**Union Building Nearly Ready**

**Formal Opening Ceremonies for It Planned for January 4**

For many years, leaders in campus affairs have realized a need for a cultural center for students—a place permeated with school spirit and campus life, where blackboards and books could be forgotten. In February, 1923, when fire destroyed the Y. M. C. A. building, the need became a certainty and immediately following the fire, one Sunday afternoon, twenty-five of the leading students met in the home of the university’s president at that time, Dr. Stratton D. Brooks. The problem was: Shall we rebuild the Y. M. C. A. building and lose sight of our dream or shall we build a union building? They decided to work for the latter, no doubt influenced by the enthusiasm of B. S. Graham, who has been director of fund campaigning and manager of the building. Eugene Faulkner, B. A. ’23, was made chairman of the committee, and he and Graham were sent to the universities of Purdue, Illinois, Northwestern and Chicago to look over plans on similar projects.

Upon their return and report, the committee decided to raise $350,000 for the erection of the building. Soon afterwards the stadium and union building committees joined forces and began a million dollar campaign for what is known as the stadium-union fund.

Plans took formal immediately and Sorey Vahlberg of Oklahoma City, at one time professor of architecture here, was employed as architect. State political conditions slowed action to some extent but the campaign was begun in earnest in the fall of 1924. The actual contract was let March 1, 1928, to Bailey and Burns for a building to cost $225,000 and furniture and fixtures at $50,000. The plans were the most complete and attractive ever submitted for a school project.

The building is a large three story structure of red brick and white stone trimming in collegiate Gothic architecture. It occupies the ground between the liberal arts and geology buildings. The entrance is especially attractive and every detail of the building is completed in the most advantageous fashion. Because of a lack of funds, some of the interior will not be completed until more money can be raised. The idea was to build the shell of the building in the proportions wanted and then complete only those parts which could be cared for by the money on hand, leaving other less necessary features until later.

The entrance to the Oklahoma Union building is superbly beautiful and was exclaimed at by all who view it.

The book exchange, which is under university management, was moved from its old crowded quarters in the science hall, and is now installed in the basement in a large, well lighted room with new counters and book racks, still lower than the department is a storeroom for additional books.

The entire south wing of the basement is an extremely large room containing five pool tables, a snooker table, and a billiard table. Besides these, there are two regulation sized bowling alleys. The room has been well filled with patrons since its opening and cash sales show that 6,000 boys have visited there during the first two weeks. Bill Owen, brother of Bennie Owen, is in charge.

The rest of the basement is occupied by the cafeteria which includes a soda bar. The food counter reaches the length of one side. The square tables which each seat four guests and the other furnishings represent an expenditure of $30,000. Especially fine equipment is being installed in the kitchen. Two immense Frigidaire ice boxes protect the food, and other efficient devices such as automatic waffle irons, potato peelers, giant electric roasters.

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seen professors with a whole class spending an entire day in the National galleries making a careful study of some of the Turners mentioned by Ruskin in his Modern Painters. In working on William Morris myself, I have had opportunities to see his stained glass windows, his tapestries, and many copies of his fine printing and binding.

In addition to this the streets of London with the hundreds of literary memories were endlessly fascinating; the West End, and Mayfair with so much of the flavor of Thackeray still left, the embankment and dozens of little side streets where Dickens characters may be seen, and Islington and Clerkenwell, on the edge of London's terrible slums, where in walking evening after evening I have seen Gissing's novels come alive as they can in no other way. Then, too, it is surprisingly easy to get out of London into the country side. Tramping through the lanes around Horton last summer with the hedges covered with pink and white hawthorn and the first wild roses gave an added pleasure to L'Allegro and T'Pense.

The entire north wing of the second and third floors is devoted to the impressive new ballroom. The room is doubly attractive because of its many tall windows and high vaulted roof. Twelve elaborate chandeliers hang from the ceiling representing an expenditure of $30,000, and a large crystal ball is suspended in the center. The stage which will serve the orchestra has at each side balconies which will be nicely furnished with lounges and bridge tables for the chaperones. Under these balconies are two rooms, which can be made into four sections, are for student organization meetings. Another larger room, known as the assembly room, seats about 150 and will care for larger group meetings such as those of the pep clubs, Indian club and honorary organizations.

England's climate has a bad reputation, but even at the risk of appearing to have come back with no powers of discrimination, I venture to say that the English climate is an advantage. Most of the winter it is so "disgustful," as I heard a French girl say, that the pleasantest thing in the world is to stay in doors and read, and if it weren't for the rain and fog. I do not believe an English tea table with candles and silver before a crackling open fire with rain beating against the windows would be such an ideal place for good talk, where afternoon after afternoon at the end of a day's work we could exchange opinions on every possible subject with every possible sort of person. An English boy who had part of his training in one of our own big universities summed up much of the difference between the schools of the two countries, when he said, "The American university puts it all over us when it comes to the Science of Living, but I believe that we still beat them when it comes to the Art of Living."