SUCCESS STORY

The First Landman Curriculum

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the American Association of Petroleum Landmen extends to the University of Oklahoma its hearty congratulations in that this University is the first college or university in the United States to offer a fully accredited course of training (in petroleum land management) . . ."

So concluded a flowing resolution addressed to O.U. College of Business Administration Dean Horace B. Brown from the 1958 convention of the American Association of Petroleum Landmen. The resolution spotlighted an inauguration dear to the hearts of landmen and educators in this part of the country; for in the fall of 1958, eleven students at O.U. began the first year of a college curriculum devoted to preparing college students for careers as petroleum landmen. One year later, at the fifth convention of the A.A.P.L. in Oklahoma City, Dean Brown reported to the landmen about the reception of the curriculum. The gist of his report: gratifying success.

The new curriculum is not an easy one. The student in petroleum land management drills through 128 hours in which there are no electives and two minors (business law and accounting). His major work—18 hours of business management—comes in his junior and senior years along with required courses Geology 107 (structural geology for petroleum engineers), Geology 270 (petroleum geology for petroleum engineers), Petroleum Engineering 200 (oil field development), and Petroleum Engineering 257 (oil and gas law). In addition, during his freshman and sophomore years, the landman must take geology for petroleum engineers, trigonometry, basic geology drawing, and elementary

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Helping O.U.'s land management students find summer employment is this committee of oilmen: left to right—Don S. Burton, Ohio Oil, Oklahoma City; William M. Majors, Jr., '31ba, '34 Law, Cal-Ray Petroleum, Oklahoma City; S. M. Anderson, Jr., '39ba, '41Law, Calvert Drilling, Oklahoma City; Lee C. Needly, McMahon, Inc., Oklahoma City; Robert J. Horstmeier, Fleet Drilling, Dallas, and W. Grayson Ray, Magnolia Petroleum Company, Oklahoma City.
NEW BOOKS
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Daredevils of the Confederate Army by Oscar A. Kinchen, Christopher Publishing House.

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L. t. BENNETT YOUNG's comic opera raid on St. Albans, Vermont, is so typically Confederate that it's a pity more importance can't be attached to it. At the time, Young's mission and his trials raised more furor than the actions of any American service-man—with the possible exception of General Sherman. Commissioned late in the war to divert Union troops from the front lines by raids from the Canadian border, Young managed only one raid—on St. Albans—and spent the rest of the war in a Canadian courtroom proving to the Canadians' satisfaction and to the Union lawyer's chagrin that holding up a few banks and burning down a few buildings in Vermont is every bit as legal when done by a Confederate as tearing down Tara in Georgia when it's done by a Yankee (excuse me—damnyankee).

Little besides Yankee legal talent was diverted northward, despite the terror of the north-border folks; and Young and the sympathetic Canadians whipped that easily enough with southern-fried rhetoric. Years later, Young—the first man to raise the Confederate flag in Jassamine County, Kentucky—changed from a courtly fanatic to a businessman-author (his best known work: Confederate Wizards of the Saddle) and his demeanor became so conservative that latter-day St. Albansians invited him to speak at an anniversary ceremony. Embittered and verbal Old Guard prompted the mellowed Kentuckian to decline, however.

Oscar Kinchen's ('16ba,'20ma) chronicle of this Confederate golden boy is excellent for its scholarship, less excellent for its style—which often smacks of the hundreds of magnolia-scented books Professor Kin must have poured through—but even the euphemisms seem to make this amusing story more delectable.

RECOMMENDED: Civil War enthusiasts will find this a tasty morsel to help sate their 100th-anniversary appetites.

Miss Elizabeth Mary Ryan, '59, Fort Sill, and Warren H. Dunnington, '59, Norman, were married March 31 in the New Post Chapel, Fort Sill. The couple is living in Norman, where Dunnington is a senior at O.U. and his Miss Alice Ellen Davis, Denton, Texas, and Gerald Hamer Mangold, '59(50), Enid, were married April 4 in the First Christian Church, Denton, surveying. Still, at the end of the first semester, thirty additional students had joined the original eleven in the tough curriculum, and Dean Brown reported he had received "hundreds" of inquiries about the curriculum from throughout the petroleum belt.

The curriculum was made broad and tough for a reason. Half-breeds in the oil business, landmen must be as ready to serve their companies in engineering, geological, and public relations discussions as in their most widely known function, acquiring drilling rights. Setting up a curriculum to please both these profession-conscious but broadly-trained men as well as the American Association of Collegiate Schools of Business (the accrediting agency) was no simple matter.

The main bone of contention between educators and landmen when the former were approached by the latter early in 1955 was that of specialization vs. general education. The former was impossible unless a new chair could be endowed at O.U. It was also unnecessary in Dean Brown's eyes...

After a widely-attended extension division short course for landmen convinced landmen and educators alike that a curriculum must be agreed upon, Dean Brown presented the substance of the present curriculum to Continental landman Phil McGowan and Cal-Ray Petroleum president William Majors. McGowan was chairman of the national association's education committee, and Majors was chairman of the local organization's education committee. Both men liked what Brown proposed.

Likely is hardly the word. The support given the curriculum by these two men and their associates is nothing short of phenom-enal. Three O.U. landman majors are attending classes drawing on a $2,750 scholarship fund which McGowan raised from 22 local chapters of the Association. And most impressive, six landmen have joined together in a committee to find summer training jobs for O.U. landman majors.

Toward the end of his report to the A.A.P.L. convention, Dean Brown responded to the landmen's 1958 resolution by presenting appreciation citations to McGowan and Majors for their efforts in establishing the nation's first curriculum in petroleum land management at O.U. It was an expression of what promises to be one of the most admirable of mutual admiration societies.

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