Where Sooners Camp in the Rockies
President Grant Once Stayed at Gothic, Colorado

By A. O. Weese, Editor of Academy of Science Publications

An old mining camp of the audacious eighties forms the locale for the development of a new scientific and educational enterprise largely fostered by University of Oklahoma scientists. The Rocky Mountain Biological Station, at Gothic, Colorado, is, in part, the outgrowth of the work begun by Dr. John C. Johnson at a neighboring institution, Western State college, where during several summers, there were associated with him Dr. A. Richards, head of the department of zoology at the University of Oklahoma, Dr. A. O. Weese of the same department and other Oklahomans.

It first began to function as an independent institution during the summer of 1928 when the site of Gothic was definitely occupied. The incorporation of the R. M. B. S. was then perfected, the first officers being President, A. Richards, University of Oklahoma; vice-president, L. A. Adams, University of Illinois; secretary, C. H. Stone, Gunnison, Colorado; treasurer, A. O. Weese, University of Oklahoma. Other Oklahoma members of the corporation, which is a strictly non-profit organization, are Dr. Paul B. Sears, head of the botany department at the University of Oklahoma, A. I. Ortenburger, assistant professor of zoology at the University of Oklahoma, R. O. Whitenton, professor of zoology at Oklahoma A. & M. college, George A. Moore, instructor in zoology at Oklahoma A. & M. college, Dr. Martha Shackleford, head of the department of biology, Oklahoma College for Women, and Mary J. Brown, assistant professor of biology, Oklahoma College for Women.

Practically the entire plotted townsite of Gothic has been acquired by the corporation, together with several buildings, some in very good condition, which remain as a remind-
other courses, as arranged, are to be given from time to time. Last summer, for example, ornithology and embryology were offered. To these courses advanced students only, are admitted, although mature persons whose major interest is in other lines may often profit by taking the field course without credit. Opportunities for research in the field are everywhere in evidence; within a few miles one may pass from the sage-brush semi-desert, through the successive zones of pinyon-cedar woodland, Douglas spruce-lodge pole pine forest, balsam fir-Englemann spruce forest, timber line, alpine meadow, and permanent snow fields.

The waters of the adjacent streams and nearby lakes are cold, pure and crystal clear; and fishing is good. Mountain trails and trailless heights attract the adventurous, and the playtimes between periods of refreshing labor are filled with opportunities for new experiences.

Because of the exceptional scenic environment great interest has been expressed by landscape artists, one of whom was a member of the 1928 colony. One of his paintings, "Gothic Mountains" is reproduced on this page. The librarian of the University of Wisconsin, who is a landscape photographer by avocation, spent some weeks last summer recording on photographic plates the beauties of the Gothic region. Most of the photographs accompanying this article are his. A larger group of artists plans to make use of the facilities here offered in the future.

The ownership of the major part of the townsite has made possible plans for the development of laboratory and residential cottage groups. Beautiful cottage areas are available to those who wish to escape the heat of the mid western summer and who do not wish to enjoy (?) the conventional tourist resorts.