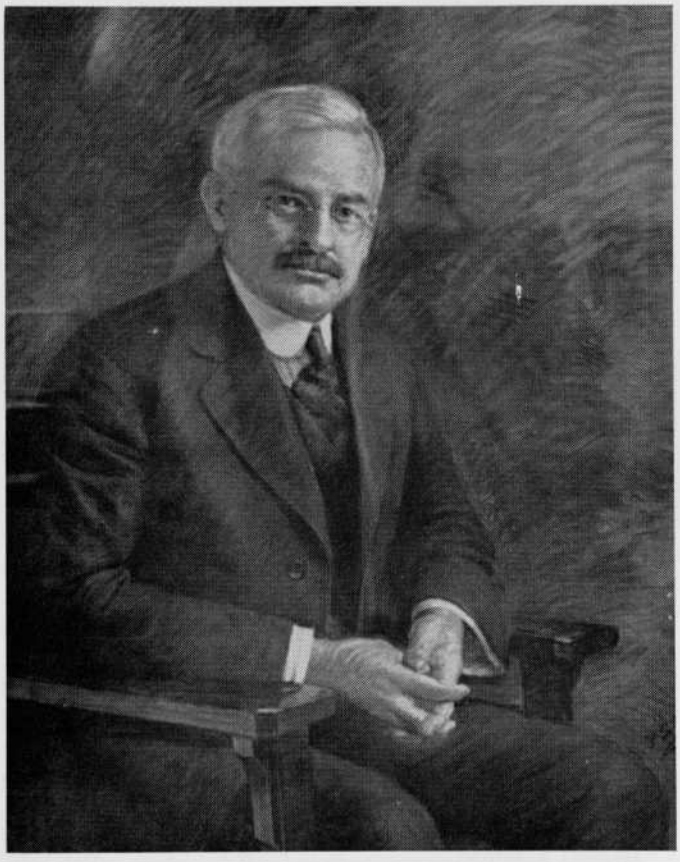
"In a blinding snowstorm on old McCook Field at Lawrence, the Sooners defeated Kansas, 6 to 0, Capshaw warming his frozen right foot by twice bisecting the crossbar with field goals. Capshaw also won the Texas game for Oklahoma 6 to 3, with an eight-yard drive through the bulky Longhorn line."

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

friend of Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University. Butler had wide educational influence. Schools all over the nation frequently went to him for his personal nominations when they wished to hire well-qualified teachers.

"In 1911, Brooks had gone to Europe for six months to study vocational education. When he returned to Boston, his friend told him, 'I declined a state university presidency for you while you were gone.'

" 'Where?' asked Brooks, surprised.

" 'At the University of Oklahoma,' the friend replied. 'President Butler was asked to recommend a man for president out there, and he asked me if you would be interested. I told him no.'

"Brooks relaxed. He looked relieved.

" 'Thank you!' he said, fervently. He meant it. Every school man in the nation knew that the fledgling University of Oklahoma was the Peck's Bad Boy of all the nation's collegiate educational institutions. The East was still in a state of shock since the summary discharge of President Boyd and part of the old Oklahoma faculty by the Haskell regime.

"Brooks forgot the incident until February, 1912, when he attended the annual meeting in St. Louis of the Superintendent's Section of the National Educational Association. There William A. Brandenberg, superintendent of schools at Oklahoma City, and also a member of the new Oklahoma State Board of Education, came to Brooks and told him about the unfilled presidency at Norman.

"Brooks replied, coldly and positively, that he wasn't interested. But Brandenberg was not easily discouraged. He prevailed upon the Boston superintendent to meet the Oklahoma board which had come to St. Louis to interview possible candidates for the presidency. Brandenberg was also anxious to introduce Brooks to Bob Wilson, then superintendent of schools of Oklahoma. Wilson was also president of the Oklahoma Board of Education and its most influential member.

" 'My train leaves in 20 minutes,' Brooks apologized, after the introductions. 'Why do you wish to interview me? Is it not unusual to consider a public schools superintendent for the presidency of a state university?'

"Wilson said, 'Our State Board of Education also controls the normal schools of Oklahoma and has been accused of playing politics in the appointment of the presidents of them. In fact, Governor Cruce has summoned us for trial on that charge, and we feel that it is desirable that we appoint a president at the University whom none of us has ever seen.

" 'Besides,' he added, 'you have a national reputation for freeing the Boston schools from political influence. This might be helpful in our situation.'

"Brooks told Wilson and the Oklahoma board that the only way to keep politics out of a school was to keep the Irish politicians out of it.

"He told them that while he was not interested in the presidency at Norman, if the board were sincere in its professed desire to place the University on a non-political basis, the new president, whoever he might be, could not do it unless the board agreed upon, and lived up to, two basic principles.

" 'First,' he declared, 'all appointments of faculty and other employees must be made only on recommendation of the president of the University. No member of the board should recommend, directly or indirectly, any appointee. The board should vote yes or no, but should not substitute for an appointee they reject.

" 'Secondly, the board should have nothing to do with the administration of the University, either.'

"Wilson looked at the other board members and then back at Brooks. 'That's a big order,' he observed. 'It leaves nothing for the board to do.'

"But that fundamental, so frankly put by Brooks in that original conference at St. Louis, was the basis upon which he later accepted, and administered, the presidency.

"Years later Brooks said, 'Whatever was accomplished during my eleven years as president of the University was possible only because the Board of Education that appointed me, and its successors, never violated the basic principles set forth in the first conference. Special credit should go to Hal Muldrow, who was president of the Board of Regents during many difficult years. His residence at Norman made him easy to reach, but his steadfast refusal to hear complaints or discuss appointments except when presented officially to the board was of very great importance. All board members will save themselves much criticism and inconvenience if they will maintain this working standard.'

"In spite of Brooks' disinterest in the job, Wilson believed the job was interested in Brooks. And Wilson, like Brooks, had tenacity.

"Wilson invited Brooks to come to Oklahoma in March for a conference and eventually persuaded him to accept the presidency. Brooks was impressed when he first saw the new state of Oklahoma and had an opportunity to evaluate the busy, friendly spirit of its people. The favorable impression he received contributed importantly to his decision to come to Oklahoma.

" 'You told me in St. Louis that you wanted to build a great university,' Bob Wilson challenged as he showed Brooks around the campus at Norman. 'Well, this is the only state big enough to have one that hasn't already got one.'

" 'That argument fetched me,' Brooks laughed 32 years later. 'I didn't have any answer for it.'

"There was a world of work to do. As the best evidence of the University's poor standing among its own citizens, Brooks cited the fact that when he arrived at Norman and began scanning the catalogs of neighboring colleges, he discovered the names of more than 1,500 Oklahoma boys and girls who had gone out of the state to attend the nearby state universities of Texas, Kansas, Arkansas, and Missouri. There was no confidence in the new state university. Most of the fathers and mothers were sending their sons and daughters to college back in their home states.

" 'Although Dr. Boyd had things worked out fine until his discharge, the school had gone to pot when he left,' Brooks declared. 'The state had no conception of what a university was, or ought to be. There was no state loyalty nor confidence in the school. Many of the faculty weren't competent to teach the courses the curriculum called for. Many students from the new Oklahoma high schools came to us indifferently trained. I was anxious to build a strong graduate school, but you can't put a roof on first.

President Stratton D. Brooks delivered his inaugural address in front of Evans Hall in the spring of 1912.

" 'Everywhere there were signs of political interference. The Democrats had tried their best to root out all evidences of the preceding Republican territorial administration, but the Republican seeds had been planted deeply. I still saw ample evidence that Oklahoma Territory had largely been a Republican province run by Joe Cannon of Danville, Illinois. Everybody seemed to be milking the school. One faculty member even brought his cow to the campus with him daily, pasturing her on the University lawn until he finished teaching and went home at night.'

"Quickly the new president set about strengthening the faculty. But he did not attempt a wholesale weeding out of the faculty appointed during the previous administration.

" 'I know some of you were sent down here by political friends who are now out of power,' he told them, candidly. 'That won't hurt your standing with me. You don't have to please me, nor come to the faculty receptions. You've just got to be good teachers.'

"Brooks operated upon the theory that his faculty should have full responsibility in their various fields. He rarely interfered. 'Get a man you think will do a good job and let him alone,' he explained.

"Brooks had been born and raised in the Middle West, and so he quickly learned to like Oklahoma.

" 'There was a noticeable difference in the attitude of the people of Oklahoma and those of Boston,' he said. 'Unlike Bostonians, Oklahomans didn't go in for precedent. Nobody in Oklahoma was interested in your ancestry. There was none of the complacency nor the superiority of New England in Oklahoma. Oklahoma City startled me when I first saw it in 1912. The women of Oklahoma City were better dressed than were the Boston women. It seemed to me that the styles in women's wearing apparel started in Oklahoma and went East. In general, the students in Oklahoma were better dressed, too. Broadly comparing Boston and Oklahoma, I should say that in Boston everybody was against you if you had a new proposal, but in Oklahoma everybody was against you if you didn't listen to their proposal.

" 'I found Norman a lovely and delightful and hospitable town. The people were comfortably fixed. There was no poverty. Everybody knew everybody else. Also, Norman was the only place I had ever seen where you didn't have to pay money to be shaved; the Southwest wind blew so straight off the river that all you had to do was turn your face one way, then the other, and let the blowing river sand do the job.'

"Brooks was a remarkably able president. He was a frowny, brown-eyed, ruddy-cheeked little man who wore a stubby mustache and walked at a half trot. He had a trick of smiling with his eyes that was very effective when he wished to emphasize a point. He was the finest executive the University had ever had. When you went to his office to ask for something, you always knew when you walked out whether you got what you had gone after. Brooks

would tell you yes or no in a flash, and he always stood by his decisions. Bennie Owen said of him, 'He made up his mind—blam.' "

In his inaugural address, President Brooks gave a strong indication of what he hoped to achieve during his administration. He stressed that the minimum requirements for education must not only meet the technical requirements of a man's business or profession, but also provide him with nobler ideals.

"A man must not only do something worth doing, but he must be something worth being. The university cannot neglect to perfect him in his doing, nor can it neglect to perfect him in his being.

"To establish ideals of conduct; to create an appreciation of community responsibility; to develop the power and the desire to think wisely about the complex problems of State and Nation; and to cultivate the ability to express ideas effectively for the forwarding of his own business and the improvement of community conditions—all these elements are no less the business of the university than is the perfecting of a man in the arts of his business or profession. An analytical mind, a discriminating judgment, the power to distinguish truth from error, not only in one's business, but outside of it, are qualities that the graduates of the university should have in greater measure because of the influence of the university.

"There is, however, a still broader definition of education that the university must keep in mind, namely, that the purpose of education is to improve both the labor and the leisure of mankind. After a man has done all that he needs to do or desires to do for himself and for his fellow man, there is still time that he may call his own—the idle hours of life that may be devoted to that inalienable right of man: the pursuit of happiness. In these idle hours the university finds vast fields of influence. The result of a university education should be that through increased capacity to labor, the leisure hours come sooner and more often and are more abundantly filled with the pleasure that mankind considers highest and best. To give a man more leisure but leave that leisure vacant would profit him but little. The university is obligated to improve man's pleasure; to give him a taste for and an appreciation of all that is best and noblest; to teach him to love music and art and literature and life in all their various manifestations; to enjoy contemplation, to appreciate activity, and ever in peace and contentment to take great pleasure in the pursuit of truth and beauty. Thus may a man, because of his university education, live more serviceably, enjoy more intensely, die more contentedly. And when all these things are done well, the university may feel that in some small degree it has fulfilled its mission."

MANY OF our elder Sooners will testify that it would be difficult today to imagine amateur fighting that reached fiercer proportions than it did on the tiny Norman campus in early years. As classes grew larger, so did the class fights.

They began with a "natural" frosh-sophomore rivalry carried into Oklahoma Territory from older schools in the States. It was after enrollment was completed and classes began to be organized during the second week of school that war usually broke out. "War" supposedly centered around the raising and protecting of class flags, but sometimes fighting would begin whenever and wherever a large group of students met.

Freshmen often outnumbered sophomores two to one, and more than one soph can remember when he was caught, blind-folded, had his face painted black and turpentine poured down his back. As has been noted, the sophomores, although retaining their role of underdogs, finally won the class tussle after an eight-year string of losses.

Another time when second-year men came out on top, they tied more than a dozen freshmen to trees bordering the Canadian River and left them there. If their plans had been successful, the freshmen would not have shown up for the fight the next morning; but some farmers discovered the chained youths and cut down the trees, freeing them in time for the scrap. Once, through the cooperation of the superintendent, a leader of one class was able to use vacant rooms in the state hospital across town to lock up several of the opposition class leaders until the fight was over. Of course, a man lost much more than pride if he didn't show up for the big fight.

Beginning as a simple contest between prep schoolers and the then sparse college crowd, the class fight grew into a battle royal with freshmen and juniors lined up against sophomores and seniors, a clash that usually got out of hand. The fight in the fall of 1913 was the last one—by official action of the administration.

The previous year was marked by the longest baseball game ever played at the University—a 20-inning contest with the Oklahoma Aggies that ended in a 1 to 1 tie. The game was so long, Ray (Corky) Courtright told Harold Keith, that "some of the spectators went home to supper and then came back and saw several innings." Coach of the baseballers was none other than Bennie Owen.

It was on those spring days, too, that Sooner golfers were out playing "cow pasture pool," a proper name for the three holes out in Peavine Trout's cow pasture.

And it was also during that year that Dr. Gould, because of poor health, was forced to resign as head of the Geological Survey and become a consulting geologist; Tom Carey began his first of two terms as alumni president, and Sigma Chi became the sixth social fraternity on campus.

A special interest in the fraternity system had been growing at a rapid rate since those first Kappa Alpha days, especially with the founding of three women's organizations—Kappa Alpha Theta, Delta Delta Delta, and Pi Beta Phi—which had already been established for two or three years. Of these new phenomena, Roy Gittinger wrote:

"The young man or young woman who joined one of these organizations thereby developed strong social ties at the University and soon acquired ambitions for the success and strength of the fraternity and the University. Accordingly, he or she was eager to return to the campus rather than to go to another state. Whatever may be said for or against fraternities at the University, at the time under consideration they provided an attractive feature of University life to socially-minded persons from the larger towns of the state and interested them in the University. As financial conditions improved, the young fraternity member not only did not transfer from the University of

Oklahoma but became a missionary to persuade high school graduates in his or her locality to enroll at Norman. Each returning student brought others, some as prospective fraternity pledges, some without such interests, but all to become students in the University."

In 1913, the School of Commerce and Industry was established as a subordinate division of the College of Arts and Sciences, marking the humble beginnings of a business administration college. Jerome Dowd, head of the sociology and economics department, was named director of the school, and Arthur B. Adams, assistant professor of economics, was selected to teach all of the courses in business and in theoretical and applied economics.

It was about this time that Dr. J. W. Scroggs founded the Extension Division, and the *University Oklahoman,* successor to *The Umpire,* first appeared, with Earl Christmas as editor. Ed Meacham won seven dollars for his original "Poem to Co-ed," and Leonard Logan took over editorship of the new *University of Oklahoma Magazine.* For entertainment, students went downtown to the Mystic and Orpheum theaters; the *Sooner* yearbook had permanently replaced the old *Mistletoe*; Pe-et, a senior honor organization, was choosing men with high scholastic achievements; seven literary organizations flourished, and debates on timely topics, especially woman suffrage, were held.

Adopting a proposal made by President Brooks, the Board of Regents approved the establishment of a School of Journalism with English Professor T. H. Brewer as its first director. In search of a faculty for the new school, President Brooks invited newspaperman Chester C. Wells of Freeport, Illinois, to take a position. Wells accepted, but told Brooks that he was scheduled to have a tonsillectomy before making the trip to Oklahoma. Wells died on the operating table.

Within one month before the proposed opening of the journalism school, H. H. Herbert, upon hearing of his friend's death and knowing of his plans, wired Brooks to inquire about the teaching situation. By reply, Herbert was asked to leave his job as telegraph editor of the *Peoria* (Illinois) *Journal* and join the University faculty. When he reached his new job, Herbert found the school housed in a small frame building, one of three which formed Park Row, with the print shop occupying half of the building.

Meanwhile, the new law building, a much talked-about improvement over the basement of the library, was being dedicated and, by a unanimous petition of the student body, was named Monnet Hall in honor of the dean.

The dedication was one of the most formal and dignified ceremonies that has ever taken place on the campus. The main address was delivered by Professor Eugene Wambaugh of the Harvard Law School, and talks also were given by Governor Cruce, a Supreme Court justice, and other notables. The building was officially named Monnet Hall by the State Board of Education, whose chairman, R. H. Wilson, delivered a formal address and conferred the name.

"But," said Dr. Gittinger, "the University needs more room. It needs now at least two new buildings. Nine hundred students today occupy space a little larger than that occupied by 600 in 1907." The greatest need, he declared, was for an auditorium and science building. The need for an auditorium was stressed because commencement and other crowded events were being held under a large circus tent on ground east of the Carnegie Library.

Joseph Paxton had his own idea of what the University needed most. "The greatest need of the University of Oklahoma," he said, "is to have its needs and possibilities, its achievements and its shortcomings, known by the people of the state. In the last analysis, it is local pride, closely bound up with social and economic interests, that stirs most human beings to effective action in the direction of betterment.

"When the people of this state know the pressing needs of our vigorous, growing university, they will do their utmost to supply those needs; they will no more be satisfied with poor and inadequate equipment on this campus than they would be to have their own children go dressed in rags and tatters."

A tent-auditorium stood between the gym and library.

Student government was one year old. Council meetings were held to discuss such matters as freshman cap committee reports and whether freshman girls should have to wear the little red caps, senior mustache committee reports, and committee hearings on campus smoking and week-night dates.

The football team set a record that quite likely will never be surpassed by scoring a total of 258 points in three consecutive games—"practice games" that opened the 1913 season. The Sooners defeated Kingfisher College, 74 to 0, Central Normal, 83 to 0, and Alva Normal, 101 to 0. In the big games, they defeated Kansas, Colorado, and the Oklahoma Aggies, but lost to Missouri and Texas.

The yearbook in its review of the season declared that the Sooners would have won at Missouri had not fullback Claude Reeds been barred by a last-minute ineligibility ruling. The Longhorns from Texas were an admittedly superior team. In addition to Reeds, other Sooners were Tom Lowry, Hubert Ambrister, William Clark, Sabert Hott, Edgar Meacham, Oliver Hott, Charley Rogers, Willis Hott, Curry Bell, Neil Johnson, Roy Spears, Park Geyer, Raymond Courtright, and Elmer Capshaw. And this Class of 1913 boasted of other names that would become well-known in Oklahoma: Fritz Aurin, A. N. Boatman, Orel Busby, Fred Hansen, Eugene P. Ledbetter, Leonard Logan, Dick Lowry, Charles B. Memminger, Perrill Munch Brown, Charles Orr, John Rogers, Charles B. Steele, and Luther H. White.

The Sooner spirit "grew into full bloom" in 1914 with a football team termed the most successful the school had seen. The *Sooner* relates: "It gave birth to such demonstrations as snake dances, shirt-tail parades, bonfires and pep meetings galore." Freshmen were made to wear "postage stamp" caps. Red Cap Day in the fall was the first concentrated attempt to do anything toward completely berating the "disobedient" freshmen. It had been decided at a mass meeting of upper classmen that the "ailment of the revolting frosh is nothing more than a super-abundance of bone-in-the-head." All agreed that there was only one cure—paddles—the first treatment to be given the following day during chapel hour.

The result must have been an overwhelming success, for, during the rest of the year, according to observers, red-capless freshmen were "as scarce as 'A's' in sociology or Professor Morgan in chapel." Although homecoming celebrations had not yet become official, the Missouri game in 1914 was classified by newspapers as "homecoming." In addition to football fortunes that year, Neil Johnson finished the baseball season with a .341 batting average, and, on the cinder path, John Jacobs was a prolific jumper and hurdler and captain of the track team.

Women athletes were also in the limelight. They tried with persistence to secure University "O's" for women like those awarded to men, but were refused on the grounds that "O's" were for intercollegiate athletics only (and from these the girls were barred). The efforts of Miss Rachel Revell accompanied the "O's for Women" cry of the Women's Athletic Association.

The Deep Dark Mystery Club was going stronger than ever. Members had "D.D.M.C. '14" painted on the smokestack of the heating plant, and, with other antics, were making the campus quite conscious of their organization. The club purchased a full page in the 1915 yearbook with the emblem, a red mask, attached.

Y.M.C.A. president was Louis Hoskins; John T. Harley, a former 160-pound fullback, was serving as alumni president; Elmer Capshaw was elected president of the Athletic Council; Rosetta Briegel was head of the Y.W.-C.A., and Grady Kirby occupied the presidency of the University of Oklahoma Board. Seward Sheldon, one of the first two students to complete the initial course in journalism, was sports editor of the *University Oklahoman,* the student paper issued twice weekly, and James Hill edited the monthly *University Magazine*. Fletcher Riley handled editorship of the *Sooner* yearbook.

Huey P. Long left law school to return to his home state of Louisiana. It was written in *Sooner Magazine* that at the age of 18 he "walked to Norman from Oklahoma City January 2, 1912, with the thermometer near zero, determined to get an education and with a position with a produce house at Oklahoma City as means to assure it. He frequently walked to Noble, Purcell and Lexington, and so earned about $100 monthly selling produce."

Paul Darrough, a law student from Hugo, was president of the student body. A junior lawyer was young Leon C. Phillips. Not the least of his distinctions was his being chosen chief executive of Estegata, a club for red-haired men.

Edgar D. Meacham had enrolled in the University in 1911 with ambitions of being a farmer, but became so interested in academic work that he decided on a career of teaching. His undergraduate days were busy ones. The first fall, he was a regular left guard on the all-victorious football team, and Bennie Owen quickly tabbed him as "one of the best linemen that ever stepped on a gridiron." On graduating in 1914, after a distinguished college career with numerous honors, "Meach" was granted a fellowship to continue study on a master's degree. President Brooks offered him an instructorship in math, and Meacham accepted on the condition that he could do graduate work at the same time. He also returned to the football field as freshman coach and assistant to Owen, and because of his avid interest in sports and association with them, Meacham was to be instrumental in the formation of the Oklahoma High School Athletic Association.

Years later, after acquiring master's and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard and Chicago, respectively, Meacham embarked on a new career as professor and dean which would make him one of the most influential leaders on campus for the next quarter of a century. Known for his "rare insight into human nature and genial disposition," he became much interested in administrative matters, especially in helping students solve disciplinary problems, and originated such ideas as a special president's class and a popular annual series of public lectures.

By 1915, the Oval continued to be the center of social activity, partially because of the Spoonholder—and especially at night. Monnet Hall added distinction to the Oval along with its neighbors, University Hall, the Carnegie Library, and Science Hall. And Dr. DeBarr's dream, a new chemistry building, was under construction. As a legacy to its alma mater, the Class of '15 built a memorial, the large brick and stone arch at the west side of the entrance.

Contending with the Oval for the most "loafable" place around the University was the Varsity Shop on the campus corner, from which emanated most of the student political maneuvers. Leaders of various factions would hatch their schemes around a table, and often solicit counsel from proprietor Wissy Meyers.

Also, in 1915, Dr. Gittinger assumed the title of dean of undergraduates, which actually meant that he had the interesting but difficult task of being dean of both men and women. This automatically made him chairman of the University discipline committee, which, he maintained, was the hardest job he held in Norman. It seemed that interfering in the private misdoings of students was not to the liking of Dean Gittinger, and indications are he was not a very stern disciplinarian.

This was also the year Oscar B. Jacobson, Yale graduate and former cowboy and policeman, began his teaching career at the University as an assistant professor of art. As he put it, he was "both head and tail of the art department." Fred Tarman, a member of the first journalism class and one of the founders of Pe-et, was elected president of the Alumni Association, and Morris Tennenbaum came to town to start a loan business and buy old clothes.

The all-victorious football team of 1915, unlike that of 1911, was considered to be "the most wonderful employer

of the forward pass in the nation." In fact, with this team, Bennie Owen became the first coach in America to go in for mass production of the aerial play. The team's attack was built around Park (Spot) Geyer, who, says Harold Keith, "could drive nails with a football at thirty yards and take buttons off a man's pants at forty." He was the "Peerless Pegger of the Prairies," OU's first authentic All-American.

"Missouri was overwhelmed by the pass, Texas was confused by it, and Kansas never saw anything like it," wrote Keith. The versatile Geyer, who connected on 50 of 54 conversion attempts to lead the nation and ranked third in total points, 138, used ends Homer Montgomery and Jess Fields as his favorite passing targets. Willis Hott, the last of the terrible trio, was a strong tackle, and other stalwarts were Rayburn Foster, Elmer Capshaw, Montford Johnston, George Anderson (the University's first World War I casualty), Leon Phillips, and Curry Bell. This team, described by many as Owen's greatest, scored at least fourteen points in each game.

Three thousand students were on hand to greet the team upon its return home from the Texas victory. And then students, players, and alumni as well prepared for a big weekend as hosts to the Kansas Jayhawks.

Homecoming, an idea that had been talked about among faculty members and Norman alumni as early as 1912, was formally inaugurated. Among those who participated in preliminary discussions relative to the Homecoming plan were Errett R. Newby, secretary and registrar of the University; Guy Y. Williams and Roy Hadsell, alumni and faculty members; Ben G. Owen, football coach and athletic director, and Tom F. Carey, a leader and spokesman of the Alumni Association. To Newby, however, goes the major credit for developing the plan and putting it into effect. Fred Tarman, professor in the journalism school and alumni president who helped perfect plans for the first celebration, called Newby the "daddy of OU Homecoming."

"We had been trying for years to stimulate interest among former students and alumni which would bring them back to the campus at least once a year," said Newby. "Prior to 1915, the principal effort was made at commencement time, with lesser effort at all other important occasions. The result was that no pilgrimage ever proved especially noteworthy, and those who returned for one event missed many friends who perhaps chose some other occasion to come back.

"Some of the alumni then on the faculty discussed the plan, and I drew some sketches and presented them to Dr. Brooks, recommending that an annual affair to be known as Homecoming be arranged in connection with the main football game each year, and that we make a special effort to get back as many former students, alumni and friends as possible in order that they receive not only the inspiration of a visit to their alma mater, but so that they also could have the pleasure that comes from renewing old friendships of college days. No matter what the events of the day might be, they are more enjoyable if shared with old-time friends."

Dr. Brooks approved the plan, invitations were sent out, and more than 500 alumni and former students were present for the Kansas game. A big snake dance was staged between halves, and an informal reception was held before and after the game in the president's office.

"The 'pep' demonstration held the night before the game was also a striking event," said Tarman, "one that brought stares from the eyes of even the Norman residents, hardened though they were to years of 'shirt-tail' parades.

"It was known as the 'peripatetic pajama parade,' and the *University Oklahoman* reported that University seniors and sophomores wore the flowing robes of Grecian dancers, juniors in flannel pajamas, and the Ruf Neks, who, if memory serves me correctly, were first organized in 1915, wore gaudy silk pajamas. The 'frosh,' the newspaper related, started a 'back to nature' movement, but compromised on 'beeveedees.' "

The University defeated Kansas, 23 to 14, on a 55-yard pass from Captain Geyer to T. Howard McCasland, a lanky substitute end from Duncan. This was not only the year's longest pass completion anywhere in the nation, it was perhaps the longest aerial play ever to be seen on Boyd Field.

"The Kansas victory," Tarman said, "called for another big celebration, and a bonfire and shirt-tail parade were held on Saturday night. The flames from pine boxes lighted the skies for miles as the tired but happy alumni trekked homeward from Oklahoma's first Homecoming."

That same year, OU won convincingly over Kingfisher, 67 to 0; Weatherford Normal, 55 to 0; Alva Normal, 102 to 0; Missouri, 24 to 0; Arkansas, 23 to 0; Kansas Aggies, 21 to 7, and Oklahoma Aggies, 26 to 7. There were also some hair-raisers, like the 14 to 13 win over Henry Kendall College, and, in a colorful battle at the Texas State Fair, another 14 to 13 win.

"This victory over Texas," Tarman continued, "was considered one of the most noteworthy of the year, and the same group of alumni who originated the Homecoming idea, together with other campus football enthusiasts, promoted a big barbeque on Boyd Field on Monday night following the game. A Texas longhorn steer furnished the 'piece de resistance,' and a good time was had by all as Edward Everett Dale, one-time cowpuncher, and Roy Hadsell recited impromptu verse, and Dr. Brooks and Guy Y. Williams made speeches."

The Sooners finished with ten victories that fall, becoming Owen's second all-victorious eleven. Scholar-athlete McCasland was declared "without doubt the most versatile player Bennie Owen has developed in recent years." He was also center and captain of the basketball squad, which he led to all four of its victories with the Oklahoma Aggies in 1916, and he and John Jacobs were considered to be the University's most outstanding springtime athletes.

In 1916, another Owen powerhouse gained almost at will to dump an Oklahoma Baptist eleven, 107 to 7, by scoring seven touchdowns in the first half and nine in the second. The next week was even more convincing as the Sooners scampered past Weatherford Normal, 140 to 0.

For further entertainment, the University Theater opened, and movies could be seen at fifteen cents for adults and five cents for children. The chemistry building (DeBarr Hall) was completed and occupied, and students and faculty members began talking about the possibilities of a student union building. Wesley I. Nunn and Willard H. Campbell, editor of the *University Oklahoman,* decided to make the student publication a daily paper, and in so doing, changed the name to *The Oklahoma Daily* and pub-

lished it five days a week. On one memorable occasion, the D.D.M.C.'s entered the print shop just after the paper had gone to press and stamped their mark on all issues, while holding *Daily* staff members and shop men at bay.

Meanwhile, Dr. Arthur B. Adams was named director of the School of Commerce and Industry, which was soon changed to the School of Public and Private Business. There was still much talk of freshman caps, and a rigorous campaign was carried on to see that they were purchased and worn. Another popular student hangout came into existence with the Green Frog Fruit Stand.

Strongest tendency to separate according to schools or vocational fields was noticed among the medics. The first two years of the medical school continued to be held in Norman in the anatomy building, more commonly known as the "stiff house," a long frame structure standing on the southwest part of the campus.

The year 1915–16 gave the University its largest enrollment to that date, 2,090, and a peak graduating class of 218. There were now eight buildings on campus, and the area where the Armory and Owen Field are located today was marked off into handball courts and football fields.

A residential section was growing up around the campus with Elm Street as the "western frontier." Only a few homes had been built that far out. The fraternity system continued to grow with the addition of two women's groups, Kappa Kappa Gamma and Alpha Chi Omega. Membership averaged around 35 in the fraternities and 25 in the sororities. There were no housemothers. A student in each of the girls' houses was designated as counselor by the school administration.

The dance hall (and there were many dances) was on the second floor of a downtown business building. Tabasco, an interfraternity dancing club made up of "the best six dancers from each fraternity," and Enchiladas, a similar group among the sororities, kept Davis Hall, as is was called, buzzing with excitement for several years.

Since the principal student transportation was shanks' mare, it was something of a revolution when the jitney arrived with its five-cent fare. A small, open Ford, it provided transportation to and from town with as many as four or five persons per trip. Another modern development to hit town was the Toberman Cab Service, also just one vehicle.

In 1917, H. H. Herbert succeeded T. H. Brewer as director of the School of Journalism. The previous year Herbert had organized the Oklahoma Interscholastic Press Association, the oldest high school editors' society in the nation. Through the formative years of the journalism school's existence, Director Herbert carefully built up the standards of work, and, through his endeavors, gained for Oklahoma a foremost position in the field of journalism.

D. B. R. Johnson did the same thing for the School of Pharmacy. While serving as dean, he was considered to be an aggressive administrator, building the school and its faculty with a careful hand. A worthy tribute to the school is the fact that he attracted students from far beyond the state's boundaries. His purpose was always to graduate students well-balanced in all phases of the profession and capable of making a success in the business world.

In the meantime, over at Southeastern State Teachers College, Durant, a group of school teachers originated the Ancient and Beneficent Order of the Red, Red Rose after the Grand Old Man provided in his will that all school teachers everywhere would be "taken care of." Before long, the meeting of the society would become an annual event at the University.

As THE impact of world war hit the United States, the University of Oklahoma, like every other educational institution, became involved. And, under the supervision of Guy Y. Williams, the colorful, acrobatic professor of chemistry, military training was started at OU. Josh Lee, president of the Student Senate, called a mass meeting of the men students to organize for voluntary military training. The men trained and drilled daily (on streets in front of the sorority houses), and, when the exodus to war came, only young freshmen, old faculty members, and girls remained on campus.

But those who stayed behind would have their own battles to fight. Shortly thereafter, an epidemic of influenza spread throughout the campus, hitting most of the student body. And, if this wasn't enough to cope with, some disgruntled youth decided to set fire to one of the buildings in Park Row. Flames spread to the journalism school and swept it to the ground. The "stiff house" and its cadavers burned, as well as Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. facilities.

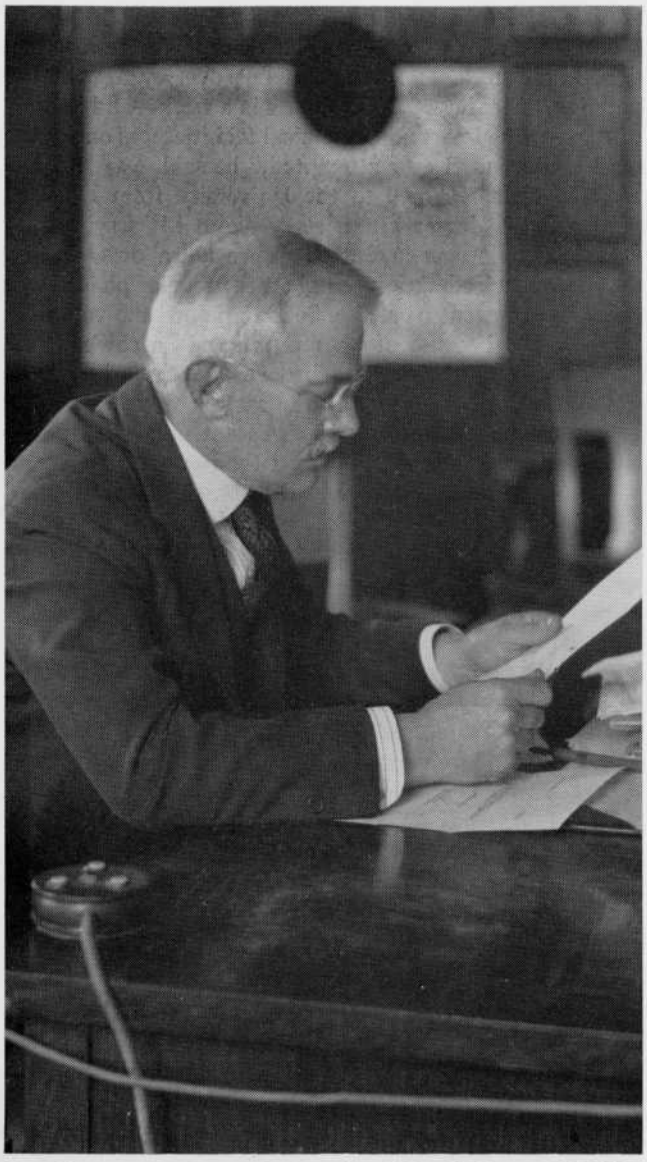
The orphaned journalism school had received the hardest blow. It first was moved to a room in the administration building, then to a practice courtroom in the law school, and finally to the basement of Science Hall. A. S. Mike Monroney, a journalism student, called these quarters a "rabbit hutch," because of the ground-level windows which could have accommodated two-way traffic, but were used only as an exit for impatient students. The "rabbit hutch" would be home for the journalism school until 1929.

The fire only caused the "Y" organizations, forerunners of today's campus church groups and political societies, to become more enthusiastic about the possibilities of a student union. And the medical school was easily prepared to build another "stiff house."

For a nine-month period at the beginning of the war, Stratton Brooks served as food administrator of Oklahoma, but his duties as president and the extra work ahead of preparing the University budget for the legislature and supervising the construction of three new buildings—an auditorium, library, and geology building—compelled him to give up outside activities. As food administrator, Brooks worked at the rate of $1.00 per year, and so earned 75 cents for the nine months he was in office.

"But his service to Oklahoma and the nation," said the 1918 *Sooner*, "if it should be measured in dollars and cents, could not be computed without using at least seven figures.

"Today Oklahoma is in the front ranks among states of the nation in the saving of food. Proportionately, Oklahoma is going without just as much wheat, meat, fats, and sugar in order to feed our army and starving Europe as any other state. More than three-fourths of the homes of the state display window cards showing that the housewife has signed the food conservation pledge; practically all public eating houses observe the food regulations to the letter.



Brooks was president during the difficult days of WWI.

"The state has benefitted wonderfully; the University will likewise be richer for Dr. Brooks' service. He has acquired an intimate knowledge of men and conditions in every corner of Oklahoma. His great work since 1912 of placing the University of Oklahoma in the front rank of educational institutions of the West will gain more speed in the future because of his experience as food administrator."

President Wilson urged all of the nation's colleges, universities, and technical schools "to maintain their courses as far as possible on the usual basis" in order to prevent "the supply of highly trained men" from diminishing. "I would particularly urge," he said, "upon the young people who are leaving our high schools that as many of them as can do so avail themselves this year of the opportunities offered by the colleges and technical schools, to the end that the country may not lack an adequate supply of trained men and women."

At the University, thirteen courses in seven different departments were offered "for the direct purpose of training soldiers, training men who expect to become soldiers, training people who take the place of soldiers in civil life, or training the 'folks at home' on their duties in helping win the war." These courses included: wire telegraphy for men or women, current events study contests, stenography and shorthand, oxy-acetylene welding, orthopedic surgery, wireless telegraphy, gas-engine work, military field engineering, and first aid courses.

Students under 21 still enrolled in the University were required to take special courses in the Student Army Training Corps, and a number of buildings were constructed in accordance with government regulations, such as barracks, mess halls, an infirmary, bathhouse, guardhouse, and canteen. Several fraternity and sorority houses were used as barracks, as were the gymnasium and the basement of Monnet Hall. A naval reserve unit was also established with eighty enlisted men. By the latter part of 1918, the University was practically a military base.

For eighteen months, the University called herself a "win the war" institution, participating in this movement "heart and soul" from April 6, 1917, until November 11, 1918. Some 30 faculty members, 500 alumni, and 1,875 students were in military service, while back home in Norman, sentries of the S.A.T.C. paraded about the campus chanting "All's Well" each hour on the hour. Wives of faculty members and women students did their share in knitting and sewing for the Red Cross.

THE MONTHS immediately following the signing of the Armistice in 1919 constituted a period of difficult readjustment. Students were not nearly so serious about their studies as they had been before, and much of the routine of campus life was superficial, for a while, at least. New clubs were cropping up all over the place, with names like Quo Vadis, Battle Axe, Checkmate, and Tall Cedars of Lebanon. There was a chapter of the American Legion, a Gob's Club, and exclusive organizations such as Mystic Keys and Chi Chi Chi, and the Jazz Hounds joined the Ruf Neks in offering a new kind of spirit to campus goings-on. Popular among all the students were the Student Council dances held every Saturday night.

The U.S. Army discovered that the number of reserve officers was "pitifully inadequate" for any emergency, so, after the war, the federal government encouraged the establishment of Reserve Officers Training Corps units in universities and colleges to develop officers who would be quickly available for such junctures. The R.O.T.C. was established at the University in February of 1919 as an outgrowth of the S.A.T.C., which was discontinued in all colleges about a month after the war. The Armory was constructed soon afterwards to house the R.O.T.C. At first, the Oklahoma unit gave infantry training only, but the following fall, Major C. A. Baehr arrived and established a field artillery unit.

In the ensuing days, Richard H. Cloyd was employed as the first paid secretary of the Alumni Association, on a part-time basis, and *The Oklahoma Daily* announced that "for the second time in the last six years, the University of Oklahoma nearly lost its football coach, Bennie Owen. The University of Nebraska made a strenuous effort in August to land Owen as a coach there. Owen has never

told anyone here about the offer, but, when questioned, he admitted it had been made."

World War I did very little to weaken the charges of Owen. At the outset of the 1917 season, after brushing off Central Normal to the tune of 99 to 0, Owen's boys ran up the biggest score in Sooner history by clouting Kingfisher College, 179 to 0. In that contest, Arlo (Skivey) Davis kicked 23 conversions out of 26 attempts, which still stands as a world's record. In 1918, the team, captained by Hugh McDermott, was all-victorious at the end of an abbreviated six-game schedule.

As a matter of fact, this had been the University's most successful year in athletics. The basketball and track teams were also all-victorious; Forrest Darrough and Claude Monnet led the tennis team to the state championship, and the baseballers had a fine season despite two exhibition losses to the world champion Chicago White Sox.

The relationship maintained between Coach Owen and President Brooks was said to have worked very well, although both would receive numerous outside criticisms.

"Bennie invented football here, owned it, contracted for it, and paid for it," Brooks said. "I told him it was his job, and I wanted him to run it."

"Once the Oklahoma legislature discharged Owen for a novel reason," said Harold Keith. "The earnest lawmakers had just dismissed the one-handed teacher of a small Oklahoma college because she presumed to take taxpayers' money when she could play a piano with only one hand. Many of the legislators were openly opposed to athletics and thought Owen's salary of $3,500 far too high.

" 'The University has got a one-armed football coach. Why don't we fire him, too?' somebody proposed and presto! It was done. But Brooks soon got wind of the action and had it rescinded so quickly and quietly that Owen never learned of his dismissal until one week after he had been rehired."

On May 24, 1920, a group of petitioners at the University, led by Henry Higgins Lane, was granted a national charter for an OU chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, and among its seventeen charter members was President Brooks.

Emil Rudolph Kraettli, who had been working in the president's office since 1913, when he arrived in Norman on the first interurban from Oklahoma City, was named secretary to the Board of Regents, and, in 1920, became secretary of the University. Among the newer members of the faculty were Victor E. Monnett, Nathan Altshiller Court, Edith Mahier, Frank Girard Tappan, Leslie M. Westfall, Joshua Bryan Lee, Ima James, Homer Dodge, Eugenia Kaufman, Joseph H. Benton, George Wadsack, Richard James, and Benjamin Shultz, among others. In the fall of 1920 came Lloyd Swearingen, Stephen Scatori, Dora McFarland, Gladys Barnes, and Grace Ray. Several of these people offered teaching methods and observations never before exhibited to the still lusty and immature campus. For example, Ima James, women's physical education instructor, quickly pointed out that 85 percent of the women in her classes were underweight and that 50 percent of them had flat feet.

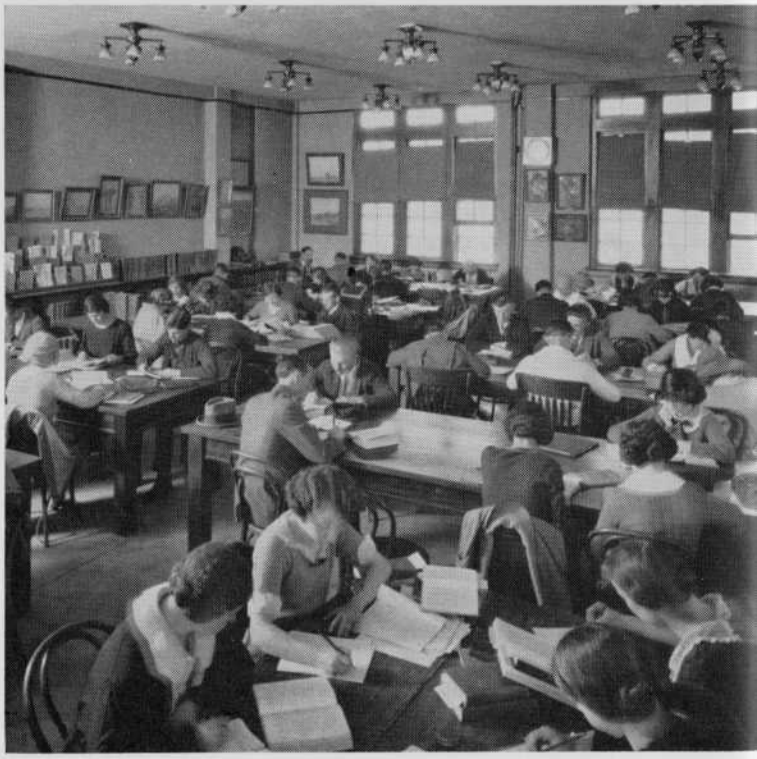
As the School of Education became more independent, the Carnegie Library was remodeled into classroom space for the juniors and seniors eligible to enroll in the school's curriculum. Library facilities, meanwhile, were being moved to a new building, known simply as the "New Library"; and, with only a few pushcarts for transportation, librarian Jesse Rader was not overjoyed with the occasion. "Moving 30,000 volumes in a week—and in midwinter—with almost no mechanical facilities was one of the most trying jobs I ever attempted," he said.

E. E. Dale returned to the University from Harvard with a Ph.D. degree and a story about his service as a volunteer policeman in Boston. When not allowed to join the American Federation of Labor, the regular police force of 1,200 men went on strike. So Dale joined the volunteer brigade, and because of his reputation as a cowboy, the gentleman with the high-pitched voice became known as Two-Gun Dale, westerner on the eastern front.

The football team of 1920 "was not only speedy and dangerous with the pass, but had the power and drive to win by straight football when the occasion for it arose." Coach Owen had some big and rugged backs in Phil White, Harry (Dutch) Hill, and Sol Swatek and turned out "three wonderful ends" in Captain Dewey (Snorter) Luster, Lawrence (Jap) Haskell, and Howard (Tarzan) Marsh. Stalwarts in the line were Erl Deacon, Bill McKinley, Roy (Soupy) Smoot, and Dow Hamm (the last a center who played through four seasons without a substitution). These were the ingredients for Owen's fourth undefeated team.

"Oklahoma lampooned Missouri, overwhelmed Drake, whipped Washington and then took its first Missouri Valley championship by smashing Kansas. A 7 to 7 tie with the Kansas Aggies was the only blemish on an otherwise perfect record. Against the Oklahoma Aggies, the Sooners scored 35 points and then let the subs finish the job."

Over another part of the campus, a new rivalry—of spectacular proportions—was brewing. The St. Pat's Day celebration had originated at the University of Missouri,



The early library was inadequate by today's standards.

where students "discovered, apparently in a dream," that Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, was an engineer. He was carried to Ireland by pirates, and he rid that island of its snakes, engineers allege, by a mechanical or electrical device. With the coming of an instructor from Missouri, the idea drifted into Norman and was first celebrated by engineering students in 1914.

"As the local St. Pat's celebration has progressed," it is written, "there has also developed a certain dispute between the Engineers and a subversive group known as the Lawyers. This series through the years reads like an F.B.I. file, for it has included cannon-napping, queen-napping, and even St. Pat-napping."

Hicks Epton, a law student from Wewoka, gave his account of the running feud between students of the two schools:

"Some of you may remember . . . there was a feeling between the lawyers and engineers on campus which was something less than cordial. As a matter of fact, these sentiments often found expression in physical form. The lawyers, of course, being peaceful by nature, and, incidentally, in the minority, did not start any of the trouble. But, when the engineers attacked them, they had no alternative but to defend. The president very wisely decreed that, with one more physical encounter, St. Patrick's Day—revered by engineers—would be abolished. Some of us thought this was a very good idea.

"On the night preceding St. Patrick's Day of one particular year, three of us liberated several gallons of green paint from a nearby establishment, and, in the quiet hours of the morning, proceeded to paint the 'Law Barn' with it. Of course, it was purely incidental that after this was done, a few drops of the green paint were allowed to spatter on the sidewalk in the direction of the engineers' building.

"The campus cops had no trouble in fixing liability on the engineers. But, the next morning, righteous indignation boiled in the law school, and, 100 freshman engineers were sent by higher authority to wash the Law Barn. Some of you may have wondered why the bottom part of the 'Barn' is considered cleaner than the upper part. It is because of the washing those engineer students gave it.

"Those who did the act were sworn to absolute secrecy, and I'm sure none of them told. Yet, a few days later, I received a firm tap on the shoulder and was invited by the dean (Monnet) himself into his office. It is appalling how much bigger that office seemed then than today. There he told me, after allowing me to quake in my boots for the necessary eternity, that we had better be careful that the word never got out who painted the Law Barn."

One year the lawyers cleverly and unsuspectedly put croton oil (a harsh laxative for cattle) in the coffee at an engineers' banquet. Needless to say, any embarrassment that may have resulted for the feasters was not nearly so bad as the sickness that followed and the fact that the pranksters had also barred the doors of campus rest rooms. The growing feud between the two schools had many of these "unspeakable occurrences," and several of the faculty members, Dean Monnet in particular, were rather disgusted with the whole affair. As far as Monnet was concerned, it was beneath the dignity of the law school.

The engineer-lawyer feud grew into a tradition almost as violent as the class fights. To this day, lawyers frequently attempt to capture the engineers' queen before her coronation scheduled on St. Pat's Day. Engineers oftentimes take the offensive by splashing green paint on the stone owls at the north and south ends of the Law Barn. Senior lawyers were marked in those early days by the canes they carried, a tradition brought to the campus from outside the state, but to become firmly established. Monnet himself always carried a green bag, a trademark he brought with him from Harvard.

"Old Trusty" played a prominent role in St. Pat's festivities. This old cast-iron Civil War cannon had been a gift to the City of Norman and stood unmolested in Edwards Park, north of the railroad station—unmolested, that is, until the engineers decided to move it to the campus to shoot on St. Pat's Day. And from that day on, Old Trusty led a hectic life.

The lawyers quickly hit upon the idea of trying to steal the cannon and hide it at the time the engineers most wanted it—a plan that only threw more fuel on an already "blazing rivalry." One year, the cannon was spirited away in a speedy Stutz Bearcat, but was recovered in time to perform its annual duty. Engineers, naturally, hungered to fire their weapon in the direction of the Law Barn, a stratagem which, at best, resulted in cracked or broken windows not belonging to the Law Barn.

While it was the original intention of the engineers, according to engineers, to return the cannon to its place in Edwards Park, they realized that doing so would immediately place it in the hands of the "enemy." As a result, Old Trusty never again saw its former home, but remained the object of conflict between the two groups of students for about ten years. In 1920, L.K.O.T. (Loyal Knights of Old Trusty) was organized among engineers for additional protection of the cannon. That society is still in existence, although the cannon was dropped to the bottom of the South Canadian River, so the story goes, sent there by the administration after it had caused serious accidents. Student Latham Yates, for one, lost both of his hands in an accident in 1933 when the cannon exploded while he was loading it.

"Old Trusty," it was written, "was laid away in an early grave under the brick floor of the e.e. shop to avoid capture by OU officials, but it was exhumed by President Brooks and carted off while engineers went into mourning. Since then, makeshift noisemakers have been employed to herald the dawn of St. Patrick's Day."

By 1921, summer school enrollment had risen to over 1,500 students, and extension division services were being used to a large degree. The Women's Building, which included a swimming pool and gymnasium, was completed and occupied, and Albert Pike Hall, under Masonic control, provided men's housing.

To hear how OU was doing in her latest road football game, students crowded around Barbour's Drug Store, often blocking vehicular traffic on Main Street, as they listened to a man from Western Union yell out the latest results through a megaphone.

The first apparatus used for broadcasting at the University was a small installation built under the supervision

of Maurice L. Prescott, an engineering student. In September, 1922, a company, formed under the name of the Oklahoma Radio Engineering Company, decided to assist Prescott in gathering apparatus for broadcasting purposes, and the original WNAD was soon put into operation with a power of 50 watts. Equipment was located in the basement of Prescott's home on Eufaula Street, and his parlor was used as a studio. First programs consisted mainly of phonograph records and play-by-play accounts of athletic events.

A more definite relation with the University was established the next year by making the installation a part of electrical engineering laboratory equipment. And, by the time school started that fall, work was well under way in the construction of a 100-watt station. By 1926, a complete assembly of new equipment raised the station's power to 500 watts. A great deal of credit should go to Clyde Farrar and his crew of engineers who put together and maintained the WNAD transmitter. Most of their time was donated and the parts improvised, and much of the programming was on a volunteer basis. The early-day stars of WNAD included Ted Beaird, Homer Heck, John Dunn, Walter Emery, Fisher Muldrow, Carl Albert, and a host of other students and faculty members. Today, the 1,000-watt "Voice of Soonerland" can be heard in bordering states and, for a time, was Oklahoma's only radio affiliate of the Columbia Broadcasting System.

Meanwhile, the Board of Regents changed the name of the School of Public and Private Business to the School of Business and selected Dr. Arthur B. Adams as its dean. The campus, as a physical plant, was spreading.

The early to middle twenties also saw the expansion of social fraternities and sororities, with more and more of them establishing campus chapters.

ENROLLMENT, WHICH had reached 800 by the end of President Boyd's administration and had remained stationary until the coming of Brooks, was rising rapidly. During the school year 1922–23, the number reached 3,500 for the regular session, and, counting students in summer school, 5,000. Brooks must share some of the credit for developing the University with Robert L. Williams, governor of Oklahoma from 1915 to 1919, for Williams is said to have been the first governor of either the territory or the state who really understood the purpose of higher learning and who sympathized with University aspirations.

"When Bob Williams said no, President Brooks never argued with him," a mutual friend of both said. "Instead, Brooks would talk about something the governor would say yes to. A week later, Governor Williams would forget he had ever said no."

"Brooks not only had imagination," according to Harold Keith, "but was an organizing genius whose plans worked out. He was fearless, aggressive and had fine intuition. If some faculty member came to him and asked for a raise with the hackneyed explanation that he had just received a more attractive offer from another school and would have to resign unless Brooks immediately met the new salary figure, Brooks was likely to reach quickly into his desk for pen and paper, and, thrusting them toward the astonished professor, say, 'Then I suggest you write out your resignation now. You might lose your new job if you don't act fast,' whereupon the professor usually would decide to study the matter a little longer.

"Brooks was a good judge of human nature. Once when one of his most trusted employees resigned to take a job with the Marland Oil Company, Brooks didn't try to hold him.

"Two months later, the man was back, complaining that there was too little to do working for the oil company. He had been used to working a full day at the University and chafed at the inactivity to which he was not accustomed.

" 'Have you got a place for me somewhere?' he asked Brooks.

" 'Why, I've never filled your place. I knew you'd be back,' the president replied.

"The man looked surprised and a little hurt.

" 'Then why did you ever let me go?' he asked.

" 'Because if I had tried to dissuade you, you would always have blamed me for keeping you from making a fortune in the oil business,' Brooks told him.

"Brooks' campus reforms were legion. It was he who established a permanent faculty salary schedule, sabbatical leave and permanent tenure. He started and was the first contributor to the student loan fund. He originated the book exchange. He acquired for the University the Masonic Dorm corner, the site of the president's home, and helped in the acquisition of the sixty acres between Brooks and Lindsey streets where the stadium, Armory and biology building now stand, also the 47 acres that comprise the drill field. The University secured during Brooks' administration more buildings than in any other similar period in the institution's first fifty years. In fact, Ben Harrison, the state budget officer, used to say, 'When Dr. Brooks and the state legislature met, Dr. Brooks found out how much money there was in the state treasury, then asked for all of it, and usually got it.'

"Brooks later disclosed his formula for securing new University buildings from the Oklahoma legislature.

" 'You had to find which way the trend was going,' he said. 'They used to try to get me to ask for one building. I always refused. I told them I wanted six. At the close of the session, I would have found out which of the six buildings we had the best chance to get, and we'd go after it. But sometimes when I wanted an engineering building, I would have to take another ahead of it because the trend was going that way.'

"Perhaps Brooks' outstanding achievement at Norman was his astute manipulation of the new state's legislatures. Although the president was quiet as a mouse about politics and never gave any outward indication that he participated in them, he was always thinking a couple of steps ahead of the embryo law-makers, figuring out ways to block them before they blocked him. Brooks cultivated Elmer Thomas of Lawton, the state senator who owned Medicine Park and was the legislature's keynoter. They were fine friends and boon fishing companions. Brooks spent many a day on the bank of some stream fishing and also on his back at home beneath his rheumatic old Cadillac which the president himself personally repaired when it got out of kelter, which it frequently did. (Among his fishing companions at Norman in those days were Charley Bessent, the banker;

Dr. L. A. Turley, instructor in pathology; Fred Reed, the druggist, and Dr. D. W. Griffin, superintendent of Central State Hospital.)

"Once when a hostile legislator, offended because Brooks hadn't consulted him about a matter Brooks was sponsoring, accosted the University president and angrily charged, 'You have discussed this proposition with everybody but me. Now I want to know why.' Brooks completely mollified the man by replying, 'Why, I didn't think I needed to explain it to you. A man of your intelligence and influence doesn't need to have a simple matter like this explained to him.' The man's buttons literally popped off with pride.

"The president enjoyed a fine relation of confidence with the State Board of Regents, which, until 1919, was known as the State Board of Education. Here was a president the board did not try to control. Its meetings in his office usually were models of brevity, and when the annual budget was discussed, Brooks' recommendations usually were accepted without question. 'Now gentlemen, here's the budget. It doesn't exceed the appropriation. I've done the best I could. I recommend its approval,' Brooks would say. The board knew Brooks possessed enough sound business sense to have the estimates drawn correctly. Usually one of them put the motion for approval, and the meeting hurried toward its inevitably hasty conclusion.

"Brooks got along well with the Oklahoma students, but first there had to be an adjustment. The students were in the habit (when Brooks first came to Norman) of demanding a holiday upon the slightest pretext. A student walking around the Oval would yell 'Holiday! Holiday!' He would soon be joined by a crowd, the clamor would increase, and the University authorities often yielded. Fearing the effect the custom might have on the legislature, since each wasted school day also meant a waste of several thousand dollars of the taxpayers' money and might furnish grounds for a reduction in the University appropriations, Brooks resolved to break the custom.

"One morning when the president was sitting on the front porch of his house, he heard the cry go up on the campus, 'Holiday!' Quickly, he made his way to the scene, secured the attention of the noisy students, explained why the holiday would cause a squandering of state funds and told them there would be no holiday.

" 'Holiday!' bawled some leather-lunged student, anyhow. Brooks reached in his pocket and pulled out a small black notebook. Looking at the offending student, he pretended to write down his name, although he had just arrived in Norman and hadn't had time to become personally acquainted with many students.

" 'Holiday!' another student yelled, and, without a word, Brooks pretended to jot down his name also. The same thing occurred six or seven additional times. Finally the crowd dispersed.

"However, it was to meet one more test. When Bennie Owen's all-victorious football team of 1915 defeated Texas, the students, without asking Brooks, gaily made plans for a gala holiday all day Monday, ending in a pep rally at 4 p.m. at which a steer was to be barbecued. Even the alumni and faculty helped plan the celebration. When the football team returned from Dallas Sunday afternoon, it was met by a student with an old bus. The team was loaded inside the bus and the University band placed on top, and the students laid hold of a long rope fastened to the vehicle and bodily pulled the squad and band up and down Main Street and back to the University.

"There they were met by Errett Newby, the president's secretary, who told them that Brooks was in favor of the barbecue but said that there would be no holiday prior to it, and if the students took a holiday anyhow, there would be no barbecue. Exhausted from pulling the heavy bus three miles, the students were too tired to protest.

"There was a reason for their exhaustion. President Brooks, who had grown up on a Michigan farm and knew all about wagons, had secretly had the grease removed from the axle of the bus the day before.

"Once Charley Bessent, Norman banker, invited Brooks to 'go in with the boys' and give financial support to a local oil well. Oklahoma then was an agricultural economy which had just begun to become interested in oil.

" 'I'll do it because I want to be public-spirited,' President Brooks told Bessent. 'But I hope you hit a dry hole!'

"Bessent looked surprised, whereupon Brooks explained that Norman was a pleasant, tidy town to live in, and he would regret seeing it become an oil boom town.

" 'It was a dry hole. They quit drilling at 3,200 feet,' Brooks chuckled thirty years later."

PRESIDENT BROOKS left Oklahoma in 1923 to accept the presidency of the University of Missouri, the state of his birth, "whose emissaries had long sought him." He remained at the Missouri post for eight years and then became educational director of the Grand Council of the Order of DeMolay, with headquarters at Kansas City, Missouri, a job he held until his death January 18, 1949.

"But his heart," Keith continued, "and also that of his wife, was back in Oklahoma where he liked the gracious hospitality of the people, where nobody was interested in your ancestry and where all a man had to do to be shaved was to bare his face to the clean, white river sand blown by the southwest wind.

"When Mrs. Brooks died in January, 1941, she was buried in Norman. 'My wife is buried here, and here's where I'll be buried,' he told friends at Norman during a visit in 1944. He was bright and active and cheerful right up to the day of his death.

"Today they sleep side by side, close to the campus of the University Brooks so ably rejuvenated. That a man of Brooks' ability and enormous energy should come to the presidency at exactly the time the school was undergoing the difficult expansion from its old territorial order into that of a large, busy, highly specialized state university was the state's good fortune. Brooks eventually rebuilt the damage done to the school by the Haskell political hierarchy and restored the state's confidence in it."

Brooks had proven to be the man the University needed, because, if for no other reason, he understood politicians and knew how to get along with them. During the eleven years of his administration, the University had finally become an educational institution of recognized standing throughout the United States.