DR. EDGAR D. MEACHAM, a Sooner alumnus, '14ba, and University faculty member for a quarter of a century, has become head of the largest college of the institution. Appointment by the Board of Regents in late spring made him dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

As assistant dean since 1926 he has put into a practice code of fairness, kindness, and loyalty. His friends are without number both among the students he has counseled and among his associates.

Complicated student problems continue to confront him almost daily, and he'll admit that they worry him. One of the most difficult is the question of how to deal with capable students in the University who will not make their grades. Solution lies, he believes, in the complicated task of determining the cause of such students' attitudes.

Other students are not successful in school because they are apparently incapable. Often, he says, their failure is due not so much to inability as it is to misdirection of effort.

"Too many young people come to the University declaring that they are going to be a doctor or teacher or a lawyer when they are much better suited to other fields." Here the problem is to attempt to determine their aptitudes, then to recommend proper courses of study.

Another group comes to school both willing and capable but at a financial disadvantage. Loss to society as well as to the individual is likely to accrue if this student must be refused a college education. Yet discovering means to aid him is more than difficult.

These problems and others that come into a dean's office call for a man who knows youth and is interested in its welfare. Dean Meacham was "made" for the job.

Born at Smithfield, Texas, he was one of the older boys in the large family of a Texas cattleman. When Ed was nine, the family moved to Oklahoma and settled on a large farm near Clinton. He worked there with his brothers and father ten years before he had a chance to begin his high school education. In 1907 he and his brother, George, now a member of the Oklahoma Highway Commission, started to Southwestern State Normal School, Weatherford.

They had to keep in close touch with the farm and return every summer to work. The boys and their father farmed their own 160 acres and five quarter-sections of leased bottom land.

During the latter part of July each year and throughout August Ed bought cattle. His buying trips of from one to four or five days took him all over the western part of the state, after which he gathered the stock together and drove it to the shippers.

His straight-from-the-shoulder dealing was the kind men liked and the kind that drew their confidence. When he made an offer for a steer, he knew what he was doing. He stated his price; did not haggle or try to out-talk the owner.

Ed's normal school work ended in 1910. In the fall of that year he had his first taste of teaching school. It was in a four-room structure at Lookeba, Caddo County. His charges were students of the eighth and ninth grades—one class in the front of the room, the other in the back.

He probably would have laughed then if any one told him that that was the beginning of a teaching career. He was merely adding to his financial backlog so that he could go the University and prepare himself to be a scientific farmer.

That had been his aim for a long time and still was when he went to Norman in May 1911. The farm had always been his life. He would go back to it.

Besides the three years of high school education that Mr. Meacham took away from Weatherford, he took the daughter of the mathematics professor. He was married to Ray Ferrell December 3, 1910. The fact that he was a student of math and she was the math instructor's daughter was, however, coincidental.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Meacham enrolled in the University in 1911, she as a junior and he as a freshman. Mrs. Meacham was a charter member of the University chapter of Delta Gamma sorority. She graduated in '13.

Destiny had included nothing about farming in Mr. Meacham's adult life. At the University he soon became interested enough in his academic work to want to teach. His three preferred fields were zoology, Latin, and mathematics. As his college education progressed, the field narrowed and he chose mathematics. He received his bachelor of arts degree with a math major in 1914, after three years on the campus, including summers.

His undergraduate days were busy ones. The first fall he was on the campus he made the regular football team—left guard on the Sooner all-victorious team of '11, coached by Bennie Owen. Sooner Yearbook had this to say about him during that season:

(Please turn to page 26)
University. The couple were at home temporarily at Ada.

KING-SWAN: Miss Mildred King, '40, speech, and Oscar Edward Swan, Jr., were married in September at Muskogee where they both formerly lived. Mrs. Swan was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority at the University. Mr. Swan is a student at Murray University. The couple will live in Parsons, Kansas.

Parker R. Leibetter, '40, has been employed in the Circulation Department of the Topeka State Journal at Topeka, Kansas.

VaRue Lindsay, '40, has been appointed librarian in Drumright High School.

Lilian H. Nina Louise Lim, '40, has been appointed assistant in the physics department of Miami Junior College.

In her senior year, Mr. Swan spent the summer in Colorado, taking naval training this summer and hopes to complete work for a commission in time to return to his work at the University for the second semester.

Lilly Lorence, '40, is head of the physics department of Miami Junior College.

Fred McMillan, '40ba, is employed as graduate assistant in the physics department of the University.

Bob McWilliams, '40, has been employed as news editor of Radio Station KFEL at Denver, Colorado.

John Mills, '40, has been employed by the Carter Oil Company and recently was stationed at Jackson, Mississippi, for geological work.

Miss Theda Mills, '40, who with Edward M. Thorp, Jr., '40, was married September 12, Mr. Thorp is a senior in the University School of Medicine.

F. Millard Long, Jr., '40, is taking naval training this summer and hopes to complete work for a commission in time to return to his work at the University for the second semester.

Mrs. Swan was a member of Delta Chi, national honorary journalistic fraternity, and has been elected for honorary membership in Phi Eta Sigma, national scholastic fraternity for freshman men.

Other activities outside his regular work at the University include service on a number of committees and boards.

He aided in the launching of the annual series of public lectures held on the campus during the fall term and is now on the committee in charge of them. It was he, too, who originated the idea of a President's class. He has been on the committee of selection since its inception.

Dean Meacham has been active in University alumni work since the year he became an alumnus. He was president of the University of Oklahoma Association in 1914-15 and he and Mrs. Meacham are Life Members.

Of course the man's life is not all work.

Golf provided his recreation after he was forced to give up his football job. Professor L. N. Morgan, a long-time friend and associate, who has played with Dean Meacham considerably, said, "Meach is the only man that I ever saw slice a ball back over his head. He can get into and out of more trouble on a golf course than any man I ever saw."

In recent years added duties have again forced curtailment of his recreational activities. He now spends most of his spare time in his yard and garden or with a book and his pipe. He is exceptionally fond of home-grown roasting ears and friends say that he has raised some of the best in town.

Dean Meacham says, however, that his garden grows smaller every year, for one reason or another. This year his two children Ferrell, 16, and Martha, 13, have made a badminton court on part of it. "So it goes," he muses.

One would almost expect deliberate, thorough "Meach" to smoke a pipe. He does. He and his pipe are almost inseparable.

As he sits in his office, he will take his leather tobacco pouch from his pocket, pull its zipper open, push the pipe's bowl into the three-dollar-per-pound Carl Henry, then lean back in his swivel chair to light it. He has only one or two pipes now, he says, but there was a time when he had a "pipe for every day in the week."

Dean Meacham is fond of books but he hasn't the time to read those he would like to have. Mrs. Meacham collects first editions of books printed by the University of Oklahoma Press, and he does well, he says, to keep up with them in addition to the literature in his special field.

O. U.'s dean of the College of Arts and Sciences has a big job. It keeps Ed Meacham busy, but he grins and takes it in his stride.

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