Kingfisher to Work through the University of Oklahoma

By Dr. F. M. Sheldon, Chairman, Kingfisher College Trustees, Oklahoma City

Kingfisher College was established at Kingfisher, Oklahoma, in 1894. The object stated in the charter was, "To establish a college of liberal arts and sciences." The school was established by the Congregationalists and from its beginning maintained the free academic spirit and completely non-sectarian attitude characteristic of institutions established by these people.

The college was never adequately endowed, but depended for its annual budget upon the gifts of friends and interested people, many of whom lived in New England. Some of these gifts were exceedingly generous and played a large part in the life of the college. D. K. Pearson of Illinois was the largest single donor to the endowment. Mrs. Mary R. Osgood of New London, Connecticut, gave Osgood Hall, made many contributions to the college, and left $10,000 to the institution in her will.

The college early achieved a high academic standard, and while the faculty was small in numbers, it was composed of well equipped, most devoted and sacrificial men and women, who put service above salary and endowed their educational work with a splendid Christian idealism.

Founded as a distinctly Christian college, character building was always a chief aim of the institution. This aim was never made a substitute or excuse for cheap academic work, but making men of character and Christian spirit was recognized as the major task of education.

Tuition was always moderate and the cost of living so low as to make it possible for youth with scant means, but with industry, to secure an education. The class of students which came to earn its education and was in dead earnest about it. It would be difficult to find a school, with an equal number of graduates, which produced so large a number of outstanding students and leaders. Kingfisher led all schools in the state in the first groups to go as Rhodes scholars.

When the school became embarrassed for lack of funds and it seemed that it must discontinue, there came from president, deans and faculty of the University of Oklahoma fine praise of the academic standard and quality of work done by the college, and most earnest expression of hope that the school might be continued.

Finally, it became necessary to close the school for a time. Careful canvass of the entire situation, convinced the trustees and alumni that it was not wise to reopen the school at the Kingfisher location, notwithstanding there was a campus with considerable property and equipment.

The trustees and alumni were strongly convinced that Kingfisher college still had a work to do, even if it could not be done at Kingfisher, and so by vote of the alumni and by the board of trustees of the college, the school was moved to Norman, Oklahoma, where plans are under way to expand the work and do it in cooperation with the university. There is no organic connection between the university and the college, but they can and will cooperate in certain phases of educational effort.

The University of Oklahoma has taken a handsome attitude in this whole matter. The office of the university has consented to handle the credits of former students and graduates of Kingfisher, so that any student needing these credits for any purpose may write to the university and secure them.

In addition to this valuable service, the university did a far more important thing. The high character of Kingfisher college work, recognized by the university as equivalent to its own work of the same dates, led the university to offer a certificate to each Kingfisher graduate, recognizing this fine standard of scholarship and offering the student membership in the University of Oklahoma Association, with all the rights and privileges of university alumni. This offer has been accepted gladly by the college and the certificates are being issued.

Thus Kingfisher college, with the former charter slightly amended, is prepared for work beside and in cooperation with the state university. The trustees have been slow deciding upon the phases of work to be emphasized, due to the fact that part of the endowment is not yet in such condition as
to make sure just the amount of income which will be available.

The way is open to develop every phase of college work and to offer every kind of assistance to students. One purpose is to establish scholarships for promising students, who plan to make their lives specially useful in some kind of public service. Another purpose is to co-operate with the school of religion at the university, by furnishing at least one member of its faculty, as soon as sufficient funds are available. These two lines of effort will probably cover the activities until such time as the endowment and funds available can be increased.

The college is a self-perpetuating institution, with a perpetual charter, free to carry forward any phase of educational enterprise which may seem desirable. Its affairs are directed by a board of nine trustees, three of whom are nominated by the college alumni association, three by the Oklahoma Congregational conference, one by the Congregational Education society, one by the regents of the university and one by the board itself. The term of office is for three years, one-third to be elected each year. The present board of trustees is as follows: Rev. F. M. Sheldon, Oklahoma City, chairman; Superintendent B. D. Eaton, Garber, Oklahoma, secretary; Dr. H. V. L. Sapper, Oklahoma City, treasurer; George L. Bowman, Kingfisher, Oklahoma; Prof. John Alley, Norman, Oklahoma, Rev. R. W. Gammon, Chicago, Illinois; H. C. Thurman, Oklahoma City; Rev. Frank Peyton, Hastings, Nebraska; and Superintendent A. E. Ricker, Dallas, Texas.

The resources and ideals of the institution are to be conserved, the resources increased and the college is to continue and expand at least certain phases of the program of Christian education dreamed of by the founders and so effectively carried on for twenty-five years in the former location.

The college invites the co-operation of alumni and friends in developing the program and in so resourcing the institution that it may carry forward an extensive work of training leaders for social, political and Christian service, and in building into the lives of students those ideals which make for the finest manhood and womanhood and the noblest service to humanity.

Sooner Musketeer of the Air Killed

LIEUT. William Lewers Cornelius, 23 arts-sc., nationally known as one of the celebrated "Three Musketeers" of the air service, was killed September 25 at San Diego, California, when his parachute caught on the plane which had collided in the air with another one piloted by Lieut. Roger V. Williams.

The planes were flying with others in battle formation above Rockwell field, when the plane of Lieutenant Cornelius locked wings with that of Lieutenant Williams. The latter made a successful jump in his parachute, but when Cornelius leaped out with his, the parachute caught on the instrument board, and he fell with his plane from an altitude of 1,200 feet.

Cornelius, Lieut. Irving A. Woodring, a former Tulsa aviator, and Lieut. J. J. Williams were nationally known for their daring in the air as the "Three Musketeers." Lieutenant Williams was killed September 11 while stunting his plane, and Col. Charles A. Lindbergh took his place in the air maneuvers at Los Angeles, flying with Cornelius and Woodring.

Cornelius had joined the 95th pursuit squadron on July 1, coming from Selfridge field, Michigan, to Rockwell field.

In the university, he was one of the most popular students. His home was in Antlers, and he entered the university in 1921. He played centerfield on the varsity baseball squad in '22 and '23. Receiving his B.A. degree in '23, he played professional baseball with Guthrie. In the university, he belonged to a variety of fraternities, including Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Tri Chi, and others. Even while a student in the university, he was an enthusiastic flyer. Returning from the flying field, he would hail friends with the salutation, "Well, back again this time."

Enlisting in the aviation branch of the army, he was stationed at Kelley Field. His plane was a familiar sight at football games, and one time, he was warned against low flying, when he swooped down over the university press building and onto the football field. He gained for himself a reputation as a stunt flyer.

Mrs. Mary Brewer

Mrs. Mary E. Brewer, mother of Prof. T. H. Brewer, head of the English department of the University of Oklahoma, died at the home of a daughter in Norman September 26 at the age of 78 years. Suffering from pernicious anemia for the past three years, Mrs. Brewer contracted pneumonia four days before her death. Mrs. Brewer had made her home with Professor Brewer for the past twelve years. She had resided in Norman for twenty years. She was the widow of the late Rev. S. R. Brewer, at one-time presiding elder of the Louisville Methodist Episcopal church, South.

In a presidential ballot conducted by the Oklahoma Daily late in September, Herbert Hoover received 860 votes, Alfred E. Smith 830 and Norman Thomas 6.