

Dr. George L. Cross, President, University of Oklahoma

## Picture of Growth and Development

President Cross recently presented his annual report on the state of the University. In pictures and text, here is the gist of his words.

**E**ACH FALL members of the Norman Civic Clubs hold a joint meeting to hear how the town's largest industry is faring. President George L. Cross presented his state-of-the-university report November 5, 1957.

Much of what he had to say was a review of continuing issues—1) large enrollments, 2) low faculty pay, 3) need for more equipment and money for research. He outlined urgently needed buildings and estimated construction costs at approximately \$16,000,000. New additions to research facilities were listed and a new research project was announced.

Reported on the following pages are important points which the President stressed. His view of the University is a picture of growth and development and the vigor that characterizes the University of Oklahoma.

THE  
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Enrollment figures, present and future, are significant points on which University planning is done. Enrollment has jumped 2,000 in four years.





Facilities are under construction to accommodate 15,000 students. In the year 1958, birth statistics will take an upturn, bringing more students.

An ever increasing enrollment will flood the University with 15,000 students by the year 1960. How to take care of them without adequate facilities? Already badly needed new buildings are under construction, at a cost of millions.

**E**NROLLMENT HAS INCREASED from 9,103 for 1953 to 11,807 for 1957," President Cross reported to Norman Civic Club members. "Projected enrollment figures indicate in excess of 15,000 by 1960 if facilities and staff can be provided."

The enrollment figures, present and future, are the significant points on which the University planning is done. The President stated that the 1957 enrollment represents the low point in U. S. birth statistics. Yet it is a high point of enrollment for the past five years. Next year, birth statistics take an upturn which is basis for prediction of 15,000 by '60.

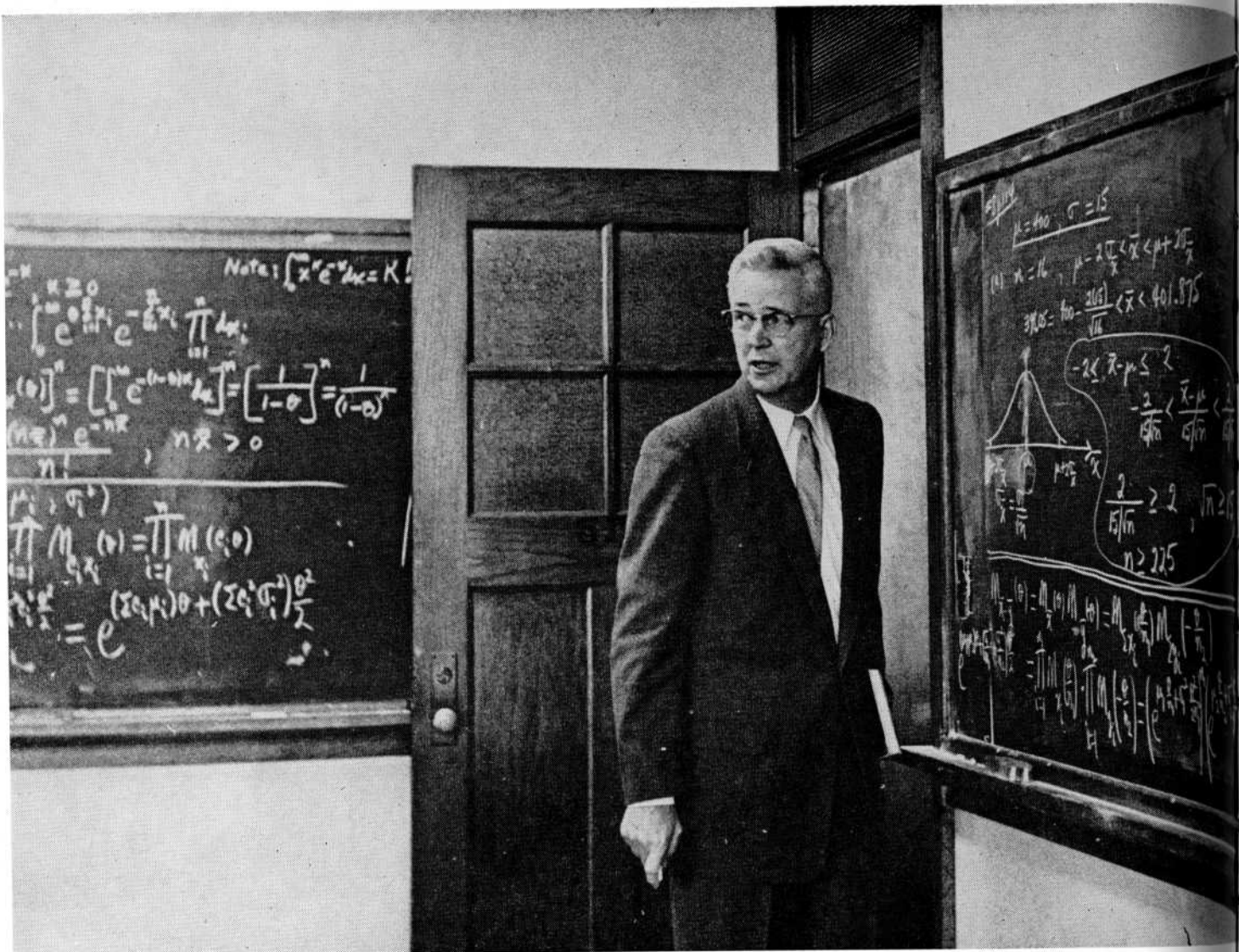
The President outlined the facilities that are under construction and those needed to accommodate 15,000 students. "The addition to the library, currently under construction,

will add room for 600,000 additional volumes and seating space for 2,500 students at a cost of \$2,700,000. This should be adequate for a total student body of 15,000 or more.

"A Journalism and classroom building is being constructed now at a cost of \$600,000. Housing addition for women will be started soon at cost of \$700,000.

"Buildings which are urgently needed and for which funds are not available at present include 1) classroom and office building; 2) engineering center; 3) plant sciences building; 4) Laboratory school building for College of Education; 5) women's physical education building; 6) addition to chemistry building; 7) fine arts center. The list of urgently needed buildings can be constructed for a cost of \$16,000,000."





## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The truth about professors' salaries is this: They are too low. A full professor at the University of Texas draws \$2,400 more annually than the O. U. man.

**P**HYSICAL FACILITIES are needed to house and instruct 15,000 students, but perhaps more important to the University is an increase in number of faculty and an increase in faculty salaries.

"The problem of recruiting and retaining an adequate faculty has become increasingly serious during the past year. Differentials between salaries paid at the University of Oklahoma and at other institutions with which we compete for personnel have increased markedly during the year.

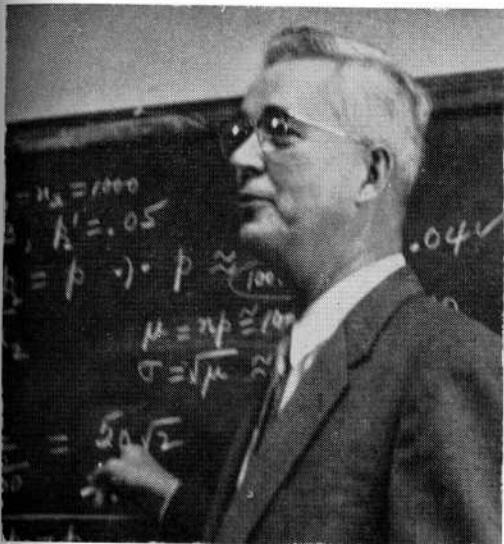
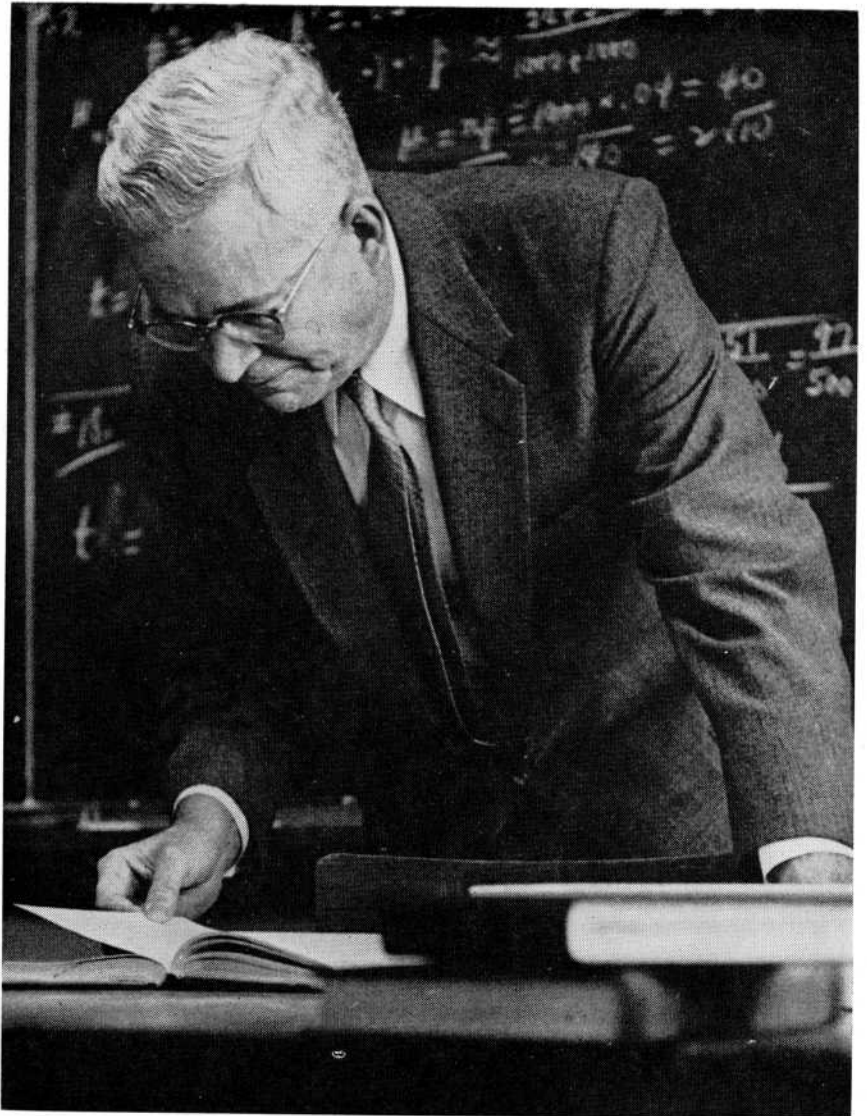
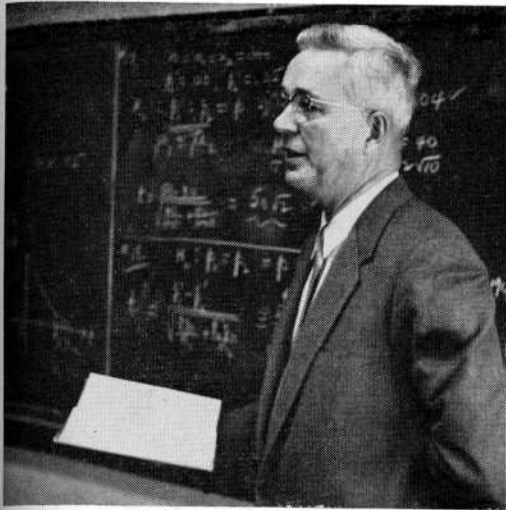
"One example will suffice—the average salary for the full professor at the University of Texas is now \$2,400 a year higher than at the University of Oklahoma. The most serious problem faced by the University is the matter of providing adequate salary for the faculty."

To highlight the problem, *Sooner Magazine* photographed an outstanding O. U. professor,

Dr. John C. Brixey, in action before one of his mathematics classes.

Dr. Brixey is a full professor of mathematics. Although his pay check is somewhat lighter than that of his Texas colleagues, his performance does not indicate a pay differential.

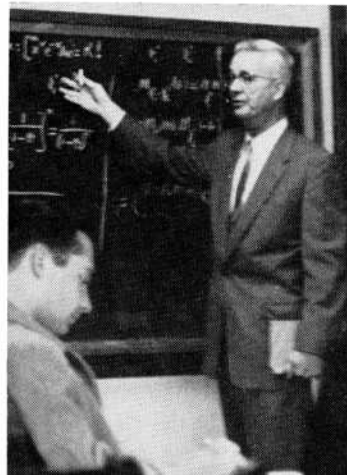
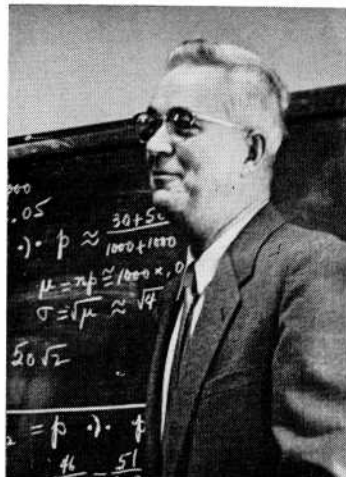
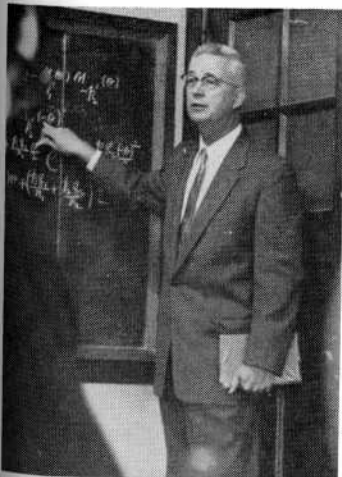
A winner of the University of Oklahoma Foundation Teaching award for excellence in instruction and counseling, Dr. Brixey is one of a large group of dedicated faculty members who have chosen to teach at the University of Oklahoma for less money than they could make in industry or at many other institutions. But dedication wears thin. A question frequently heard voiced over coffee tables is, "Should I teach at O. U. because I like the atmosphere and challenge or should I think of my family and take a higher paying job elsewhere?" In many cases the answer must favor family.



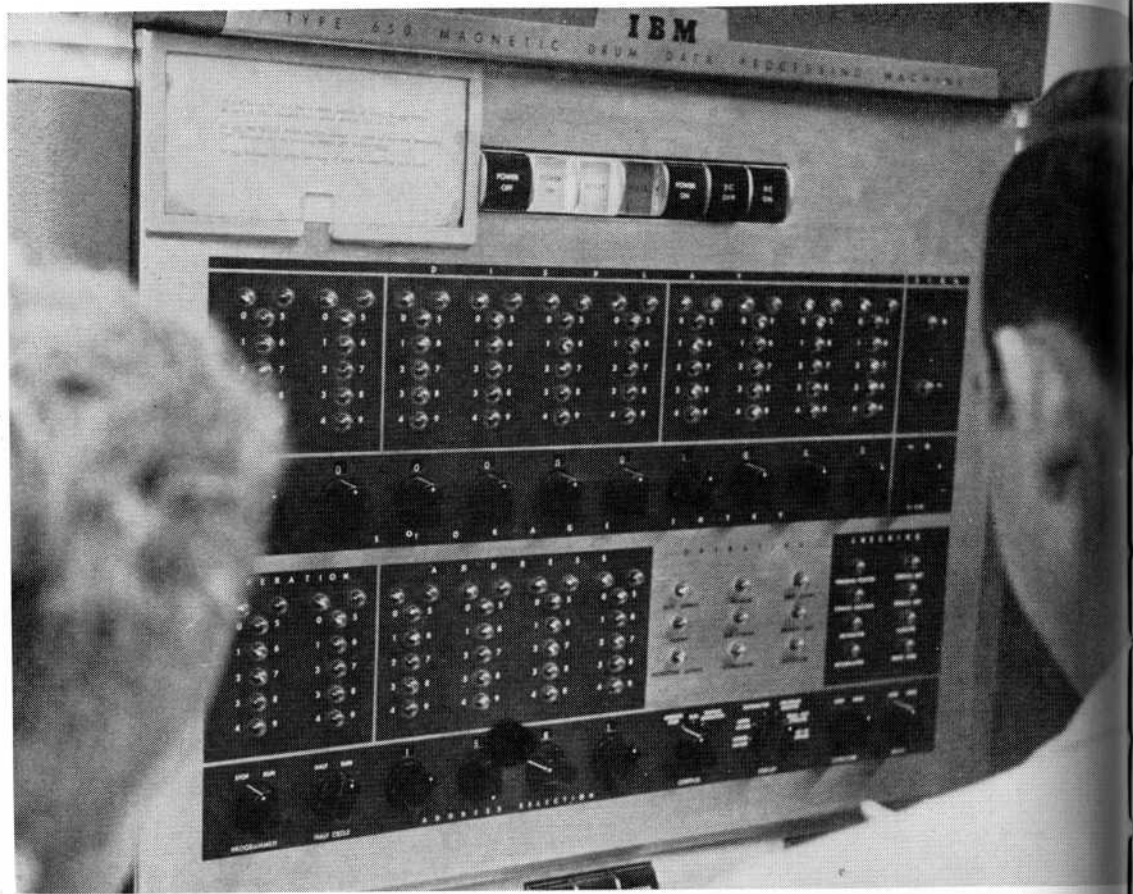
Differentials between salaries here and at other institutions increased markedly during this past year.

The most serious problem faced by the University of Oklahoma is the matter of providing adequate salary for the faculty. Some teach for much less money than they could make in industry.

Sometimes dedication wears thin. Should a man teach in the University because he likes the atmosphere and challenge, or should he think of his family and higher pay?



## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



The IBM 650 computer, shown in use in O. U.'s new computer laboratory.

During this past year more than 1,200 individual research projects have been under way at O. U. Research facilities must, and will, expand greatly in the future.

**P**RESIDENT CROSS placed strong emphasis on the University's research program. "Over 1,200 individual research projects have been under way during the past year in University-sponsored research. Several hundred technical and professional articles and fourteen books of major importance have been published during the year and several more are in preparation.

"Research grants totalling several hundred thousands of dollars were made to individual faculty members by foundations and other agencies during the year for the pursuance of research projects. This increased support of research on our campus is of course a result of increased confidence in the quality of our faculty.

"Research sponsored and supported by industry and administered by the University of Oklahoma Research Institution includes contracts totalling \$363,554. The work extends through a variety of fields of interest.

"We have added to our research facilities. An atomic reactor is on order from Atomics International Corporation, Canoga Park, California. The reactor was purchased by a grant from the Atomic Energy Commission.

"During the past year the University has developed a computer laboratory containing an IBM

650, or intermediate size and speed, computer. And the University is bringing to completion plans for the development of a high speed computing laboratory."

Computers, both the intermediate and high speed, will serve as teaching tools for O. U. students and as problem solving instruments for industry.

Speaking of the high-speed computer, President Cross said, "It would be useful in the quick solution of complicated problems having to do with every conceivable type of industry—problems pertaining to petroleum production, refining and fuel blending, the production of lubricating oils, the airplane industry, road construction and a host of others."

President Cross stated that the high-speed computer laboratory was essential to the development of the University of Oklahoma Research Park. Industry will be invited to establish research facilities at O. U. as the Research Park develops.

"Success with this project (the computer laboratory) would mean the development of an exceptional graduate program in electronics. It would attract nation-wide attention to the University and certainly would be of foremost importance in attracting commercial electronics research of manufacturing plants to the area."





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