Spare That Trunk!

Don't throw away that trunk of letters your pio-
neer grandfather wrote years ago. They may con-
tain information on Oklahoma's colorful past. The same goes for collections of old photographs, diaries and other records.

"Historical materials of one pioneer by them-
seves may not mean much," explains Dr. Gaston
Litton, 341bsci, '40ma, University of Oklahoma
archivist. "But placed with others and properly
sorted they often make a new pattern of the past." O.U.'s division of manuscripts is gathering into
a permanent repository material of enduring his-
torical interest on Oklahoma. Otherwise, much of
it would be lost. Materials are being collected from
individuals, early-day business firms, civic and reli-
gious groups...

"That doesn't mean we're looking for a family's
prizedocument or photograph," Litton says. "But we're interested, as an example, in the files of
negatives, glass plates or prints of early Oklahoma
photographers."

Valuable sources are trunks of family corre-
spondence, diaries of pioneers who cracked whips in
the various land "runs," and boxes of records of
ranchers, Indian agents, traders and merchants.
Litton points out that records of mercantile firms,
especially "the old general store," give an accurate
picture of the state's early economy and agricul-
tural growth.

"Although Oklahoma is a comparatively young
state," he says, "the 42 years since statehood leave
the possibility that many records have been lost.
Materials now surviving will be gone in a few years
unless collected and protected."

Persons having quantities of these records may
write Dr. Litton at O.U. Already the University
has received the papers of former Governor Lee
Cruce and collections from several other state pio-
ners. The papers of David Ross Boyd and A. Grant
Evans, O.U.'s first two presidents, also are being
catalogued.

Pruet—Revenge Victim

Earl Dayton Pruett, '27ba, top-flight Oklahoma
City attorney and for 21 years an active and promi-
nent member of the University, was slain in his
First National Bank building office January 11.

The confessed killer, later apprehended in El
Paso, Texas, has been identified as Roy Frank God-
bey, an ex-convict whom Pruett, as a young county
attorney, prosecuted for an attempt to rob the Ring-
ling First National Bank some years ago. Godbey,
who received a 35-year sentence, had been released
after serving 16 years, five months and 12 days.

Pruett was county attorney of Jefferson county
from 1929 to 1934 when he was appointed assis-
tant U. S. district attorney for the Eastern District
of Oklahoma. He joined the law firm of Richard-
son, Sharteland Cochran in 1937 and his name
was added to the firm's title shortly afterwards.

Pruett would have been 49 January 20. He was
born at Cordell.

The attorney received his B.A. Degree from the
University in 1927 and taught school a year beforeecoming superintendent of schools at Addington,
a post which he held from 1922 to 1928.

He was admitted to the bar in 1927 and served
as county attorney of Jefferson County from 1929
to 1934 when he was appointed assistant U. S. at-
torney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma.

He held this position until 1936 when he took
an assistant's position in the office of the U. S. at-
torney for the Western District of the state. He was
an expert on oil and gas law.

Always an active alumnus of the University,
Pruet never wasted a moment of his college career. During his undergraduate years he was a member of Delta Sigma Rho, debating club; Phi Delta Phi, honorary law fraternity; Phi Kappa Psi, social fra-
ternity; a member of the student council in 1919;
the Oratorical Council in 1918, '19, '20, '21; the
President's Oratorical Council in 1919; the Varsity
Debate team in 1919; the Ruf Neaks; the Congress
Literary Society and the Inter Society Debate team
in 1920. He was serving as a vice-president of the
Dads' Association at the time of his death.

A sports enthusiast, Pruett played sandlot base-
ball at Waurika in his younger days and was one of
the Oklahoma City Indian's most avid sup-
porters.

Pruet is survived by his wife, Eunice; one son,
Gene; two daughters, Sara Ann and Mary Kather-
ine; his mother, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Pruett, Nor-
man, and a sister, Mrs. Foster Harris, Norman.
Gene is a junior law student at the University
while Mary K. is a graduate student and Sara Ann
a student in the University College.

The Ocean Roared

Postal Inspector Ernest M. Harkin's, '27ba, was
shot to death in the lobby of the main postoffice
in Oklahoma City January 12, and a federal mur-
der charge was immediately filed against a 65-
year-old man identified as Joseph Donnelly, Okla-
moma City.

Donnelly, who complained of a roaring in his
ears "like that of the ocean," blamed Harkin's
shandering and humiliating him in a case involving
those $20 money orders that were supposedly lost
a few years ago.

Harkin was born at Hackett, Arkansas, and
came to Oklahoma City with his parents when he
was six. He attended school there graduating from
Central High School in 1917.

He married Miss Grace B. Hannah in June, 1921.

He also is survived by two daughters, Miss Mary
Josephine Harkin and Miss Grace Harkin.

February 16, Washington County O.U. Alumni
Club (Mid-winter meeting) Bartlesville, Bud Wilk-
inson, director of the University of Oklahoma
Foundation, Boyd Cunning, and other University
officials will appear on this program.

February 17, Rotary Club, Shawnee, Walter
Hargesheimer.

February 17, Muskogee County O.U. Alumni
Club (Mid-winter meeting) Muskogee, Bud Wilk-
inson (Boyd Cunning and other O.U. officials will
appear on this program).

February 17, Elks Club, Duncan, Bill Jennings.

February 17, Men's Club of Methodist Church,
Oklahoma City, Frank Ivy.

February 18, Special Football Dinner, Denison,
Texas, Bud Wilkinson.

February 18, Football Banquet, Henryetta, Walt-
er Hargesheimer.

February 18, Rotary Club, Enid, Bud Wilkinson.

February 19, American Legion, Tecumseh, Walt-
er Hargesheimer.

February 22, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Okla-
hom a City, Frank Ivy.

February 22, Lion's Club, Chandler, Bud Wilkin-
son.

February 23, Rotary Club, Atoka, Bud Wilkin-
son.

February 23, Football Dinner, special assignment
of staff members of Athletic Association, Kilgore,
Texas.

February 24, Lion's Club, Ardmore, Walter
Hargesheimer.

February 24, O.U. Alumni Club, Drumright, Bill
Jennings.