

Dr. E. E. Dale came to Oklahoma 60 years ago in the same year the University opened its doors. He and Oklahoma have had a long-standing love affair. He says it's because . . .

They Were Children Together

By DR. E. E. DALE, '11ba

Research Professor Emeritus of History

When I was asked to give this lecture, I was much flattered and set to work to prepare with great care a detailed account of Oklahoma's development over the last sixty years in which were included many facts and figures. Then it suddenly occurred to me that such a speech was not what this audience would want.

What you would prefer, in all probability, would be an informal talk, out of the "fullness of my heart and the emptiness of my head," dealing with my own experiences and observations and impressions of sixty years' life in the Sooner State. For any man who lives that long in a state would have to be very dumb if he did not learn at least a little about it. Moreover, I love Oklahoma because we have been children together.

Three score years of life in Oklahoma has been to me a very rich and colorful experience. An old Westerner with a nostalgic yearning for the past once wrote:

*Job cursed his birthday night and morn
In his old land of Uz
But I am glad I wasn't born
No later than I wuz.*

I too am glad not to have been born later

The speech on this and following pages was presented January 7 as a part of the University Museum's Lecture Series. Presentation was made from notes and the author later prepared a manuscript especially for Sooner Magazine. The manuscript has been abridged by the editor.

This short, happy history of the Oklahoma Dr. Dale knows intimately provides a warming story of pioneer days and a revealing picture of the man who has helped write it.

The author was retired in July of last year at the age of 73. In March he will go to Australia under a Fulbright grant to lecture in universities there. In late January he was looking forward eagerly to his trip and planning a return route that would take him by way of Europe—The Editor.

than I was for, if so, I would have missed the privilege of seeing Oklahoma grow from the picturesque wildness of sixty years ago to the equally picturesque wildness of the present—if you know what I mean which probably you do since the holiday period has but so recently closed.

I came to what is now Oklahoma to live permanently sixty years ago last November. My father, brother, and myself all came westward in a covered wagon from our old home near Fort Worth, Texas, to settle on a prairie claim about twelve miles northeast of the present town of Altus in what is now Jackson county. It took us ten days to make the journey of a little over two hundred miles. . .

In 1892 the area embraced within the limits of the present State of Oklahoma was a peculiar land, so far as its political status was concerned. It was divided into two nearly equal parts by a broken line extending across it from north to south. East of this line lay the so-called Indian Territory occupied, except for some very small Indian reservations in the northeastern corner, by the Five Civilized Tribes of Indians—the Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole. The Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes numbered about 70,000 and living among them were some 20,000 Negroes, who were their former slaves or their descendants.

These Indians held their lands in common ownership and lived under their own tribal governments and laws. All of these tribes except the Seminole had a written constitution and written laws. No white person lived in the Indian Territory except a few score of "intermarried citizens" and a considerable number of laborers, brought in temporarily to work in the coal mines or on the farms, or who, in some instances, operated a store or other business establishment in one of the little towns. The number of these whites living in the Indian Territory by permission of the tribal governments was not large in 1892 though it was rapidly growing. . .

Western Oklahoma in 1892 consisted of Oklahoma Territory, created in 1890 by the Organic Act, several large areas of Indian owned lands, and the region some ninety miles long and seventy miles wide which lay between the north and south forks of Red River, and was known as Greer County. Texas claimed this territory between the forks of Red River and had organized it as a county many years earlier. It remained under the laws of Texas until 1896 when a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States held that the south fork of Red River was the principal stream, and Greer County was lost to Texas and became a part of Oklahoma. . .

The largest of the areas of Indian land in western Oklahoma was the Cherokee Outlet. It still belonged to the Cherokees in 1892, though in September 1893 it was opened to white settlement and added to Oklahoma Territory. Other large Indian reservations in the west included that of the Osage, the Kiowa-Comanche reservation in the southwestern part of the present state, the Wichita-Caddo reserve, and three or four smaller ones.

Oklahoma Territory in 1892 had fifteen counties. Six of these, including the present Cleveland county, were the original Oklahoma Lands that had been opened to settlement on April 22, 1889. To these the Panhandle had been added as Beaver County by the Organic Act of 1890, while the settlement of the Sac and Fox, Iowa, and Shawnee-Pottawatomie lands in 1891 gave the new Territory two more—Lincoln and Pottawatomie Counties. The addition of the Cheyenne-Arapaho reservation, opened to settlement on April 19, 1892, raised the total number of counties to fifteen.

Greer County, in which my father had settled, was still under the laws of Texas in 1892, but it too was added to Oklahoma Territory following the Supreme Court decision of 1896. In the meantime the

Cherokee Outlet had been opened to settlement in 1893 adding seven more counties, while in 1901 the lands of the Kiowa-Comanche and Wichita-Caddo were settled by a lottery. Its three counties brought the total number of counties in Oklahoma Territory to twenty-six.

The Organic Act had provided for a government in Oklahoma Territory consisting of a governor, a secretary, and a supreme court of three members. All of these officials were appointed by the President. The members of the supreme court served as district judges sitting separately and as a supreme court when sitting together, or *en banc*. The territorial legislature consisted of an upper house of 13 members called the council and a lower house of 26 members known as the house of representatives. There were also county and town governments and most people had a great interest in politics and political issues.

The total population of Oklahoma Territory in 1892, including the few hundred people in Greer County, was not far from 100,000 whites and a few thousand Indians. Some eighty per cent of this population was rural, and when I say "rural" I mean just that. It was *very* rural. Oklahoma City and Guthrie were the only urban communities of importance and they were not real cities but only large towns, each with eight or ten thousand people. . .

The Oklahoma to which I came in November, 1892, was as different from that of today as though the two were in different worlds. Of course there were some similarities in the attitudes and thinking of the people of that day and of this. Cleveland had just been elected president and a large proportion of the people felt that a new day had dawned in government . . . the remainder were certain that the country clearly was going to the dogs. There was much talk of extravagance in government spending and of the cost of living, which plainly was far too high. Many persons were bemoaning the passing of the "good old times." The younger generation, skylarking around until the ungodly hour of nine or ten o'clock at night, was causing grave concern, and nobody knew the second verse of the Star Spangled Banner!

Yet the differences were much more pronounced than the similarities. Nobody in the Oklahoma Territory of 1892 had ever seen an automobile, or heard a radio, or seen a moving picture show, let alone a television program. Few had ever talked over a telephone for, though the telephone was in use at that time, it had as yet not reached many persons in Oklahoma.

Most people who lived in western Oklahoma in 1892, and for many years thereafter, secured their homesteads in one of the great runs for land. In these the "race

was to the swift; the battle to the strong." . . .

The first opening of Oklahoma lands to settlement on April 22, 1889, came after the region had been widely advertised by the attempts of David L. Payne and the Boomers to settle it by force. . . Finally, on March 31, 1889, the President of the United States issued a proclamation declaring that thirty days later, or April 22 at high noon, the lands would be open to occupation by qualified homesteaders, and the first person to settle a hundred and sixty acre tract after that date and hour had first claim to it. News of this and of later openings always spread quickly over the United States with the result that settlers from every part of the country flocked to Oklahoma, giving to the region the most cosmopolitan population since California was invaded by the Forty-niners, or Colorado became the goal of thousands of men with "Pike's Peak or Bust" painted on the covers of their prairie schooners.

Often it happened that an entire farm family gathered about the breakfast table. There was father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, a grown-up son and daughter, and three or four small fry. Father looks up from his newspaper and exclaims, "Mother, I read here that they are going to open the Oklahoma Lands to settlement!

You know we've read a lot about that country and they say it's the finest land that ever lay outdoors. And it says here that they're going to run for those claims. Mother we ought to send someone down there to run for one of those farms."

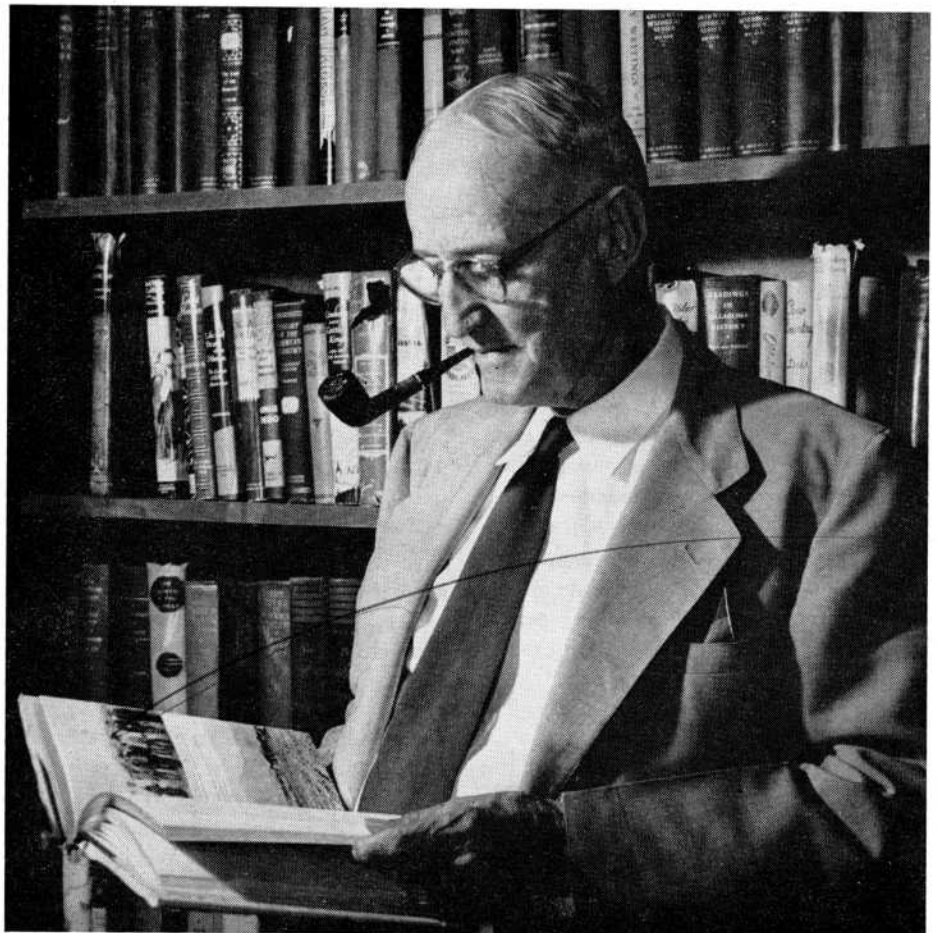
Who is to be sent down to Oklahoma to run for a claim? Obviously, they are not going to send grandfather who is eighty years old and has rheumatism, too. Father already has his little farm, but there is John. He was twenty-one years old a few months back and, "John is going to need a farm pretty soon. You know he has been shining up to Neighbor Smith's daughter a great deal here lately." So John is selected to go.

John is enthusiastic about the prospect. "Sure, I'll go but I believe I'll go over and see my chum Bill and see if he won't go with me."

So he goes to see Bill and puts it up to him, "Bill, Paw read in the paper that they're opening those Oklahoma Lands to settlement next month and Paw and Maw think I ought to go and get me a farm. I think so too; in fact I'm just crazy to go and I want you to go with me."

Bill replies, "All right John, I'll go; I'm crazy too."

So John's father provides an old rattle



DR. E. E. DALE

. . . Cowboy Historian . . . Beloved Teacher

trap wagon, and John has a horse and Bill a mule to pull this ancient vehicle. Then John's mother bakes them a batch of bread and some cookies to take along, and Bill's mother makes some doughnuts and contributes some eggs and a pound of butter and a couple of jars of preserves. Finally they put in a camping outfit of cooking utensils and a roll of bedding, grind a pound of Arbuckle coffee, and add a side of bacon, a bag of flour, and some potatoes to the food supply. Then they hook up the team, climb into the wagon and set out for Oklahoma with high hopes for the future. Obviously John and Bill as individuals are not too important, but multiply them by several thousand and you get a picture of one large group of early settlers of Oklahoma.

Of course they were not all Johns and Bills by any means. There were newlyweds, with little in the world except one another and not at all worried about it, seeking to find in this new land their first home. Also there was many a young husband, or promised husband, who had placed in his wagon only a few tools and farming implements and the bare essentials for operating for a few months a bachelor household. Saying goodbye to the young bride, or bride-to-be, he had whispered to her in all reverence the words of the Master: "I go to prepare a place for you. And when I have prepared a place for you I will return again and receive you unto myself that where I am there you may be also."

There were men with their families too; a wife with face as faded and worn as her calico dress and two or three youngsters. Many of these men were tenant farmers tired of moving every year or two from one rented farm to another and giving one-third of the corn and one-fourth of the cotton to the land owner. They came from many states; all seeking the most precious of all human material possessions—a home.

Literally thousands of covered wagons bearing such families were driven westward to Oklahoma in the final decade of the last century. Any thoughtful person who saw one of them, with the husband and wife sitting on the spring seat, two or three children peeping from beneath the brown and tattered cover, and a dog trailing along, must have realized that the tragic figure in the little group was never the man who was going to a region of free land and business opportunities. It was not one of the children, because to them the journey was one long picnic. The tragic figure was always the woman by the man's side. She it was who had left her old home

and church and girlhood friends to go with her husband into a "far off country."

Many times she had packed away among the tools and household goods beneath the wagon cover a few little treasures—a few pieces of glass and china, a white counterpane and some lace curtains, and some roots of the old rose bush back home which she had packed, with tender loving hands, in moist earth to be transplanted into the alien soil of a new home, which as yet existed only in her dreams.

Far more than the men did the pioneer women of Oklahoma plant flowers, beautify the homes, and demand that schools and churches and Sunday schools be established in order that the children might not grow up lacking some of the finer things of life. To these women we owe a deep debt of gratitude.

It must be plain from what I have said that the people of Oklahoma fifty or sixty years ago were largely of one type. They were young people, hardy and ambitious, and were, as a rule, very poor. You may say, "We know all about poverty; we are poor too." As a matter of fact you are not in the sense that we were poor in early days. We were more than just poor—we were "pore" if that means any more to you for it does to me.

Back in the 1890's Sam Williams was getting married out in old Greer County. When the time came for him to endow his bride with all his worldly wealth, he repeated after the preacher, "With all my worldly goods I thee endow." Whereupon some boy back in the audience nudged his neighbor and said, "There goes Sam's shotgun; somebody stole his dog just last week." Most homes of that period were sod houses, dugouts, or box shanties of one or two rooms with only the poorest of furnishings.

We hear much today of underprivileged children, and civic clubs and other organizations are doing much to help them. It is a great work and we all are very much in favor of it. Yet, I wonder sometimes what the members of such clubs today would have thought of me and my young comrades if they could have seen us sixty years ago. I imagine they would have felt that we were very much underprivileged and perhaps we were, but we didn't know it. Nobody had ever told us that we were underprivileged. We knew that we were privileged to go to school if there was any school and we had shoes to wear; otherwise we were privileged to stay home and run wild on the prairie. We had enough to eat—black-eyed peas, corn bread, butter-milk, and vegetables from the garden. We had fried chicken now and then—mostly then; but we had never heard of social se-

curity, or old age pensions, or parity payments. Most important of all, nobody had ever told us that the world owed us a living or owed us anything else except the opportunity to go out and earn a living for ourselves. Frankly, I am glad to have been brought up with that kind of philosophy.

There are two things about life in Oklahoma sixty years ago that young people of the present generation find almost impossible to comprehend. One is the meaning of distance in a horse and buggy age and the other is the values of money sixty years ago as measured in terms of the price of all commodities, including labor. . .

The nearest railroad town to my father's home in Greer county was Vernon, Texas, forty-five miles away. A trip to Vernon and return required three full days. It was a long, hard day's drive from Norman to either Shawnee or Chickasha and even a visit to Oklahoma City, unless one went by train, was an undertaking for the average citizen of Norman to consider carefully and almost prayerfully.

As to money and prices, eggs sold at from five to ten cents a dozen, butter at fifteen to twenty cents a pound, frying chickens cost fifteen cents each and beef six to seven cents a pound. Flour could be bought for from a dollar to a dollar and a half a hundred pounds and sweet potatoes for fifty cents a bushel.

All other prices were proportionally low. Until twenty years of age I had never heard of but two sizes of watermelons—those that sold for a nickle and the bigger ones that sold for a dime—and, upon my first journey to the East, I nearly starved to death before learning that it was not possible in that region to get a square meal for a quarter.

Farm labor could be had by the day at seventy-five cents to a dollar and at ten to fifteen dollars a month. An excellent suit of clothes cost ten to twelve dollars and the best only fifteen. . .

With prices so low there was little money in circulation and most settlers secured their living largely from the farm. Only a little coffee and sugar were purchased from the store together with such clothing as was absolutely necessary. Farming was not a business but a way of life. . .

Poor as they were, most of these early inhabitants of Oklahoma were a great people. They were a kindly, generous and hospitable people and, in most cases, were a deeply religious people. Religion meant to them something more than an abstract conception of a relationship with the Divine. It was an intimate, personal thing—literally "a rock in a

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Proposed University Budget

The state legislature in late January and early February was pondering a budget proposal for higher education. O.U.'s financial vice president explains the budget request.

By ROSCOE CATE, '26ba
Financial Vice President

A request for \$21,245,948 in state funds for higher education in each year of the 1953-55 biennium was under consideration by the State Legislature in January.

In addition, the State Regents for Higher Education submitted a request for \$3,150,000 as a capital appropriation for modernization and repair and for equipment.

The amount of state funds requested to operate the 18 institutions in the state system each year represents an increase of slightly more than fifty percent over the average appropriation for each year of the present biennium.

Reasons for requesting substantially greater support from the state include:

a) Serious need for a substantial upward adjustment of faculty salary scales.

b) Continued decline in income from veterans' fees.

c) Demand for more public services through extension and research.

Exclusive of specialized functions such as University Hospitals, Geological Survey, Agricultural Experiment Station and Agricultural Extension, the trend in the state system's income from sources other than state appropriations is as follows:

Annual average 1951-53 \$5,260,117

Annual average 1953-55 \$4,328,678

The State Regents' legislative request for the University is itemized in the table below.

The financial program for University Hospitals is based on the assumption that the Legislature will implement recommendations of the Governor's special committee on financing the hospitals. The plan is to make legislative provision for the hospital to receive 80% of the amount needed for its operations through welfare agencies and 20% through the State Regents Board.

STATE REGENTS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANNUAL OPERATIONS 1953-55 FOR STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

	University ¹	A. and M. ²	Nine Four-Year Colleges	Seven Junior Colleges
General administration and general expense	\$ 751,793	\$ 773,409	\$ 684,800	\$ 211,780
Resident instruction	5,051,764 ³	4,619,601	3,424,000	962,640
Research	375,155	2,006,658	102,720	28,880
Extension	600,088	2,466,386	342,400	96,264
Library	334,835	325,212	273,920	77,012
Operation and Maintenance of physical plant	1,092,833	1,172,793	924,480	259,912
Medical care of indigent	2,514,720			
	<u>\$10,721,188</u>	<u>\$11,364,059</u>	<u>\$5,752,320</u>	<u>\$1,636,488</u>

¹ Includes Norman Campus, School of Medicine, University Hospitals and Geological Survey.

² Includes Stillwater Campus, Veterinary Medicine, Experiment Station, Agricultural Extension and Okmulgee Technical School.

³ Includes 20% of cost of operating teaching hospitals (\$628,680).

The total operating budget recommended for the Norman Campus is approximately the same as was recommended two years ago. It calls for an increase of about fifty percent in state funds, but only thirty percent in total operating budget.

Although the state appropriation for the Norman Campus for the present fiscal year is about \$700,000 more than it was four years ago, the operating budget is a million dollars *less*—because of the decline in veterans' fee income.

For the 1953-55 biennium, with fees from veterans no longer a significant factor, the University must rely upon state appropriations for 80% of its operating budget.

Following is a brief substantiation of the State Regents' request for the Norman Campus for each year of 1953-55 as compared to this fiscal year:

Instruction, and Organized Activities Related to Instruction. Increase of \$800,000 requested in order to

a) Bring the faculty salary average closer to \$5,600, at a cost of \$275,000 (an increase of about 13%).

b) Provide 48 new faculty positions at cost of \$217,000, to restore the most essential positions of those eliminated in budget reductions of last three years.

c) Restore full salaries for faculty either on leave or on part-time this year, at cost of \$137,000.

d) Add service staff positions and Graduate Assistants where needed to prevent faculty members dissipating their energies on non-professional work, at cost of \$80,000.

e) Make modest increases in maintenance budgets for supplies and equipment.

Organized Research. Increase from \$59,000 to \$190,000, in order to enlarge faculty research, and to render greater service to public by undertaking investigations important to the economic development of the state.

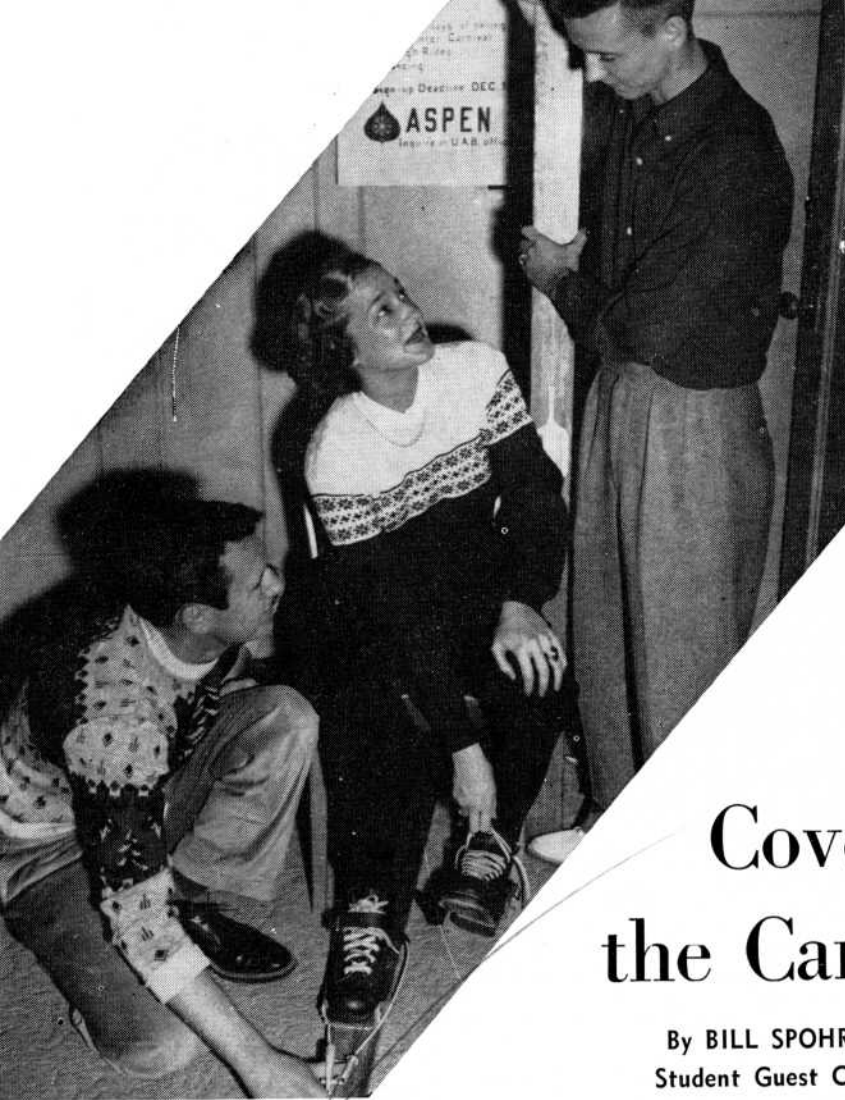
Libraries. Increase from \$265,000 to \$303,147 in order to

a) Increase fund for books and periodicals from present level of only \$80,000.

STATE REGENTS' LEGISLATIVE REQUEST FOR O.U.

	Total Operations Budget	From State Funds	From Other Funds
Norman Campus	\$ 6,555,548	\$ 5,244,438	\$ 1,311,110
School of Medicine	868,240	720,640	147,000
University Hospitals	3,143,400	628,680	147,600
Geological Survey	154,000	154,000	—
	<u>\$10,721,188</u>	<u>\$6,747,758</u>	<u>\$3,973,430</u>

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THREE STUDENTS prepare for ski trip to Colorado.

Covering the Campus

By BILL SPOHRER, '53
Student Guest Columnist

University of Oklahoma students have once again gone through the sleepless, cramming period known as finals. Another fall semester has come to an end; a semester that saw an enrolment of 8,500, the installation of parking meters on the campus, a national election, and O.U. again in the top brackets of the nation's football great.

This semester's finals were made doubly unpleasant by an outbreak of influenza which hit the campus with the same devastating effect with which it struck the rest of the country.

The flu epidemic reached its peak the week before exams. Class absences mounted, ROTC drill was called off and Ellison Infirmary was crowded—at one time to its capacity. Gradually tapering off, the "upper respiratory infection" relaxed its hold in time for most students to make their finals, though some still bore traces of blood-shot eyes and flushed faces.

For some years now, Sooners have been taking a break between semesters by mak-

ing a quick trip to the Colorado Rockies and having a try at skiing. This year, the trip was organized by the Union Activities Board with an eye toward enabling more students to make the trip and at a reduced cost.

On January 27, about 75 students packed their mittens and long underwear and climbed aboard two chartered busses bound for Aspen, Colorado. The group, accompanied by Harry Kornbaum, '33, manager of the Rainbow Travel Service, and U.A.B. Director Mary Lou Stubbeman, '45bus, spent five days learning the finer points of winter sports.

Though few returned as ski experts, O.U. seems to have no shortage along that line. Two South American students, Isaias Paz and Helmut Delius, both from LaPaz, Bolivia, are former Bolivian national ski champions. Isaias won the championship in 1948 and Helmut succeeded him in 1949. Neither has found much opportunity for practice around Norman; both weather and terrain have teamed up against them.

February 2 not only marked the first day of classes of the spring semester but also the launching of the University's celebration of "The Tenth Year of a New Era." The program commemorated the 60 years of service of the University and the 10th year of the presidency of Dr. George L. Cross.

Two special events highlighting the occasion were the ground-breaking ceremonies for a student chapel, and a public lecture by Dr. Arthur Holly Compton, world-renowned physicist and chancellor of Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri.

Classes were dismissed at 11 p.m. February 2, designated Student Services Day, in order that students attend ground-breaking ceremonies. The new chapel, donated by the Fred Jones family of Oklahoma City in memory of Fred Jones, Jr., will be erected at the southwest corner of the South Oval.

The celebration also saw the dedication of a 12-foot "birthday candle" of native Oklahoma granite. The 60th Anniversary memorial stone, erected at the south end of the south oval, was donated to the University. Faculty and staff members raised \$1,200 in contributions to pay for the base, a plaque and landscaping.

The plaque, topped with a bronze figure adapted by Art Professor Joseph R. Taylor from the University Seal, bears an inscription written by O.U.'s David Ross Boyd professors and research leaders.

"This is our heritage," the legend reads, "the traditional Sooner spirit, born at the crossroads of frontier migration, with its faith in the common man, its optimism for the morrow, its respect for the open mind, and its reliance of Divine leadership. To it the faculty and staff of the University of Oklahoma rededicate themselves on the Sixtieth Anniversary of the founding of the Institution."

Tangible proof that O.U. is recalling its pioneer traditions was seen in the clothing worn on the opening day. Students came to class dressed in the western outfits and the frills and furbelows of the 1890's. Other events of the celebration included the dedication of Cross Center, the new men's dormitory, in honor of 16 O.U. alumni who lost their lives in military service, a book fair with thousands of volumes on exhibit, and special open houses and anniversary programs.

Sooners were especially proud of their University during the 60th Anniversary celebration. But every year, there are several times when school spirit just "busts out all over." That's whenever O.U. meets the Oklahoma Aggies in an athletic con-

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Oklahoma and Dr. Dale--They Were Children Together...

weary land, a shelter in the time of storm." . . . Living so remote from all human help tended to promote a deep spiritual faith and a firm trust in a Higher Power.

In the fifteen years from 1892 to statehood in 1907, Oklahoma Territory grew rapidly, not only in population but in area, as Greer County and the Indian lands of the Cherokee Outlet and Kiowa-Comanche and Wichita-Caddo Indian reservations were opened to settlement and added to it. In the meantime, in March 1893 only four months after my arrival in Oklahoma, the Dawes Commission was created to negotiate with the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes of Indian Territory relative to the allotment of their lands in severalty and the abolition of their tribal governments.

It took twelve years to accomplish this, but in 1905 the work of the Commission had been completed and the final details given over to the Department of the Interior. Then, after an abortive attempt of the Indian Territory to establish itself as a separate state to be known as the State of Sequoyah, Congress passed the Enabling Act in 1906, permitting the people of the two Territories to hold a constitutional convention to frame a constitution for a new state to include both regions. This was done in 1906-1907 and on November 16, 1907, the State of Oklahoma was born and its first governor inaugurated at Guthrie, which had been designated as the first capital.

It was my privilege to observe many of the events and movements of these fifteen years and have a minor part in a few of them. For example, it was my good fortune to be present at Oklahoma's first birthday in Guthrie on that memorable 16th day of November, 1907.

At that time I was attending the Central State Normal at Edmond. The college had a national guard company under the command of Captain Blake, who was head of the department of biology. The national guard had been ordered to attend the inaugural ceremonies, and Captain Blake announced in assembly that any of us who wanted to go with it might do so if we could find a uniform in the armory that we could wear, and if we would drill with the company as much as eight hours. A number of us rushed down to the armory, dug out some old dirty, ragged uniforms, which was all we could find, and washed

and patched them. We put them on though, of course none of them fitted, drilled our allotted eight hours, and on the morning of the 16th the entire company, with us as "temporary recruits," boarded the train for Guthrie eighteen miles away.

When we reached the town we found most of its inhabitants had come down to the station to see the train come in, since watching the train come in was about all the recreation most of the citizens of Guthrie had in those days. As we lined up on the platform the crowd took one good look at us and gave us a loud and raucous horse-laugh. We looked like veterans just back from a long, hard campaign in the brush country! Yet we did not march like veterans or do anything else like veterans. We only looked like them.

By mid-morning the town of Guthrie was overflowing with people from every part of the present state. From the station we were marched up to the Carnegie Library to witness the inaugural ceremonies, and to listen to Governor Haskell's address. We were then marched down to the park where a barbecue dinner was to be served. By the time we reached the park, however,

the fleet-footed crowd had eaten all the barbecue and was wiping its mouth on its sleeve! Back up town we eventually were given a sketchy lunch at state expense in a Greek restaurant, and were then presented with a ticket back to Edmond and released from our status as soldiers.

The vast crowd which thronged the streets of Guthrie that afternoon seemed to be in a holiday mood. Prohibition was to go into effect at midnight when all liquor was to be sealed and shipped out of the state. There seemed to be a determined effort on the part of many individuals to save the state any such transportation charges, and, since the clocks all seemed to be very slow, there was not much left to be shipped out when a belated midnight at last came.

Time does not permit more than a brief mention of Oklahoma's amazing development during the forty-five year period from statehood to the present. In 1907 the production of oil was already well under way. During the next twenty-five years it increased so much as to change the entire economic and social life of the state. At the same time railroads were being built, cities were growing up, agricultural production was vastly increased, and the coming of automobiles, paved roads, radio, and television all combined to revolutionize the pattern of Oklahoma life. During this period, also, came all those world shaking events and movements that have so vitally affected our state and its people. No discussion of these is possible, but it does seem

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that a few words should be said . . . about early education in Oklahoma and its growth.

Soon after the Territory of Oklahoma was created in 1890 it set up a system of public education. In 1891 sixty-five school houses were built at an average cost of \$125.50 each, and in 1892 a great many more. By the time of statehood in 1907 the Territory had more than three thousand school buildings and the average value of each had risen to \$840.00. The University of Oklahoma had opened its doors to students in September, 1892, just two months before my arrival in Greer County. It began with 57 students and 4 faculty members. Even at the time of statehood, it had only 641 students and a plant with an estimated value of \$288,500. When I graduated from the University of Oklahoma at the close of the summer session of 1911 there were two bachelor's degrees conferred—that of a maiden lady and my own.

I was unmarried at that time, and as this lady and I walked down the aisle side by side to receive our degrees I suddenly remembered that the president, Dr. A. Grant Evans, was a Presbyterian minister. The same idea must have occurred to the girl for she cast a hunted look at the open win-

dow on her side of the room while I fixed my attention upon the one on my side. As we came to a halt in front of the preacher I saw a quizzical look in his eyes but he only cleared his throat and began in proper fashion. He said: "By virtue of the Authority vested in me I hereby confer upon you—" If he had begun: "Dearly beloved, we are assembled here in the presence of God and this company—" I am sure that the girl would have jumped through one window and I would have gone through the other.

In 1914 I returned to the University with an A. M. degree from Harvard to become an instructor in history at a salary of \$1,000 a year. President Brooks wanted me to come for \$900 but I held out for a thousand, declaring that in my opinion I was worth that much a year to the institution—a boast upon which I tried to make good annually for the next thirty-eight years!

By 1907 Oklahoma Territory had seven institutions of higher learning and within a few years after that date many new ones were established in the old Indian Territory area. Eventually came World War I and the deluge of college students following its close. Then came the depression and New Deal followed by World War II and the even greater deluge of young men who

entered college under the terms of the G. I. Bill of Rights.

The effect of the movements and events of the past sixty years so briefly sketched are readily apparent in Oklahoma today. The great runs of western Oklahoma brought in a population of eager, ambitious, young persons, with a supreme faith in themselves and in the future. Curiously enough, about the time the free lands of western Oklahoma were all gone there came the allotment of the tribal lands of Indian Territory in severalty and a fresh influx of the same type of people to purchase for a low price the surplus lands of these Indians. Even more important, there came about the same time the beginning of that marvelous oil development of eastern Oklahoma. Here the discovery of each new oil field brought a new "run" of aggressive young people—a run not for homesteads but for oil leases and royalties, jobs, or business opportunities. So Oklahoma became a veritable "kingdom of youth."

As the years went by, this great oil development, together with the building of paved roads, the increased use of automobiles, and the growth of mechanized farming, brought great shifts in population. The ratio of urban to rural dwellers rapidly increased. Farm units, especially in western

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Oklahoma, steadily became larger. Today many deserted farm houses may be seen in that portion of the state. A one crop system took the place of the former subsistence farming, and farming became a business rather than a way of life. At the

same time the larger towns were growing very rapidly while the smaller ones were steadily shrinking in population due to the coming of automobiles and paved highways. Towns which were thriving hamlets forty to fifty years ago are today little more than deserted villages. County seat towns and some others, however, were increasing in population with amazing rapidity, and the development of nearby oil pools or the coming of military installations led to still further growth. This sometimes created grave problems. Some towns outgrew their water supply, storm sewers, paving, sidewalks, and the recreational facilities afforded by parks and playgrounds. Some outgrew their schools and hospitals and, worst of all, their civic leadership. It is most unfortunate for any town to outgrow its facilities for living, but it is tragic when it outgrows the men responsible for the direction of its civic and economic affairs. Yet it seems certain that in Oklahoma, even today, could be found at least a few .45-caliber towns whose affairs are directed by .22-caliber men.

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No area of similar size in all the world made as much material progress as did Oklahoma in the first quarter of the last century. This enormous material advancement, however, has had interesting results. Sudden wealth, often due to oil development, has given to the state a great deal of accidental leadership. Sometimes it is good and sometimes the reverse. A man may have acquired a tract of poor land and may have tried desperately to sell it, but nobody would buy. Then oil was found on it and he sold it for five million dollars. Immediately he became head of the local chamber of commerce, chief stockholder in the local banks, and owner of a controlling interest in many large business enterprises. In many cases these men of accidental wealth had fine minds and excellent hearts, and used the power which great wealth had given them wisely and well for the benefit of the community and the state.

Unfortunately there were doubtless a few who suddenly acquired riches that had formerly been bitterly poor in every sense of that word. Such men, even with great wealth, still remained just as poor, intellectually, spiritually, and sometimes morally as they had been before and yet had a position of leadership purely due to their money.

The most important effect of Oklahoma's history has been its influence upon our people themselves. It has given to them that intangible quality which we call "Sooner Spirit." Broadly speaking, this is only the indomitable spirit of youth, of daring, of optimism, and of willingness to take