

At the O.U.-Colorado game, the Pride of Oklahoma had completed its playing of the "Star Spangled Banner" and was marching from the field. The booming voice of the loudspeaker quieted the stadium as it announced:

"Ladies and gentlemen: Today we honor a man who for twenty years has been closely identified with the athletic program of the University of Oklahoma. President G. L. Cross will escort Walter W. Kraft to the playing field and there will present. . ."

This was a memorable day for Walter Kraft. The University he has served since 1926 was focusing its attention upon him and paying him a sincere tribute.

The loudspeaker continued: . . . "In recognition of his knowledge of all phases of athletics and his devotion to keen and clean competition, Walter Kraft was appointed. . ."

It was twenty-seven years ago that Kraft came to the University of Oklahoma as an engineering professor and director of the physical plant. It was twenty years ago that he was appointed to membership on the Athletic Council. It was eighteen years

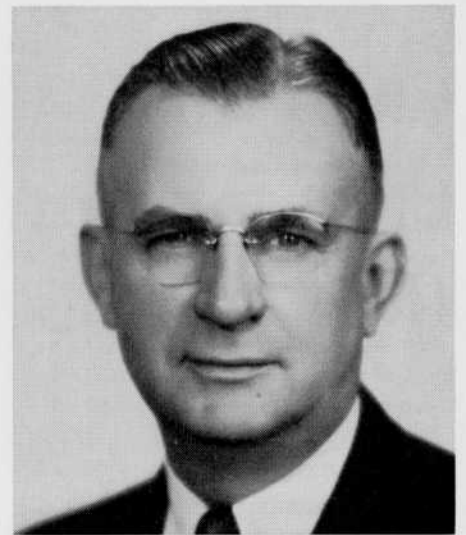
since he was first elected to serve as its president, a post he held until recently, when the Council was replaced by a board of teaching members, and the former group resigned. It was eighteen years since he was asked to serve as O.U.'s faculty representative to the Big Seven Conference.

" . . . For two decades," the loudspeaker intoned, "Walter Kraft met and solved many difficult problems in the strengthening of a solid and versatile intercollegiate athletic program for the University, and in doing so, he gave freely of his great talent and energy. . ."

It had been thirty-nine years since Walter Kraft had led his Northwestern football team as captain, and thirty-nine years since he had been working his way through that university as a janitor and waiter.

During the years following his graduation he coached and officiated in the Big Ten and acted as starter at Northwestern's track meets. Later on he started the Texas A.&M. interscholastic track meet and officiated in football for a period of some fifteen years.

As a member of the Athletic Council and



WALTER W. KRAFT

. . . For Services Rendered

as a faculty representative to the Big Seven, Kraft was the unwavering supporter of the college athlete as an individual, and worked to insure that he be treated fairly

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The Sooner Salutes

WALTER W. KRAFT

WILLIAM B. RAGAN

Six years ago, Dr. William Burk Ragan, soft-spoken professor of education, had an idea for a book. He previously had pub-



Dr. WILLIAM B. RAGAN

. . . For Distinguished Achievement

lished a number of articles in teachers' magazines but never anything of that length or scope. A college textbook it would be, about elementary schools and instructing primary children.

Dr. Ragan began spending his spare time collecting material and drawing up an outline. After three years of holiday, weekend and after-work sessions, he mentioned his ideas to a publisher's representative and a contract was signed.

This year, *Modern Elementary Curriculum* was published, and within five months after the first printing some 80 colleges adopted it, including Columbia, Stanford, California, Michigan and Michigan State. It is now in its second printing.

Dr. Ragan intended his book to take "the common-sense middle ground between traditional and progressive practices." Although designed primarily as a college text for education students, it also is suited for use as a reference for elementary principals and teachers, providing among other features a check list for evaluating elementary schools.

As background for this work, Dr. Ragan has been teaching since 1920, after being graduated from Central State Teachers College. He received his BA in history and an MS in education from the University of Oklahoma and his doctorate in education from Stanford. He came to the University in 1939 after serving as a teacher and superintendent of schools in a number of Oklahoma districts.

He is active in the Methodist Church, Chamber of Commerce, American Legion and Lions Club, in addition to educational groups, including the National Society for the Study of Education. He was a member of the Curriculum Workshop in 1948 which developed the current curriculum guide for the state's elementary schools.

In October, Dr. Ragan was one of 10 alumni honored by the Central State Alumni Association for "outstanding achievements" in their fields. He is one of 20 to receive such distinction.

To this recognition, the *Sooner* adds its heartiest salute!