

Calendar of University Events

Sept. 10 to Oct. 10

- Sept. 8-11 Freshman Orientation
10-13 Enrolment
11 College of Unionology
13-14 Curriculum Co-ordinating
Committee of Secondary
School Principals' Associ-
ation
15 Class Work begins
26 Denver Alumni Party
27 Colorado-O.U. football game,
Boulder
- Oct. 2-4 School Health Conference
3-4 Plumbing Conference
4 Pittsburgh football game,
Norman
8-10 1952 Airport Management
and Operation Conference
10 Dallas Alumni dinner-dance

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Charles Murphy, *Daily* editor and journalism senior, was the first to go. His undoing was an editorial entitled, "Campus Witchhunt," and concerned itself with the investigation of the professor and the possible loss of academic freedom.

In the editorial Murphy gave his opinions as to the cause of the probe into the professor's background. From the fact that Governor Johnston Murray requested the investigation, Murphy ventured onto the thin ice of surmise and possibility.

The editor stated his contention that the investigation was brought about due to "a mental cleft between the University and the Governor of Oklahoma."

On the day the editorial appeared, July 10, Murphy met with President Cross and Dr. Fayette Copeland, '19ba, director of the School of Journalism. Immediately following the conference, Murphy resigned. He stated later in an interview that he resigned under pressure.

After the conference, Dr. Cross said "most of the facts included in the editorial were inaccurate, probably unintentionally so, but nevertheless, inaccurate." Murphy said, "I feel these inaccuracies were irrelevant and excusable. I resigned under pressure, and I do not retract anything."

Part of the matter that Murphy was unwilling to retract was the contention that the campus reception given Governor Murray during his campaign for Governor two years ago was responsible for the "mental cleft" between O.U. and the Governor. (Governor Murray said, "I have read this young man's editorial, which is far from flattering. . . . I know the boy was misinformed.")

Murphy believed that the campaign re-
(Continued page 30)

Dean Edgar D. Meacham died June 28. His record as an educator and an administrator was an excellent one. And, as a man in a man's society,

He Stood Tall

BY EUGENIA KAUFMAN, '17ba, '22ma

It was early morning of the twenty-eighth of June. The Oklahoma sunshine slanted smilingly across the campus Dean Meacham loved, and overhead the sky was high and blue.

Everywhere on the campus small groups gathered as people heard almost incomprehensibly the news of the Dean's death, and everywhere the reaction was the same: a few seconds of stunned silence, followed by shocked exclamations of incredulity. Then came the bewildered questions: "Who could possibly take his place?" "What will we do?" "What about the College of Arts and Sciences?" "What will become of the Union Board?" "What—?"

Let us look at this man whom so many people have come to consider indispensable. Then we may find the answers to such of the questions as can be answered.

Edgar D. Meacham was born near Smithfield, Texas, on August 22, 1887. His family moved to the Cheyenne and Arapaho country in Oklahoma Territory in 1897. No railroad being available, they traveled overland, bringing with them their cattle and horses. They "homesteaded," near the present site of Clinton, a farm which is still owned by an older brother, Cecil.

From this pioneer background stem two of Dean Meacham's outstanding characteristics, his marked tendency to southwestern understatement, and his reverence for the importance of the individual.

When "the Meacham boys" went to the Southwestern State Normal School at Weatherford, Edgar and his younger brother, George, '20Law, enrolled in the same classes. In their first study session George read from the beginning Latin book a statement that the subject of a verb is in the nominative case. Staring blankly at his brother he asked: "What's 'nominative,' Ed?" With the quickness of wit which always characterized him, Ed returned the stare and countered with a question of his own, "What's a verb?"

With this cheerfully humorous start the pace quickened. Ed Meacham, as he was

universally called, completed four years work in three years, making an enviable record, and prepared himself to teach.

He was Superintendent of Schools at Lokeba in 1910-11. On December 3rd, 1910, he married Miss Ray Ferrell, '13ba, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Appley Ferrell of Sedan, Kansas. They had been school mates at Southwestern, where her father had been Professor of Mathematics. (In addition to his wife, Dean Meacham is survived by a son, John Ferrell, '48eng, and a daughter, Martha Rae, '49bs.)

Dean Roy Gittinger, '02ba, recalls vividly the day in September, 1911, when "Ed and Ray" came to talk over their enrolment in the University with him.

That fall Edgar Meacham was the only first-year man on the squad to letter in football. (This was Bennie Owen's all-victorious 1911 team, many alumni will remember.)

Again the tempo quickened and he finished in three years, graduating with a major in mathematics in 1914. He had let-

DEAN E. D. MEACHAM

. . . His Loss Stunned the Campus



tered in football and track each of the three years. In addition he had been elected to Pe-et, men's honor society, received the only Letzeiser Medal given in 1914, been president of Sigma Delta Chi, honorary journalism fraternity. He was also a member of Kappa Sigma social fraternity. He was editor of the 1913 *Sooner*, and had maintained a grade average that was to earn him a Phi Beta Kappa key when a chapter was installed in 1920. He also did some teaching of mathematics in his senior year.

Already the ability to do many things well, without feeling any conflict, had become apparent. Years later he remarked that he had always done better academic work and made better grades during the football season than at any other time.

In the fall of 1914 he became an instructor in mathematics and was for some ten years an assistant football coach.

A master's degree from Harvard marked the year 1916-17 and in the fall semester of 1917 he became Assistant Professor Meacham. In 1922 he received the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Chicago, and became an associate professor. Meanwhile his committee work and other responsibilities outside the classroom were increasing. In 1926 he was appointed assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and his title was changed to Profes-

About the Author

Miss Eugenia Kaufman, assistant professor of modern languages, was invited to write the story you see on these pages. "Please don't make it an obituary. Rather make the story an account of the Dean's career as a teacher, and particularly a story of his accomplishments and attainments as a man," the editor said.

Miss Kaufman was well-suited for the assignment. She had attended Southwestern Normal School at Weatherford with Dean Meacham and his wife. She had been associated with the Meachams for more than 40 years at the time of his death.

Several days after she had surprised the editor by taking the assignment, Miss Kaufman explained why. "Ken (her brother, the late Kenneth Kaufman) would have been the right person to write your story. I think I know how Ken would have done it." After reading the results, the editor thought so too.

sor of Mathematics. The following year he was honored as the alumnus having done the most service for the University during the past year.

Throughout these years, however, teach-

ing remained his first interest, and students his chief concern. George Wadsack, '18, for many years registrar of the University, recently remarked: "He always felt complimented when a student wanted to consult him, or asked him for help."

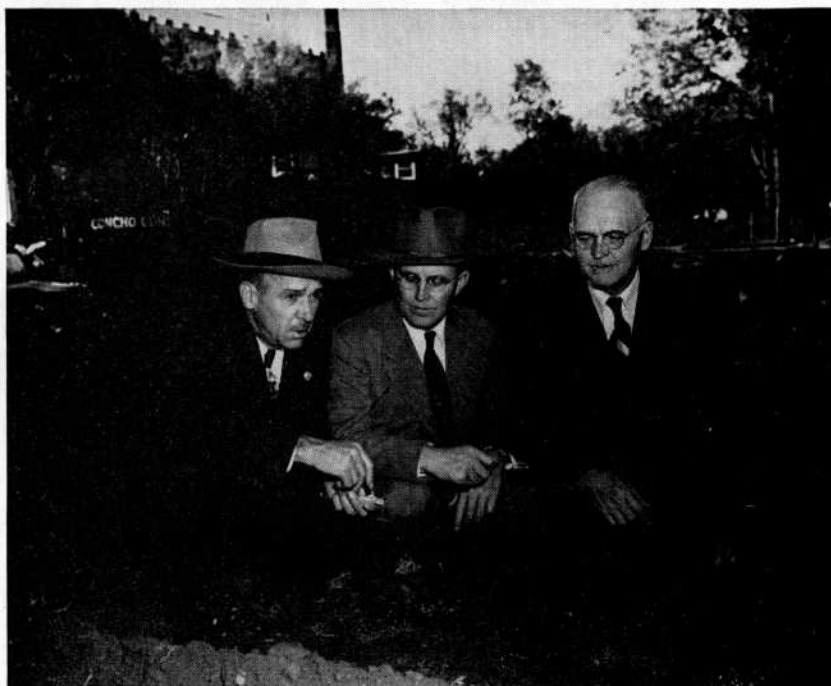
In the year 1930-31, Dr. Meacham had a leave of absence in order to do research at the University of Chicago. He was faculty representative to the Big Six Conference during the years 1935-38, and was for many years a member of the Stadium-Union Board and served on the Board of Managers of the Union from its inception to his death.

It is well to remember that although Dr. Meacham belonged to almost countless organizations, he was never a "joiner." To quote Wadsack again, "He was always a working member." To include them all would go beyond the limits of this article, but we may mention the American Mathematical Society and Sigma Xi, scientific fraternity.

Upon the retirement of Dean Samuel Reeves, Dr. Meacham was appointed dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. As dean he was deeply interested in the members of his faculty and their welfare. He frequently knew more about the abilities of individual members than they themselves did and would encourage one or another to develop a certain talent. As someone has said, he valued above most things "excellence of performance." He demanded it of himself and confidently expected it of others, because he believed that they could do it and would want to do it.

When I mentioned to Professor L. N. (Fess) Morgan Dean Meacham's famous coaching admonition, "Be quiet and let the referee decide," he replied, "I never heard him say that—but he built his life around it." Thinking on that leads me to the conclusion that he was not in the usual sense of the term competitive. Rather, it would seem that he put the shot or threw the discus as far as he could. If that was farther than someone else had put it—well and good. If not, he still would not be disturbed because he had done just as well as he could.

Dr. R. T. House points out three ways in which Dean Meacham was different from many other excellent men. The first is his complete indifference to publicity; the second, that "while he was a practical man and an excellent business man, he never seemed to be interested in merely material things; he always seemed to be seeking a spiritual ultimate"; and the third, that "although he was a scholar, and studied dili-



DEAN E. D. MEACHAM's many interests included the Union. He was a member of the Board of Governors from the board's inception until his death. Here he is seen with the late Ted M. Beard, '21ba, and President George L. Cross inspecting the site of excavation as the Union began its expansion and remodeling program in 1950.

gently, he was in no hurry to 'publish,' as so many schoolmen are."

President Cross noticed particularly Dean Meacham's loyalty and open-mindedness. If something was proposed of which he did not approve, he would examine it without prejudice. If he found new evidence which convinced him, he would immediately reverse his position and support the proposal wholeheartedly. If he did not find such evidence, but saw that there was much sentiment in favor of it, he would say, "Well, let's try it; we'll see if it will work."

His diplomacy, consideration and tact in dealing with delicate problems appealed most to Joe McBride, '28bus, member of the Board of Regents who added: "To me he has lived the ideal life; he has always dealt with the worthwhile things and he has influenced thousands of lives."

Hal Muldrow, '28bus, said: "Dean Meacham was one of the fairest-minded men I ever saw. He never said anything until he had thought it out." Then Hal added simply, "I never saw a man I respected more."

To Dr. Glenn Couch, '31bs, '37ms, "Dean Ed" was the epitome of consideration.

When I talked with Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Owen about the old football days, Mrs. Owen gave an analysis of the young Edgar Meacham's attitude which included most of the qualities given me by all the people I had consulted concerning the mature professor and dean. I was feeling disappointed because Mr. Owen was not making any comment. Then he looked up and said one word only, "Steadfast."

Dr. E. E. Dale, '11ba, who was born within two miles of Dr. Meacham's birthplace, says that he first met Dean Meacham when a plump little boy was brought by a relative to visit the country school one day. The friendship has remained a very close one, and Dr. Dale says, "If I were asked to mention one quality only, it would be a singular cleanness of heart and mind, combined with an unusual sweetness of disposition."

As a recent addition to the faculty, Dr. Lawrence Poston, Jr. liked the vigor of Dean Meacham's ideas on education and appreciated his cordiality to newcomers which would make them feel at home on the campus and relieve any sense of strain.

Dewey (Dutch) Hoover, supervisor of building maintenance and construction, made a most telling contribution. In his own words, "What I prized most was that wonderful smile. He always had time to smile at you. He stood up straight and looked you in the eye and you knew you could trust him. And when you did something he had asked to have done, even

An O.U. Family

Dean E. D. Meacham was proud of the record number of Meacham's who had attended the University. In addition to Dean Meacham, '14ba, his wife, Ray Ferrell Meacham, '13ba, and their two children, Lt. John Ferrell, '48eng, (Navy) and Lt. Martha Roe, '49bs, (WAC), twelve other near relatives have been enrolled. Four of the dean's brothers attended. They are George A., Jr., '20Law, E. J. 'Bert', '18Law, A. H. 'Son', '26Law, (partners in a Clinton law firm), and L. B. 'Sanky' '17, Baltimore, Maryland. Two sisters attended, also. They are Alta, '19-'21, and Maude, '32ba, '45ma, Stillwater. Nephews and nieces completed the Meacham showing. They are Denver '33bs, '35Law, Clinton; Holland, '37ba, '49m.ed, San Antonio; George III, '41-'42, Clinton; Joe, '47eng, El Paso; Maryjo Meacham Wheeler, '48ba, Clinton, and Charlie Ann, '51ba, Oklahoma City.

though it was your regular job, he took special pains to thank you and express his appreciation."

"It is the fire of the teacher that kindles the enthusiasm of the student," Eugene Springer, '25ba, '26ma, believes this and he should know. When Dr. Springer as an undergraduate entered a class of Dean Meacham's, he soon became so interested that he changed his major to mathematics and is now chairman of the Department of Mathematics.

As we look at the qualities which have been pointed out, the single word 'integrity' presents itself. If we take it not only in its modern meaning of moral uprightness, but in its basic significance of wholeness, we begin to see the answers to some of our questions.

No one could "replace" Dean Meacham, because he was not merely a football player, a Dean, a scholar, etc. He was always himself, acting in whatever capacity the moment required. But there is every reason, remembering his quiet expectation of 'excellence of performance,' to believe that the Union Board will be run well and that the College of Arts and Sciences will continue to prosper. Remembering his great concern for students, we realize that they, as well as we, have suffered an irreparable loss, "what can we do?" Perhaps we can all share that concern, do our best and then "be quiet and let the referee decide."

Dr. Peterson Is Dead

Fall Fatal. Just nine days before the death of Dean Meacham, Dr. Horace C. Peterson, professor of history, died as the result of a freak accident. He fell in Gittinger Hall June 14 and fractured his skull.

Peterson joined the University history staff in 1936 as instructor in history, and except for military service in the last war, he had been at O.U. since that time. He formerly was principal of Douglas Schools, Pebble Beach, California, and instructor at Deep Springs Foundation, Deep Springs, California.

He entered World War II in September, 1942, serving with military intelligence. He was also an assistant military attache in Rio De Janeiro, where he received the Order of the Baron of Rio Branco issued by the Brazilian government to members of the diplomatic corps.

An outstanding author, Peterson wrote *Propaganda for War*, a 1939 University Press publication which was chosen by *Current History* magazine as one of the 10 most important books of the year. He had two books ready for publication at the time of his death.

Born in Oskaloosa, Iowa, Peterson attended highschools in Pasadena, California. He received his B. A. with honors in 1931 from Pamona College and his M. A. and Ph. D. from Cornell.

His memberships included the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, Phi Beta Kappa and the American Historical Association.

Friends and students of Dr. Peterson have established the Horace C. Peterson Memorial Scholarship in History in his honor. The scholarship will be awarded an-

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DR. H. C. PETERSON
... A Fall Brought End



DENVER, COLORADO, ALUMNI met July 19 at the Elich Gardens for an informal chicken dinner. Four of those present are pictured as they stopped by the "guess your weight" booth. Mrs. Mary West Kniseley, '35ba, receives assistance of Club President Robert B. McWilliams, '40journ, in confusing weight-guessers H. B. 'Doc' Kniseley, '26ba, '29ma, and Mrs. McWilliams.

Oklahoma City, attorney for the appellate section of the Lands Division of the Department of Justice.

Denver. The Denver, Colorado Alumni club met July 19 for an informal chicken dinner at the Elich amusement park in Denver. Robert B. McWilliams, '40journ, president, served as master of ceremonies.

Members of the club attending the meeting stood, introduced themselves and named their graduation year. Congressman Byron G. Rogers, '22, was invited to make a brief, informal talk to the diners. Winifred Robey, '13ba, a tall, handsome woman, was asked to make any remarks she cared to about the University. She commented that it had been many years since she had been back to the campus but recalled some of the impressions she had as an undergraduate. She indicated that she planned to attend her class' 40th Reunion in June, 1953.

Mrs. Roberta Garlinghouse Congdon, '44 h.ec, social chairman of the group, was in charge of the party arrangements. Out-of-the-area guests were Guy Brown, '42ba, '48ma, assistant executive secretary of the Alumni association, and David Burr, Editor, *Sooner Magazine*.

Dr. Peterson . . .

nually to a junior history major. Alumni and former students who wish to participate in the memorial scholarship program should send their checks to Dr. Alfred B. Sears, chairman of the Department of History.

Faculty Changes

Appointed. James G. Harlow, '31ba, '33ms, assistant dean of the University College, has been named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences under an interim appointment. He was named by the Board of Regents to fill the post after the death of Dr. E. D. Meacham, '14ba. President George L. Cross said a permanent dean will be chosen within the year by the faculty of the college.

Dr. William E. Ham, '38bs, '39ms, assistant head of the Oklahoma Geological Survey for the past year, has been named acting director for the Survey.

Dr. William M. Shanner has been named head of the University of Oklahoma Bureau of Extension Research to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Verne H. Schnee. Schnee, vice president in charge of development and Research Institute

executive director, resigned in February in order to take a post in Washington. Dr. Shanner was also appointed assistant director of the University's organized research under Dean Laurence H. Snyder.

The Medical School had acquired two new professors for the fall term. They are Dr. Stewart G. Wolf, Jr., M. D., who was appointed as a full-time professor and head of the Department of Medicine at the school. He formerly taught at Cornell's Medical College. Dr. Robert M. Bird, M. D., was appointed as an associate professor of medicine. He will assist Dr. Wolf. He also taught at Cornell.

Six faculty members were raised to full professorships by action of the Board of Regents in early summer. The six are Carl Mason Franklin, executive vice president of O.U. and member of law faculty; John O'Neil, '36fa, '39mfa, chairman of the School of Art; Earl T. Warren, '36ba, '38 Law, College of Law, John E. Mertes, Jr., '35bus, chairman of the Department of Marketing; Leonard H. Haug, director of University bands, and Dr. Paul R. David, director of the Institute of Human Studies, department of zoology.

Resigned. Dr. E. Harold Hinman, director of the O.U. School of Public Health the last four years, has resigned to become dean of the Medical School at the University of Puerto Rico.

Helen T. Clark, assistant professor of home economics, has resigned to accept a position as director of home economics and family life education in the Wichita public schools.

Mrs. Helen Lauterer, associate professor of drama, has resigned to take a position on the staff of Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, N. Y. She had served eight years on the faculty of the School of Drama.

Selected. Dr. John Paul Duncan, associate professor of government, has been awarded a Fulbright lectureship to Ibrahim Pasha University in Cairo, Egypt, for 1952-53. He will serve as a special lecturer in political science for the current school year and will return to O.U. in the fall of 1953. He is the recipient of the first Fulbright lectureship to be awarded a University professor.

R. Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37Law, executive Secretary of the Alumni Association, was elected governor of District 181 of Rotary International at that organization's annual convention in Mexico City in late May. He will serve for the 1952-53 fiscal year.

Dean Mark Everett of the School of Medicine was selected for a 2-month cruise with the navy. Dr. Everett represented the O.U. faculty on the annual summer cruise for 5,100 ROTC midshipmen.