Andrew Kingkade, '06 arts-sc., is the university's "first family." Sooner, who sets a criterion in hotel efficiency

A Sooner hotel leader

By Noel Houston

In The Oklahoma News

Andrew Kingkade, station agent, stood in front of his depot and looked down the railroad tracks on a day in early April.

There was nothing to see except the glistening rails to the horizon.

These, and the depot, a stock pen and two red section houses. It was a lonely, deserted country he looked over—the frontier.

Andrew Kingkade was watching for the Santa Fe train that would bring his wife and son, 5, to keep him company. Kingkade had come from New York state, where there were many people. He didn't like to be alone, a way out on the American frontier.

On this day in April, 1889, Andrew Kingkade was the first settler of Norman, Oklahoma. He was a legal "Sooner," put out there by his railroad to handle the anticipated crowd on April 22.

The son he waited for was A. M. Kingkade, better known as Martin. When the boy and his mother arrived, the family took over one of the red section houses. It was the first family of Norman.

Martin remembers the day of the "run."

"We saw it come from the south. The South Canadian river was only three miles away. They were lined up on the banks. Some were hidden in the brush on this side. I remember standing on a high board fence and watching them come in a big cloud of dust."

With things booming all around him, Andrew Kingkade started a loan, real estate and abstract business—the largest of its kind in the new territory—which was to become the Oklahoma Farm Mortgage Co.

It was in this big building at Norman that Martin went into business with his father. While his father handled such incidents as making loans, buying real estate and clearing abstracts, Martin did the heavy work of sweeping out, cleaning black chimneys and keeping inkwells filled.

Martin and Norman, Oklahoma, were growing up. Norman had the University of Oklahoma, and when Martin finished high school, he entered the university and was graduated in 1906 with his B. A. degree.

About 1907 it became evident to the Kingkades that Oklahoma City was to be the principal municipality of the state, and they moved the loan and abstract business here. Martin came along, and then came five hard years of his life—traveling by horse and buggy in western Oklahoma.

He was traveling for his father's company. Many times sandstorms would blow up, causing him to lose his way. Sometimes he was far from town at nightfall and would have to stop at a farmhouse—and never a beautiful farmer's daughter did this traveling man meet.

Most of the farmers in those days were bachelors, many of them lived in dugouts, and their cooking—as an example. They would let grease become rancid in the pan, then just throw in more bacon and heat it up, and call it food—for additional coffee they simply threw in a little more new coffee on the weeks-old grounds in the pot. Often Martin couldn't eat it.

Andrew Kingkade decided he would like to have a hotel. Two motives led him to build an eight-story establishment in the first block W. Grand avenue.

First, he liked to meet people, and he figured if he built a hotel lots of people would come to see him. He could sit around in his own hotel lobby and talk with travelers.

His other reason was that in looking over the hotel situation in 1910, he figured there was a place for an establishment which catered to state business men, county officers and professional men who wanted to pay only a moderate rate. He and his son still follow this policy of serving the average traveler—and they are doing a big business.

Andrew sold his real estate holdings and built on his two lots. During the war three more stories were added.

Meanwhile Martin had come into the office of the Oklahoma Farm Mortgage Co., of which his father was president. He began working his way up. He joined the Ad club. He started modern advertising methods into his father's business. Finally, he became president of the company. In 1923 Andrew Kingkade had stepped out to devote himself exclusively to the hotel. Martin had become treasurer of the hotel company.

Shortly after Martin became president of the farm mortgage company, hard times hit Oklahoma's agriculture, and farmers were unable to pay their loans. The local company felt obligated to advance interest and taxes for its eastern clients, and did so, although it was not required to do it. This policy of "fairness" put the company on the rocks. Directors put $50,000 of their own money into the attempt, hoping for better times (Turn to Page 377, please)
An oil leader

Oklahoma, you hear said frequently, is a young man's country. Certainly, the rapid rise to success attained by many Oklahomans not yet at the cross roads of life bear out that statement.

At the top among the younger oil executives of Oklahoma is Joseph Robert McGraw, ex '20, who, at thirty, is a director of one of the state's largest banks and president of the oil company that bears his name.

Joe McGraw belongs to that group of Ponca City Sooners who have added so many fine names to the Sooner alumni list. He is the son of the late J. J. McGraw and Frances Donahue McGraw. He is a native Oklahoman, being born December 6, 1900, at Ponca City.

He received his grade schooling at St. Mary's academy and two years of high school work at St. Mary's college, St. Mary's Kansas, completing his preparatory work at Notre Dame university.

He then entered the University of Oklahoma, where he was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity. After three years in the university, he left for Georgetown university at Washington, D. C., where he completed his college education, spending two years at the latter institution.

In 1925, he entered the employ of the Marland Oil Co. as a scout, later becoming assistant to the vice president, in charge of the land department. In 1927 Mr McGraw took over the management of the Oklavania Oil Co., of which his father was president.

The Oklavania company was later reorganized as the McGraw Oil Co., of which Mr McGraw is the president.

Mr McGraw was married December 1, 1928, to Mrs Kathryn Ittner McCullough, ex '21. The McGraws have one child, a daughter Frances Elinor.

Mr McGraw is a leader in civic affairs of Tulsa. He is a director of the Exchange National Bank and Trust Co. of Tulsa, being at the time of his election to that post one of the youngest bank directors in the country. He is also a director of the International Petroleum Exposition and a trustee of Christ King church in Tulsa, and is active in the work of the junior and senior chambers of commerce of Tulsa.

A SOONER HOTEL LEADER

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