Oil History

The history of petroleum production in the Southwest—from the discovery of oil by the Spaniards in Texas in the sixteenth century up to today when scientific methods of prospecting and producing are used—is the task facing Dr. Carl Coke Rister, research professor of history at the University of Oklahoma.

Rister, nationally known for his writings of the Southwest, has been chosen to compile the regional history of the oil industry under a recent grant of $15,000 from the Standard Oil company of New Jersey to the University of Oklahoma Foundation, it has been announced by Dr. George L. Cross, University president.

It will not be an overnight job. During the next three years Rister will travel hundreds of miles, interview scores of persons and spend many hours in studying records, newspapers, out-of-print magazines and correspondence. And too, he will use photographs, photostats, microfilms, maps and other data in getting a complete and unbiased report of the industry.

Dr. Rister, a native of Coke county, Texas, is the author of nine books, several of which have received national awards. In addition to serving on the history faculty at O. U., he has held summer appointments at the University of Texas, George Washington University, the University of Denver and the University of Colorado.

University Press Members Serve

Three members of the University Press served in official positions at the Southwest Book Fair held recently at Dallas, Texas.

Savoie Lottinville, director of the University Press, served as overall chairman for the presentation of awards to publishing companies.

Will Ransom, art editor, was chairman of the jury deciding the winner of the typography award of the publishers’ list of books of 1945.

Justus Carrel, sales manager, University Press, was in charge of the co-operative exhibit where books of the University Press and 30 other southwestern universities were on display.

“The estimated 5,000 people attended each session, making the Dallas Book Fair the largest in the Southwest,” Mr. Lottinville said.
Union Governors Convene

The Board of Governors of the Oklahoma Memorial Union held their annual Homecoming meeting on Sunday afternoon, November 11, 1945, in the Oklahoma Memorial Union. Those present were reported as follows: Neil Johnson, president; Guy V. Williams, R. W. Hutto, Tom Carey, E. R. Newby, A. N. "Jack" Rootman, Graham Johnson, W. G. "Cap" Kite, E. D. Meacham, Raymond Tolbert, Dr. Warren Mayfield, Ben Owen, Dr. George L. Cross, T. R. Benedum, attorney, Board of Governors; Nanette Care, assistant president, O. U.; Dean John Chedlile, School of Law, O. U.; Dean Glenn Couch, O. U.; Clyde Powell, assistant manager of the Union; T. M. Beard, manager of the Union.

In the opening of the meeting a special student committee was heard by the Board on the future use of the "Y" Lounge in the Union building. The student body delegation proposed to the Board of Governors that they rescind the action taken on their part in 1944 wherein the "Y" Lounge was to be converted into a "general meeting room with fixed seating assembly"; and that the "Y" Lounge in the Union will be continued on its present basis.

The student body delegation, representing various student organizations, that appeared before the Board of Governors consisted of: Miss Eremogene Appleby, secretary, Y.W.C.A. Cabinet, Norman; Miss Kathleen Hine, vice-president, Y.W.C.A. Cabinet, Enid; Bill Brandenburg, president, Student Senate, Gage; Miss Pat Burgess, president, Pan-Hellenic, Joplin; Misses Roland Champion, Pekin; Misses Mary Evelyn Smith, editor, Oklahoma University, Oklahoma City; Miss Isabel Crim, Women’s Union Activities Board, Y.M.C.A. Cabinet, Tuttle; Miss Holsie Hoshall, president, Associated Women Students, Tulsa; Harry A. Locks, V-12, president, Y.W.C.A. Cabinet, Jackson, Michigan; Bob Marr, commander, Th. C. Reynolds Post, American Legion, Oklahoma City; Miss Joan Park, chairman, Y.W.C.A. House Council, Oklahoma City; Eugene Savage, chairman, Intercollegiate Council, Hartz-Lexington, Oklahoma City; Misses Mary Evelyn Smith, editor, Oklahoma Daily, Lawton; Miss Patsy Murphy, president, Union Activities Board, Oklahoma City and Miss Pat Bynum, president, Y.W.C.A. Cabinet, Henryetta.

Another important action taken by the Board of Governors was to listen to a special report of its committee composed of Johnson, Hutto and Kite, who on two previous occasions had met with the Board of Regents to discuss co-operative plans in the proposed extensions in building to the present Union Building. After a lengthy discussion, it was the consideration of opinion of the Board of Governors that they should meet as a full Board with the full Board of Regents to reach final agreements as to the building. Dr. George L. Cross was asked to contact the Regents and the Board of Governors to arrange a joint meeting of the two Boards at the earliest practical date.

Indian Teepee Needed

Do you have an old Indian teepee that you would like to give away? The all-night tom tom pounding ceremony which is conducted by the Indian club at the University of Oklahoma at Homecoming could not be held this year because of the lack of a teepee.

The club’s old teepee which has been used during Frontier week, homecoming and other campus events is no longer usable, Boyce Timmons, club sponsor explained. He hopes that someone in the state will donate one to the club.

The Indian club which seeks to perpetuate customs and cultures of the various tribes is one of the oldest organizations on the campus.

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Alumni in the News

Sooner Educator in State of Washington

The new president of the Eastern Washington College of Education, Cheney, Washington, is none other than Dr. Walter W. Isle, who received his B.A. degree in 1915 from the University of Oklahoma, his M.A. from the Teachers' College, Columbia, and his Doctor of Education from Stanford University.

Dr. Isle assumed his duties of president of the Eastern Washington College of Education on August 1, 1945. Prior to his appointment as president of this college, he served three years as regional director of education service for the office of Price Administration with headquarters in Chicago.

Before going to the west coast, Dr. Isle held a number of important educational posts in the state of Oklahoma, including superintendent of city schools at Duncan and Ponca City and later, president of the Southwest State Teachers College at Weatherford.

A feature writer of the Spokesman Review, Spokane, Washington, in a feature appearing in their Sunday edition entitled, "Make Education Appealing," in discussing Dr. Isle and his work recently made the following observations.

"When I went to Cheney to talk with the new president it was one of those glorious fall days when Dame Nature seems to be making up for all past sins by giving us perfection of sunlit skies. It left me tip top and the new president, having lived in California the last six years, said: 'I hate to think what the California Chamber of Commerce could do with a day like this!' And he was much impressed with the weather of his new college, as he should have been. He doesn't know yet about our winters. . ."

"As we talked this way and that way about how to turn the war-battered world into a peaceful world, Dr. Isle had many things to say. "We educators must make schools of the nation so attractive that all boys and girls will clamor to come to school. That was one idea; here are others:"

"The army and navy took the youth of the nation and indoctrinated it with ways to kill. We must now do as good a job in indoctrinating it with the ways of peace."

"The powers built up through science and skills must be controlled by a corresponding development of responsibility in human relationships or we will destroy civilization."

"In talking of democracy, Dr. Isle stated: 'One of the first things we must undertake in this new era is to teach what democracy is so everybody can understand and analyze it. The reason so many foreign ideas creep into America is we haven't developed an understanding of the advantages of democracy among our people. I believe more people in the United States today can give a better definition of communism than of democracy and that must be changed."

"Dr. Isle, a foe of regimentation and a believer in individualism, thinks that teachers must develop a child's individualism to the utmost.

"Institute, developed through the American insistence upon teaching individualism, is responsible for the fine war achievement of the United States, both on the war front and in industry, he believes.

"Schools must share the nation's responsibility of providing better physical fitness programs, he is convinced, so America can never be faced again with such a deplorable record of physical deficiencies as was discovered in the draft."

"That's a smattering of his ideas."

Harper's Bazaar Editor

Kathryn Smith Gilles, '35-'37, daughter of Mrs. Edna Smith, Norman and formerly of Tulsa, recently accepted the position of merchandising editor on Harper's Bazaar in New York City. In the past few years she has been employed by Cutner and Cutner, an advertising firm; fashion editor for the Chicago Fashion, and Abbott-Kimbball and Co., Inc., advertising firm.

Miss Gilles attended Oklahoma College for Women, Chickasha, and the University of Colorado, Boulder, before entering the University.

Inspired Research

Science cannot be regimented or planned. That is the belief of Dr. George L. Cross, president of the University of Oklahoma, who seeks to disprove the idea that there should be a planned program of research.

Research depends upon inspiration and therefore scientists must be free to follow their own inclinations, says Cross. There can be planned technological research if one knows what he wants, but before that point there must be long basic research to bring about a want, he pointed out.