At left, a panelist participates in the post-lecture discussion. At right is Dr. Arthur Doerr, who lectured on the social sciences.

The World of Ideas

In the year 2040, when the University of Oklahoma is celebrating its 150th birthday, an unusual ceremony will take place at the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education on the main campus.

The president of the university, following instructions on a metal plaque affixed to the east wall of the Forum Building, will open a vault behind the plaque. From it he will remove papers which were presented by eight distinguished members of the OU faculty Oct. 17-19, 1965, during the university's 75th anniversary conference on The World of Ideas. The papers, which more than 400 state leaders, faculty members and students heard during the three-day meeting arranged by President George L. Cross, will be read for the second time.

The lectures indeed encompassed a world of ideas. Dr. Arthur H. Doerr, professor of geography, opened the three-day sessions with a paper on the social sciences. Other lecturers and their subjects were "The Applied Life Sciences," Dr. Lloyd P. Williams, professor of education; "The Natural Sciences," Dr. Duane H. D. Roller, McCasland professor of the history of science; "The Applied Physical Sciences," Dr. C. M. Sliepcevich, Research professor of engineering; "The Applied Life Sciences," Dr. Chester M. Pierce, associate professor of psychiatry; "The Applied Humanities," Dr. Nathaniel E. Eek, professor of drama; "The Humanities," Dr. Paul G. Ruggiers, David Ross Boyd professor of English, and a concluding lecture by Dr. J. Clayton Feaver, David Ross Boyd professor of philosophy on the University, its past and its potential for the future.

Lecturers were asked to review the past 75 years in their assigned areas and to project into the next 75 years. A panel of laymen followed each paper with a discussion of it. The sessions were successful enough for the formulation of plans calling for similar conferences to be held periodically in the future.