peal based on a pun; which of course loses all effect in a foreign language.

"I cannot understand," a puzzled Dominican said to me as he studied a large and striking bill board, "why the fact that that extremely attractive child wants to go to bed should presumably induce me to buy a new tire for my car!"

Science of course, is the great international bond. Especially, has medical research helped to unite investigators in this hemisphere. It has been prophesied that the next quarter century will be the greatest yet known in the history of Tropical Medicine; and American research, north, south, and central, is already playing a very important part in making it great. Men like Ashford in Porto Rico, Lutz in Brazil, Iturbe in Venezuela, by their organized work of investigation and their generous interchange of ideas, are of the noblest type of international mediator.

I have mentioned almost at random a number of different agencies, some large and some small but all helping to make up the sum total of influence. These, and dozens of others, are unceasingly at work. And the rest of us will benefit by their work if we permit ourselves to do so.

When my little sister was ten years old, I gave her a Spanish First Reader and began teaching her Spanish. After a week or so of the book with its stories and pictures of children in the Spanish countries, she exclaimed one day, "Why, those people speak differently but they are really just like we are!"

It was the most important lesson she learned that summer.

MY DAYS AS FIRST UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT
Told by Dr. David Ross Boyd to Dr. Roy Hadsell, '04, and Betty Kirk, '29

PART I

IN 1892 the Territorial University of Oklahoma invited the youth of its seven counties: "Any young man or woman who has finished the course in a good country school may enter the university and find educational work and a welcome."

These words were written with deliberate seriousness for in 1892 the Territorial University of Oklahoma had the spiritual commodities of work and cheer to offer in plenty. Of material things it had little. The equipment it did possess was more discouraging than encouraging.

So it was that the Territorial University of Oklahoma began its existence by placing importance on cheer and work, the things of the spirit. So it is that perhaps because of this quite elemental beginning it has grown into the present magnificent State University of Oklahoma, with an annual enrollment of 5,000 students and several millions of dollars invested in buildings and grounds.

This far in our history mention has been made only of the abstract things of the university's birth and early existence. To understand the concrete side of the development it is best to listen to Dr. David Ross Boyd, the university's first president, tell of it and to hear the chuckles and anecdotes of Dr. S. Roy Hadsell, who as plain Roy Hadsell, undergraduate, served Doctor Boyd as secretary.

Today Doctor Boyd is more than seventy years old. He is tall, his body structure is accented, his eye is alert and his voice still holds a chuckle. He is of the stuff of pioneers.

That his work was to be the work of a pioneer becomes obvious when we view Doctor Boyd in retrospect the physical appearance of Norman, O.T., the site selected in 1890 by the territorial legislature for the University of Oklahoma.

"I got off the train on the hot afternoon of August sixth in 1892. You too have experienced August afternoons in Oklahoma. It is probable you have experienced them on trains. At any rate you know that after that trip my spirits were none too high.

"I looked off to the southwest where our university was to be located. There was not a tree or shrub in sight. All I could see was the monotonous stillness of prairie grass. Later I was to find out that this prairie grass wasn't so monotonous as it seemed for its sameness was broken at quite frequent intervals by buffalo wallows. In August they were dry and hard and not even prairie grass could grow on them.

"To the southwest led a trail, it couldn't possibly be called a road. I was to learn that this trail lead out to Adkins ford which was near the present bridge across the South Canadian. It was the trail followed by the thirsty cowboys who came into Norman on Saturday nights. They couldn't get liquor in the Chickasaw Nation across the river so they made plentiful use of Norman's fifteen saloons. This was also the trail to be followed by my students a year from that time when our first building was to be built.

"These details I couldn't know of then, though. I could know only the actualities
that I could see. Behind me was a crude little town of 1,500 people and before me was a stretch of prairie on which my helpers and I were to build an institution of culture. Discouraged? Not a bit. The sight was a challenge.

"I went to my hotel and dressed and had supper. The next morning I had my first caller. He was the Hon. Tom R. Waggoner, a member of the territorial legislature. When he left me he said he'd be back 'in the evening,' I thought he meant after supper. I found out when he returned that it was afternoon he meant. It was my first experience with Oklahoma colloquialisms.

"Tom Waggoner was an intelligent man. He had played an important part in the first legislature and proved his far sightedness.

"The main problem of this legislature, as you may have heard, was the location of the capital. One group wanted it in Guthrie, a second group wanted it in Oklahoma City.

"After much dickering a bill was drafted for locating the capital at Oklahoma City, the university at Norman, the agricultural college at Stillwater and the normal school at Edmond. The selection was to be submitted as one bill. It was then that Tom Waggoner insisted that each selection be a separate bill for if the governor should disapprove of one site he would have to veto all of them. Waggoner's advice was followed, and true to his prophecy, the three school bills passed, but the capital bill was vetoed and Guthrie finally selected as its site.

"An interesting thing about the passage of many of the first Oklahoma laws is that often they were just adopted in bulk from the laws of another state. A whole book of other laws would be passed without close investigation. It was this condition that lead to the incorporation in the Oklahoma statute books of a maritime law regulating the state's shipping industry!

In the selection of Norman as a site for the university the legislature had specified that the town must provide $10,000 and forty acres for the location of the school.

"Selection of several sites offered by the town was left to the board of regents. They might have voted against the present location because their buggy stuck in the mud when they went out to see it, but they did not. They debated between the present acreage of the state hospital, east of town, and the site which the university now occupies."

"It had been a simple matter for the people of Norman to provide the ground for their new school. It was an extremely difficult one for them to raise the $10,000 specified in the agreement. This difficulty arose from the fact that there was little or no taxable land in the county. When homesteads had been staked out in 1889 the settlers were given five years in which to prove their claims. Until the claims were proved the property was still government land and could not be taxed. Consequently, in 1892 the settlers had two years to expire before their land could be taxed and the city and county had no funds.

"The pioneer qualities of courage and ambition were dominant in the people of Norman however and they sold bonds for $10,000 when they had no taxable property. The bonds were bought by M. L. Turner of Oklahoma City for $8,500 and the remaining $1,500 was raised by subscription from Norman business men. At a time when cash was an exceedingly rare commodity this represented one of the major sacrifices for education in the state.

"A similar sacrifice was being made all over the territory though," says Doctor Boyd. "When the country was opened there was no law providing for an educational system. The only law which existed in '89 was the proclamation opening the land to settlement. Furthermore there was to be no law until the state legislature met and this did not occur until 1890.

"Parents, even pioneer parents, were ambitious for their children's education and they knew that if they waited for territorial laws there would be an awful gap in their children's schooling.

"Accordingly, provision was made by the county officials that the people should organize their own school districts. This sounded very fine but the hitch was that they should also have to provide school equipment.

"Voluntary services were immediately organized to construct the little schoolhouses which were soon dotted over Payne, Logan, Kingfisher, Canadian, Oklahoma and Cleveland counties. Volunteer hauling, volunteer labor, volunteer money materials solved parts of the problem. Donations of money with which to buy nails and window glasses and hardware helped further in the provision of the school house.

"But it was not until the school house was finished that another great lack was discovered. The missing item now was school furniture. Benches to seat the students, desks for the teachers, black boards for the exercises, all were needed.

"With this problem on hand the only solution was to get the furniture on credit. It was here that the integrity of the Oklahoma pioneer came into question and was found not wanting.

"Loans could not be made officially until the legislature had met and authorized the establishment of the schools. But on the recommendation of another Oklahoma pioneer, Jasper Sipes, representative of Thomas Kane and company of Chicago, his company sent car loads of school furniture into the new territory. Their only security was notes which were not legally valid.

"Yet I know," says Doctor Boyd, nodding his head and with a pleased expression on his face, "I know that all of those notes, with the exception of one, were paid. The signers of the note had the money for the payment of this one but
THE SOONER MAGAZINE

THIS IS THE FIRST PICTURE taken of students of the University of Oklahoma about six weeks after the opening on September 15, 1892. Reading left to right they are:

Top row: Oliver Richardson, Odessa Wallace, now Mr. Ed Rixse of Oklahoma City, Carrie Rockefeller, deceased daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Rockefeller of Oklahoma City, Elbert Longwell, Lem Dorrance, Lizzie Pool, James Wadley of Norman, Perry Alexander of Alex, John T. Helley of Henryetta, Etta Allen, Maude Gossett, W. N. Rice of Capitol Hill, and Roy Stoops, Scotts Bluff, Nebraska.


Fourth row: L. R. Bond, Beulah Wood, Alma Diekard, Herman Meuller, Mrs. Lucy Dill, Hiliee Braden of Norman, Katherine Barbour of Norman and Mamie Martin of Britton.

could not deliver it because of some legal technicality.

"After the legislature did meet and provided for local schools there was yet a difficulty to be overcome. This did not present itself so strongly in the elementary schools but in our territorial university and preparatory school it was a fearful thing to contend with.

"I am referring to the 'back home' spirit among the settlers. You see, they had come to Oklahoma to get rich but their allegiance was to Indiana, and Pennsylvania and Georgia.

“They all took their home town papers and had relatives to whom they wrote. So when the time came for educating their children their first thoughts were of 'back home.' It was, consequently, 'back home' that their children were sent. Our problem was to divert this stream of youths into our channels and away from those of other states.

7 and broken only by a thundershower early in August. The spring had been notably wet, three fourths of the average rainfall being recorded before July.

LEANING TOWERS

Workmen sunk their spades into earth of concrete hardness. Up came shrubs, treelets, flowers. Piles of sand were laid around the fine arts building, like barricades against the beauty of the campus. At the four corners of the building—or five, if you count the bravura front, hilllocks of red clay, some hardpan testified to progress. The towers of the building were leaning three inches from the vertical. And the workmen were pinning the towers to solid cement. Pisa may have its leaning tower. But buildings on the campus are too scarce to wait until four walls collapse because the towers were not underpinned when the building was erected (during the post-war period).

FRESHMEN WEEK

Begun two years ago, freshmen week (orientation week for educational neophytes) this year was reported to be the most successful. Ninety per cent of the freshmen class attended various meetings held in university auditorium, Prof. Lawrence Nelson Morgan presided over the week. Speakers included President Bizzell and John Rogers, '14 law, regent.