

members from various divisions of the university community who are themselves of Indian descent or who are intensely concerned with the welfare and condition of Indian people in Oklahoma. The Institute was originally founded for the purpose of defining the University's role vis-a-vis the Indian community of the state, and in the past several years has been increasingly active in seeking to expand the University's services to Indian groups and individuals, and to develop programs of Indian studies in several academic departments. The American Indian Institute is administered through a Board of Directors, the Chairman of which, since 1951, has been Mr. Boyce D. Timmons. Mr. Timmons was instrumental in attracting the support of the Duke Foundation for an Oral History Project at Oklahoma and has always been the principal administrator and directive voice of the Project, though he did not take the formal title of Director until February of 1968.

Mr. Timmons is himself of one-quarter Cherokee descent, and identification with the Indian community has always been an important part of his life. For many years holding the position of Registrar in the University's Office of Admissions and Records, he found time to work with Indian students and sponsor Indian student organizations, and to serve in university programs oriented toward Indian people. Since 1968 he has been Director of Indian Programs at the University of Oklahoma, and has been Chairman both of the American Indian Institute and the closely related Indian Education Division of the Southwest Center for Human Relations Studies.

The Oklahoma Oral History Project has, in a sense, been a cooperative enterprise from its inception, featuring interdisciplinary