

One of the persistent problems which the University of Oklahoma faculty had to face was enrollment. Education was considered a luxury, unattainable by a majority of the pioneers. To overcome this feeling, President Boyd spoke at all possible teachers' institutes and parents' assemblies. After each meeting, he would ask the students and their parents not to decide that a university education was impossible until they had talked with him. He always suggested that they at least try one term, and he would even aid them in finding work when they arrived in Norman.

Many letters were mailed to prospective students by Norman merchants, and Dr. Boyd and his assistants sent out hundreds each year. As a member of the Territorial Board of Education, he not only aided in giving eighth grade examinations throughout the territory, he wrote congratulatory letters to those who passed and letters of encouragement to those who failed the exams. Even parents received renewed confidence.

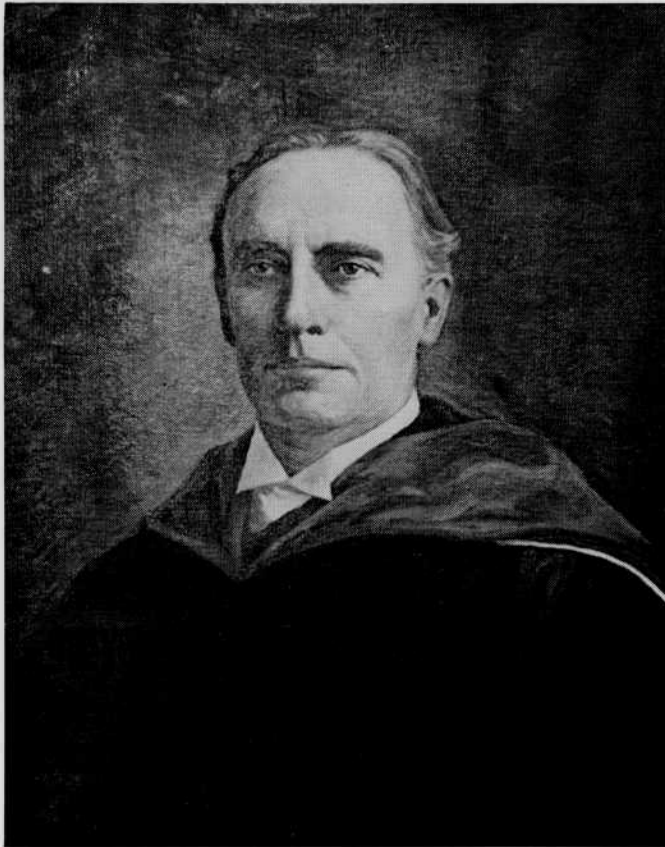
"Thank you for that letter to George," would read a return note to Boyd. "It encouraged him when he needed it

most. If it hadn't been for your letter, he would never have gone to school again."

"In a very peculiar sense," said Deak Parker, "David R. Boyd had made the University of Oklahoma. It would not be too much of an exaggeration to say that he made it with his bare hands.

"As he changed the landscape, so did Dr. Boyd dominate the building of the University in all its branches. From the beginning, he was the controlling force in its creation. Every faculty member, every student, every custom, every stick and stone on the campus, was there because of him. Such driving energy, such abundant vitality, such singleness of purpose, such executive genius, are rare on this planet.

"Dr. Boyd was the University, and the University was Dr. Boyd. It always will be. Whatever shall be the place in the immortality of the hereafter that his great, white Presbyterian soul shall occupy, Dr. Boyd has already achieved immortality here. As long as an elm stands, as long as there is one stone on top of another in these buildings, Dr. Boyd is here. He will never be forgotten, nor his work undone."



THE EVANS YEARS

THERE IS, perhaps, more than passing significance in the fact that David Ross Boyd committed himself to the building of good character and good citizenship as well as scholarship in his students. He and the three other original faculty members more than once took money out of their own pockets to help pay the way for a struggling University. As French S. E. Amos said of the toddling campus: "Like a young couple just starting in housekeeping, it needed everything all at once."

It was these four men and other pioneer educators at Norman who inspired those close to it to keep the educational center out of politics and free from other "influences," to give it enough financial support to provide good men and adequate equipment to work with, to make education practical enough that the student would be able to get along in the world after graduation, and to do everything possible to develop scholarship and character in students. Boyd was a man of high ideals, and he liked close

contact with the "plain people" of the territory. Not a deep scholar himself, he was still so imbued with faith in the value of higher education that he gave the University of Oklahoma a great impetus toward its present standing in the sixteen years he devoted to it.

But, to the victor belong the spoils, and so it was with Governor Haskell. Thirteen members of the old faculty were no longer on the campus. Six had been dismissed with Boyd and Parrington, while others left on their own accord. Gould, for one, resigned as professor of geology and head of the School of Mines to become the first director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey.

Of the new members of the teaching staff, several, because they were strictly political appointees, were found to be ill equipped or inefficient as teachers, and would not last any appreciable length of time at the University. A. Grant Evans, on the other hand, would—even though he may not have known at first that he was the subject of a campaign promise which, with the election of Haskell, certified his appointment.

Those who worked with Evans found him to be both an affable and a conscientious man. He was 50 years old when he came to Norman, with a background markedly different from that of his predecessor David R. Boyd.

Born in Madras, India, in 1858 to English parents, he began what was to be for him a rather interesting and particularly useful rambling through life. He was educated in London where he received a bachelor of arts degree from Borough Road College. For four years he was principal of public schools at Earls Barton, England, and then came to this country in 1883 to work as a missionary among the Cherokee Indians. Four years later, he was ordained a Presbyterian minister and served as pastor at Oswego, Kansas, and later at Pendleton, Oregon, and Leadville, Colorado.

After marrying with Katherine Robb, daughter of a prominent Muskogee, Oklahoma, man, Evans again became active in educational work when he accepted a position as principal of Salida Academy in Colorado. He then served as president of Muskogee's Henry Kendall College (now the University of Tulsa). Upon his arrival at the University of Oklahoma, it became quite evident that he was a man with a wide range of contacts, a variety of interests, and considerable training as both an educator and a minister. Furthermore, like the man who appointed him, he was a Democrat and a prohibitionist and would be willing to fight hard for a dry cause in the new state.

The city of Norman and those forty acres once owned by Dad Moore looked much different to the new president than they had to Boyd. Trees were in bloom and the boulevard had been extended to the entrance of the ruins of the main building with double rows of trees along its border. The Common had been enlarged and the present North Oval conceived

"We could see years later that we made it too small," Dr. Buchanan said. "We had all the land we needed, but the oval looked big enough then."

It was with the coming of Evans that the University was divided into schools and colleges. Previously, of course, there had been no division, and curricula were decided upon by the general faculty rather than by separate groups.

During the first year of transition, Fredrik Holmberg became director of the newly organized School of Fine Arts. And through the use of concert and play successes, he continued to campaign for the University, although, in spite of his efforts, news of the school did not reach the ears of some of Oklahoma's citizenry.

In fact, as late as 1914, when he was visiting in the home of a physician in one of the larger towns in eastern Oklahoma, he discovered to his amazement that the doctor's wife, who had lived in the territory-state for ten years, had never heard of a University of Oklahoma.

Holmberg did eventually reach a large number of people and succeeded in building up a fine arts college that was to receive wide acclaim.

"One of the interesting things in connection with the College of Fine Arts," he said, "is that it stands in a different position in relation to the state and to the University itself from that of similar institutions in other states, because very little had been done to develop the territory toward an appreciation of fine arts after the run in '89.

"In older states, some community which happened to be interested in fine arts would form its own school, and there were private schools located over entire states. But in Oklahoma there were none of these. And it is here, the College of Fine Arts has grown up with the University as a whole, and, because of this early start, it has had an opportunity to make itself felt both on the campus and throughout the state to an extent that, with one or two exceptions, has not been possible in other states. In other words, we naturally were given a certain amount of leadership without so much as having to ask for it."

In 1908, several men who were to play an important part in the development of the medical school joined the staff. Dr. C. S. Bobo was selected dean. Dr. L. A. Turley was made professor of pathology, with the additional duty of organizing the bacteriological laboratory for the State Board of Health, and also acting as state bacteriologist. John Dice McLaren was appointed head of the department of physiology, and Edwin DeBarr, head of the department of chemistry who taught chemistry in the medical school, was appointed state chemist. It was during this period, also, that DeBarr became the University's first vice president.

Jesse L. Rader was graduated and named acting librarian, succeeding Milton J. Ferguson, who had held the post since 1902. The first official librarian in 1899 was Maude Rule.

1908 was the year in which the Missouri School of Journalism, the oldest in the world, was established. And the first courses and instruction were also being offered in Norman. Jerome Dowd, a former North Carolina newspaper editor, and T. H. Brewer, former staff member of daily newspapers and a magazine in Nashville, Tennessee, alternated as instructors. Eight students enrolled in the course, listed as English 33. Brewer came to the University as a professor of English and head of the department.

Bennie Owen, at the same time, was developing his first formidable team at Norman, a big outfit built around a pair of offensive tackles in Willard Douglas and Ralph Campbell. The team romped through its ten-game schedule, losing only to Kansas and slaughtering Texas, 50 to 0. Douglas and Campbell were not only mean linemen,

but their ball carrying on Owen's special "tackle around" play was murderous. The two scored four touchdowns and gained 401 net yards rushing against Texas, while, on defense, they brought down Texas backs from behind to prevent any enemy touchdowns. The team's strength lay in its stout line led by the "indestructible tackles," ends Vernon Walling and Claude Pickard, guards Porter English and Key Wolf, and centers Roy Campbell and Cleve Thompson.

Two fraternities on campus, not to be outdone, started their own sports rivalry. It was the annual Beer Bowl football classic, the oldest "bowl game" in the world, featuring the charges of Kappa Alpha and Beta Theta Pi.

S. Roy Hadsell was unanimously elected president of the Alumni Association in 1908, and the first recorded action under his direction was "to do all they could to get the new building named Boyd Hall." (The legislature was about to appropriate \$200,000 to replace the burned-down administration building.) And it was under Hadsell's administration that the *Alumni Quarterly* magazine was born "to supply a means for the exchange of ideas among the graduates, to keep alive the memory of old days, to bring the widely scattered alumni in touch with the University and with each other, to re-awaken their interest and to renew their loyalty to their Alma Mater that the University may have the undivided and energetic support of former students."



Norman was a city of 3,000 when Evans arrived in 1908.

One tradition was brought to an end with the beginning of another when Easter vacation replaced the All Fool's Day walkout. But other campus capers were carried on as usual.

Freshmen, using one of their class as a decoy, succeeded in capturing three sophomores near the north end of University Boulevard. The three were blind-folded, their faces painted black, and turpentine was poured down their backs. Following the incident, sophomores stayed indoors at night or went about the streets in gangs. Earl Baker had triumphantly led his freshman raiders through a skirmish with the sophomore class.

But it didn't end there, for the first-year men decided to add insult to injury. Vern Alden, a sophomore, was

captured and had his hair clipped. T. J. George was taken a prisoner and not allowed to escape until the early hours of the morning. At a "critical combat" late at night, Earl Gray, Bud Dawson and Warren Hazeltine were captured and tied to trees on campus and "left to rot." Another sophomore was tossed in a blanket and led out of town . . . And so on.

As the University continued to grow, Dr. Buchanan was made dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, in 1909, three years after his notable service in the state constitutional convention. He would serve as dean of the new college for fifteen years.

The College of Engineering was also organized in 1909, with J. H. Felgar as its dean, a post he would hold for 28 years. Felgar, who came to the University as an instructor in mechanical engineering, one of two members of the engineering staff, built during his long tenure what has been considered one of the great engineering centers of the Southwest. His intellectual perspective is exemplified by his encouragement of engineering students to get a truly liberal education.

"Every college curriculum," he once said, "should contain subjects which will help the student to take his position among men . . . subjects to develop his personality . . . a background of literary, social and philosophical subjects which will help the engineer to take his place on equal terms in competition with other intellects . . . training which will help him to cooperate with his fellow men rather than differentiate himself from them . . . material which will help a man talk something else besides 'shop' with people he meets outside of business and professional relations."

The history of the College of Engineering is intimately tied up with the activities of Dean Felgar. With his broad general scholastic training, he took a very constructive part in the Society for Promotion of Engineering Education, the Oklahoma Engineering Society, and the formation of other organizations connected with the college. "His greatest personal assets," said associate F. G. Tappan, "making for success in engineering education and as dean, have been his absolute fairness in adjusting controversies, his ability to appreciate both sides in an argument and his motto that 'youth must be served'—must be led and encouraged in education and never forced or driven into a position." The first engineering degree was awarded to Charles Lewis Kaupke, a civil engineering major from Fresno, California.

After an early movement by the legal profession to establish a law school at the University proved abortive, one was finally provided by a resolution of the Board of Regents in the spring of 1909. At that time, a committee of the board was appointed to "get a dean and faculty to organize the school so that it may be opened at the beginning of the school year in September, 1909."

The new law school opened on schedule with Professor Julien C. Monnet of the George Washington University School of Law at the helm.

"I came to Norman," Monnet said, "in August, 1908, to look the ground over and was unfavorably impressed with the then conditions but upon further consideration, and in view of the prospects of so excellent a state, I concluded to accept. The law school at first gave first year work only and had for its location a space cleared in the room of the

Science Building which then had the geology museum.”

Some persons wanted to locate the law school on Main Street, but Monnet insisted that it be an integral part of the University proper, even if it meant housing it in the musty museum.

“Around this cleared space,” Monnet added, “pine book shelves were erected which served as a library. The faculty consisted of two persons. The dean’s desk was a few feet away surrounded by various cases containing geology specimens (stuffed owls, etc.). At the end of the first year, the law school was moved into the basement of the Carnegie Library brick building across the oval and remained there for three years.”

The entering first-year class had 47 students, and the faculty consisted of Dean Monnet and Assistant Professor John B. Cheadle. There were six students in the first law class to be graduated.

Monnet was almost solely responsible for getting the law school off on the right foot during its infancy. As he said to the state bar association in its February, 1910, meeting: “We hope to avoid many of the errors that have been committed by other schools. We want to start off where other schools are now and not where they started.”

Right from the start, it was Monnet, Cheadle, and Victor Kulp, who arrived a few years later, who made the University *the* law school of Oklahoma, and perhaps of the Southwest, and one whose graduates were to be readily accepted for further studies by such institutions as Harvard and Yale. Professors Cheadle and Kulp, both great teachers and students of the law, not only served the University through several generations of law students, but each was to gain national recognition in his respective field through research and writing.

Despite all of this unit growth, the physical equipment of the University remained the same—the two brick buildings on the oval, Science Hall on the west, and the library on the east. The wooden athletic building still stood, as did the small frame structures (Park Row) west of Science Hall, and the engineering school was housed in what later was to become a shop building of that college.

President Evans had achieved formal organization of the University with the creation of the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Engineering, the School of Fine Arts, and the School of Law, as well as the graduate school, and the School of Pharmacy was raised to collegiate rank.

Meanwhile, Sigma Nu fraternity was founded under the guidance of Joseph Paxton, a member of that order at the University of Missouri. Sigma Alpha Epsilon was also founded, and C. Ross Hume was elected president of the Alumni Association. The football Sooners rode a chair car to St. Louis, defeating St. Louis University, 11 to 5, then continued by rail to Dallas, Texas, where they were spanked four days later by the Texas Aggies, 0 to 19, and that night took a train to Austin where they were drubbed by the Longhorns, 0 to 30. All three games were played within a six-day period.

Constructed as a class memorial by seniors of 1910, the Spoonholder became a traditional structure on the Oval. Like the Memorial Union today, it was the central gathering place of the students, the hub of campus life—especially night life. In fact, that’s how it acquired its name. It held the spooners.

John Barbour’s drugstore downtown was another principal hangout. John, the ’97 pharmacy graduate, and his brother Bob were a sort of clearing house for all University and town gossip. Their store was the first place that the returning students went when they landed in Norman in the fall and their last stop before leaving again in the spring. Although it was about a mile from the campus, it regularly received student patronage. But, of course, “that was before a mile walk was considered a day’s work.”

A year later, George Lennox and Morris T. (Wissy) Myers opened the Varsity Shop in a small frame building on “the Corner.” For a number of years, it was the only campus shop, a center of student loafing that drew most of the drug and soft-drink trade. Its wooden tables probably bore the initials of every student who attended the University. Across the street, a newly completed engineering building was being occupied for the first time.

IN NOVEMBER, 1910, Lee Cruce, the first president of the Board of Regents under state government, was elected to succeed Governor Haskell. And six months later, Julien Charles Monnet, dean of the School of Law, became acting president, succeeding President Evans. Several prominent members of the teaching staff were quickly eliminated from the University system along with Evans.

Despite its briefness, Evans’ administration was marked by some notable achievements. His associates seem agreed that the most important was the eventual construction of the administration building, for which he was largely responsible. The collegiate Gothic style of architecture innovated with the building was proposed and urged by him. Dr. Roy Gittinger, as dean of administration, was one who advocated that the building be named after Evans as a “fitting tribute to the man who selected our campus architecture and made it an institution and tradition of the University.”

It was through the insistence of Evans that the law school was established, and it was his interest in expanding the medical school that brought such prominent men as Dr. Louis A. Turley and Dr. Gayfree Ellison to Norman.

“Mr. Evans was a good speaker and liked to read,” said Dean Gittinger. “We used to smile a little at his fondness for Italian dialect pieces.”

“Yes, and we used to smile a little at his tendency to give anniversary addresses,” added Dr. S. W. Reaves. “We used to have chapel every day then, and President Evans’ knowledge of men and affairs gave him a natural inclination for occasional addresses.”

“He was an interesting man, an interesting talker,” says Dr. E. E. Dale, who well remembers his school days under Evans’ regime and especially the summer school graduation exercises when “the preacher came out” in Evans.

“We met for graduation in the school auditorium which also served as the chapel in the Carnegie Library,” recalls Dale. “President Evans said: ‘Will the candidates for the degree of bachelor of arts please come forward.’ The only other graduate besides me was Dorothy Bell, who, like me, was unmarried.”

"As Dorothy and I walked side by side down the aisle and came to a halt in front of Evans, I think the same idea must have come to both of us—that this man was not only president of the University but a Presbyterian minister as well, because I saw her look rather wildly around the room before she eyed a window.

"President Evans smiled a little and began to confer the degree by saying: 'By virtue of the authority invested in me, I hereby confer upon you . . . ' and so on. That right there was enough to scare us. I'm sure that if he had started off: 'Dearly beloved, we are assembled here in the presence of God and this company,' Dorothy would have gone head first through one window and I through another."

Evans was the first man to receive an honorary degree from the University when in 1909 he was awarded the LL.D. degree. He had also received a D.D. degree from Henry Kendall College. He retained his English accent and manners all the time he was president. He was regarded as a good entertainer who liked to recite passages from Charles Dickens novels. Despite his having an especially bad time with "distasteful" groups like the D.D. M.C., students called him "as nice an old man as you'd ever see," and colleagues spoke of him as a "fine fellow, agreeable to work with."

"He had a special talent in quoting many poets," said Joseph F. Paxton. "His tendency was toward the semi-humorous along this line. He admired the witty side of poetry—humorous verse, but verse containing real poetry. Among the great poets he liked to quote, foremost in his mind perhaps, were Shakespeare and Byron."

After being retired from the University, Dr. Evans became pastor of El Montecito Presbyterian Church at Santa Barbara, California, and remained at that position until he died as the result of a stroke of apoplexy in 1929.

So it was that Dean Monnet undertook the improbable task of steering the University through troubled waters until a permanent president could be chosen. Procuring

a substitute to teach for him temporarily in the law school, Monnet began his term as president in May, 1911. He was willing to take over only until a new president could be found. He had no aspirations for the job and was much happier serving as dean of the law school.

Meanwhile, Rhodes Scholar W. L. Kendall was completing a successful term as alumni president and was succeeded by Walter C. Erwin. The School of Nursing was established, and Phi Delta Chi, national pharmacy fraternity was founded (later to become Lambda Chi Alpha social fraternity). Kappa Sigma fraternity also was established and moved into the first brick fraternity structure on campus. John Alley came to the University to speed up development of the government department, and Everette Lee DeGolyer was graduated after paying his way through school by working on field crews for the U.S. Geological Survey, first as a camp cook and later as a field assistant. Lewis Salter, a student since 1907, was appointed by Fredrik Holmberg to teach piano and harmony, thus beginning the longest tenure—fifty years—of any teacher in the history of the institution. Roy Temple House came to the University as professor of German, and Victor Henry Kulp joined the law faculty as the fourth member of its staff. In 25 years, Kulp would not miss a single class.

Over on Boyd Field, Bennie Owen was pioneering an extensive running and passing game off the long punt formation. He developed a small, fast eleven which he dressed in quilt pants and moleskin jackets and set out to win every one of its eight games that campaign, including a 6 to 0 defeat of the University of Kansas, marking the first time a Sooner team had ever downed the Jayhawkers.

The small student body idolized its team, and the night before each home game saw gallons of "pep" unbottled and poured all over the campus. Bonfires were built, speeches made, parades staged, holidays declared, and whenever the team returned from a road trip, the student body walked down in mass to the little frame depot to welcome it home.

The Sooners slaughtered Kingfisher College, 104 to 0, whitewashed the Oklahoma Aggies, 22 to 0, and trounced Washburn to the tune of 37 to 0. Then the team left the comfortable confines of home and trekked northward. OU sports publicist Harold Keith wrote:

"Compared to the beefy Missouri eleven, the light Sooners, dressed poorly and wearing little protective armor, looked distressingly weak. They seemed slow in signal drills, confused plays and fumbled frequently. They appeared awed by their husky Tiger opponents and the vociferously hostile Mizzou crowd. 'Ho, ho!' laughed the spectators at Columbia that crisp November afternoon. 'This bunch of hayseeds won't see our 40-yard line. Another feast for the Tiger.'

"But the whole thing was a clever Sooner plot, engineered by Owen. And the ruse worked. Missouri, richly deceived, failed to recognize it in time, and, as a result, the game was taken away from it in the first fifteen minutes of play before the Tiger recognized it was up against the speediest eleven in the Southwest. A 15-yard sprint by little Fred Capshaw brought the first Oklahoma touchdown, and, five minutes later, Raymond Courtright got off a stupefying 35-yard dash around end for six more points, and Oklahoma coasted in on this lead to win the game, 14 to 6.



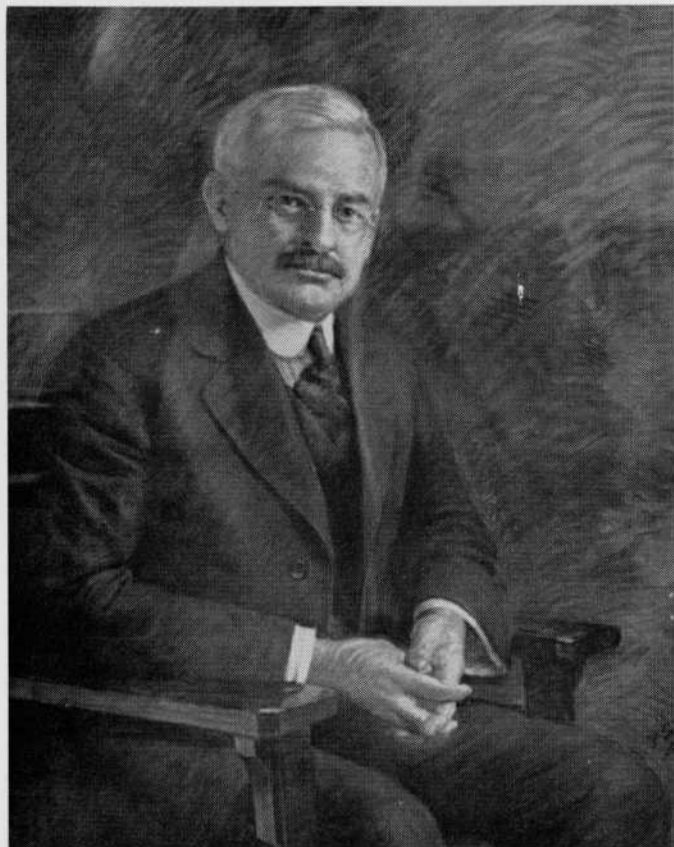
Dr. Julien C. Monnet became acting president in 1911.

"In a blinding snowstorm on old McCook Field at Lawrence, the Sooners defeated Kansas, 6 to 0, Capshaw warming his frozen right foot by twice bisecting the crossbar with field goals. Capshaw also won the Texas game for Oklahoma 6 to 3, with an eight-yard drive through the bulky Longhorn line."

And much the same was true with easy wins over Epworth and Alva Normal to give the University and Owen their first of several all-victorious teams. Capshaw was the star of the 1911 team and is still regarded by many old-timers as the greatest halfback Owen produced. Other team members were Courtright, Billie Clark, James Rogers,

Jimmy Nairn, Sabert Hott (first of the "Terrible Hotts"), Bill Moss, Roger Berry, Roy Spears, and Claude Reeds.

Elsewhere, the sophomore class, led by Claude Reeds, won the annual class fight from the freshmen for the first time in eight years. The sophomores slept in Professor Felgar's barn (site of the present president's home) and came out 58 strong at midnight to meet the freshmen, who slept in a barn 200 yards southwest of the campus. The first-year students, directed by Ray Flood and John Rodgers, had 66 men in their ranks. A member of the junior class was caught by the sophomores and chastised for playing "too prominent" a part in instigating the fight.



THE BROOKS YEARS

THE HASKELL political machine had caused the University to undergo a disheartening setback. President Evans' one desire was to operate the school on a strong administrative basis and improve scholastic standards, but he was unable to escape from under the wing of Haskell's Board of Education, which insisted upon handling most of Evans' administration themselves. This board not only had jurisdiction over the University, but also controlled the normal schools and, in fact, all the state schools except the agricultural group.

As a result, between 1908 and 1912, political meddling in University affairs damaged its reputation, and the scars were visible far beyond the state's boundaries. Many of the faculty, politically appointed, were poorly qualified, and this, along with the two fires of 1903 and 1907, made it difficult to get a man of Stratton Brooks' stature to come to the University.

Harold Keith, in gathering information for his book, *Oklahoma Kickoff*, was perhaps the last University official to interview Brooks prior to his death in 1949. Two personal interviews plus talks with several of the older faculty members and long-time Norman residents brought about this frank biography on Brooks:

"Educated at the University of Michigan and holding a master's degree from Harvard (he also held an honorary degree, LL.D., from Colby College), Brooks had gained from his public school principalship at Danville, Illinois, LaSalle, Illinois, and Adrian, Michigan, a competency, resourcefulness and hard practicality that was ideal preparation for his Oklahoma assignment. For six years preceding his appointment at Norman, he had been superintendent of the public schools at Boston and made many friends there.

"One of his best Boston friends was in turn a very good