

Sooner Scene

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IN JUNE of 1892 the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma met in Norman and made plans to organize a University and select a president. At a meeting of this board held exactly 67 years later the picture was quite different, except the board still consisted of a group of dedicated citizen willing to give generously of their time and energies to help build a greater University for Oklahoma.

For that first year President Boyd employed three faculty members at salaries ranging from \$900 to \$1,500 a year. The average faculty member's salary for the school year 1959-60 will be \$7,000.

At the first regular meeting of the new University faculty, after they had cut and eaten a watermelon, plans were made for welcoming the new students, though the faculty may have wondered at that time whether or not any students would appear. Beginning on September 15th entrance examinations were given to students seeking admission and within a few days 57 students had entered the first classes. Enrollment reached 83 during the first semester and a total of 119 before the end of the first year. In the year 1959-60 the University will enroll approximately 12,000 students.

In the beginning the University was supported by a territorial tax of $\frac{1}{2}$ a mill. An incidental fee varying at times from \$3 to \$5 a semester was collected from the students. The total University budget for the school year 1893-94 was \$7,741. The Education and general budget for O.U. in 1959-60 is \$8,959,600.

The agenda for the Regents meeting held in July of this year contained 30 items. Included in the business of the day were such important decisions as approval of the largest budget in the history of the institution, 79 personnel changes in the faculty and staff, several of which represent key positions in the institution. The Regents also considered expansion to the University Physical Plant such as the \$3,000,000 continuing education center for adults and a new \$800,000 research building at the College of Medicine. Here is some information about a few of the outstanding people who will join the University family this fall.

Dr. Wolfgang Bernard Fleischmann was named editor of "Books Abroad," the international literary quarterly, founded 33 years ago and circulated throughout the world. The founder and first editor of this journal was Dr. Roy Temple House, David Ross Boyd Professor Emeritus of Modern Languages. He was succeeded in 1949 by Dr. Ernst Eric Noth, who is leaving the University to become research professor of modern languages and comparative literature at Marquette University in Milwaukee. The newly appointed editor of the famed quarterly, which is a review of publications throughout the world, has a background which blends European heritage and American experience. He was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1928 and came to the United States in 1940 after completing his primary education in Austria, Switzerland, Belgium and France. He received a BA degree in 1950 at St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, and has MA and PhD degrees from the University of North Carolina. He has served as an instructor in German at the University of North Carolina, as an intelligence analyst with the U. S. Army, and as a professor at the Army Intelligence school. He has a speaking or reading knowledge of 11 languages.

Another outstanding man who will be joining the O.U. family this fall is Dr. William J. Mayer-Oakes. He replaces Stephan Borhegyi as Director of the University of Oklahoma Stovall Museum of Science and History. He comes here from the University of Toronto, where he was professor of anthropology. Born in Oskaloosa, Iowa, he holds an MA degree in social science and a PhD degree in anthropology from the University of Chicago. He served in the U. S. Air Force from 1943 to 1946. In addition to his experience at Toronto, he has served as chief field archeologist of the upper Ohio Valley Archeological Survey of Carnegie Museum, as Supervisor of University of Chicago Archeological Excavations at Starved Rock, Illinois, and was anthropologist and exhibit designer at the public museum in Davenport, Iowa. He worked with the Smithsonian Institution river basin survey parties in eastern Oklahoma as a field assistant. He is president of the Eastern States Archeological Federation and holds offices in several other professional organizations.

Judy Bounds Coleman was appointed visiting assistant professor of music. She has three degrees from O.U. in music and is a former student of Miss Eva Turner. She received the National Federation of Music Clubs award in 1951, the Metropolitan Opera association awarded her a scholarship in 1952-53 to the Kathryn Turney,

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Long School and the Schoen-Rene cash grant. Recently she has been serving as director of the Opera Workshop at Kansas State College in Pittsburg, Kansas.

The consideration of a budget that will mean faculty raises of about 5 per cent for the coming year was the big item of business for the Regents' meeting this month. The increases were made possible by the appropriations made by the recent legislature resulting in an increase for the Norman campus of nearly \$900,000 to a total figure for the school year 1959-60 of \$5,825,477. President G. L. Cross stated, in presenting the budget, "Even though we are not yet totally competitive, this substantial increase is a beginning of a much better situation for higher education in Oklahoma."

"That still leaves us about \$1,000 below the average prevailing last year at institutions with which we compete, and we could expect that they are trying to improve salaries too," Dr. Cross stated.

"This reflects the best support I can recall. The attitude and interest of both the Governor and the Legislature are deeply appreciated," he added.

The legislature authorized the appointment of a committee of fifteen to study the state system of higher education with a view of recommending improvements. The colleges and universities welcome this study and will cooperate in any effort that will lead to greater effectiveness and efficiency.

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