

sooner scene

the university's class memorials

Of the hundreds of memorials at OU the most diverse and interesting are those left by senior classes.

The OU seniors of 1906 hauled a limestone boulder out of the South Canadian River, chiseled '06 on the side, and planted it near the center of the North Oval. Through the years the '06 rock has been buried, hauled off campus and fought over. Guy Y. Williams, professor of chemistry and member of the class, always saw to it the rock was returned to its proper location.

Another early class memorial with a turbulent beginning is the concrete spoonholder, built by the juniors of 1909 as a memorial to their class, the class of '10. The builders of this memorial had to stand guard over their handiwork for 24 hours until the cement had completely hardened to keep other students from demolishing the work.

Six classes erected memorial gateways at principal entrances to the campus. These were classes of 1915, '17, '19, '20, '32 and '33. The class of '35 constructed a fountain and pool between the Union Building and Monnett Hall, but the fountain has been

defaced several times and now stands in need of repair.

The Pergola, forming part of the outdoor theater near Holmberg Hall, was a gift from the class of '21. This memorial stood in the exact location of the first University building which burned in 1903. The outdoor theater was the scene of many fine summer evening performances during the 20's and 30's. This familiar landmark gave way this summer for the construction of the new School of Drama building. Two other class memorials that have disappeared are the '24 clock tower that stood at the north end of Owen Field before the stadium was expanded across that area and a two-ton bronze plaque of an Oklahoma historical scene, a gift from the class of '34, which decorated the base of the tower.

The class of '44 presented a war memorial plaque dedicated to the 503 OU alumni who lost their lives in World War II. This plaque hangs in the Memorial Union Building.

The class of '43 was responsible for the magnificent statue of President William B. Bizzell. Sculpted by Professor Joe Taylor from a 20-ton piece of Indiana limestone, it stands in the

South Oval, facing the Bizzell Library.

The intangible class memorials have assisted hundreds of deserving, needy students in completion of their education. Because of the direct impact on great numbers of individuals, these can be judged the most lasting and significant of all. The first of these was the OU Student Loan Association established by the class of '23. The class of '25 contributed to this fund and other additions have followed from time to time. In 1948 the senior class started the Memorial Scholarships Fund to provide assistance for worthy students. The 17 succeeding classes have each added to this fund, providing an endowment with income sufficient to award several scholarships annually. Dozens of OU students have already benefited from this important program. It is a great credit to the officers of these senior classes, whose maturity and insight have made this possible.

In addition to the class memorials there are several hundred other memorials on the OU campus. Dr. Frank A. Balyeat, professor emeritus of education, has spent many hours since his retirement writing a description and story behind each one. When this work is completed, you can expect a story in the *Sooner Magazine* about the human side of OU memorials.



The two men in the photograph are not two men at all—they are one and the same. He is Boyd Gunning, director of the Alumni Association and viewer of the Sooner Scene. Gunning, who should be an inspiration to all overweight alumni, has started this season 40 pounds lighter than 1963. He continues to lead the Association with his customary drive—only the wardrobe has changed.

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