

Backlog

O.U. AUTHORITIES ARE KNOWN THE WORLD OVER
BUT THEY SELDOM CAUSE A STIR HERE AT HOME

THE classic story from the anecdotted days that Eva Turner spent at O.U. has been told a hundred times. This is one hundred and one:

It seems that two old friends of the famed British opera star met in London.

"Where is Eva now?" the first asked.

"Why, she's in Oklahoma," his companion explained.

"In *Oklahoma!*?" was the puzzled reply. "Which role?"

The role which Miss Turner played in Oklahoma for ten years was that of voice teacher, prestige enhancer and legendary campus personality. Yet, as with most eminent persons, many of those who saw her daily or read her name in the local newspapers failed to recognize that this dynamic woman in old Holmberg Hall was probably the greatest contribution which England had ever made to opera.

In a similar vein, Oklahomans will be surprised to learn that the state has produced five of the top ballerinas in the world (see page 4)—perhaps more ballerinas than ballet-goers. It might come as a shock to realize that two of the brightest names in ballet, Yvonne Chouteau and Miguel Terekhov, have now been added to the O.U. teaching staff.

And how widespread is the knowledge that Violet Archer is considered one of the finest woman composers of the day, better known in Canada than within the state where she has taught since 1954—or that her fellow School of Music faculty member Sylvia Zarembo has received international acclaim as a concert pianist—or that Art Professor Emelio Amero is one of the greatest lithographers in the world?

Dr. George M. Sutton is listed in the faculty directory as research professor of zoology. Those in the field of ornithology look to him as an international authority, probably the most successful since Audubon in combining the study of birds with art.

An O.U. alumnus traveling Europe was amazed to find that the people he met in Germany had indeed heard of the University of Oklahoma—but identified it only as "the place where Gustav Mueller teaches." Almost any philosopher in the world could have told him the same thing.

The study of histoplasmosis may hold limited interest for the popcorn buying public, but to scientists it is significant that the international authority on this subject is also chairman of the University of Ok-

lahoma department of botany and microbiology, Dr. Howard W. Larsh. Histoplasmosis, in case you are in doubt, is a fungus disease of the lung, similar to the bacteria-caused tuberculosis.

The quality of the faculty of the department of physics, under Dr. Colin A. Plint, would be difficult to surpass anywhere in the country. Enrolment has doubled in the last five years, ranking O.U. among the top 10 in the number of undergraduate physicists and in the upper 30 per cent in graduate enrolment. The School of Engineering Physics is the third largest in the nation. This sudden growth is largely due to the presence of men such as Dr. J. Rud Nielsen, famed in his own right and former protégé of the Danish Nobel Prize Winner Niels Bohr; and Dr. Richard G. Fowler, noted for his work in plasma physics.

University of Oklahoma Medical Center can boast several leaders in medical research—Dr. Stewart Wolf in psychosomatic medicine; Dr. Robert H. Bayley in electrocardiography, the effort to more accurately diagnose heart disease; Dr. Jay T. Shurley in sensory isolation with its practical application to the preparation of men for space travel; Dr. Marvin R. Shetlar, world pioneer in the investigation of glyco proteins, the protein component of the blood. Dr. L. J. West has received widespread recognition for his sleep deprivation studies, which grew out of the research on brain washing he conducted while in the Air Force.

Dr. Duane H. D. Roller is one of the best known professors on the Norman campus, but his reputation as a teacher of the history of science extends far beyond his well-attended classes. In addition, he is curator of the DeGolyer Collection, one of O.U.'s most prized possessions, which includes 12,000 first editions of work important to the history of science and is one of the finest research facilities available in that field.

Looking beyond the realm of personalities, the 1,200,000-volume Bizzell Memo-

rial Library, which contains the DeGolyer Collection, is as large as any west of the Mississippi.

If a survey were to be taken outside the state borders, the best known single O.U. product might well be the publications of the University of Oklahoma Press, one of the top three university presses in the nation. *Books Abroad*, the University's international literary quarterly, is the only publication in the world acquainting English-speaking scholars with the literature of non-English speaking peoples. Its subscription list reads like a roll call at the United Nations.

All these things—these people and others like them—are a part of O.U., a nucleus of strength for the University. It should come as no surprise to find them here. Rather we should be surprised—and alarmed—if they were not here, surprised if O.U. were unable to keep them and to add to their number.

—CJR

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