

# sooner scene

THIS STORY is written for people with a personal interest in the University of Oklahoma. It is not a documentary history; it is rather the evolution of a university told by those who love her best—alumni and long-time faculty members. Within the memory of people still living, this University has grown from a single forlorn building in a pasture of wind-swept central Oklahoma, to 226 buildings on a beautifully landscaped campus of 2,273 acres.

This is not a story of the buildings or the acres. It is the story of the people. The people who came to start a new university were of the same mold as those who made the runs, settled the homesteads. They were optimistic, hard-working, God-fearing explorers of a new frontier. Aside from the spirit of optimism, the most striking characteristic of these pioneers was an over-riding faith in the future. They came to Oklahoma seeking a better life. It is a measure of their qualities that a surprising percentage of these early students became college professors, authors, industrial leaders and scientists.

In Oklahoma, history was telescoped. The children of prairie Indians, born in teepee villages, joined the sons of settler-farmers, cowboys and merchants to become the first students at the territorial University. President Boyd promised them "work and a welcome," and that was what they found here. The Indians who

crowded into the territory from all points of the compass became educated in such numbers that they were actually the leaders of the Constitutional Convention which led Oklahoma to statehood.

Each president has been especially suited to his time in the history of the institution. The growth and development of the University has been influenced more by the leadership, character, and philosophy of these seven men who have served as president than by any other single factor. The strength of each man provided the influence most needed at each critical period of this history.

The early years of development stand as an everlasting tribute to the pioneering instincts and driving energy of the first President, David Ross Boyd. He was a man undaunted by obstacles. He welcomed all who came to learn but required adequate preparation for regular college work. He recruited and developed a strong faculty of men, both bold and erudite, men of intellect and vision. The first five faculty members recruited came from Michigan, Ohio, Texas, New Jersey and Tennessee, and they were trained in such colleges as the University of Michigan, Centenary College, Princeton, Harvard, Wooster of Ohio and Leipzig in Germany.

Some of the early graduates Dr. Boyd brought to the faculty (each of these were associated with the University for more than 40 years) were

Kate C. Barbour, Roy Gittinger, S. R. Hadsell, John Hefley, Jesse Lee Rader, and Guy Y. Williams. A few of the other early graduates who went on to distinguished careers in education, business, and professional life includes Lawrence W. Cole, John Darling, Herbert A. Everest, Milton J. Ferguson, C. Ross Hume, Errett Newby, Merle Newby, Roy P. Stoops, Arthur M. Alden, Verne Alden, Thomas F. Carey, Alba M. Edwards, William C. French, Newton E. Gorton, Willard L. Gorton, Lon L. Hutchinson, Charles T. Kirk, Charles E. Marsh, Carl Milam, Francis O. Oakes, George (Deak) Parker, Wallace Perry, Chester Reeds, Christopher C. Roberts, Frank Long, Eck Schraum, George C. Smith.

Thinking of all these early graduates, most of whom I knew personally, reminds me of other outstanding people who lived and worked on this campus, each leaving an indelible mark on the lives of their colleagues and students; yet all are not mentioned or only briefly mentioned in this story. This is one of the unfortunate limitations of such a brief history of so many crowded years. I hope that in the years to come the *Sooner Magazine* can tell of the great teaching of such people as Ralph Records, Joseph P. Blickensderfer, Cortez A. M. Ewing, Morris L. Wardell, William Schriever, John B. Cheadle, Victor Kulp, and John Raines—just to mention a few of those who are no longer active.

No attempt has been made here to  
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## Sooner MAGAZINE

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THE COVER: The official 75th anniversary medallion, created by Leonard Logan III and available through the Alumni office for \$5, is the subject for the cover of this special issue. Design is by Jim Billingsley. Photograph of the medallion by Gil Jain.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

As we all know, it takes people to make history. It also takes people, quite a number of them, to make a magazine about the people who make history. Far too many are never given proper acknowledgment, and as you can see, there isn't room for me to break such a tradition. There are two who deserve special recognition, however, and next month's *Sooner News-Makers* will strive to do just that. One is Charles Long, associate editor, who wrote the history to which this issue is devoted and who considers himself an authority on his alma mater. The other is Leonard Logan III, who

has given six months of what spare time he had to design and create the 75th anniversary medallion, featured on the cover.



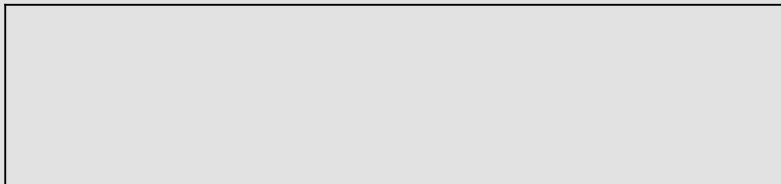
Logan



Long

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*Continued from page 1*

detail the events of the Cross administration. To do justice to this period would take at least another 80 pages, so this task has been left for another time.

On the 50th anniversary of Oklahoma statehood, in 1957, a graduate of the first class, C. Ross Hume, joined Dr. Cross in congratulating the 50,000th graduate of the University. At the present rate of growth the 100,000th graduate should receive his degree within the next ten years.

In the fall of 1965 the University opened with an air of excitement and expectation, 20,000 students enrolled from every state in the nation and from more than 40 other countries. There are now more than 60,000 alumni; 30,000 of these graduates are to be found outside Oklahoma in virtually every corner of the globe.

If the University builds on the best of its heritage, this will continue to be a place where the student and the teacher can find a congenial fellowship of inspiration, experimentation, learning. It will continue to be a center of optimism where "The Spirit of Learning Is a Lasting Frontier."

**Bill Eischeid Pontiac**

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