

# Backlog

## COPELAND HALL IS A MONUMENT TO O.U.'S "MR. JOURNALISM"

WHEN my crop of would-be journalists entered the University, the late Dr. Fayette Copeland had already been at O.U. for more than 40 years—as a student, as a publicist, as a professor, as a counselor, as the J-School director. We didn't know much about him then, but he fitted perfectly my image of how the college professor should look—tall, white-haired and dignified. It didn't take long to discover that he was also a kind man, always ready to listen and to help if he could. Fayette Copeland was an easy man to like.

When he showed us the scale model of the proposed new journalism building and described its outstanding features with soft-spoken enthusiasm, I'm afraid we weren't as impressed as we might have been. To us it was just a good looking, spacious, air conditioned building that would get us out of the dingy, tired old structure across from the Union. We had no way of knowing that to Fayette Copeland this building was the materialization of a dream that spanned a large part of his life. There were others who had worked for the building too—a great many people had contributed generously of their time and money to make the dream come true. But we finally came to realize that the building could be identified with one man—Fayette Copeland.

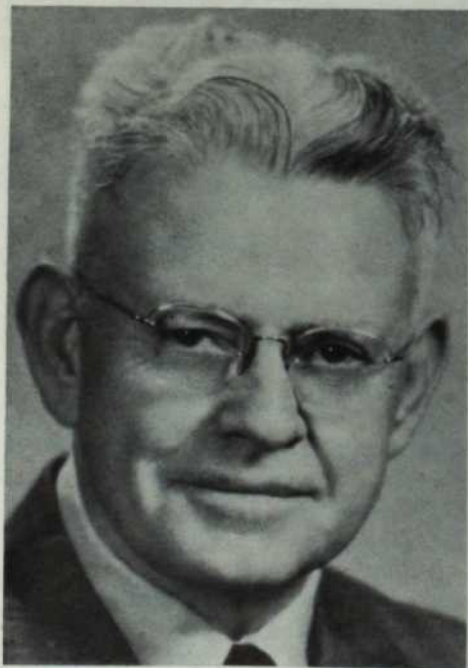
Since his death many tributes to Dr.

Copeland have come into the University from every spot on the globe where O.U. journalism graduates may be found. But the greatest tribute came shortly before his death when the new journalism building was officially named Copeland Hall.

The Copeland family, his wife Edith, son Fayette, Jr., his sisters and brother and two granddaughters requested that no flowers be sent to the services—that instead contributions might be made to the memorial journalism scholarship fund being established in his name within the O.U. Foundation. Nothing would have pleased him more. He had initiated the journalism scholarship program which this year granted nearly 50 scholarships valued at \$14,700.

Dr. Copeland's death, after an 8-month illness, was not unexpected, but it was a loss to all who considered this man their friend—and he had many friends. The story of his long career in journalism was retold in newspapers all over Oklahoma. For those of us who knew him only in the later years, this was the first we had heard of his newspaper experience, of his many areas of service to the University, of his success as an author (*Kendall of the Pica-yune*, winner of the "Best Texas Book of the Year" award in 1943), of the many scholastic and professional honors he had received. It was the first time we learned of the reason behind his interest in our *Oklahoma Daily*, the student newspaper he helped establish in 1916 and served as editor in 1917. It's difficult for many of us to picture Dr. Copeland as anything but the director of the School of Journalism. That's how we knew him and that is how we will remember him.

Through Dr. Copeland's efforts, O.U. has a fine new physical plant for teaching journalism. He would probably consider this his greatest single contribution, though many might feel that his friendship and counsel were of equal value. Yet he would be the first to insist that the building is only a means to an end. Long ago he saw the rising need for educating young journalists for a new age. He regarded the distinguished graduates which O.U. has given to the world of journalism as the only lasting contribution his School could make. We would be letting him down if we did not continue to build on the foundation he has left us.



Dr. Fayette Copeland

—CJR

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