

O. U.'s Greatest Tragedy

The plane crash that killed 23 O.U. NROTC midshipmen in mid-July was described by President Cross as the greatest tragedy in O.U.'s history.

O.U. Midshipman Bob Greeson fastened his seat belt and settled back to wait for the big Navy "flying boxcar" to take off. He and his classmates were part of the 200-man group being flown from Corpus Christi, Texas, to Norfolk, Virginia, July 17, for the second half of their six-week summer NROTC training.

As Greeson's plane rose into the night from the Florida base where it had stopped for refueling, the sleepy student glanced out of a window down at the field, where the second of the four transports was just taking off.

As Greeson watched, horror-stricken, the second plane dropped quickly, then crashed to the ground, a flaming mass. Among the 44 persons who died from the crash, 23 were his O.U. classmates.

Dead were:

Eldred D. (Buster) Bates, Jr., 20, engineering sophomore, Norman.

Edmund E. Fahrenkamp II, 19, chemical engineering sophomore, Fort Worth, Texas.

Charles Stewart Heddleston, 20, business sophomore, Oklahoma City.

John Paul Hughes, 20, geological engineering sophomore, Oklahoma City.

James Joseph Kingen, 21, government sophomore, Tarrytown, New York.

Roy Verl Lulow, Jr., 21, electrical engineering junior, Tulsa.

Billy Everette Mills, 20, electrical engineering sophomore, Wayne.

James Lyndon Munkres, 20, business junior, Enid.

Ted Gene Phillips, 23, government junior, Oklahoma City.

George Henry Prentiss, 19, industrial management sophomore, Muskogee.

James Paul Raibourn, 20, electrical engineering sophomore, Sarasota, Florida.

Robert Eugene Rhyne, 22, engineering sophomore, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Robert E. Richardson, 19, petroleum geology sophomore, Brookhaven, Mississippi.

John Blair Rushing, 19, government sophomore, Chandler.

Richard Wesley Schleiff, 21, architectural engineering sophomore, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

David Ronald Smith, 21, engineering

physics senior, Blanchard.

Gordon Hedley Smith, 20, English sophomore, Tulsa.

Lee Wayne Smith, 19, electrical engineering sophomore, Oklahoma City.

Lloyd Mozley Smith, engineering physics sophomore, Oklahoma City.

James Collins Stafford, Jr., 20, engineering physics sophomore, Oklahoma City.

Kenneth Ray Starr, 22, mathematics sophomore, Hobart.

Darrell Edward Stricklin, 20, business sophomore, Norman.

A 23rd O.U. student, Dale Scott, mechanical engineering sophomore, East Lansing, Michigan, died a few days later in a Navy hospital.

Inquiries and condolences poured in from stunned citizens all over the state and nation. University President George L. Cross described the crash as "the greatest tragedy in the history of the University." Governor Johnston Murray called for a special memorial day in a proclamation that declared "23 of Oklahoma's finest and most intelligent young men have died in the service of their country."

All over the state sorrowing families and friends prepared to meet the tragic cargo that was to arrive in railroad baggage cars. A solemn series of funerals marked the young men's return home.

And on the University campus, grieving students and professors watched as the flag was lowered to half mast. Plans are now being drawn up for a Naval review to be held early in October in memory of the twenty-three.

The O.U. midshipmen were among the leaders on the campus. Each ranked high in scholastic honor and in service to the university community. They were to have been tomorrow's leaders.

Summer's Death Toll

Dr. Louis A. Turley. A heart attack ended the career of Dr. Louis A. Turley, 74, dean emeritus who helped found and shape the growth of the University of Oklahoma's School of Medicine. He died July 25.

O.U.'s oldest medical school staff member in years of service, he was well-known



THE BURNED OUT FUSELAGE of a Marine cargo plane and wrecked automobile mark the scene where 23 O.U. NROTC students lost their lives. The midshipmen were being transferred from Corpus Christi, Texas, to Norfolk, Virginia, for further summer training when crash occurred.

as a teacher of scores of state physicians and professors of science. He was the first pre-clinic professor of medicine in 1908, two years before the University established its present four year medical school. For the past few months, Dr. Turley continued to report to the medical school to do research work and to write a history of the institution.

He received his BS degree from the University of Idaho, his Ph.D. from Harvard. At O.U. Dr. Turley set up the departments of bacteriology, anatomy, histology and embryology, pharmacology and pathology, and public health.

He served as acting dean of the Medical School in 1935, following the resignation of Dean L. J. Moorman. He served as assistant dean from 1935 to 1939, then as professor of pathology until his retirement in 1944.

Harry Walker Hughes. One of the University's all-time football "greats" and the man referred to as the dean of Rocky Mountain football coaches, died at his home at Wheatridge, Colorado, July 26, following a heart attack.

Harry Walker Hughes, 65, ended a career which included being star halfback under O.U. coach Benny Owen from 1904 to 1907 and football coach with Colorado A.&M. college for 42 years.

At O.U. Hughes served as assistant football coach and director of physical education. During his senior year in the University, he found time to coach Norman high-school as well as playing on the O.U. varsity team.

When he went to Colorado A.&M. to coach, their team had seen few successes. Four years later he won the conference championship of the Rocky Mountain loop with an undefeated team.

Colorado A.&M. athletic director at the time of his retirement last June, Hughes was head coach there for 31 years. His teams won seven conference titles.

Marion Elbert Mills. Marion Elbert Mills, veteran O.U. professor of civil engineering, died at his home in Norman June 19, following a heart attack.

The 70-year-old engineer organized the graduate curriculum in structural engineering, which made O.U. the only school in the southwest offering a masters degree in the field.

Mills was born in Peru, Indiana. He received his BS degree in civil engineering from Purdue university in 1908 and a professional degree from the same school in 1926.

He came to the University of Oklahoma in 1927 after working as an engineer in Dallas, Fort Worth, and Oklahoma City. Among the many projects on which he

Continued page 32



HANGING LIMPLY AND SORROWFULLY at half-mast, the University's flag on the North Oval was lowered as a sign of mourning for 23 O.U. NROTC midshipmen killed in the July plane crash.

arguments about O.U. football by purchasing a copy. Just send \$1.00 to the Athletic Business Office, University of Oklahoma, Norman. The quote from Stanley Woodward appeared in his *Football* 1953 magazine. Other quotes were taken from newspaper stories.)

Summer's Death Toll . . .

has worked is included the first railroad laid out in western Oklahoma. He also designed the sewer plant at Weatherford and the water purification plant at Clinton.

Busy in an active career until his death, Mills was teaching classes this summer.

Joe A. Smalley. The University lost a life-long friend with the death of State Senator Joe A. Smalley.

The Norman-born political leader died of leukemia July 15 following a year-long illness.

Smalley was graduated from O.U. in 1934 and remained on to receive his law degree in 1937. During World War II he served under Gen. George S. Patten with the 179th Field Artillery. At the war's end he was discharged as a lieutenant colonel.

Smalley served two terms in the state house of representatives and in 1948 was named floor leader by Gov. Roy J. Turner.

In the last legislative session, Smalley served as chairman of the senate appropriations committee for higher education.

Commented O.U. President Cross: "During the entire period of Senator Smalley's service with the state legislature, he did everything possible to improve the welfare of the institution and asked no favors from the University in return.

IMAGE IS NOT AVAILABLE
ONLINE DUE TO COPYRIGHT
RESTRICTIONS.

A paper copy of this issue is available at call number LH 1 .0686 in Bizzell Memorial Library.

His passing means a great loss to the University of Oklahoma."

Dr. J. Willis Stovall. Few O.U. faculty members have been better known and liked throughout the state than Dr. John Willis Stovall, 62-year-old professor of paleontology and director of the University museum.

Dr. Stovall died in the University infirmary July 24 of a heart condition. He had suffered an attack a few days earlier in Wyoming where he was on a summer field trip, and had flown back to Norman.

Famous for his research into pre-historic life in the southwest and his collection of

vertebrate fossils, he had been associated with the University since 1930.

A native of Bowie, Texas, he attended Texas Christian university, Vanderbilt, Yale and the University of Chicago, where he received his doctorate. From 1924 until 1927, he taught at Union university, at Jackson, Tennessee, and Peabody college at Nashville, Tennessee.

Dr. Stovall was author of dozens of technical papers on geology and paleontology. A mild-mannered, friendly person who occupied his spare moments with painting or his mineral collection, Stovall assembled a museum at O.U. valued above a quarter of a million dollars.

CESSNA OFFERS YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THIS MID-WEST LOCATION YOUR HOME



Interesting and diversified Assignments

for

**DESIGN ENGINEERS
AERODYNAMICISTS
STRESS ANALYSTS
RESEARCH ENGINEERS**

Key positions available in the design and development of diversified light commercial airplanes, helicopters, jet aircraft and special research projects.

Send resume to

Employment Manager, Dept. 4

CESSNA AIRCRAFT COMPANY

WICHITA 1, KANSAS

The world's leading producer of business and personal airplanes