player for boneheaded playing. And yet he seldom failed to make his men feel their failures and learn valuable lessons from them.

"Murder, Murder, Murder," was his favorite and most repeated exclamation when a pet play failed to work or a player missed a wideopen tackle.

When players lagged Bennie often injected himself into the scrimmage. Then the fur flew. It seemed every man of the opposition became animated with the desire to stop Bennie and even undress him in the bargain. They used to throw him pretty hard and pile up on him. But all he did was grin.

Bennie capped his first season with a triumph over his former team, the "Terrible Swedes" from Bethany. There were many students that rainy Thanksgiving night in Oklahoma City who wanted to make much of what is now called "whoopie." Saloons were as open, as warm and almost as well lighted as the modern picture palaces. Most of us had some extra change in our pockets as a result of the game.

Everyone wanted Bennie to join a rollicking parade that proposed to tour brass- railed emporiums. But Bennie knew better than to get out of character that way. His refusal didn’t offend. It simply increased the respect of the student body for their new coach.

"Boys I feel just great the way I am about the victory this afternoon," said Bennie as he was surrounded in the old Lee hotel lobby. "I don’t drink. You don’t want me with you. I don’t blame you for feeling as you do. If you must celebrate try to remember that your conduct tonight will reflect on your school just as the team’s conduct reflected on it this afternoon."

The celebration didn’t last so long as it might have. There was much yelling. Sooner yells were given on the streets and many other college yells were roared out stumblingly from before the long mirrors behind the mahogany bars. None missed the midnight Santa Fe to Norman because of the celebration. Yet all were very, very happy.

Through the next twenty-four years, in season and out, Bennie Owen has continued to shape the destiny of Oklahoma athletics and mold by fine example the character and manhood of Oklahoma. What the school has achieved in athletics is due primarily to him and his rare ability to lead the youth of his chosen state.

Owen field and the stadium are magnificent physical tribute to Bennie and the university’s growth. But best of all is the Owen spirit that has been imparted to thousands.

He has overcome physical disaster met in a hunting accident and gone on undaunted to greater victories. Because of his character and charm he was privileged to marry a lovely daughter of Oklahoma. Because of that and the nearly always proper appreciation of his ability by Sooners other schools were unable to lure him away by offers of gold.

Bennie has worked from the first for Oklahoma because he loved his business and knew how to play the game as it has been played by few other men anywhere in the land.

He wasn’t a Sooner born but he’s truly a Sooner through the highest order of sacrificial services to the school and thousands of Oklahomans hope that when he dies he’ll be a Sooner dead.

J. L. RADER, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN SINCE 1909.

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**Realizing his dream**

**J. L. Rader has nurtured Oklahoma library**

*By Jack Fischer, ’32*

Twenty years ago a young man sat in a room lined with a few pine bookshelves and dreamed a dream. Today he is watching that dream come true in hard brick and stone and mortar. Jesse L. Rader, ’08 arts-sc., University of Oklahoma librarian who took charge of the school’s first tiny store of books in 1909, is about to realize a lifetime-ambition—the completion of the finest college library in western America.

A decade of work and hope and worry has made the new library building a thing too close to the heart of the quiet, silvery-haired librarian for much discussion.

"It means more to me than I can try to explain," he said hesitantly. "Almost as much as it will mean to the state and the university. I scarcely dared hope for..."
UPPER LEFT—PAGE FROM OPUS ALBUMAGARIS, 1489; UPPER RIGHT—TITLE PAGE FROM FIRST FOLIO OF DAVENANT’S COLLECTED WORKS, 1673; LOWER LEFT—COLOPHON FROM LIBER ASTRONOMICUS OF GUIDO BONATUS, 1491; LOWER RIGHT—PORTRAIT OF DAVENANT FROM COLLECTED WORKS.
UPPER—READING ROOM OF THE LIBRARY. LOWER—CALL DESK IN THE READING ROOM
such progress when I first took charge
of the one room and 1,000 books which
then constituted the university library."

For the new building, Mr Rader has
worked out features peculiarly suited to
the students he has served for the past
decade. A "browsing room" with soft
leather chairs, a fireplace and book-lined
walls, window nooks and secluded semi-
nar rooms are a few of the things de-
signed especially to fit the reading habits
of college men and women.

Twenty years' experience at the uni-
versity librarian's desk has given Mr
Rader a unique insight into Sooner read-
ing tastes. "Students use remarkably
good and somewhat sophisticated judg-
ment in their choice of reading matter," he said. "They are keenly interested in
every subject under the sun, from survey-
ing to sociology, and most of them show
a healthy curiosity in their reading. But
the small but constant demand for super-
sophisticated authors, such as Nietzsche,
Schopenhauer and Mencken, I think is
based chiefly on the perennial under-
graduate desire to pose as an intellectual.

"The steady improvement in student
reading taste has been very noticeable," he added. "The revolutionary change
in Oklahoma's social fabric is of course
largely responsible. Today most of our
calls are for high grade fiction and stand-
ard technical works, instead of the cheap
novels that were once popular.

"On the other hand, many students
never use the library except as a place to
meet dates. Indifference and lack of
time cuts their reading to a minimum."

Librarian Rader's own reading tastes
are conservative. He chooses the
older established works, rather than mod-
ern novels. Cheerfulness is one of his
chief requirements in an author. "There
is enough gloom in the world without
getting more out of books," he declared.
"The morbid 'problem novels' of today
don't tempt my appetite.

"Like a bartender who never takes his
own prescriptions, I have never been able
to follow the advice I have been giving
to students all my life," Mr Rader said.

"Buy 'modern first editions' is a bit of
my own counsel that I never had the
foresight to follow when I was a student.
If I had spent a few dollars for first edi-
tions of W. H. Hudson or Joseph Conrad
twenty years ago, I would be worth a
fortune now. Usually you can buy 'firsts'
for the same price as a later printing. Do
it. It may pay you big dividends some
day."

"Following a systematized reading
course is another dose of my own medi-
Dedication program
Canby among brilliant group to speak

WITH Henry Seidel Canby, Dr. Edwin Mims, and three of the nation's leading librarians heading the list of speakers, the two-day dedication program of the university's $500,000 library February 21 and 22 will be the most pretentious literary event ever attempted in the state. Marking the culmination of years of aspiration and effort on the part of President W. B. Bizzell and J. L. Rader, librarian, the formal opening of the new building will give Oklahoma the finest library in the west and one of the best examples of college architecture in the United States.

In an effort to arrange a dedication program fitting to mark an epoch in Oklahoma's cultural history, university officials have secured a group of the most eminent literary figures in America. Canby, editor of the Saturday Review of Literature, chairman of the Book of the Month club, former professor of English at Yale, and the outstanding literary critic of the country, is making a special trip from New York.

Two University of Oklahoma graduates who have carved high places for themselves in the world of books, Milton J. Ferguson, '01 arts-sc. (M. A., '06), head of the California state library, and Carl H. Milam, secretary of the American Library Association, and John McClure, Louisiana editor and poet, have attained fame in the world of books.

A laboriously built up library containing more than 15,000 volumes was wiped out by the 1903 fire which destroyed the administration building, and university officials re-established the department with 1,000 ill-assorted books in a single cramped room in the new Administration building. The first book purchased for the new collection, a copy of Tuckerman's History of English Prose Fiction is still in use on the library's shelves.

Completed in December, 1904, the Carnegie library, is now called the Education building, is the oldest structure on the campus. It housed the university's books until the library just vacated was occupied in 1920. Mr. Rader blames the move of 1920, made in mid-winter with a few pushcarts for transportation, for the few silver hairs over his temples. "Moving 30,000 volumes in a week with almost no mechanical facilities was one of the most trying jobs I ever attempted," he declared.

Constant crowding has been the lot of the library ever since its establishment. For the first time officials have space for the proper storing and use of important historical documents and rare books.