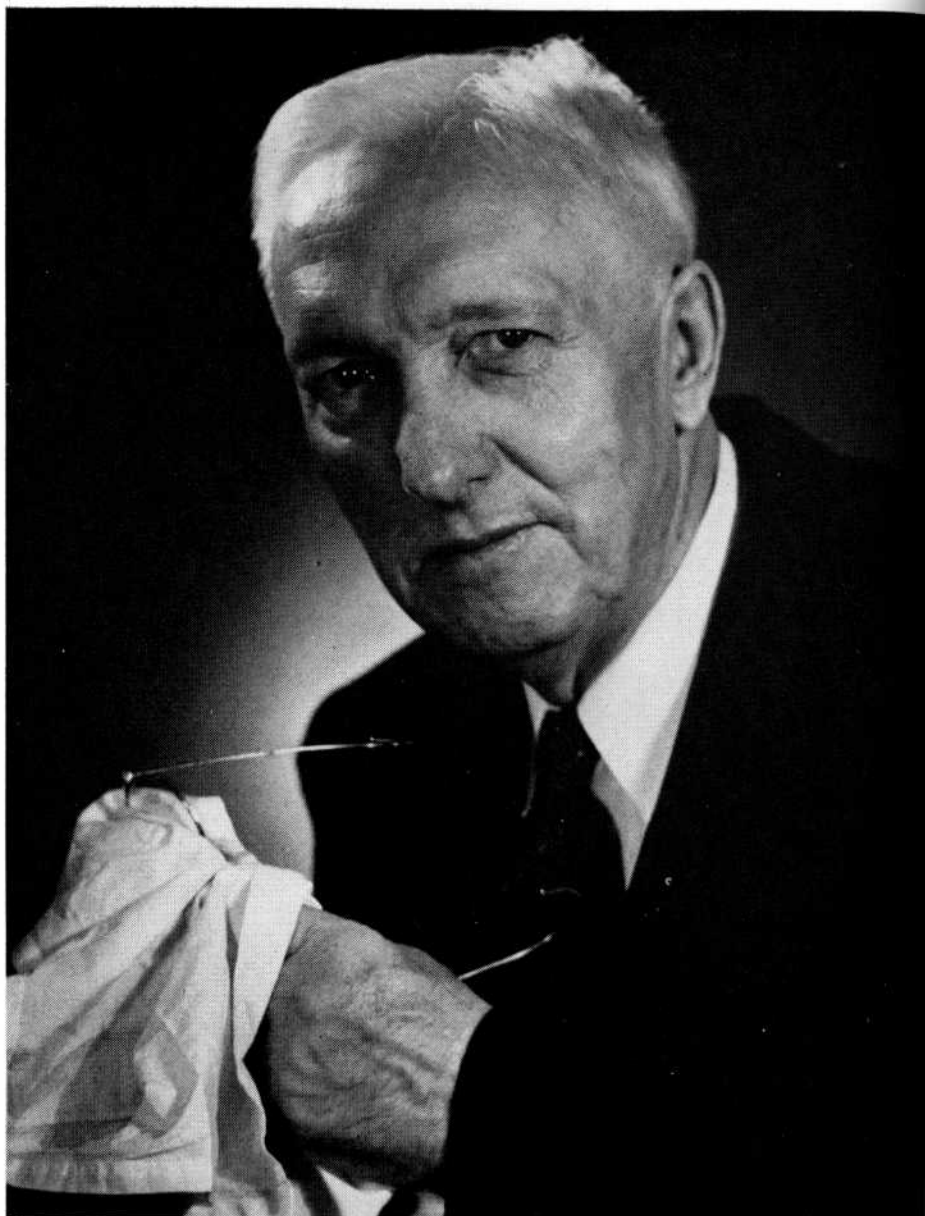


Roy Gittinger,
veteran dean,
died in October.
The University
knows there was

No Other Like Him



Roy Gittinger posed here for photographer Ned Hockman, former student of the beloved historian. Wiping his glasses during class lectures was what Hockman remembered best, wanted to capture.

When this period of storm and danger is over, the university . . . will be ready to face the future with confidence and with ideals unchanged.

DR. ROY GITTINGER wrote the above words 15 years ago. At that time the University of Oklahoma was celebrating its semi-centennial, and the Second World War was laying waste to much of the earth. Whole cultures seemed to be disintegrating, books were being burned in Germany, democracy was fighting fascism and glancing nervously over its shoulder at an ally named communism. All the atmosphere smelled of violent, tragically unnecessary death.

In the year 1957 the storm had passed, but fresh storm-warnings sounded again.

World War II had never really ended; it had merely turned from hot to cold. The University and the world had yet to see a new era of peace in which confidence and ideals could be cemented without the hindrance of one creed jealously threatening another.

It was unfortunate that on the University's 65th birthday Gittinger couldn't see an institution unhindered by shaky world affairs. But, as the white-haired, slightly bent man walked across the campus with his cane tapping the walk and his warm eyes tapping those he encountered, he could take comfort in the fact that here still lay a bulwark of reason in a cluster of gothic and modern halls.

Gittinger, veteran history professor, had

known the University as few men have. He came to it in 1901. He and his wife left Iowa a year earlier and journeyed to Moore, Oklahoma, to teach school there. Hardly were they started, however, when smallpox swept through the little town, and the school closed. It was a stroke of bad luck, but it caused Gittinger to go back to college—to O. U., six miles distant.

After graduation in 1902, he took up teaching again, in the University's Preparatory School. A year later he was made principal.

The University was an infant in those days. There were less than a half-dozen buildings, some young trees here and there to break the monotony of the prairie, and a grand total of 300 enrolled students.



Dean Gittinger (right) took great enjoyment in class reunions. Here he greets Albert Clinkscales (at left) and Lawrence Batey. Photograph was made last June in the University's Union Building.

About 60 persons could call themselves graduates of the institution. The school's first president, David Ross Boyd, was celebrating his tenth year as head man.

Boyd left in 1908, and a new president, A. Grant Evans, took his place. Under Evans, Gittinger became University registrar. Two presidents later (Julian C. Monnet and Stratton D. Brooks) he became dean of undergraduates.

There were many posts to come, most of them administrative. In fact, Gittinger was practically always a dean of one kind or another, and eventually he became affectionately known as "Dean Gitt" to faculty and students.

He served as registrar again immediately following World War I. Then, during the twenties, he agreed to act temporarily as dean of the graduate school. Through the thirties he was dean of administration, then was made dean of admissions in 1941.

But, much as he loved working for the University in every manner possible, Gittinger ached to return to teaching. At the close of the second World War, he did just that, re-entering Department of History classrooms.

His service had been long and outstanding. The worth of his contributions was beyond estimation. He had worked with every University president, a statement no other person could make (and by this time, successive presidents since Brooks included

James S. Buchanan, William B. Bizzell, Joseph A. Brandt and George L. Cross).

It was apparent that no honor was large enough for such a man, but the University made an attempt. Gittinger was named Regents Professor of History—the first regents professor.

Afterward, modern Gittinger Hall rose on the South Oval. In 1950 Gittinger was named Professor Emeritus of History.

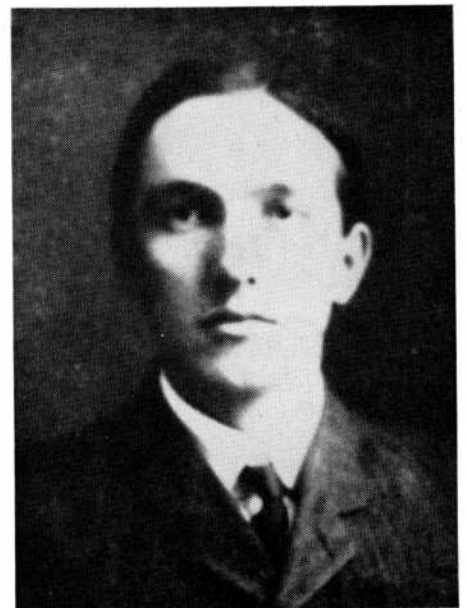
He had become the University historian. Possessed of an amazing memory, he could pour forth a multitude of facts without blinking an eye. Age didn't fog his mind, but seemed to make it clearer, if anything.

Now he held a niche in the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and had published many books, among them *The University of Oklahoma: A History of Fifty Years* and *Formation of the State of Oklahoma*.

He kept teaching history until 1956. After that he still visited and worked in his campus office.

On October 13 Gittinger made a Sunday visit to some friends in Oklahoma City. While there, he suffered a stroke and was rushed to a hospital. He died at the age of 79.

The University mourns Dean Gitt. Here was the man who served longest, who had given of himself in almost every way he could to the school he had known for 56 years. When will there be another like him?



Gittinger came to O. U. as a young man. A smallpox epidemic brought him to the campus.