HIS ARTICLE concerns the organization of the Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic association; and consequently no attempt is made to review the progress and achievements of University of Oklahoma athletics. The discerning reader will, however, see that in entering into the new relationship, the university is but pursuing the same policies which, years ago, moved it to enter the Southwest conference, and later to ask for admission to the Missouri Valley conference; namely, the welfare of the university as represented by its athletic teams and the general furtherance of the best traditions in collegiate sports.

I shall review the organization of the association, directing particular attention to two questions which concerned the representatives of our school at the organization meeting.

1. Why was it necessary, or advisable to form a new association?
2. Why was the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical college not invited to membership?

The second question caused much and prolonged newspaper criticism of the new conference and its founders. Since it is the avowed policy of The Sooner Magazine that the matter printed herein shall be "news and not propaganda" and since mere statements might be construed as my own, I am reproducing the printed minutes of the organization meeting. In doing so I believe that I do not violate any confidences of the organizers, and that I do put clearly the founders' reasons for creating a new conference and the exact position which each representative, including our own, took in the matter of admitting our sister institution to the new association.

The first meeting of the Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic association was held at Hyde Park hotel, Kansas City, Missouri, September 18, 1927.

Faculty representatives and directors present from each school were Dean C. W. Beyer and T. N. Metcalf, Iowa State college; Dr. H. H. King and M. F. Ahearn, Kansas State college; Dean H. W. Arant and F. C. Allen, University of Kansas; Dr. W. G. Manly and C. L. Brewer, University of Missouri; Dean Robert E. Thompson and H. D. Gish, University of Nebraska; Dean S. W. Reaves and B. G. Owen, University of Oklahoma.

The minutes follow:

"Meeting called to order by Temporary Chairman H. D. Gish.

"Moved by M. F. Ahearn and second by Doctor Manly that Director Gish be appointed chairman of the meeting. Carried.

"Moved by Doctor Manly. second by Doctor Allen that Mr. Ahearn act as secretary. Carried.

"Chairman Gish explained the purpose of the meeting and gave reasons for calling same. He also read a paper explaining the necessity of forming a new conference. The anticipated conference to be composed of six of the present Missouri Valley conference members; namely, Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa State, Kansas, Oklahoma and Kansas State.

"The meeting was thrown open for discussion.

"Director Ahearn expressed confidence in the success of the plan.

"Dean Beyer expressed sympathy with the movement and pointed out that the new conference would give needed protection to students; would facilitate the making out of schedules and would make possible a reduction of schedules now too heavy.

"He said that the Missouri Valley conference had worked hard to set up standards and ideals and had been highly successful. Smaller conferences are coming up to the standards of the Missouri Valley, and this was a primary object of the new conference. The new conference will carry on the work started by the old conference.

"The proposed conference would bring embarrassment for Iowa State in the case of one Iowa institution; the other would rejoice. He gave assurance of support by Iowa State and hoped that the new conference would be under faculty control. After giving the subject general consideration, Dean Beyer was for it.

"Doctor Manly claimed never to have heard of it until a few days before the meeting was called.

"Doctor King stated that on account of the present conference being so cumbersome he thought that a smaller conference would be much more satisfactory.

"Dean Thompson liked the ideas of closer relationship, awarding of championships, increased interest in athletics, and assured the members of Nebraska's wholehearted support.

"Dean Arant did not have sufficient notice of the plan to form an opinion. He did not like the idea of championships. 'Those of us interested in athletics have the intellectual side at heart and do not place emphasis on winning games.' 'But if championships are to be awarded, make them rightfully.' 'In my profession, as lawyers, we are ambitious to be successful, but in gaining success we should not use unethical methods.' 'Slight time to react. Believed that Oklahoma A. & M. should be in the new conference. Quoted example of A. & M. not getting fair deal on account of business of building stadium and field house and needing financial games. Present conference rather unwieldy. The fact that they are not able to play each other in all sports is proof of this statement, and calls for a new and smaller conference. Might wait until mutual elimination of Oklahoma A. & M. and Grinnell, which would still leave eight. In the short time he had to react, Dean Arant believes the proposed conference is only solution. Contraction of present organization would only increase the present unsatisfactory conditions. Announcement will cause criticism and soreness, but schools affected will soon recover and find that they have not been hurt very much. Incited to agree that it is good for all schools concerned, and while not empowered to act, is certain that Kansas will co-operate.

Dean Reaves stated that he was informed of the new move the middle of the previous week by Director Owen, and that the matter was talked over by Director Owen, the president and himself. His views were that it would be well to form such a new conference, but he was not quite clear as to the ethical way of handling the affair.
He suggested withdrawal from the Missouri Valley conference as most ethical way of proceeding. He spoke of the effect upon associates who will not be asked to join new organization. He called attention to the fact that Oklahoma A. & M. is a state institution and in many ways eligible to admission. Would like to join if the organization is perfected and will do so if possible to perform their duty to their sister institution. He brought up for consideration the entrance of Oklahoma A. & M. college, making it a seven school organization.

"Director Allen stated that he had called the chancellor, Dean Arant and Director Gish to know the nature of the meeting before sending representatives. He didn’t know the real purpose; thought it was eligibility. He said, ‘We must not consider the feelings of others.’ However, if called upon to vote against their own Aggies he might feel differently. Oklahoma A. & M. is a good institution to have in a conference. He cited the possibility of having A. & M. take a little bit of the load on southern trips. Thinks it is a violent move, while still a beautiful one to have teams meet each other. Not sure that all schools will live up to the double round robin. Feels that there should be concrete foundation, and worries about turning loose such schools as A. & M. and Washington.

"Director Brewer stated that the meeting was informal, that we are present as individuals only and that it must be referred back to governing bodies. Oklahoma A. & M. athletics are young and perhaps later on when they reach the proper standing they may be taken into the new conference; that this organization be not a closed body, but that it be open for the admission of other schools. Try to arrange schedules where interest and financial returns are greatest. Missouri will have their troubles with Washington at first, but later will experience no difficulty whatsoever. Believes that it should be worked up and taken back to the governing boards.

"Chairman Gish outlined the work that is being carried on by means of athletic receipts. Big building programs call for money at the gate.

"Director Allen called attention to the fact that possibly Oklahoma A. & M. has a larger enrollment than Kansas Aggies and takes part in all branches of sport.

"Doctor Owen spoke of his feeling for Oklahoma A. & M., how he has fought for them and that he wishes to see them a member of the new conference. He believes they are a coming school, which will be heard from academically and athletically. "Dean Arant suggested a rule compelling each school to meet each other in the approved branches of sports.

"Dean Thompson stated that we must realize the fact that football carries other sports. Suggested that we form a tentative organization subject to the approval of our boards and give publicity to the fact. Basis of action—protection of students, gate receipts, and championships.

"Doctor Manly called attention to the fact that we meet in St. Louis for directors’ meeting. Rather awkward to meet as Valley conference if we withdraw. Must decide on number and with set jaw move forward in a straight line. Careful about forward step so as not to make a backward step.

"Doctor Allen raised question of objection to seven schools.

"Dean Arant—Two problems.

1. What is the wise thing to do?
2. Decide how to justify—some reasons mentioned might not appear well in the future.

T PRESENT six members are enough, but leave the door open. Be careful about enlarging it in the future but having drawn the line between state and noninstitutional schools, we must give reasons for shutting out Oklahoma A. & M.

"Suggested that some members thought it unwise to admit Oklahoma A. & M. in the first place.

"Years may bring Oklahoma A. & M., but never on account of transportation. It may bring about the change needed to make the A. & M. schools desirable members. Economics may change so that legislative bodies will recognize the need of physical education program and football will not be so commercialized.

"Dean Beyer suggested a method of procedure with representatives taking back to governing boards the decision of meeting.

"Dean Reaves moved that seven schools be the new conference.

"Chairman Gish: Four schools are agreed upon six school organization, but feel that future years may make enlargement necessary. The vote is as follows:

Nebraska—Six without Oklahoma A. & M.
Iowa State—Six without Oklahoma A. & M.
Kansas—Seven with Oklahoma A. & M.
Missouri—Six without Oklahoma A. & M.
Oklahoma—Seven with Oklahoma A. & M.
Kansas State—Six without Oklahoma A. & M.

"Dean Arant moved that a new conference be organized to consist of six schools and that a committee be appointed by the chairman to draw up constitution and by-laws; that it is the sense of the body that these six schools withdraw from the Missouri Valley and form a new conference in conformity to the plans. Second by Director Brewer. Carried.

"It is the sense of the representatives of the six institutions here present, that they should withdraw from the present Missouri Valley conference and form a new conference in conformity to a plan to be drafted by a committee of two directors and two faculty representatives to be appointed by the chair, and approved by representatives of the member schools of the new conference; each school’s representatives agreeing to recommend this action to the proper authorities and to attempt to secure immediate action thereon.” Unanimously carried.

"The committee appointed to draft the plan consisted of Dean Beyer,
Dean Reaves, Director Gish, and Director Ahearn.

"Dean Arant thinks it a wise move to elect officers of the new conference in order to speed legislation.

"General opinion that present schedules for 1927-28 be played if agreeable to those members of the present conference who will not be members of the new conference.

"The committee report was: Whereas: It is the opinion of the representatives of the undersigned institutions that the present Missouri Valley conference is not capable of functioning efficiently due to the following reasons:

1. Too large and unwieldy.
2. Difficulty to arrange schedules fair to all.
3. Present round-robin schedule requires too much of student's time away from class.
4. Difference in size, enrollment, program of sports, and methods of administration.

"Whereas: It is further the opinion of the representatives of the undersigned institutions that the evils set forth above may be corrected by the formation of a conference organized as follows:

1. Not more than six institutions to be members.
2. Member schools to be state institutions.
3. The athletic power and physical plants of the member schools to be approximately equal.
4. Complete single or double round-robin schedules to be played in football, basketball and baseball and also in other sports when feasible.

"Therefore: The representatives of the undersigned institutions agree to recommend to their respective institutions the following:

1. Withdrawal from the Missouri Valley conference, effective at the end of the present academic year.
2. Formation of a new athletic conference as outlined above to become effective on or about December 1, 1927, with a constitution and by-laws to be modeled after those of the present Missouri Valley conference and Western Intercolligate conference with such changes as may be deemed advisable.

"Moved by Director Owen, second by Director Brewer, that the committee report be accepted. Carried.

"Six copies of the report were prepared and signed."

IX COPIES of this committee report were signed by the two representatives of each of the six institutions. These, when approved by the presidents of the institutions, were to constitute a binding agreement. Each faculty representative was to obtain the approval of his president. Below is a copy of Dean Reaves' letter informing the association head of President Bizzell's approval.

(COPY)

Dean S. W. Beyer,
Iowa State College,
Ames, Iowa.

"Dear Dean Beyer,

"I have presented to President Bizzell the paper which was drawn up and signed at Kansas City on September 18, 1927, concerning the withdrawal of six schools from the Missouri Valley conference, and the formation of a new conference. He approves of the action taken. I have written to Professor Manly, announcing our intention to withdraw from the Missouri Valley conference at the close of the present academic year.

"Yours very truly,
S. W. Reaves, Dean."

Here, also is a copy of his letter withdrawing the university from the Missouri Valley conference:

(COPY)

Professor W. G. Manly, Secretary, Missouri Valley Conference of Faculty Representatives, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.

"Dear Professor Manly:

"The University of Oklahoma wishes to withdraw from the Missouri Valley conference, effective at the close of the present academic year.

"Yours very truly,
S. W. Reaves."

Dean Reaves has been asked by some of our alumni why he did not issue some statement to show that our representatives had worked to secure admission to the association for the A. & M. college. His reply has been that A. & M. authorities knew of his and Mr. Owen's position and the statement should come from them,—that a statement from him would seem to put the university on the defensive, a position which he felt was unfair. It should be said here that the A. & M. authorities have expressed their appreciation of the university's friendship on the matter and have stated that our leaving the Missouri Valley conference will in no way affect the friendly athletic relations which have been built up between the state's two leading educational institutions. We of the University of Oklahoma are proud of our membership in the Missouri Valley Intercollegiate Athletic association. We recognize, as a distinct honor, the invitation to participate in the formation of such an organization, and we place our entire approbation on the policy of the new conference: "To establish and promote excellence in scholarship and high ideals in sportsmanship in the colleges and universities in this association and in the educational institutions coming under its influence and to formulate and disseminate correct ideas regarding the proper place of athletics in our schools and colleges."

At Homecoming

An informal tea will be a feature of the program planned for alumni who return for the annual homecoming day, November 10. The after-the-game tea will be held from 5 to 7 o'clock in the new Oklahoma Union building. As planned, the affair will be a gay assembly for friends. It is hoped that the event will furnish a general congregation place for the renewal of old friendships.

A direct succession of events is being arranged for the entire day. This is the first time that there has ever been an organized continuous program for returning graduates.

Activity will begin with the evening before homecoming day with a pep meeting followed by a dance. This event, which had its beginning last year and is to become an annual affair, will be held in Oklahoma City.

The parade, in charge of Ruf Neks, will start from the Varsity corner at 10:30 Saturday morning. It will proceed down Boyd to Boulevard, east on Main to the highway, one block south to Webster, south on Webster to Asp, and back to the Varsity corner. An unusual variety of floats will be an addition to the procession this year.

Immediately following the parade there will be a business meeting of the association executive board, at a luncheon at 12 o'clock in the Oklahoma Union building.

At 2:30, the grand old Sooner line will face the Nebraska Cornhuskers. Soonerland will be there. The Sooner line will forge onward. The throngs will cry, "Fight 'Em!" And all will hope for victory.