Soonerland's New Hymn

Doctor House Writes the Words, Pawlowski the Music

We care not who makes the university's rules—we will write its song.

Paraphrasing one of those saws that could do with a little sharpening, two University of Oklahoma professors have collaborated in writing a song which promises to become Oklahoma's traditional Alma Mater hymn.

Sooners could sing the old songs. In fact they have been carolling the old songs for thirty years—time-mellowed ditties appropriated from other colleges and slightly refurbished by sprinkling a few indigenous phrases through the lyrics. Then Carl L. Pawlowski, who is associate professor of piano in the university's college of fine arts by day and a music composer by night met Dr. Roy Temple House, who conceals poetic proclivities beneath his title, head of the foreign languages department.

It was a fortunate meeting. Professor Carl L. Pawlowski, composer, and Dr. Roy Temple House, poet, decided that what this university needs is a song of its own. The result was "Oklahoma U." advance copies of which have just reached the university campus.

Pawlowski tells of the new hymn's incipience. "I had been noticing, as I walked home from the campus on rainy afternoons, that the college boys were wearing yellow slickers, on the backs of which were painted the letters 'O.U.' in monogram. Now the vowel sounds are singing sounds, and here were two of the five vowels. I was struck with the lyrical possibilities of 'Oklahoma University.'"

Pawlowski had been jotting down snatches of melody for the proposed hymn. Meantime he met Doctor House, and after their discussion, Doctor House wrote the words.

In addition to the pianoforte arrangement and vocal score which will be offered for sale to students, Pawlowski has completed orchestrations for the male quartette, mixed quartette and band. The University of Oklahoma band will begin practice on the new university hymn shortly after the opening of the second semester. The university band will play it first at the Oklahoma Aggies basketball game.

The new song, essentially native in its composition, written on the University of Oklahoma campus by Sooner professors, about the Sooner university, for singing by Sooner students, is not a pep song. While it combines vigor and spirit, it retains a certain dignity. It is a song for university halls rather more than for the university stadium.

Pawlowski, however, is considering the composition of a university pep song. "I have often marked the lack of such a song at football games and other Oklahoma athletic events, and I am at work now on music for a football song that will follow closely the Oklahoma tradition."

While other universities sing about their ivy-clad walls, Doctor House has deftly caught the spirit of the new southwest in his words. Ours is a new campus, with new and beautiful buildings, with customs that later may become traditions, with ideas that are
flexible and in accord with the spirit of the time. The words of the new Alma Mater song follow:

“There are moss grown walls,
There are dark dim halls,
Where the shadows of great dead stir,
Where the pulse beats light,
And the eye grows bright
At thought of things that were.
But the world rolls on
To a new day’s dawn.
And the bright sun dins the star,
And the young South West
Has stood the test,
So we sing of things that are.

CHORUS
“Dear Oklahoma, Our Oklahoma,
We lift our song to thee,
Dear Oklahoma, we sing thy praise
We lift our joyful song to thee.
We sing thy light,
Thy star crowned night,
Soft air and skies of blue.
’Tis a gift of praise we bring,
’Tis with pride and joy we sing
Our Oklahoma U.

“When the bards sing praise,
Of the long trod ways
There are tears in strong men’s eyes,
For the sad old sires

And the warm hearth fires
Will plead till the red sun dies.
But the world is small
And the fresh plains call
And the stout heart follows for,
And the sky’s round dome
Roofs one great home,
So we sing of things that are.”

Pawlowski is a graduate of the New England Conservatory of Music at Boston. He is a concert pianist who has won laudatory reviews from musical critics over the country. His composition, “Etude in F Sharp Minor” was published last spring by Schirmer, and two of his more recent compositions, “Gently Sleep” and “There’s a Dear Little Girl” have lately been published.

Copies of the new song will be on sale at several Norman stores and in music stores in the larger cities of Oklahoma.

Union Manager Resigns

The resignation of B. S. Graham, generally known as “Cheebie,” from his post as manager of the Oklahoma Union and director of the Stadium Union Memorial fund, was presented the day after the formal opening of the new Union building. The resignation, dated January 5, becomes effective February 1. Cheebie has fostered two great projects for the University of Oklahoma and has seen them through. Since he came to take charge of the university Y M C A. eight years ago, a new stadium and a student union building have been constructed. Graham is going to spend all his time flying and make the air his regular place of business. Graham became president of the Graham Flying Service November 1. For a number of years he was owner of the Oklahoma Air Transport Co. of Norman.

Joins Explorers’ Club

Dr. Roy A. Wilson, formerly associate professor in geology at the University of Oklahoma, was recently honored by membership in the Explorers’ club, international geographers’ organization. Among prominent members of the club are Rear-Admiral Robert E. Peary, Commander Richard E. Byrd, and Lieutenant Lowell H. Smith. Doctor Wilson is chief geologist for the Venezuelan Mexican Petroleum Corp. of New York City, and left January 20 for Venezuela on company business.