committees of the institution regularly reveal the earnest and constant search on the part of the administration and faculty for better ways of accomplishing the dual purposes for which the University exists.

These purposes, in my opinion, are to teach the young men and women of this state, and those who come to us from out-of-state, to adjust to the best in our environment and to improve the worst of it. Let me say parenthetically that there seems to be an incorrect notion abroad in the minds of many that the function of education, and particularly the function of colleges and universities, is the sole one of teaching students to adapt themselves to their environment. To be sure, adaptation is important. It leads to orderliness and stability, both of which are essential to the progress of any society. But the second purpose of a university is even more important; namely, to teach students to challenge every premise, every idea, and every concept which has been developed down through the centuries regarding man and his universe. This is the only way in which civilization can progress and men can be free. In the language of the academician, the purpose of a university is to seek Truth.

To you graduates of tonight who are helping the University write the concluding chapter of sixty rich years of service to the State of Oklahoma and the nation, I offer my heartiest congratulations. A few of the more distinguished among you will

(Continued page 19)

Enrolment and a return to studies provide better evidence than the weatherman that

There Goes Summer

Summer officially will be put to rest for a bumper crop of O.U. freshmen September 8 when the University's gears mesh with freshman orientation. For two days the newcomers to campus life will hear the purposes of higher education at the University from administrative spokesmen and will inspect the campus informally. Two days later, enrolment is slated to begin. Classwork for both freshmen and upperclassmen starts September 15.

From pre-school enrolment (established this year to ease the way for freshman enrollees), the estimate of new freshmen took a steady climb. Part of the increase was due to veterans who wanted to take advantage of benefits of the new GI bill for Korean War veterans. Part was attributable to new housing accommodations available for freshman men.

Cross Center, swank men's quadrangle,

is ready for fall opening. A close copy of the Women's Quadrangle, Cross Center will house most of O.U.'s freshman men. It will ease the way for a University regulation requiring all freshman men to live in University housing this fall regardless of Greek affiliation. Freshman girls came under a similar ruling when the Women's Quad opened.

Housing is not the only drawing card for new enrollees. Two major fields of instruction have new homes. The College of Education and the School of Home Economics were ready to begin the fall semester in new quarters.

Dean John Rackley, '31ba, '35ma, of the College of Education, was understandably proud of education's new building. "The maximum consideration was given to the comfort of the student-teacher and the building is designed so that the maximum



FRESHMEN WILL GET the housing break of their lives when they enroll for the fall term. Ready for occupancy is the new and plush Cross Center, men's quadrangle. Located just south of Niemann apartments, the new quadrangle will provide the finest freshman housing in the nation.

team will be stronger this year than last.

Nebraska at Norman, November 22. On the basis of the great Bobby Reynolds, Nebraska was rated a championship threat last year and wound up winning one, tying one and losing eight. Reynolds missed most of the season due to injuries, but regained his form in the last game of the season. According to reports, he's ready for action again which may be the reason for Coach Bill Glassford's appraisal, "We should be better in 1952. We are deeper and I believe faster with more competition at each position. We have the best set of fullbacks on call now that I have ever had as a coach." The team lost but four regulars by graduation so Reynolds & Co. should be in the market for wins in 1952. Could be a serious title threat.

Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater, November 29. Coach J. B. Whitworth thinks, "We



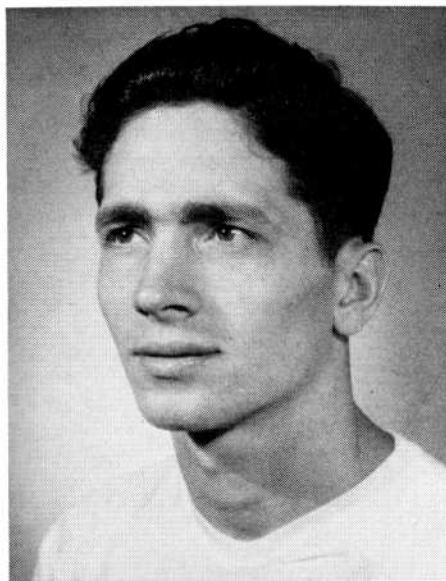
J. D. ROBERTS

... Headed for Guard Honors

should be about two touchdowns better than last year, due to improved defensive ability and somewhat improved personnel generally." The Aggies will enter the season as an inexperienced team but will be ready for the Sooners. In sight, a better game than last year.

The general consensus of the coaches themselves is that the Big Seven can field seven of the strongest teams in the conference's history. There are no real pushovers. Of the non-conference challengers, Notre Dame, Texas and Pittsburgh all seem to have what it takes to make the head of a football king roll.

There are several interesting things about this year's schedule. 1) One of the toughest conference teams is met head on in the first game of the season. 2) The two chief threats to Oklahoma's Big Seven football



JOHN REDDELL

... Veteran End

supremacy, Kansas and Colorado, are met on enemy soil. 3) The first four games are all crucial tests and come on successive Saturdays—Colorado, Pittsburgh, Texas and Kansas.

Weighing the information available before the season begins on a balance held by a dark-robed figure representing insanity, the following predictions are available. (Each year the *Sooner* editor unhesitatingly announces the results before a single whistle blows. Before the season's end, the predictions are calmly referred to as typographical errors.) Nonetheless, for what they are worth, the following predictions are dictated:

1. Standing of Big Seven in December—Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas State, Missouri, Iowa State.

2. O.U.'s national ranking—After an undefeated season and the type of schedule they play, the Sooners will be ranked among the top three. (Look for the squad to shape up rapidly and show some of the killer punch on the ground the 1949 squad did.)

3. All-American selections—There are a number of possibilities. Best bets Tom Catlin and Buck McPhail. Other top prospects, Ed Rowland, Billy Vessels and Roger Nelson.

4. Game of the year—Without question, Notre Dame. Texas and Kansas may field teams as good as the Irish but those games will not demand same national prominence.

The reader may have noticed how casually the phrase, "after an undefeated season," was injected. Most loyal partisans will consider it a prediction worth challenging. Opposing teams will find it amusing at this stage of the game. The local

coaches will consider it a sign of lunacy. Yet there is reason to believe that this year's squad is loaded. Last year many of the returning players demonstrated talent. This year they have added that important ingredient—experience.

On that happy note, another sports fable comes to an end. Hark! can that be Wilkinson rapping on my door.

Golf and the Olympics

Vickers Takes Title. Two summer sports events brought attention to University athletes. O.U. had its 2nd collegiate golf champion and had several students and alumni selected for Olympic participation.

Jim Vickers, '52, captured the collegiate golf championship by defeating Eddie Merrins of Louisiana State. He was the second Sooner ever to cop the title. Walter Emery, '37Law, Tulsa, won in 1933.

O.U. representatives were selected for the Olympic wrestling, basketball and track teams.

J. W. Mashburn, Oklahoma City freshman, was named to the Olympic track squad. He qualified for the 1600-meter relay team by placing 4th in the 400-meter dash tryouts. A substitution by American track and field officials in Helsinki removed him from the relay team that took second to Jamaica. In subsequent exhibition races in Europe, Mashburn met Olympic 400-meter champion George Rhoden, Jamaica, twice and defeated him on both occasions.

The wrestlers fared a bit better. Tommy Evans, 145½, placed second in the wrestling competition. Billy Borders at 125½ was eliminated in an early round.

In basketball, O.U. alumni helped win the championship for the U. S. Marcus Freiberger, '51, and Wayne Glasgow, '50 ed, represented O.U. Freiberger was a member of the A. A. U. champion Peoria Caterpillars and Glasgow was selected for the Olympic squad by his performance in the A. A. U. play with the Phillips 66 team.

No Longer Bashful . . .

be presented with the doctor's hood and a doctor's degree. By far the greatest number tonight will receive master's degrees. Approximately 150 of you will be awarded bachelor's degrees. Tomorrow those of you with an A. B. can knock on the door of the world and say, "I am John Jones or Mary Smith, A. B., alumnus of the University of Oklahoma." Don't be surprised if the world responds, "John Jones and Mary Smith, A. B., come on in and I shall teach you the rest of the alphabet. . . ."