Dr. A. O. Weese has been given the difficult job of directing CWA research work on the University campus. He is in charge of the office at which work applications are filed and is a member of the sub-committee of the graduate council which approves the applications of state university graduates for research positions.

A Hundred State College Alumni Go to Work on Campus

Never, until ten thousand eight hundred dollars in CWA funds was assigned to the University for research workers, did the faculty realize the great number of things it would like to do if it had the money to hire assistants.

When it became a certainty late in December that the allotment was to be given the University, department heads immediately began to visualize completed projects they had always wished someone had time to undertake.

There was equipment that needed repairing, surveys to be made, data already collected to be compiled, tests to be run, documents to be classified, a thousand and one important things that never had been done because of a lack of available funds and a shortage of help.

A. O. Weese, a member of the graduate council sub-committee in charge of approving projects and hiring men and women, asked that faculty members outline projects for workers, specifying definite plans and the number of persons needed. There was a flood of them, proposing all types of research, from analyzing records to translating old manuscripts.

Only graduates of colleges and universities were qualified to take the work which was offered under the theory that it would be better to allow the college educated unemployed to engage in CWA activities that would require the use of their training. Only three states in the country had been granted CWA funds for similar projects, so precedents in hiring and putting employees to work had not been established. State Universities of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa had just begun the experiment of allowing CWA employees to do research work.

Projects at the University were started early in January with the less skilled getting forty cents an hour, the skilled sixty cents an hour and a few experts more than sixty cents. The weekly payroll had to be held within eighteen hundred dollars a week if the fund was to last until February 15, the date set for CWA work to stop. There were more than enough requests for employment and the University committee was faced with the problem of employing the neediest and at the same time trying to get those who were prepared to do the best work.

By the middle of January, one hundred three workers had been given employment and all hands were busily engaged in research problems. All types of work were being performed for twenty-eight University departments.

The government department, for instance, had a worker spending the maximum thirty hours a week indexing the constitution of Oklahoma and amendments which have been made through the years. No index of the constitution with all its amendments has ever been compiled.

Out to Wagoner, Oklahoma, where there are evidences of the Lower Mississippi Mound culture of centuries ago, the anthropology department sent several graduates of state schools to excavate archeological deposits.

The history department which in 1926 was given ten thousand dollars by Frank Phillips, Bartlesville, to collect source material in Oklahoma history put several persons to work classifying and arranging manuscripts which had been obtained for the Phillips collection.

The art department engaged several graduates of state schools to do drawings of dress, implements and equipment of North American Indians. The project was requested by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington, D. C.

Every department found important things it wished undertaken. A list of those started by the middle of January was compiled by Weese. It follows:

Graduate School—Graduate School records. Statistical research in the records of graduate students for the purpose of a better organization of the work of the Graduate School.

School Administration — Scientific measurements and comparison of results in the demonstration schools in Cleveland County and a comparison with schools operated on the usual basis.

Anthropology—Archeological investigation of the lower Mississippian Mound culture in Eastern Oklahoma. The location of this work is to be near Wagoner, Oklahoma.

Architecture—Manufacture and cataloging of lantern slides for instruction in Architecture.

Art—Costumes and equipment of American Indians. Accurate drawings from material available with description and other important data on dress, implements and equipment of Indians of North America from early days to present. This project has been requested by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in
Washington with material to be used in assisting work of Indian artists.

Botany—Studies of post glacial climate by the method of pollen analysis. Microscopic study of plants to determine changes in vegetation and climate. Material from the Michigan expedition to Greenland, and the Yale expedition to Kashmir, as well as much from the United States is on hand for study.

Chemistry—Design of equipment for Chemical Engineering Laboratory.

Education—Scientific survey of rural schools of Cleveland County.

Electrical Engineering—Testing frequency characteristics of radio transmitters. Obtaining data to be required by the Federal Radio Commission.

English—Transcription of rare documents on American Indian history to be deposited in the University library.


Geology—A study of Garber and related sand stones in Oklahoma, Cleveland, and Pottawatomie Counties.

History—Classification and arrangement of manuscripts and archives of the Phillips collection of Oklahoma History.

Journalism—Investigation of newspaper publishing conditions and problems among small town newspapers of Oklahoma.

Mathematics and Astronomy—Analysis of data concerning certain variable stars.

Modern Language—Preparation of a card bibliography of modern language material in the library.

Physics—Determination of variation of flow of oil through sands of various characteristics.

University Press—Preparation of catalog of all university publications from 1892 to 1934.

Psychology—Research on influence of directional orientation in motor learning.

Sociology—A study of transient families in relief camps in Norman and vicinity.


Philosophy—Investigation of doctrines and historical relations of the St. Louis movement.

Government—Indexing the Constitution of Oklahoma and a collection of amendments to the constitution.

Business Administration—Study and analysis of Retail Trade and Sales Tax in Oklahoma.

Mechanical Engineering—Investigation of the operating characteristics of various types of meters with oils of different viscosities and temperatures.

Physiology—Compilation of bibliographies for research in Physiology.

Economics and Art—Courses on economics, art, and architecture; a course in English and a course in music appreciation. Another that will probably attract wide attention will be given under the heading: "Our Physical World," which will include lectures in the fields of astronomy, geology, paleontology, anthropology, botany and zoology.

Under present plans creative writing and the political lecture series will be given from 7:30 to 8:30 o'clock on Tuesday evenings, followed from 8:30 to 9:30 by the physical world lectures. Home economics courses will be given from 7:30 to 8:30 on Thursday evenings, followed by the travel course. The English and music appreciation courses will be given at 10 and 11 o'clock on Saturday mornings.

University authorities frequently have expressed themselves as gratified with the response given the general leisure-time program inaugurated as an experiment last fall. More than four hundred persons enrolled in the courses that were offered on Saturdays and during evenings, primarily for those who wished to utilize the spare time at their disposal under the government's recovery program.

A story telling of the University's pioneering in the field of leisure-time education appeared in the December 17, 1933, issue of the New York Times.