



A Presidential Scrapbook—

*the first 20 years
are the hardest*

continued

the first 20 years—

The president of a major university lives a segment of history—and the record of his term of office is the stuff of which history books are made. The first 20 years of Dr. G. L. Cross' administration have filled many scrapbooks with clippings of significant events and those of merely passing importance. They reflect a university coming of age—a university beginning to bow its neck, demanding to be heard. These were busy years, proud years, in many ways painful years, filled with the hopes, successes and tragedies of the people who lived them. Each year produced dozens of clippings; for each we have chosen only one. It is not the whole story; we leave that to history. But this presidential scrapbook may trigger a memory for you as it must for George L. Cross.



Lord and Lady Halifax pause outside OU's Holmberg Hall with their Sooner hosts, President and Mrs. G. L. Cross. While in Norman the touring British ambassador addressed more than 1,000 students on the importance of higher education.

1944

Nice Going, Regents!

Congratulations to the board of regents for naming George L. Cross, a young and versatile scientist, as the new acting president.

When Cross accepted the chief university position, he assumed a grave responsibility, and he will probably do much work for which he will receive all too little credit. In fact, the regents and the university as a whole are fortunate that a man as able as Cross is available for the present emergency.

Well-liked by both students and faculty, the genial professor knows the campus and those on the campus know him. He already has the confidence of the university community and is well-equipped to wrestle with the many faceted situations bound to arise in the operation of a major educational institution.

—THE DAILY STAFF

1946

Veterans Swamping O.U. to Enrol; Housing Shortage Termed Critical

NORMAN, Jan. 17—Veterans swamped the University of Oklahoma veterans liaison office Wednesday as they signed up to enter second semester classes under the GI bill of rights.

Dr. George L. Cross, university president, predicted Wednesday night the veteran enrolment for second semester would reach 2,500, five times the number which attended the university first semester.

Only limiting factor and greatest bugaboo in the enrolment is the Norman housing shortage, which will cause approximately 500 married veterans to be turned away, Dr. Cross said.

Contract Let at University for 500 Pre-Fab Housing Units for Students

NORMAN, May 9—Contract for 500 pre-fabricated, plywood living units to cost \$1,300,000 and to be finished before opening of the autumn school term, has been let by the University of Oklahoma, it was announced Thursday.

The houses, of the temporary knock-down type used by the army and near temporary war plants during the war, will be erected adjoining the campus on the south, near the present federal housing authority dormitories, and will be rented only to married veterans.

1945

Regents Name George Lynn Cross To Acting Presidency of University



Pictured with Dr. George Lynn Cross, right, is the University's new first family—Mary Lynn, 12; Mrs. Cross; Bill, 7, and a cocker named Slippers.

NORMAN—Climaxing weeks of speculation the university board of regents unanimously named George Lynn Cross, acting dean of the graduate college, as acting president of the university to take office January 1. He will serve in this capacity until a permanent president is selected, Joe McBride, president of the regents, announced Tuesday.

Cross, who has been acting dean of the graduate college since 1942, will continue to serve in this position in addition to his new duties as acting president. At 38 years of age, he is one of the most youthful men to win this office.

"This has happened so suddenly, I don't know what to say," was Cross' only comment when asked for a statement about his appointment.

The naming of a president is evidently still distant, for McBride said that "we are still a long way from shore." The acting president, though he might be considered with other candidates, has no priority on the permanent office, the regents stated.

Born in Woonsocket, S. D., Cross was graduate from high school there, received his bachelor of science and master's degree from the South Dakota State college and was awarded his Ph.D degree at the University of Chicago in 1929.

He taught at South Dakota State college, the University of Chicago and the University of South Dakota before coming here as assistant professor of botany. Since his arrival at the university, he has progressed steadily upward, becoming head of the departments of botany and bacteriology, acting director of the Oklahoma Research institute and acting dean of the graduate college.

Cross and his wife, the former Cleo Sikkink, have two children, Mary Lynn who is 12 years of age and Bill who is 7.



New OU coach Bud Wilkinson (left) receives the congratulations of President and Mrs. George Cross.

Wilkinson New Sooner Coach

NORMAN, Jan. 18—Charles "Bud" Wilkinson, has been elevated from assistant football coach at the University of Oklahoma and given a four-year contract at an undisclosed salary.

William (Dutch) Fehring, another assistant on the Sooner staff this past year, will stay at Norman with Wilkinson as one of his four assistants and Wilkinson will name three more assistants later.

Jim Tatum, former Sooner head coach, has

resigned to become athletic director and head coach at the University of Maryland at a salary reported to be \$12,000 annually for each of five years and is taking Walter Driskill, another Sooner assistant, with him.

These developments on the reopened coaching negotiations at Norman were made official late Saturday afternoon by Dr. George L. Cross, president of the University of Oklahoma, thus giving an official stamp to the wild conjecture that swept the state Friday.

the scrapbook continues

Supreme Court Orders University To Admit Negro Law Student

1948

NORMAN, Jan. 12—The United States Supreme Court in effect directed the University today to admit a Negro girl, Ada Lois Sipuel, Chickasha, to its law school, and Dr. George L. Cross, O.U. president, said it is his opinion that the ruling goes into effect immediately.

The United Press said the high court's ruling came with almost unprecedented speed. The justices only last Thursday heard the last arguments in the case on Miss Sipuel's contention that she had been denied admission to O.U. solely because of her race.

"The Petitioner is entitled to secure legal education afforded by a state institution," the court said in an unsigned opinion.

"The state must provide it for her in conformity with the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment and provide it as soon as it does for applicants of any other group."

Dr. Cross said the Supreme Court ruling in effect declares Oklahoma law, making it a crime for Negroes to attend white schools or white persons to attend Negro schools "unconstitutional."

The O.U. president said the ruling "no doubt opens the way for Negro students to be admitted to other O.U. schools."

1949

House Probers Schedule OU Red Hearings for Next Week

OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 16 (U.P.)—The House committee investigating rumors of Communists among college professors will visit the University of Oklahoma next week, Chairman D. C. Cantrell said today.

Probers Uncover 11 OU Democrats

By Ray Parr

The House hunt for Reds in state educational institutions Wednesday uncovered a whole nest of Democrats, Presbyterians and a sprinkling of native-born Texans, but no communists, at the University of Oklahoma.

Of the first 11 departments heads called before the committee, all confessed they were registered Democrats. D. C. Cantrell, 68-year-old Stigler farmer, who is spearheading the investigation, could not conceal his pleasure at this surprise development.

John Camp, Waukomis, only GOP member of the committee, did not attend Wednesday's sessions, although it was reported later he has supreme confidence that the committee will be able to dig up a Republican before it concludes its probe.

The witnesses, who appeared voluntarily before the committee, included five Presbyterians and one former Presbyterian. The Methodists and Christians were tied for second place with two each. There was one Episcopalian.

1950



OU President G. L. Cross, left, and education dean Dr. John R. Rackley inspect an artists conception of the \$500,000 graduate education building approved by the University board of regents April 20. Nine construction projects to be financed by OU's share of the \$36,000,000 bond issue were authorized at the meeting. In addition to the education building they are: geology and mineral industries, \$650,000; home economics, \$500,000; journalism, \$300,000-\$400,000; public health and biology facilities, \$150,000; law library addition, \$200,000; chemistry, \$400,000; classrooms, \$450,000; stadium classrooms \$100,000. Also approved was a memorial fine arts library to the late dean Paul S. Carpenter.

1951

DeGolyer's Rare History of Science, Technology Collection Now at O.U.

NORMAN, March 4 — Dr. George L. Cross, president, Saturday announced establishment of the E. DeGolyer History of Science and Technology collection in the University Library.

In making the announcement, Cross, with O.U. specialists, pointed out that the DeGolyer collection is one of the most important of its kind ever assembled. It was presented to the University partly as a gift, partly a deposit with the library by DeGolyer, an internationally-known geologist.

A great number of first editions and rare volumes, many of them collector's items "almost unknown to university libraries," according to University librarian Jesse L. Rader, are among approximately 500 works in the group.

The collection includes such uncommon volumes as an extremely rare first printing of the major works by Vesalius, founder of

the modern system of anatomy. This volume, issued in 1543 by the Flemish doctor—chief physician to the emperor Charles V and afterwards to his son Phillip II—is described as "an immortal work by which all that had been written before was almost superseded."

A copy of Copernicus' "De Ordiu[m] Coelestium Revolutionibus" seldom seen on the market contains his first exposition of the solar system.

Gallileo, great Italian physicist and astronomer is represented by his "Dialogo," first published in Florence in 1632.

"These are the milestones of man's accomplishment in science and technology from the most ancient times to the present day," said Cross. "We anticipate that the extraordinary opportunity they offer scholars will have a profound effect on the breadth of thought and capabilities of the southwest's future scientists and technologists."

the scrapbook continues

1952

Cross Center Is Ready For 832 O.U. Students

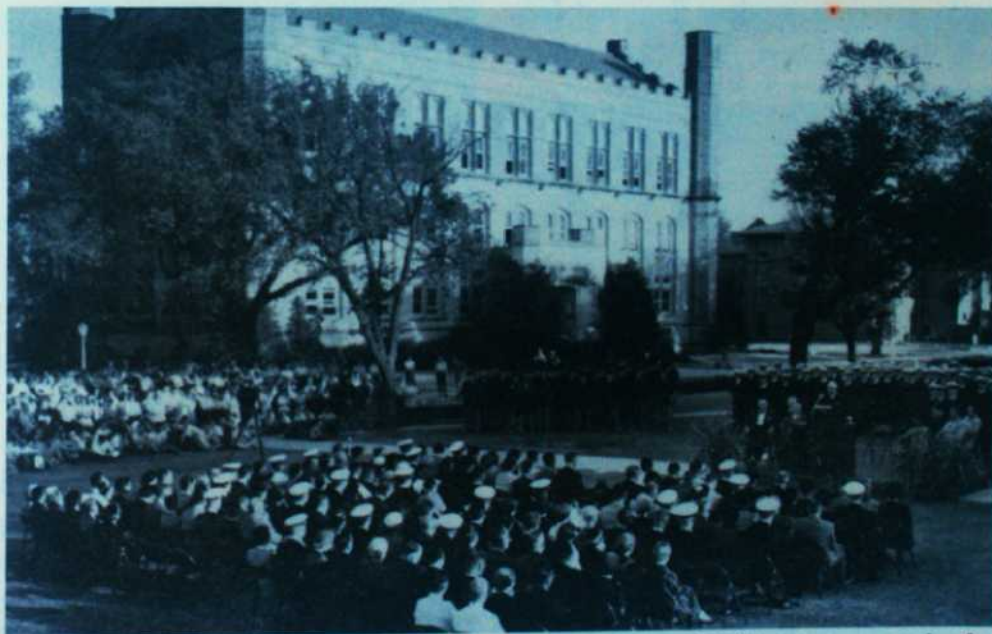
Cross Center for men, one of the nation's finest campus housing units, has just been completed on the University campus.

The Center, named for O.U. President George L. Cross, will be home for 832 O.U. students and 16 counselors next September. The board of regents announced the naming of the housing unit last February in recognition of the President's efforts to provide adequate student housing.

The 2,400,000 addition, financed with self-liquidating bonds, is three blocks south of Owen stadium on Jenkins Avenue. Its hub is a one-story unit containing a large dining hall, kitchens, snack bar, and recreation and service rooms. Surrounding this are four four-story dormitory buildings, each containing four house units.

The men who will live in the 16 houses will have the advantage of living in small groups, but will meet for meals in the central dining hall mingling in a large group.

All units are fireproof. Ceilings are acoustically treated.



1953

Memorial services were held on the University of Oklahoma campus today for the 22 OU Naval ROTC cadets who were killed July 18 in a Florida air crash.

22 University Students Die In Crash of Navy ROTC Plane

NORMAN, July 18 — News of the air crash in Florida which killed 22 OU Naval ROTC cadets Saturday was termed the greatest tragedy in the history of the university.

The news hit the campus and state like a thunderbolt and brought unshamed tears from many. Shocked classmates and instructors wept openly when they learned some of

their fellow students were among the 37 college naval midshipmen killed in the crash.

President Cross said: "The campus of the university and all of the state of Oklahoma are deeply shocked over this terrible loss. These men were all specially chosen for the NROTC and were among the best students on the campus. The loss is personal."

1955

O.U. Needs Help

New President's Hour Scheduled by Dr. Cross

President Cross announced Monday that he will hold a new bi-weekly "president's hour" which will take the place of the old president's class. The meetings will be held at 5 p.m. Wednesday evenings in the game room of the Union. Cross will

1954

meet with representatives from the student senate, campus organizations and individuals for discussion of problems which concern them, collectively or individually.

This hour session will replace the president's class, which Dr. Cross found unsatisfactory due to the failure of a representative group to appear and discuss university problems.

Among the problems expected are parking meters, student fines and fees.

Dr. George Cross, president of the University of Oklahoma, is one of that vast legion of college presidents who keeps hollering for money. This is normal. But Doctor Cross also has had courage enough to insist that if his university cannot get sufficient money, its enrolment should be curtailed. That is a difficult position for the head of a tax-supported college to take. But he is as right as the Ten Commandments.

In a series of articles now appearing in The Tribune, Cross states his case. University enrolment is at 9,000. The present faculty, he says, could give a good education to not more than 7,500 or 8,000. The university is stuffed at a time when the freshman class represents the all-time low in the birthrate of the depression years. When the postwar baby crop reaches college age as many as 18,000 students may be trying to crowd into O.U.

We hope the O.U. regents make a powerful plea to the legislature on behalf of Doctor Cross' drive either to limit students or to get enough money to educate them decently. Of course, the legislature should help him do both. We have almost reached the point where the majority of high school graduates are taking some college work. In 10 years it may be a heavy majority.

We must not cheapen college education to accommodate the crowds that are coming. Neither must we deny any sincere and energetic Oklahoma youngster a chance to get such education. The answer is less encouragement for drifters, selective admissions and more intelligent use of small state schools.



Dr. G. L. Cross, right, receives the Human Relations award of the Southwest Regional Advisory board of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

1956

OU's Dr. Cross to Receive Human Relations Citation

NORMAN, Dec. 13—Dr. George L. Cross, president of the University of Oklahoma will receive the first Human Relations award given by the Southwest Regional advisory board of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith at a dinner December 15 in Dallas.

Cross will be presented a plaque inscribed "For leadership and achievement in the advancement of democracy and human relations among his fellow men."

Making the announcement, John Horwitz, Oklahoma City, said: "Dr. Cross, as president of the university, has earned an excellent reputation in the field of human relations. In recognition of what he had done in this area the Louis Berlowitz Lodge of Oklahoma City gave Dr. Cross its annual Americanism award in 1951.

"The excellent way in which integration on all levels has proceeded at the University of Oklahoma is beyond question a tribute not only to his fine attitude toward race relations, but evidences the respect with which he is held by all of the many and varied groups which form the student body, the faculty and the administration of the university."

Irish Snip Big Red's Win Streak at 47

By John Cronley

NORMAN, Nov. 16 — Russia's two Sputniks collided in midair above the 50-yard line here Saturday afternoon. The sun set in the east. Hitler was discovered alive in Washington, D. C.

And almost equally as incredible, University of Oklahoma lost a football game.

In a flaming defensive duel before a record turnout of 62,000 Notre Dame raided the greatest gridiron fortress collegiate circles have ever known, thoroughly outplaying the Sooners and shattering their 47-game streak with a thumping 7-0 decision that marked OU's first shutout in 123 straight games—dating all the way

back to the 1945 Oklahoma Aggie game.

The so aptly named Fighting Irish returned to their old habit of rising to astounding heights against enormous odds, putting a dull edge to Oklahoma's offense and eventually winning while looking every inch the champion with a smashing 30-yard bolt down the field with 3:50 left.



Extension Division Dean Thurman White, Governor J. Howard Edmondson and President G. L. Cross examine a scale model of the proposed OU center for adult study made possible by a Kellogg grant.

OU Given \$1.8 Million For Adult Study Center

NORMAN, Oct. 1—Construction of one of the biggest Adult Study Centers in the nation is assured at OU, thanks to a \$1,845,000 grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, University President George L. Cross announced today.

The center of continuing adult education will cost approximately \$2,900,000 to construct and equip. The Kellogg grant provides \$1,600,000 toward construction and \$245,000 to assist the University in its first five years of operation and program development and to launch a training program for professional adult educators in Oklahoma and the Southwest.

"We believe this is the largest educational grant ever made to an institution of higher learning in Oklahoma," Dr. Cross said, "and we believe it would be difficult to overemphasize the importance of this grant from the Kellogg Foundation to the future of the University, the future of Norman, of Oklahoma and the Southwest."

the scrapbook continues

Regents Approve Merit Pay Raises For University of Oklahoma Faculty

Salary increases for several hundred faculty members and administrative personnel at the University were approved today by the board of regents.

The regents also approved a fringe benefit program of group insurance for University employees. The salary adjustments will be made a merit bases.

The funds were provided by an increase in the state appropriations which developed after the University budget was prepared and an earlier estimate for faculty salaries proved conservative, Dr. George L. Cross, University president, explained. Cross com-

plimented the deans and members of the budget council who prepared the list of faculty members recommended for raises.

The new pay increase places OU faculty members in a salary range that compares favorably with other institutions in the Big Eight, the OU president said.

Cross explained to the regents that the range of salaries is a key factor in evaluating faculty finances.

"With the increases our salary range for professorship will be from \$7,500 to \$14,000 which compares satisfactorily with other schools in the conference."

NCAA Puts OU on Probation

1960

Improper Financial Aid to Athletes Charged Penalty Time Indefinite; Bowl Games Out

NORMAN, Jan. 7—OU, national football champion in 3 of the last 9 years, Wednesday was placed on probation by the NCAA for an indefinite period for "improper financial assistance" and made ineligible for post-season grid competition or television programs during this period.

(OU's probation was lifted by the NCAA in April, 1961.)

1961

University of Oklahoma Launches Record \$20 Million Drive for Educational Funds

NORMAN, Oct. 6—The University of Oklahoma announced Friday that it was embarking on the biggest fund drive for educational purposes ever attempted by any state institution.

Dr. George L. Cross, OU president, said the \$20 million campaign is the result of extensive studies by faculty and administrative committees aimed at providing for an ever-expanding student body and related costs.

"Since there is no hope at the moment for funds from public sources, we decided to turn to private ones," Dr. Cross said.

"One of the major problems faced by a university is maintaining the quality of its faculty, so top priority has been given to endowment of 40 professorial chairs.

The endowment funds would be used to supplement the best salaries OU can afford to pay, Dr. Cross explained, and make it possible for the university to compete in the race for faculty members.

Co-chairman of the campaign are Leonard Savage, Oklahoma City, president of the OU regents, and T. Howard McCasland, Duncan.

1962

State Regents Approve New College Admission Policy

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) Mar. 26—Regents for Higher Education today adopted an admission and retention policy making it more difficult for Oklahoma youths in the lower one-fourth of their high school class to enter state-supported universities and four-year colleges.

The policy was recommended by the President's Council and the staff of Dr. E. T. Dunlap, chancellor.

Dr. G. L. Cross OU president, pointed out that it does not deny any Oklahoma youth the right to attend any college or university. He explained the poorer student would have to wait until the spring semester after his graduation "when we're not so crowded and can give him more attention."

1963

OU's George L. Cross Marks 20th Anniversary as President



OU President G. L. Cross

NORMAN, Jan. 1—Dr. George Lynn Cross, president of the University of Oklahoma since 1944, marked an unprecedented 20th anniversary of appointment today.

In addition to having been OU president longer than any other man, Dr. Cross is one of, if not *the*, ranking state university president in the United States.

In longevity Dr. Cross is followed by OU presidents David Ross Boyd (1892-1908) and W. B. Bizzell (1925-41), 16 years each; Stratton D. Brooks (1912-

23), 11 years; Arthur G. Evans (1908-11), 3 years; J. S. Buchanan (1923-25) and Joseph A. Brandt (1941-43), 2 each, and Julien C. Monnet, acting president for a year.

Dr. Cross came to the University in 1934 as assistant professor of botany, became head of his department, acting director of the OU Research Institute and acting dean of the Graduate College. He was named acting president January 1, 1944, and became permanent president the following September.