

Goodbye, Messrs. Chips



ARTHUR C. SHEAD

He took a fancy to apples and mushrooms.

FOUR LONG-APPRECIATED MEN retire from the University of Oklahoma's faculty and staff this summer. They are John F. Brookes, professor of civil engineering; William J. Cross, treasurer of the athletic department; Harvey C. Roys, associate professor of physics, and Arthur C. Shead, associate professor of chemistry.

Brookes is a man who has remained "down to earth," so to speak. Through an admirable career, his interests have never deviated from the area in which he has become a specialist—heavy construction such as underwater foundations and concrete dams, and dredging, grading, draining, highway construction.

Born in 1896 in Nebraska, he attended high school in Nashville, Tennessee, then took a 1908 engineering degree in the same city at Vanderbilt University. For 11 years he worked in Nashville as a field engineer for the U. S. Corps of Engineers, and it was during this period that he met and married Katherine Vaughan; they have one son, Ned.

Brookes joined O. U.'s faculty in 1919 as an assistant professor of civil engineering. Two years later he'd earned his full professorship, and eventually he became head of his department. When Oklahoma's first state board for the registration of engineers was set up, Brookes was chairman of it, and he is Oklahoma's Registered Engineer No. 3.

Probably few teachers have gained more

Summer is that season when O. U. must, each year, witness the leave-taking of old friends and sure guiding hands. This summer the Institution says goodbye to four of the best Mr. Chips it has known.

deep respect and devotion from students and colleagues. Last December he was honored by the American Society of Civil Engineers' Oklahoma section; the group awarded him a life membership.

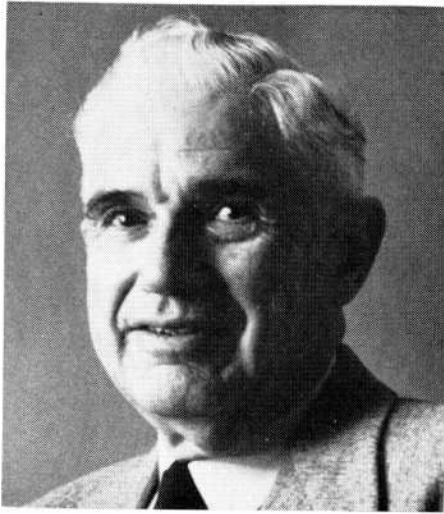
A month earlier he'd been cited by the University Foundation for "extraordinary excellence in student counseling and teaching of freshmen and sophomores." The \$500 cash accompanying the citation Brookes used to set up a scholarship for engineering students. "These boys," he said, "are my friends."

William Cross lived in Protection, Kansas, and Kingfisher, Oklahoma, before attending O. U.'s preparatory school. He received his degree in geology from the University in 1909.

He worked briefly for a certified public accountant firm, then 15 years as a teller, cashier and chief clerk in Kansas and Oklahoma banks. However, when Cross' name is mentioned, one doesn't ordinarily think of geology or banking. Football comes to mind immediately; he was one of the finest quarterbacks ever to play for Oklahoma.

Cross joined the team in 1904 and became a great runner and kicker. In fact, he was the first O. U. griddier ever to score a dropkick. After two years a bad siege of typhoid almost knocked him out of sports, but he gritted his teeth and came back to play under Coach Bennie Owen and became captain of the 1907 team.

A key to Cross' character lies in an incident occurring in 1905, when O. U. played



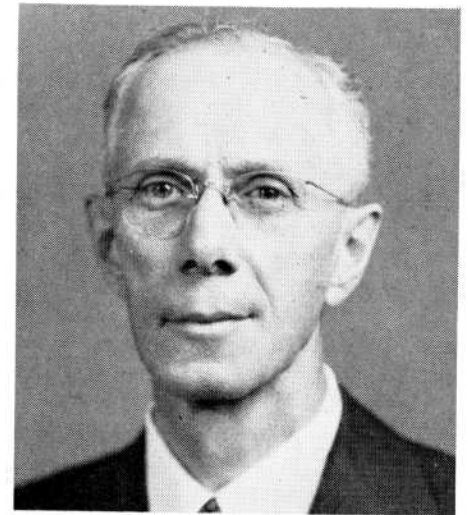
JOHN F. BROOKES

"These boys," he told them, "are my friends."



WILLIAM J. CROSS

After game, he apologized to the fullback.



HARVEY C. ROYS

Goodbye to Sun Yat Sen, and hello to O. U.

against Kingfisher College. Harold Keith described it this way:

"Truesdale, a popular varsity fullback, was enamoured of a Kingfisher girl who was to attend the game. So the varsity players agreed before the kickoff that if it could be done without endangering the final result, they would give Truesdale every opportunity to distinguish himself. They were as good as their word. Truesdale scored nine of the ten touchdowns, Bill Cross being forced to record the tenth when he picked up a Kingfisher fumble and stepped across the goal. After the game, he apologized to Truesdale."

Cross married Rosalie Biscoe in 1916 in Kansas City, Missouri. Their son William Walter attended O. U. In 1929 Cross went to work as business manager of athletics for the University. He carried a staggering load in the growing sports department, and finally it told. One afternoon in 1942 he played a round of golf, came home to dinner, then decided to mow his lawn. Following the mower, he began to feel badly, so he went inside and lay down on the divan. He'd had a heart attack, and it kept him in bed for weeks.

But again Cross bounced back, to work another 15 years (with a larger staff) and to help develop a well-managed university sports department.

Harvey Roys was a product of the University of Michigan, where he took his engineering degree. That same year—1910—he caught a ship to Nanking, China, "because I wanted to see that part of the world," and began teaching at Kiangnan Provincial College there. It was in Nanking that he married Grace Woolridge.

He switched jobs a year later, taking a teaching position at the University of Nanking. Roys had wanted to be an electrical

engineer, but now he suspected that he was to be a teacher for life.

After seven years in China he came back to the University of Michigan to get a master's degree in physics. Then he and Mrs. Roy returned to Nanking, ready to settle down to a long career of teaching physics to orientals. But suddenly the bloody Chinese Revolution flared up, and after watching several phases of it the couple left for America, practically on the eve of the inauguration of Sun Yat-Sen as first president of the new republic.

After working for the Western Electric and Detroit Edison companies, he wanted to teach again, so in 1921 Roys joined O. U.'s faculty as associate professor of physics. Excepting a two-year leave which took him back to Michigan, he's been there ever since.

Roys specialized in X-ray spectroscopy, and his research has dealt with X-ray analysis of minerals and crystal structures. For more than 20 years he lectured extensively on China. He's an avid football and photography fan, and was for some years faculty adviser of the Norman Baptist Student Union.

Mrs. Roys died in 1953. Her and Roys' three children are O.U.-trained. They are Margaret, '34ba (now Mrs. R. W. Stevenson); Richard, '35ba, '39med, and Harvey Curtis, Jr., '43med. Richard's wife is the former Ruth Shannon, '36ed.

Arthur Shead was born on St. Valentine's Day, 1891, in New Madrid, Missouri. He graduated from high school in Oklahoma City in 1909 and took his bachelor's degree at O. U. in 1919, his master's in 1923. His Ph.D. came from the University of Illinois.

Three years after graduating from high school he married Elizabeth Belt, '10ba. At the same time he went to work for the Norman Post Office as clerk-carrier. Later he

was employed by the Oklahoma Geological Survey.

He joined the University in 1924 as assistant professor of chemistry and stayed on continuously, except for a year's teaching on a fellowship at the University of Illinois. Shead's specialty turned out to be analytical micro-chemistry. He wrote prolifically—articles such as "Gravimetric Methods of Calibrating Ocular Micrometers" and "Phosphate Rocks in Oklahoma"—and often translated the writings of foreign scientists into English.

He and Mrs. Shead have two sons and a daughter.

Shead loves good music. But his real passion is packing off in his car to the country where he can study plants and look for wild plant foods such as mushrooms.

About 30 years ago he took an acute interest in the apple, and he's still studying the fruit. Watching its chemical habits, he's become satisfied that the apple, in surplus, would provide opportunity for the profitable production of calcium malate, a substance resembling and as good as cream of tartar; it could be used in making baking powder and any number of drugs. Could a whole new industry be developed in Oklahoma through the apple? Shead thinks so.

He has always stood against importing goods from foreign countries when they could be produced in Oklahoma. He warned the state to look to its natural resources, to irrigate to grow profitable desert plants in the more desertlike areas—in short, to develop or give up.

The memories and ideas of Shead and his three retiring companions have guided innumerable students and friends in the past half-century. The University hates to see them leave.