

Matters of Moment

Each month a number of events affect the University of Oklahoma. Some are of long-range importance. This is the first of what is expected to be a standard feature of Sooner Magazine. Only those events which seem to be of great significance to the University's health and growth will be included.

GIFTS

A SPECIAL FACULTY CHAIR for the School of Petroleum Engineering will result from a gift from long-time friends of the University. In January, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Neustadt and Mrs. Juline Westheimer Wells, all of Ardmore, gave the University of Oklahoma Foundation \$15,000 to establish the chair. The gift enables the University to compete with other colleges in securing the top man in the field for O.U.'s faculty.

A GIFT OF A CELESTA-CHIME was given to the University February 4 by Mrs. W. O. Childs, Tulsa. Mrs. Childs gave the chime, a chromatic electric carillon with eight loudspeakers, in honor of her late husband, a prominent state contractor and oil man. The gift is known as the William Oscar Childs Memorial Celesta-Chime. The chime is mounted atop the Oklahoma Memorial Union. Dedicatory services were held in the Union before 200 people. Dr. Pete Kyle McCarter, vice-president of the University, accepted the gift.

A NEW BOOK, concerned with one of the finest gifts ever made to the University, was published recently. The book, *A Checklist of the E. DeGolyer Collection in the History of Science and Technology*, lists all the titles in the world-famous collection of books dealing with the history of science. Recent purchases have brought the number of volumes to 7,000. The collection is valued at more than \$250,000. E. DeGolyer, '11ba, Dallas geologist, initiated the gift with 600 books from his own collection and has continued to sponsor additions. The collection is considered one of the best of its kind ever to be assembled.

GRANTS

DR. CLUFF E. HOPLA, assistant professor of zoology, has been granted \$15,000 by the Air Force for a pioneering study of the disease, tularemia, in Alaska next summer. The disease, marked by a continuing irregular fever and often fatal to persons over 40, is caused by bacteria carried by insects. Dr. Hopla will head a staff of four scientists who will spend three months in Alaska next summer doing field work.

DR. KENNETH M. RICHTER, professor of anatomy at the O.U. School of Medicine, has been awarded a \$16,524 research grant for a 2-year study in the field of histology. Dr. Richter received the grant from the National Cancer Institute. The grant will enable him to continue a study of the secretory activity of normal and leukemic blood cells. Dr. Richter has been on the Medical School staff since 1943.

DR. ALFRED CHATENEVER, research engineer with the Research Institute at O.U., has received a \$9,000 grant from the American Petroleum Institute. He will continue research that may pave the way for new techniques to allow the reclamation of thousands of dollars worth of oil. Dr. Chatevener has been studying the behavior of fluids in porous media since 1949.

DR. SIMON H. WENDER, research professor of chemistry, has been awarded a grant of \$8,000 by the Atomic Energy Commission. The grant was made through the University's Research Institute. Dr. Wender's research will involve flavonoid compounds found in leaves and fruit.

THE LEGISLATURE

IN THE BUDGET submitted to the legislature by Governor Raymond Gary, he submitted a request for \$36,750,000 for Oklahoma's institutions of higher education for the next two years. The request was in line with one submitted by the State Regents for

Higher Education. Of the gross amount, \$6,958,765 was designated for O.U., plus \$1,041,885 for the School of Medicine, \$3,516,264 for University Hospitals, and \$195,389 for the Geological Survey. No final action has been taken on the request.

A BILL has been introduced in state legislature providing for \$17 million bond issue for repair and construction of buildings at state institutions of higher education. Bill, already passed by the House, provides for funds to be raised by sale of bonds. A state-wide election on proposal is expected in late March.

APPOINTMENTS

A SECOND 7-YEAR TERM on the O.U. Board of Regents for Norman attorney T. R. Benedum, '28Law, was approved February 3 by the State Senate. Benedum's initial term on the Board expired in July, 1954, but he was given an interim appointment by Governor Johnston Murray to serve until Governor-elect Gary took office. Gary then appointed Benedum to a full term, to serve until 1961. He was first appointed to the Board in 1947 by Governor Roy Turner and served as president of the Regents in 1953. He is a past president of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association, the Norman Chamber of Commerce and Norman Rotary Club.

RESOLUTION

The Oklahoma Press Association adopted a resolution January 29 urging the University's Board of Regents to provide a new building for the School of Journalism. Editors and publishers from all over the state said they believed an enlarged physical plant and expanded facilities would attract a larger enrolment and help solve the shortage of newsmen in Oklahoma. A new journalism building is now second on the list of new additions to the campus. A \$3 million addition to the Library holds the top priority position.