

A History of  
**Southeastern Oklahoma  
State University**  
Since 1909



L. David Norris

**Southeastern  
Oklahoma  
State University**  
**Since 1909**  
Volume I

**L. David Norris**

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**DEDICATION**

*THIS BOOK IS SINCERELY DEDICATED*

*TO*

The memory of Edith Marie Turbeville-Norris and Louie Rodell "Bud Norris: Two loving parents whose most endearing traits I am constantly reminded of in the face and personality of their granddaughter, Stephanie Lynn

and

To all those I have had the privilege to teach at Southeastern—and to all those I did not, but wished that I could have known and taught.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND PROLOGUE

It is impossible to acknowledge here all those who have made valuable contributions to this volume. Yet, a few must be mentioned. I am especially grateful to Kay Parham, Librarian, and Raymond Piller, former Librarian, and the remainder of the staff of the Henry Garland Bennett Memorial Library for their trust and assistance in the location and use of many valuable books and documents. Likewise, I am grateful to the owners and editors of the *Durant* Daily Democrat. Former editor Robert V. "Bob" Peterson and current editor David L. Crouch trusted in me enough to loan out their valuable, irreplaceable microfilm. Without their assistance it would have been impossible to reconstruct the early years of Southeastern. I am indebted to all those who allowed me to interview them. My thanks also go to all the student workers in the Department of Social Sciences who made hundreds of trips to the library and across the campus carrying books and documents and spent many hours and days photocopying articles. I am very thankful for the professionalism of typists, Jean Riddle, Teri Jackson, Betty Sears, Dorothy Laycock, and Janis O'Dell. Never once did any of these wonderful ladies complain of my terrible inadequacy in producing readable handwriting. My everlasting admiration and thanks go to my friends and colleagues, Dr. Edward L. Byrd, Dr. James C. Milligan, Dr. and Mrs. Louis Johnson, Drs. Bill and Lu Wolff, Mrs. Kay Hughes, Mrs. Janet Radasinovich, Mrs. Virginia Fisher, and Mrs. Pat Norris, who read, criticized, edited, and greatly improved the manuscript. I also greatly appreciate Phyllis Jones of Mesa Publishing Company for her kind assistance and cooperation. I would also like to acknowledge Carl Hill and the Photographic Services Department at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Any errors left are truly my fault alone. Finally, Dr. Leon Hibbs deserves my gratitude for providing the grant necessary to fund this project and for his moral support and his belief that I could accomplish the enormous task.

It is fervently hoped that the reader will enjoy the rich history of Southeastern Oklahoma State University. In conclusion, the author would like to make several statements about the volume. It was not intended to be a presidential or political history; neither was the volume primarily designed to examine and evaluate social and educational developments in an analytical manner. Rather, the volume was meant to capture, as accurately as possible, the

larger, general story of an institution's creation and evolution and its impact on the people connected with it. Such a large undertaking covering so many years naturally contains many pitfalls. For example, using names is frequently avoided by those who author such books. However, this author decided to use names realizing the mistakes could occur because many records are inconsistent. What is an institution without its people? What is a history of an institution without the names of those who have breathed life into that institution? Therefore, if the reader finds the name of a friend or loved one misspelled, please understand that the error was made with best intentions.

## INTRODUCTION

In this volume, Dr. David Norris presents the story of Southeastern Normal School from the time of its beginning in 1909 until I became president of Southeastern State College in 1967. In a detailed and well-documented manner, he reports the struggles of the institution to fulfill its calling and to achieve recognition as a quality institution.

What about the years since 1967? To what measure have the hopes and dreams of those who served during the first nearly six decades of this institution been realized? That report will require another volume, but a brief overview may be in order.

The qualities of vigor, flexibility, innovation, resilience, and frugality which characterized the Normal continue to characterize Southeastern Oklahoma State University. (The name of the institution was changed for the third time by the Oklahoma Legislature in 1974).

Southeastern Oklahoma State University has "come of age" in the 1970s and 1980s.

Today's strengths are entirely different from the early strengths of the modest beginning of the Normal. Business, technology, computer science, aviation, the arts, and the humanities stand along with the traditional strengths that built the fundamental foundation of Southeastern. Growth in graduate enrollments, together with growth in research and public service, have also been substantial in recent years.

The late 1960s and early 1970s brought a period of unrest in higher education, but Southeastern remained a stable campus where teaching and learning remained central to its mission without interruption. At the same time, the qualities of freedom and "a good place to work and study" have been preserved and enhanced.

One way to measure an institution is to look at annual budgets. In the last year of Dr. Allen E. Shearer's service as president in 1966-67, the total annual budget figure was \$2,699,156.00. The current total annual budget exceeds \$18,000,000.00.

Since 1967, Southeastern has remodeled and expanded seven buildings, acquired nine buildings, and built ten new buildings.

People and their needs remain central to the mission of Southeastern. To help people learn "How to make a living and how to make a life" have and will somehow survive as Southeastern's goals.

Considerable reorganization of the University has occurred in an effort to meet demands of the changing world. New programs have been added, and some have been deleted. New relationships have been developed and new talent has been recruited, yet Southeastern continues as the cultural and educational center of Southeastern Oklahoma and North Texas.

Southeastern's enrollment is steady today with a total residence enrollment of 4,105 students after a high of 4,417 in 1977. The total enrollment in the fall of 1967 was 2,202.

Southeastern continues in its commitment to teacher education. What a great tradition and role we have in this area as evidenced in this volume and as evidenced by the graduates of Southeastern who have achieved leadership roles in public and higher education throughout the world. Southeastern's achievements through its graduates in teacher education are unsurpassed in higher education.

I hope we have built upon that strength and that we have not diminished it by bringing new programs, new organizations, new ideas, and new faculty and staff to a quality institution.

Our current challenge is to maintain the good qualities of Southeastern in the face of educational and economic unrest in this country during the decade of the 1980s.

President Leon Hibbs  
Southeastern Oklahoma State University

Table of Contents

The Heritage and Creation of Southeastern Oklahoma State University. . . . . 1

Guiding a Fledgling Institution: President M.E. Moore's Years, 1909-1911. . . . . 29

The Normal Matures While Fighting For Its Life: The Presidency of Edmund Dandridge Murdaugh, 1911-1914. . . . . 55

Politics, War, and a Parade of Presidents, 1914-1919: The Administrations of William C. Canterbury, Andrew S. Faulkner, and T.D. Brooks. . . . . 93

A Normal School Becomes a College: The Presidency of Henry Garland Bennett, 1919-1928. . . . . 129

A Decade of Depression and Politics 1928-1937: The Presidential Era of Eugene S. Briggs, Wade H. Shumate, and Kate Galt Zaneis. . . . . 179

Politics, War, and Stability at Last: The Administrations of William Brown Morrison, Hugh Vance Posey, and T.T. Montgomery, 1937-1952. . . . . 223

The Years of Change, 1952-1967: President Allen E. Shearer. . . . . 265

A College Becomes a University: The Leon Hibbs Era . . . . . 329

CHAPTER I

**The Heritage and Creation of Southeastern Oklahoma State University**

The history of Southeastern Oklahoma State University, "The School of the Rising Sun" and "The Campus of a Thousand Magnolias," is intricately connected with the birth and development of the great state of Oklahoma. In this regard, November 16, 1907, is the most important date in the history of the commonwealth; for on that day Oklahoma joined the Union. During the next two years a number of educational, charitable, and penal institutions were established by the new commonwealth. These facilities were located in various sites across Oklahoma, only after spirited and sometimes bitter struggles had occurred in the state legislature between representatives from the various cities which hoped to secure them. The citizens of Durant and Bryan County were among those eagerly involved in this endeavor. While the economic and perhaps political opportunities to be gained were a motivation, they were certainly not the only motives behind the residents' efforts. The citizens of the city were genuinely interested in promoting educational enterprises for the young people of Durant and southeastern Oklahoma. Therefore, the people of the area urged their state legislators to fight to obtain a state normal school. Fully understanding the importance an institution of higher learning would play in the future of the town and southeastern Oklahoma, these visionary leaders of the community were relentless in their efforts toward that end.

This active interest in education was a natural manifestation of the past history of the region. Durant and Bryan County were located in a part of the old Choctaw and Chickasaw nations. Both "Durant" and "Oklahoma" are place names brought to the area by the Choctaws. "Durant" is the name of a French-Choctaw family who settled in the vicinity; and "Oklahoma," Choctaw for "red People," was first suggested as a name for this region in 1866 by Allen Wright, a Choctaw principal chief (1866-1870). Both the Choctaw and Chickasaw people had welcomed missionaries into their midst before removal from the East and had supported the schools which the religious emissaries organized as part of their

Christian efforts. More important, as early as 1842, the Choctaw Nation established nine neighborhood boarding schools—five for girls, four for boys—for the purpose of providing a primary and secondary system of education for their children.<sup>7</sup>

Until the 1890s, the Choctaw boarding schools were usually operated under contracts with Christian missionary associations. A number of Indian neighborhood schools were located in the vicinity of Durant, even before that name appeared on any map. Armstrong Academy was established by the Choctaw Nation in 1845 about seventeen miles east of Durant and continued to educate Indian boys until its main building burned in 1921. In 1852, the Chickasaw Nation opened Bloomfield Seminary, a boarding school for girls, on a beautiful site fourteen miles south of Durant. A powerful motive behind the Indian urge for schools was the hope that an educated citizenry would facilitate the preservation of Indian nationhood. Accordingly, the Choctaws and Chickasaws increased their support for public education in succeeding years. Nevertheless, they lost their status as independent nations by 1907 because of events beyond their control.<sup>7</sup>

Following the Civil War, the Choctaws and Chickasaws were forced to make a new treaty with the United States. Because they had allied themselves with the Confederate States of America, in the eyes of federal officials, the Indians had forfeited all rights, annuities, and other privileges granted by earlier treaties. In Washington, in 1866, the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations signed a joint treaty with the United States; the implementation of the accord's provisions would end the autonomy of the Indian nations. To a patriotic Choctaw or Chickasaw, the most deadly provision of the 1866 treaty was the one which authorized construction of the first railroads. They correctly foresaw that this article would lead to an uncontrollable influx of whites and the rise of new towns of non-Indians and mixed-bloods in the midst of the Indian nations. Durant, which originated as a rough little settlement on the newly constructed Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad (the Katy) in 1872, became one such town.<sup>3</sup>

The actual beginning of the city named Durant can be traced to the journey taken by a French-Canadian, Pierre Durant, his Choctaw wife, and their sons and daughters in the year 1832. Following a "trail of tears, heartaches, and death," the Choctaw Indians in the early 1830s left their eastern homes to settle in new lands accorded them by treaty with the United States government. Leaving their farm near the modern city of Memphis, Tennessee,

the Durant family and many other Choctaw citizens made their way down the Mississippi River to the mouth of the Arkansas River. From this point, the Durants and their fellow travelers went upstream to Little Rock, Arkansas Territory; from there the Choctaws marched overland into the region known as Oklahoma Indian Territory. After reaching the Indian border, Durant, his sons, and their families immediately claimed various homesteads ranging from the boundary of Arkansas Territory to the present town of Bennington, Oklahoma.

The city of Durant, Oklahoma, got its start in 1832, when one son, Fisher Durant, decided to go farther west, where he established a homestead situated on the northwest corner of North Eighth and West Pine streets. When Fisher Durant died in 1876, he left his farm to his three sons, Dixon, Besant, and Jesse. Shortly after his father's death, Dixon Durant bought out his brothers' inheritance. Later, by the 1901 allotment of tribal lands to individual Choctaw citizens, Dixon Durant received most of what is presently the Northside City Park, the Normal Heights addition, and the campus of Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Within this vast area, Dixon Durant lived in several places until he finally built a fine home – surrounded by an orchard of apples, plums, pears, and peaches – on the present site of Market Square. (See footnote.)<sup>4</sup>

The real founding of a town on Dixon Durant's land did not occur until 1872. During that year the completion of the Katy Railroad through the southern portion of the Choctaw Nation was realized. To his good fortune, the new rail line crossed Durant's property and from the start he controlled developments around the tracks. If the seed of a future town's formation was represented by the original Fisher Durant homestead, the Katy Railroad was the nourishment needed for its growth. In 1872, the Katy placed an old boxcar on the east side of the main track, approximately where Main Street now crosses the current line. The railroad depot was immediately named Durant Station; for expediency it was shortened to Durant in 1882.

Since title to the land remained with the Choctaw Nation, the actual soil could not be bought and sold by an individual. Any Choctaw citizen, however, could use all the land he desired as long as the claim did not encroach upon land being used by another Indian citizen. A non-Choctaw could reside legally in the Choctaw country only by purchasing an annual permit from the Indian

government. Each application for a permit required an endorsement by a Choctaw citizen as to the good character of the applicant; an endorser thus became, in effect, a sponsor of the recipient of the permit. In order to remain in the country legally, the non-Choctaws also had to make arrangements with Choctaw citizens for places to work and to reside as they applied their trades and professions. In the case of Durant, the first newcomers made arrangements for home and business sites with Dixon Durant, paying him rent for use of the land over which he had control. The town grew slowly at first, partly because Dixon Durant was opposed to much development; by 1882, ten years after the coming of the railroad, the estimated population of the community was only a few more than one hundred souls.<sup>5</sup>

Dixon Durant, nevertheless, did not oppose all growth of the fledgling city. In fact, he slowly but surely led the way to progress and development. In 1873, he erected the first wooden general store on the east side of the boxcar depot. The following year, he opened a larger store on the west side of the tracks. Nearby, Durant constructed a log kitchen and smokehouse. At times, the kitchen was used as a schoolhouse and Sunday schoolroom—a fact which was indicative of his concern for education and religion. In pursuit of the latter interest, from 1880 until his death on April 6, 1906, Dixon Durant served at different times as a minister for Presbyterian, Congregationalist, and, finally, Methodist congregations. The strong moral beliefs held by Durant unquestionably retarded the rapid growth of the city. For example, in the early days of development, he cancelled a contract for property he had rented when he discovered that the renter intended to open a dance hall and a domino parlor.

Despite the reluctance of Dixon Durant to sell away his control of the new city, the town did begin to grow during the 1880s. Additional general merchandise establishments, such as the one opened in 1880 by John Davis, enlarged the business district. New settlers arrived on a wagon trail road which led south and west of Durant Station to Carriage Point, a stagecoach stop and tavern on the "Texas Road" located a few miles west of the city. By the early 1890s, residents of the town were choosing homesteads in Dixon Durant's "pasture" to the north and west of the new business district located on Main and North First streets. Despite the activities of Dixon Durant, John Davis, and other settlers, it was not until after 1890 that the city began to grow rapidly, changing from a sleepy village into a bustling town.<sup>6</sup>

The primary reason for the dramatic change in the destiny of the city was found in the sudden influx of white settlers coming to the Oklahoma Indian region. Eventually, the newcomers joined with the desire of whites in the western Oklahoma Territory for admission to statehood. In essence, as one writer has stated, "Neither Durant nor the other potential cities along the Katy route had much chance to grow before the dissolution of the Choctaw Nation and the end of restrictions on white settlers which hampered economic development of the region." Before statehood could become a reality, the destiny of the Five Civilized Tribes residing in the territory had to be altered. Thus, in 1893 Congress created a commission, commonly called the Dawes Commission after its first chairman, Senator Henry L. Dawes of Massachusetts, to begin discussions with the Five Civilized Tribes. The mandate of the commission was to get the Indians to agree to the extinction of their governments and of their titles to the land in exchange for allotments in severalty; the Choctaws and Chickasaws came to terms with the Dawes Commission in 1897 when they approved the Atoka Agreement.<sup>7</sup>

Acting under this accord and other federal enabling laws, such as the Curtis Act, the United States proceeded to dismantle the Indian political, social, and economic systems; the schools were taken over; the governments were replaced by United States courts and officials; Indian rolls were compiled; and the land was surveyed and allotted to those whose names appeared on the rolls. Title to all land not allocated remained with the Indian nations. During the years immediately following the creation of the Dawes Commission, the population of the Oklahoma Indian Territory increased and its composition was altered. By 1895, the total population of the territory stood at 350,000 with whites outnumbering Indians 4-1. The formation of the Dawes Commission also brought a swift transition to the town still controlled largely by Dixon Durant. By 1900, the federal census showed the population was 2,969. Then, in less than a decade it grew to 5,330. By 1910, much of the land in Durant and Bryan County belonged to either mixed-bloods or white residents. Very few full-blood Indians lived in Bryan County or took advantage of the allotments by tribal rolls.<sup>8</sup>

Despite his initial hesitance, advocates of city growth, with the added inducement of money, persuaded Dixon Durant to open up his "Pasture," located west of the original buildings, for development purposes. The *Norman Transcript* reported on February 2,



1894, that lots in the new area along what was being called Main Street were selling for \$500 to \$1000. Soon, new wooden buildings and a few brick and stone structures appeared along Main Street and the present Second Street. Within three years, Main Street was opened to Fourth Street and for one block south and north. During 1895 and 1896, the city's growth was really assured when a group of businessmen and speculators from Bonham, Texas, bought a forty- to fifty-acre parcel of land from Dixon Durant. New streets, homes, and businesses soon dotted the landscape. In fact, it was the town's first experience with anything resembling a "boom" period. In 1898, the economic and financial development of the city was aided by the organization of the First National Bank of Durant. The full impact of the years of growth experienced after 1895 can be seen easily in the listing of the R. L. Polk and Company's directory for 1902-1903. According to the directory, the city contained the following:

8 dry goods, 16 groceries, 6 hardware, 2 furniture, 3 jewelry, 7 general merchandise and 2 millinery stores, 6 restaurants, 1 bakery, 1 confectionery, 2 secondhand stores, 2 cleaning and pressing shops, 4 barber shops, 3 harness shops, 1 meat market, 1 photographer, 2 insurance agencies, 16 physicians, 4 dentists, 15 attorneys, 1 undertaker, 5 ministers, 6 churches, 5 hotels, 2 banks, 2 weekly and 1 daily newspapers, 2 lumber yards, the Choctaw-Chickasaw Telephone Company, 1 cottonseed oil mill, 1 flour mill, 1 compress, a light and ice plant, a commercial club, 3 livery stables, 3 wagon yards, 4 carpenters, 1 bookstore, 1 architect, and 1 veterinary surgeon.<sup>9</sup>

The Atoka Agreement and the resulting Curtis Act provided that townsites, like Durant, should be withheld from allotment, and money realized from the sale of lots should be distributed among the Indian citizens. The Curtis Act also stipulated that towns with a population of two hundred or more could incorporate, using the laws of Arkansas as a guide, and tax personal property and real estate to finance city governments and schools. The application for incorporation by the city of Durant was approved by the federal court in Atoka on November 26, 1898; a regular city government began to function in April 1899.

Durant, like all the new towns of Indian Territory in the 1890s, had already established schools before incorporation. Although children of non-Indian citizens could attend the established Indian schools, most white pupils usually had to be educated in private schools supported by donation, individual tuition, or subscription. The Indian schools simply could not cope with the flood of whites who had engulfed them. Available records indicate that one of the early subscription schools was established in Durant in 1892 by R. R. Halsell, a teacher from Texas. The first schools in the vicinity of Durant, as previously noted, were Armstrong Academy and Bloomfield Seminary. Evidence suggests that the Choctaw Nation may have established a neighborhood school near Durant as early as 1858. One of these was "Hashukwa" (Chuckwa) with "twenty-one scholars" taught by Simon Byington, "native teacher." After 1872, and the establishment of Durant Station on the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad, "Durant" became the name of a neighborhood school in the community. W. J. B. Lloyd, a Presbyterian missionary to the Choctaws, reportedly operated this school in the 1870s in or near Durant. In 1887, the teacher of the Durant neighborhood school was William A. Durant, a cousin of Dixon Durant.

The career of William A. Durant is a notable example of the role played by mixed-blood Choctaw citizens during the period of transition of Oklahoma from territory to statehood. Durant, half-Choctaw and half-white, was born near Bennington and was educated in the public schools of the Choctaw Nation and at Arkansas College, Batesville, Arkansas. Upon completion of his college studies, he settled in Durant in 1886 to teach school and to study law. He became the first attorney in the young town and practiced in the Choctaw courts. Durant's Choctaw citizenship and his connections with Dixon Durant facilitated his involvement in real estate development, both of business and residential properties. After serving in the Oklahoma constitutional convention during 1906-1907, he won election to serve in the House of Representatives for the first six legislatures of the new state of Oklahoma. He was Speaker of the House of the Third Legislature; he had also served as Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Choctaw Nation. Later, he became Secretary of the Oklahoma School Land Commission. Durant's public career ended with his death in 1948 while he was serving as Principal Chief of the Choctaws, a position he secured as an appointee of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Prominent representatives of the non-Indian citizens of the young city, many of whom arrived in southeastern Oklahoma in

the late 1890s and early 1900s, were Robert L. Williams and William Elbert Utterback. Williams was a young attorney who was destined to be a powerful political figure, not only in the development of Durant but also in the growth of the future state of Oklahoma. A graduate of Southern University in Greensboro, Alabama, he came to Durant in January 1897 in time to take part in the events which followed the incorporation of the town in 1898. Williams was an important figure in writing the Oklahoma State Constitution; he became the first Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court and served as the state's third governor. He completed his career as a United States judge, first of the Eastern District of Oklahoma and then as a member of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.<sup>12</sup>

Following service in the Spanish-American War, William Elbert Utterback, who received his education at the University of Mississippi and at Mississippi A&M, arrived in Durant in 1901 to practice law. The first night that the young lawyer spent in the city was indicative of his future importance to Durant. At a public meeting called to raise money to secure the passage of the Frisco Railroad through Durant, Utterback introduced himself and made an impassioned speech in which he urged the citizens to recognize the importance of the railroad in the city's plans for future growth. Impressed by the young man, Robert L. Williams asked Utterback to join his law firm. Henceforth, Utterback became one of the city's most powerful voices for law, order, and progress. His life-long interest in education for Durant and the state was recognized by his appointment to the Board of Regents for the University of Oklahoma.<sup>13</sup>

It was men the caliber of Williams, Utterback, and Durant who joined the Choctaw citizens, the teaching missionaries to the Choctaws in the city, and other white newcomers to establish an institution for higher education in Durant. Many other new towns and cities in the region wished to secure a state institution of higher learning. But the dream of the Durant leaders was realized with the establishment of the institution that has evolved into the present-day Southeastern Oklahoma State University—a product of visions abetted by decisive actions.

The First Oklahoma State Legislature met in Guthrie on December 2, 1907, only two weeks after the proclamation of statehood by President Theodore Roosevelt. Before the legislature convened, many of the residents of Durant and the vicinity wisely organized themselves as a lobby group for the express purpose of obtaining a

normal school for Durant. It proved to be exceedingly astute that they acted so quickly. In an article entitled "Expects New Institution; Fight Will Begin With Opening Of Legislature," *The Bryan County Democrat* (the local weekly paper) predicted that the citizens of the city would face a fierce battle from other pressure groups representing communities in the southeastern part of Oklahoma. The *County Democrat* warned the citizen lobby organization that it would take a concerted and well-planned campaign by the Durant city government and all interested residents if the community was to have any hope of securing the school. Only those municipalities dedicated enough to continue the fight throughout the entire legislative session would win. The editor of the *County Democrat* clearly understood the political situation in Oklahoma. Already, other towns like Ada and Ardmore had organized similar groups who were prepared to stay around the clock to lobby at Guthrie. Durant must match, the editor knew, the other towns'

At statehood, the western side of Oklahoma already had three established normal schools, which were two-year institutions of higher learning primarily designed for the education and training of public school teachers. The new state government decided to continue these—Central State Normal at Edmond, Southwestern State Normal at Weatherford, and Northwestern State Normal at Alva—and to establish two more, one in the northeastern and one in the southeastern areas of the former Indian Territory. This was one phase of a larger legislative struggle to establish educational, penal, and charitable institutions on the eastern side of the newly formed commonwealth.

In the early part of March 1908, the hopes of Durantites were raised by a report from Representative William A. Durant concerning the actual chances of locating the normal school within the city. In an article entitled "Durant's Interest At The State Capitol Well Looked After," the *County Democrat* revealed to the public their solon's opinion about how negotiations were proceeding at Guthrie in the contest for winning one of the suggested schools. Representative Durant optimistically predicted, "We expect to land one of the state normal schools for Durant. We shall ask for an appropriation of \$100,000—that is for the building alone, and we fully expect to get it." That optimism was qualified by the legislator's remark that "there are other candidates and we need, however, all the home backing we can get."<sup>15</sup>

In early April 1908, the city's hope for winning the legislative struggle for a state normal heightened. In a front page editorial entitled "Normal Looks Like A Certainty School: Forceful Arguments Made To Committee," the County Democrat praised the persuasive performance that past week by the Durant lobby organization before the legislative Committee on Institutions. The lobby committee had argued that the railroad facilities in Durant were unequalled by any other city in the area. Furthermore, the greatest number of people would be inconvenienced by locating the institution in Durant because it was the most centrally accessible point to over 300,000 people in the southeastern portion of the state. The city also possessed not only the most splendid water supply but also the most attractive and suitable campus sites available in southeastern Oklahoma. The committee argued that Durant was large enough to accommodate students with work, homes, boarding places, and comforts which no other city in the southeast offered. Furthermore, and probably most important, the city council of Durant had voted to offer free, for twenty years, equipment, sewage, and waterworks facilities for the institution. Finally, the committee declared that Durant was "the most moral city in the state—a city of churches, culture, refinement; a community without Negroes, dives, joints or lawlessness—white as the dropping snow."<sup>16</sup>

The County Democrat editor added to the arguments of the committee at Guthrie the plea that the needs of the southeastern section of the state in regard to schools had largely been ignored. "The vast army of people we form the hub for should have this facility," the County Democrat declared. "It should not be located to the advantage of those who have the convenience of the State University. Northwestern Oklahoma has its Alva normal, southwestern Oklahoma has its Weatherford normal, central Oklahoma has its Edmond normal, and if southeastern Oklahoma is to have its normal, Durant offers the only location carrying with it all these merits," the paper concluded.<sup>17</sup>

Legislators from Durant and vicinity who were involved in the battle to secure the location of the normal school at Durant included William A. Durant and Jesse Mercer Hatchett. Hatchett, the first state senator from Bryan County, was a Choctaw citizen by marriage. Settling in Durant in 1899 after he had attended the University of Texas, Hatchett began to study law privately and then passed the Oklahoma bar examination. One year after establishing his home in the city, Hatchett became the third mayor

of Durant—the first candidate to run as a Democrat. In the subsequent fight for statehood, Hatchett was awarded a gold pocket watch by his fellow party members for his efforts to bring Oklahoma into the Union as a democratically controlled state. Hatchett successfully ran for the Senate and was immediately named the whip of the upper chamber. While in the legislature, he eventually co-drafted the bill to establish Southeastern State Normal. Following his service in the Senate, Hatchett became a district judge until 1918, when he returned to his private law practice. Although Hatchett and Durant introduced the bill simultaneously in the Senate and the House, later events dictated that Durant would receive the lion's share of credit for obtaining the institution at Durant.<sup>18</sup>

The legislative delegation, which also included J. H. Baldwin and A. F. Ross in the first legislature and A. E. Ewell in the second, had help from outside its ranks. Robert L. Williams, who had served as democratic national committeeman for Indian Territory before statehood, was the newly elected Chief Justice of the Oklahoma State Supreme Court. Williams was a powerful political figure working behind the scenes to assist the Durant legislative delegation in its fight to secure the needed votes. Local Durant citizen groups who traveled to Guthrie several times to lobby for passage of the Durant Southeastern Normal bill in 1908 and 1909 included William E. Utterback, A. L. Severance, James R. McKinney, H. W. Gibson, Sr., E. M. Evans, C. C. Hatchett, and many other prominent Durant citizens.

Almost until the sine die adjournment of the First Oklahoma legislature on May 26, 1908, the local boosters were optimistic that the proposed southeastern normal school would be given to Durant. But the legislature became so stalemated over the merits of the various communities seeking state institutions that it was forced by constitutional limitation to end its session before all its problems were solved. In fact, the struggle was so bitter that actual blows were struck at Guthrie. The fighting started when Senator J. S. Morris accused Senator Reuben M. Roddie of lying in a debate concerning the normals. In the center aisle with "fists flailing," Roddie struck Morris flush on the nose; recovering, Morris caught Roddie on the temple. When Senator E. E. Brock tried to separate the men, he received "a jolt on his jaw meant for Morris." Finally, other legislators managed to separate the combatants, and order was restored to the bitterly divided chamber. Governor Charles N. Haskell, who believed in a tight-spending economic policy, added

to the legislators' problems by fighting the solons to the last day of the session over establishing any normals at all."

In early May 1908, the headlines of the *County Democrat* informed the people of southeastern Oklahoma that the city would not secure the state normal in the current legislative session. In an editorial entitled "Building Withheld Until January," the paper reported that Governor Haskell had issued a proclamation calling on the legislature to forego any further consideration of establishing any more state institutions at the present session of the legislature. He simply recommended that monies be appropriated for temporarily conducting three state normals somewhere in available buildings in the Indian Territory, and that the Board of Education be allowed to locate the schools. Therefore, settling the issue over the creation of any permanent institutions would be left to the next session. Despite the obvious disappointment the governor's action caused the people of Durant, the *County Democrat* stated that all hope was not lost. In fact, the paper even found a reason to be optimistic in the chief executive's decision. In the opinion of the *County Democrat*, "We are glad to note that the governor fully appreciated the necessity of normals in old Indian Territory." Consequently, the paper declared, "We are willing to forego our present chances in the face of what unquestionably appears to be the best interest of the state."

Despite their collective disappointment, the editor of the *County Democrat*, the legislative leaders from Bryan County and the surrounding area, and the Durant lobby group did not allow the general public to forget that their continued support was needed if the city was to be successful in its bid for the state normal in the next legislative meeting. The paper constantly urged the avid continuation of public pressure for the establishment of the normal. For example, on Friday, August 21, 1908, the *County Democrat* published a front page editorial entitled "All Important Fight." In this article, the editor of the local paper told the citizens of the city that they must not lose the two very important battles the community had on its hands for the future of the area—the hope for the state normal and the wish to become the permanent county seat for Bryan County. The editor believed that the future of Durant was entirely linked with the winning of both important goals. The people of Durant responded with a frenzy of activity over the next three months. The city fathers, the citizen lobby organization, and others made it personally known to many legislators and their particular representatives that Durant should

indeed be the Bryan County seat. The establishment of the normal, they regarded as virtually their birthright. As a result of the tremendous grassroots support, the Bryan County senators and representatives and other legislators from the southeastern region continued the pressure on their fellow solons from other areas of the state.<sup>21</sup>

By early November 1908, it appeared that the efforts of the supplicants would be successful. On November 20, the *County Democrat* ran a story entitled "State Normal Looks Certain; Bryan County Representatives Banquet With Legislative Bunch At Oklahoma City." The report conveyed the news that representatives Durant and Ewell and Senator Hatchett had dominated the legislative banquet held in Oklahoma City the previous week for the purpose of indulging "in oratory and buttonholing." In fact, "Durant and Ewell played rings around the 'silver tongues' [legislators], and all of them did a thorough job of normal mixing," the paper declared.<sup>22</sup>

The reason for the legislative meeting was to discuss the most important issues facing the leadership for the upcoming session of the Oklahoma legislature and to select the speaker and the chairmen of important committees. Although the *County Democrat* admitted that Oklahoma City was a "political mess" and a haze of confusion "with at least as many candidates for speaker as there are members," still the chances of Durant capturing a normal appeared to be very good. In fact, the paper predicted, "The probabilities are we will do this—that is land the normal." According to the paper, Representative Durant felt that "we are in excellent shape—better than ever before." The paper further observed that Representative Ewell also had openly commented, "Everything looks very encouraging. I found many of the old members open in their support of Durant for the Southern normal." Senator Hatchett had been just as diligent, the paper remarked, "in seeing that their friends in the last legislature were in line and looking to the new ones." In concluding its article about the meeting, the paper optimistically stated, "It looks as if a state normal was almost a certainty for Durant."<sup>23</sup>

The second legislature convened on the first Monday in January 1909 to begin a regular constitutional schedule of biennial legislative sessions. The senators and representatives had barely taken their seats after the formal opening of the new term when solons from various parts of the state began introducing bills for state institutions. In an article entitled "Normal School Fight Now On," the *County Democrat* reported that both Representative

Durant and Senator Hatchett had introduced identical bills in the respective bodies calling for an appropriation of \$100,000 to create the Southeastern State Normal School. The paper also acknowledged, however, that Ardmore, Ada, Duncan, and Tahlequah had similar bills introduced, all providing for the same appropriation, except Ardmore which asked that the amount be \$150,000. The County Democrat warned, "This means a long, drawn and hotly contested fight, as there are only three normals to be created with the possibility that the number may be reduced to two. Durant has the advantage of location in the event the number remains at three." Nevertheless, the overwhelming power of the local representatives and senators made the County Democrat believe that Durant would still win the favor of both houses.<sup>24</sup>

In early February 1909, the County Democrat published a story with the headlines, "Durant And Ada In Fight For State Normal." In this report from Guthrie, the local weekly paper informed the people of Durant and Bryan County that the House had decided to take no further action about the location of public buildings for the present. Rather, the lower chamber had elected to wait until it received a report from the committee on public buildings recommending the proposed location of eleven institutions, only two of which were to be state normals. By now it was apparent to everyone in state politics, according to the County Democrat, that the location of the state institution had narrowed down to a contest not between Ardmore and Durant, but between Durant and Ada. (See footnote 25.) Urging its readers to write or personally talk to their representatives about how important winning the fight for the normal was to the city, the County Democrat clearly indicated to the public the momentous decision was still in doubt. Ominously, the newspaper article ended with the statement, "Reports from Durant parties now at Guthrie say that Durant now stands a good chance of winning out." The phrase "a good chance" was far less optimistic than all previous reports during January and the early part of February when it seemed a foregone conclusion that Durant had the upper hand.<sup>25</sup>

Suddenly, on February 9, 1909, the hopes and dreams of those who had supported Durant as the site of a state normal came closer to reality. That evening, headlines of the County Democrat proclaimed, "Bill Durant, The Man Of The Hour: Insurgent's Head Dictates Terms—Band Wagon Scramble." As the article explained, a major step toward landing the normal at Durant had been accomplished primarily because of one man, William A.

Durant. In the words of the local paper, "The man of the hour, as hours are counted on the legislative timepiece, is William A. Durant. . . . He has had charge of the fight to locate public buildings and more especially to secure the Southeastern State Normal at Durant, his home town. He won both." By virtue of his legislative ability, Durant had managed, the paper expounded, to guide the bill for the Southeastern and other new state institutions through the House sitting as a Committee of the Whole by a vote of 79-18. With the victory against the forces of the governor, the paper declared, "The insurgents have captured everything. It is no longer denied by the administration."<sup>26</sup>

Despite the elation felt by all proponents of the establishment of the normal at Durant, everyone knew that the school's legislative backers still had a contest ahead of them. The measure had to pass both houses and be signed by the governor before the wishes of the Committee of the Whole could be respected. On February 19, 1909, the major headline of the County Democrat read, "Durant Winner In Normal Bout—Passes House With Vote Of 60 To 41 Comes Before Senate This Afternoon—Durant Is Shouting." The *County Democrat* editor further proclaimed, "Like a well organized and drilled army the forces in the lower house behind the movement for the immediate location of several public institutions won another victory yesterday and passed to third reading and final passage the bill by Durant of Bryan County locating the southeastern normal at Durant." The article reported that a "gentlemen's agreement" had been made between the Durant and the Ada legislators that the fight should come up squarely on the floor of the House and there be decided. As agreed, at precisely three o'clock in the afternoon, E. S. Ratliff, of Pontotoc County, one of the leaders of the fight for Ada, moved that the bill by Durant, of Bryan County, locating the normal at Durant be considered; at this moment Representative Durant seconded the motion. The motion carried and the debate was limited to one hour. After the bill was read, E. B. Huddleston, of Pontotoc County, moved to substitute the word Ada for Durant and Ratliff seconded.<sup>27</sup>

Following this parliamentary action, speeches were made, and a motion by Ewell, of Bryan County, to table Huddleston's action was put to a vote. The final results showed that the Durant forces had 60 votes in their favor to 41 opposing. In debate previous to the vote, Ratliff and Huddleston presented their arguments for Ada. Ratliff contended that Ada was nearer the center of the southeastern part of the state than Durant. Locating a normal in Durant would really be a service to the people of Texas.

Durant was in a better position, he believed, to ask for a state normal from Texas since it was only sixteen miles from the state line. The Ada supporters also argued that their city, located eleven hundred ft. above sea level, had such a healthy atmosphere it could only support eight physicians, while Durant, "a river bottom mosquito town" had enough disease to keep twenty doctors busy. Also, Ada offered to furnish brick at cost for the construction of the new building.<sup>28</sup>

In rebuttal, Representative Durant stated that his town was much nearer the center of the southeastern district than Ada. In fact, he declared that Ada was only eight miles from the district rightfully belonging to the Central Normal at Edmond. Most important, Durant disputed the fact that Ada was ideally located since it was over two hundred miles from McCurtain County in the southeastern portion of the state. Speaking of Durant's virtues, he explained that the town had sixteen passenger trains daily. The city was located on the main line of the Katy Railroad with feeders running into the territory which would belong to the normal institution. He also praised the splendid water supply of Durant and many other glorious particulars of the city which was his namesake.<sup>29</sup>

Finally, the day all Durantites had waited for occurred on Friday, March 5, 1909. On that day the headlines of the local paper carried the title, "Durant Clinches State Normal." The long struggle for the establishment of the state normal in the southeastern city was finally over. Readers of the *County Democrat* could follow the story of how Durant, Ewell, Hatchett, and the other representatives had finally made "a certain clinch on getting the State Normal. There was not even a straw in the way." The victory started when the House bill locating the normal at Durant was reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Public Buildings and brought to the floor of the Senate. Considering it was Friday, the upper chamber decided to wait until Monday morning. But, the push by the solons from southeastern Oklahoma would not be delayed that long. Late in the day, the bill was brought up and immediately passed by the Senate giving the normal to Durant. As the editor of the *County Democrat* stated, "Thus is near at end the long fight for the honors, in which Durant has come out victorious, thanks to the untiring efforts of the above named gentlemen and other leading citizens of Durant, as well as our official representatives at Guthrie."<sup>30</sup>

The act approving the Southeastern Normal school at Durant read as follows:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Section 1. There is hereby created the Southeastern Normal School, and the same is hereby located and established at or within one mile of the city of Durant, Oklahoma.

Section 2. The purpose of the said school shall be the same as the Central Normal School at Edmond, Oklahoma, and shall be under the control and direction of the same board of education.

Section 3. There is hereby appropriated out of the public building fund of the state the sum of \$25,000 for the erection of the suitable building for said school, to be expended under the direction of said board of education.<sup>31</sup>

To celebrate the great victory, the Durant Chamber of Commerce and other interested patrons of Southeastern State Normal (SEN) planned the biggest event ever held in Durant—a banquet and other festive activities in honor of those who had helped obtain the school for the city. Invitations were sent to over 250 representatives, senators, interested citizens, and Governor Haskell. The historic event was scheduled for March 13, 1909, at which time, according to the press, "Durant did herself proud last Saturday evening." Although Governor Haskell had been "unable" to come, many of the more important legislative and civic leaders of Oklahoma were in attendance with their wives. Many of the guests arrived in the city for the celebration aboard "The Durant Normal Special," a chartered passenger train arranged with the Katy Railroad by the Chamber of Commerce welcoming committee. From the railroad station, the visitors were escorted up Main Street led by the Citizens' Concert Band and a flag corps composed of Company H, Durant National Guard. The parade ended at the newly constructed courthouse "where there was a glad handshaking."<sup>32</sup>

Following the welcoming ceremony and speeches by representatives Ewell and Durant, the guests were taken to the "gala

attired Elks Lodge" for a banquet. The night of celebrating concluded with a formal dance with music furnished by the Sherman, Texas, City Orchestra. In reporting on the occasion, the *County Democrat* said, "The visitors were loud in their praise of the energy displayed in going after the normal and for our merry way of entertaining the city's guests. The event reflects great credit to the city, especially to the members of the Chamber of Commerce who headed the movement in both securing the normal and in entertaining the legislative-body. It was an event last Saturday evening that will be long remembered and will no doubt result in a still greater good to the welfare of the Greater Durant." On March 23, 1909, the final act of obtaining the normal was concluded. That day, Governor Haskell signed the bill and Southeastern Normal School became a reality; the front page of the *County Democrat* proclaimed, "The Thing Is Done. Three Cheers And A Tiger." Governor Haskell used a gold pen to sign the appropriation act; the valuable memorabilia, after the school was formally built, was placed in a special case created for its display and located in the president's office of Southeastern State Normal.<sup>33</sup>

Another joyous development for the backers of Southeastern State Normal happened on the same day the governor signed the bill. The initial Southeastern appropriation was only \$25,000; however, an act approved on March 27, 1909, added another \$75,000 with the stipulation that the city of Durant must provide twenty acres of land for a building. The act read as follows:

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

Section 1. For the purpose of erecting and equipping suitable buildings for the Southeastern Normal School located at Durant, Oklahoma, there is hereby appropriated out of the public building fund of the state, the sum of **\$75,000** in addition to the \$25,000 heretofore appropriated, to be expended under the proper officers of this state, and to be available as soon as the governor and board of regents of said school deem necessary; provided that the city of Durant, through its officials or Chamber of Commerce, shall deed to the state a site for said school to consist of twenty acres of land.<sup>34</sup>

The proponents of the normal immediately asked the State

Normal Board of Regents to permit the school to open by the summer. The first state governing board for Oklahoma's normal schools was created in 1908 and followed the pattern set in 1890 by the government of Oklahoma Territory when it established the Central Normal School at Edmond. The Board consisted of E. D. Cameron, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, who was ex-officio president; J. A. Menefee, the State Treasurer—both elected officials—and three others appointed by the governor. The time for the opening of Southeastern and the selection of the campus site was to be made by this Board. On May 10, 1909, Cameron, Menefee, J. F. Mosley, and W. W. Hastings, a committee from the Normal School Board of Regents, came to Durant to make a final decision concerning the location of the school.<sup>35</sup>

Upon their arrival in the city, Cameron and his associates were shown the five available parcels of property: the Durant nursery property; several acres just west of the Durant City Park; Dr. J. L. Schuler's peach orchard to the north of the city limits; the acreage of A. C. Risner to the southwest of the city; and the Thompson-Rains property southwest of town. When Cameron and the normal committee arrived at the Schuler orchard, they found promoters had erected a tall wooden tower topped by a reviewing platform situated near the present Russell building on the campus. From the high platform the state superintendent and the others apparently were awed by the "magnificent and impressive scene of the city and area surrounding the countryside." At noon the school commissioners, accompanied by several interested parties, boarded the northbound Katy passenger train for their return to Oklahoma City. Shortly after leaving Durant, the men went into executive session. Before reaching Atoka, the committee announced to the rival Durant land parties that they had reached a decision: Southeastern State Normal would be built on the twenty-acre Schuler peach orchard.<sup>36</sup>

Dr. Schuler conveyed his title to the Regents by a warranty deed dated May 15, 1909. The State Board of Affairs soon announced that they would immediately employ an architectural firm to draft a blueprint and specifications for the new building, and that work should start no later than September. Due to unforeseen delays, however, it was November before the State Board of Affairs completed a contract with the Daugherty-Kirby Construction Company for construction of the first building on the site. The cost was to be \$94,385.40, and the work was to start by

December. The building, to be named Morrison Hall many years later (in memory of Dr. W. B. Morrison), would not be completed and occupied until January of 1911.<sup>37</sup>

Following the visit of the state officials, in early June the *County Democrat* observed, to the dismay of many, that several formal protests had been made to the State Normal Board of Regents concerning the Schuler location selected for the Southeastern State Normal. In an article entitled "Protest Made On Normal Site," the *County Democrat* reported that the city council at its last meeting in July suddenly and unexpectedly had passed a resolution objecting to the site which had been chosen for the normal school. Because their objections were expressed in a protest to the State Board of Regents, the *County Democrat* lamented that it would be necessary for John L. Mitch, of Oklahoma City, the secretary of the Board of Regents, to come to Durant to determine the validity of the protests. The major concerns were the distance of the property from the business district of the city and the sandy nature of the soil. On June 4, 1909, the local paper rejoiced that Secretary Mitch had arrived in Durant, surveyed the orchard site, and decided there was no reason to make a change in the location. Mitch was not alone in his decision; the Durant Chamber of Commerce had met in emergency session and the site's selection was given its full support. The Chamber passed a resolution condemning the sentiments expressed in the petitions and urged the Regents to ignore the protest and immediately let the contract for construction of the building.<sup>38</sup>

Meanwhile, the Normal Board announced that a president and faculty would be selected, and classes would commence in whatever temporary quarters could be found. The buildings made available by the city and its residents for the summer session were those of the Durant High School and the Oklahoma Presbyterian College (OPC). This private Presbyterian institution, which was in the process of becoming a junior college for girls, had just constructed a new building on a larger campus in the northwest part of the city. In 1909, the original OPC buildings (located on the present-day site of Washington Irving School) were purchased by the Durant School Board, who then authorized their use by the Southeastern Normal School until completion of its proposed new building. These temporary facilities consisted of a two-story brick building and some wooden dormitories. (See footnote.)<sup>39</sup>

The State Board of Education soon decided that the first faculty would be headed by Marcus Egbert Moore, a young man in his late thirties. Moore had been superintendent of schools at Marietta, Oklahoma, for the five years immediately preceding his appointment as president of Southeastern State Normal. A native Tennessean, Moore's education had been in the public schools of that state. The new president held a bachelor's degree from Southern Normal University of Tennessee and a master's degree from the University of Kansas. An experienced teacher, Moore had taught five years in various country schools and had served two years as an elementary principal in Tennessee before going to Marietta, Oklahoma. His tenure at Southeastern lasted only two years—about average for the first five presidents—but he stayed long enough to get the school organized and successfully under way despite a host of problems and enormous concerns about the future of the infant institution.<sup>40</sup>

The Board also named a vice-president for the new school. Professor Elihu B. Hinshaw, a prominent member of the Oklahoma and the National Normal Textbook committees, received the appointment; at the time of his selection, he was the Director of Bloomfield Seminary. Hinshaw had also served as director of the Chickasaw National Summer Normal School and as president of the State Teachers Examining Board. In reviewing Moore's and Hinshaw's credentials for their new positions, the *County Democrat* stated, "They are strong men with reputations as educators already established, and will make the Durant normal one of the best, if not the very best, in the state."<sup>41</sup>

Almost as soon as President Moore and Vice-president Hinshaw learned of their appointments, the two men began a hectic but well-organized attempt to make the first summer session of Southeastern a success. The two men hurriedly completed a brochure explaining the organization and function of the summer term and had copies of the announcement mailed to approximately one thousand teachers in southeastern Oklahoma. The first session of SEN began on June 14, 1909, and continued until July 30, when the last county examinations were given. There were no incidental fees or tuition charged for the visiting teachers from Bryan or the surrounding counties. This situation became possible when the city of Durant agreed "to look after these [financial] matters." Teachers were informed they could bring any textbooks they wished, but the ones adopted by the State Board of Education would be used as the basis of all normal work throughout the commonwealth.<sup>42</sup>



To insure healthy communications and understanding between the municipal government of Durant and the new school, President Moore arranged for a public meeting to be held at the city hall on April 24, 1909, to discuss the particulars of the town's commitment. At the meeting, Moore was pleased to see a good representation from the city and the normal faculty. In his speech, he flattered the city and its people for the progressive arguments and the effective campaign the local citizenry had used to win the contest for the state normal. Yet, securing the normal would not be enough, he believed. The residents of Durant must financially support the institution or it would never survive. The appropriation for the new normal was only \$25,000 annually, and this amount would simply not be sufficient to run the school.

As part of the successful struggle waged to found Southeastern State Normal, the city had pledged to supplement state appropriations as needed. Consequently, Moore proposed that the city supply a contingency fund of \$10,000 by levying an additional school tax of five mills—which would double the present rates within the town; of this amount, \$3,500 would be allocated to subsidize the salary fund. The remainder of the monies would be needed to pay tuition fees and other expenses involved in maintaining the new institution. Moore urged the listeners to realize “that the first school year would in all probability be the most important in its history.” He could not overemphasize the necessity of adequately funding the school to make the first year a great success. Moore reported that if the mail he had received was an indication, the city and the institution could expect between four and five hundred teachers to attend the first session. After the president's speech, the city leaders assured Moore the council would take swift action to alleviate any financial crisis.<sup>43</sup>

Moore also discussed at the meeting one of the most pressing problems facing the opening of the proposed summer session—the lack of an auditorium large enough to house all the expected guests at one time. This concern was quickly answered, when on June 11, 1909, the trustees of the First Methodist Church of Durant voted to offer the use of its sanctuary for the summer session. Elated by this development, Moore publicly expressed his appreciation for the generosity of the First Methodist Church members and his hope that many Durant residents would attend the nightly chapel services during the summer term. To further insure the success of the beginning of SEN, President Moore announced he was asking all the county superintendents from the southeastern section of the

state to attend a convention to be held in Durant on April 29 for the express purpose of conferring with them about the summer session. Moore hoped he could use such a meeting to persuade the county superintendents to cancel their own summer county normal institutes and bring their teachers to Durant on June 14. The plan succeeded and the county superintendents from the public school systems of Choctaw, Coal, Atoka, Carter, Love, Johnston, and Bryan counties agreed not to hold their own normals and bring their teachers to Durant. Consequently, by securing this agreement, Moore had assured the fact that the summer normal would be a major educational assembly.<sup>44</sup>

One innovative feature which especially appealed to the county superintendents was conceived by Vice-president Hinshaw. With the cooperation of President Moore, Hinshaw planned and organized a model county rural school and a model city grade school in which teachers could observe and participate. The model schools included the eight primary grades and each was composed of fifty or sixty pupils gathered from Durant and Bryan County. The model county school covered the entire eight grades of the primary level and was taught by one teacher. The model city school was divided into grade levels and was under the direction and management of Southeastern's regular faculty. According to the local paper, such training was invaluable to teachers in rural schools, and they “cannot well afford to miss this feature of the normal, as it alone will be worth what all the entire term will cost them.”<sup>45</sup>

The momentous event which everyone had waited for finally happened on June 14, 1909. Front page headlines on that day proclaimed, “Southeastern State Normal Convenes With Enthusiasm.” As the banner headline implied, teachers had begun arriving in Durant in much greater numbers than had been predicted. According to the paper, the visiting teachers “came from the east, the west, the north and the south, all happy and smiling, and came face to face with the smiling, glad-handed, warm-hearted, citizenship of the city.” By the end of the first week, registration statistics showed the number of teachers already exceeded five hundred. They came from not only Choctaw, Love, Johnston, Marshall, Carter, Bryan, Coal, and Atoka counties of Oklahoma, but also Denison, Gainesville, Collinsville, and other north Texas cities, as well as Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas.<sup>46</sup>

In essence, this first summer session and later ones for several years were joint efforts combining the regular Southeastern faculty with special instructors drawn from the ranks of superintendents and public school teachers from the several counties. For instance, among the first summer faculty in 1909 appear such prominent names as William C. Canterbury, Henry Garland Bennett, and W. H. Echols. Canterbury came to Oklahoma in 1905 as principal of Ardmore High School, moved to Marietta as superintendent of schools, and eventually became president of Southeastern in 1914. Bennett was county superintendent of Choctaw County in 1909, superintendent of the Hugo Public Schools from 1910 through 1919, and the president of Southeastern from 1919 through 1928. Echols was superintendent of the Durant Public Schools from 1908 to 1915, and then joined the Southeastern faculty.<sup>47</sup>

Classes convened each morning at eight o'clock at either the high school or the Presbyterian College; after a noon intermission, a similar four-hour session followed. Chapel exercises were held each evening at the Methodist Church beginning at eight o'clock. There, the guests and students enjoyed religious, social, educational, and cultural activities. Because of the vast number of teachers who responded to the summer session, President Moore had to hold the model schools in several locations to provide more room for observation. Therefore, the rural school was held in room seventeen of the high school building. The model city school met in two places; grades one through five were conducted in the South Ward School and grades six through eight met in the North Ward School. As Moore and Hinshaw earnestly had hoped, within a few days the visiting teachers were applauding the concept of the model schools and were agreeing that its inclusion in the normal was "a striking feature" meeting with the approval of everybody.<sup>48</sup>

In addition to academic pleasures, one of the main events initiated to coincide with the summer normal of 1909, and continued for many years thereafter, was the Chautauqua event. A Chautauqua meeting was an annual summer educational and recreational assembly, first seen in the town of Chautauqua, New York, near the northern end of Chautauqua Lake. There, in the summer of 1874, a summer adult education program began which was designed to last approximately one week and feature famous talent. Soon, similar Chautauqua events were being held in various locations across the country. Normally, Chautauqua gatherings were held in huge, circus-style tents or in special large auditorium-like buildings constructed in various towns. Durant's

Chautauqua assembly was located on West Main Street during the summer term of 1909.<sup>49</sup>

The anticipation that work would commence in the near future on the actual construction of the Southeastern State Normal building cheered the students and faculty at the summer session. On July 9, 1909, architect W. F. Breedlove, of Ardmore, announced the plans and specifications would be ready to be submitted to contractors for bids in about three weeks; he believed a contract could be let and actual construction could commence by September. The estimated cost of the new structure was \$100,000—the amount of the appropriation made by the legislature for that purpose. The building was to be a three-story brick structure, trimmed in native granite.

Besides housing all the necessary class and recitation rooms, laboratories, cloak and lunch rooms, manual training and kindergarten departments, the building would have a large auditorium with an opera-style stage. The auditorium was to be the height of the third floor and was to have a large dome. On the ground or basement floor would be a gymnasium surrounded by a large running track. Elated with the news, President Moore stated he would ask the State Board of Regents if the contracts could be arranged so some of the unskilled labor on the building and grounds might be done by normal students who wished to pay their way through school. From this early date, the administration of Southeastern State Normal began a policy of aiding its students in obtaining part-time employment, either on or off the campus, to defray a portion of their educational costs. This policy has, of course, continued to the present-day.<sup>50</sup>

Because of the nature of the institution and the confusion surrounding the hasty opening, the total enrollment for the summer is difficult to determine. The first official catalog of 1909-1910 stated, "Southeastern opened its career with a summer term reaching an enrollment of about 800 students"; however, 561 was the number actually listed by name on the official school roll. Since almost 170 children were enrolled in the city and rural model schools, perhaps these, too, were included in the larger total. The names of many prominent teachers in southeastern Oklahoma are on the early rolls, a natural result of increased educational requirements for the certification of teachers by the Department of Education of the new state of Oklahoma. The reason teachers came

so willingly to SEN can be easily explained. The need for professional teacher education in southeastern Oklahoma was great in 1909-1910. As visiting summer faculty member W. C. Canterbury, of Marietta, said regarding the situation, "Educationally, southeastern Oklahoma is virgin territory. Of the 1,750 teachers in the Southeastern normal school district, less than 25 percent have an academic education equal to that offered by the four-year high schools and even fewer have any special training for their

In an editorial entitled "State Normal Closes With Crowning Success," the *County Democrat* summarized the tremendous educational events of the seven-week inaugural term of the institution. The paper's editor noted that most of the credit for the success in attendance must be given to the two men most responsible for the session having occurred at all, President Moore and Vice-President Hinshaw. The editor said, "President Moore and Vice-President Hinshaw have established reputations as educators and masters of assemblies, having shown their capacity and competency in this state, hence the teachers of the southeastern part of the state are but anxious to receive instructions under these able men and their exceptional faculty." Under their guidance, the paper reported that the attendance in Durant had exceeded that of "both the Alva and the Weatherford state normals, and these have been in active operation for over the past four years."<sup>52</sup>

The Durant paper also stated that it was evident the towns in the southeastern part of the state would henceforth look upon the Durant normal "with a considerable degree of confidence" in its ability to train teachers. As proof, the paper related that "the normal authorities have already received quite a number of letters from school boards and trustees filing applications for teachers to serve them during the coming term." Additionally, the paper saluted the people of Durant and the surrounding community for their support. As the final registration statistics revealed, a total of 777 students and teachers took part in the summer session. For so many people to have been able to attend required, the paper said, the harmonious and enthusiastic efforts by every resident of the city of Durant. The paper further declared, "Durant has most assuredly shown herself to be worthy of the state institution which is located here. The hospitality of her citizens, the generosity of her enterprising clubs and the special interest shown by everyone proves conclusively that no mistake was made when Durant was selected for the location of the Southeastern State Normal."<sup>53</sup>

The *County Democrat* also acknowledged the tremendous impact the institution already had brought to the community of Durant. In early June, the *County Democrat* had predicted, "The summer normal is going to prove a big thing for Durant in many ways. It is going to keep the hotels, restaurants and rooming houses busy for six weeks . . . The churches are to be benefited, while the business circles will also appreciate the visitors. In fact, Durant is going to be glad." By August, the prediction of the *County Democrat* had been proven correct. Southeastern State Normal instantaneously had become a major industry for the city, as it was hoped in the long struggle to establish the institution; few cities in Oklahoma had been so fortunate. Nevertheless, the community could not relax its interest. The summer success had been aided by the need for many teachers to acquire further training and certification. The coming fall term would start a new era. Could Southeastern attract enough students to remain open on a permanent, yearly basis? This question, which undoubtedly worried President Moore and the faculty of SEN, would be answered in the fall of 1909.<sup>54</sup>

### Guiding a Fledgling Institution: President M. E. Moore's Years, 1909-1911

During the early weeks of August 1909, President M. E. Moore and Vice-President Elihu B. Hinshaw hurriedly tried to prepare for a successful opening of Southeastern's first fall term. Indicative of their realization that good relations with the community were essential, the institution's early catalogs clearly indicated to the residents of Durant that the new model training school would not be a threat to the already established public school system. The normal bulletins stated, "Durant is not only the home of the Normal School but also . . . a system of city schools extending from the first grade through the twelfth. It is gratifying to us to be able to say that the spirit of cooperation among these schools is excellent. . . . In no case is pressure brought by the Normal School to secure the attendance of those who might patronize the Durant High School"<sup>1</sup>

In early August, Moore and Hinshaw made a trip to Guthrie where they held conferences with Governor Haskell, State Superintendent Cameron, and members of the State Board of Regents emphasizing the need for additional support for the crucial opening of the first school year at Southeastern. To their entire satisfaction, they achieved their goals. President Moore secured the addition of two more critic teachers to the teaching staff, increasing the number of faculty for the institution to thirty-two. The "seeking committee," as Moore and Hinshaw were called in the press, also secured the appointment of two librarians for the new school year. When asked where the books for the library would come from, Moore explained that the nucleus of the library had already been created by each faculty member agreeing to donate ten or more new books to the institution.<sup>2</sup>

The success President Moore had in his meetings at Guthrie and the record he had achieved for Southeastern in just a short summer term were noted in an article published by the leading newspaper in the state. In its article republished in the *Democrat* entitled "Durant Normal's Enviably Record," *The Daily Oklahoman* applauded the accomplishments President Moore and the city

of Durant had made during the initial summer term at the institution. It noted the fact SEN's summer school had approximately eight hundred people, making it by far the largest normal in the state, and praised the academic and educational environment at the institution. The division of the school year into six, six-week terms seemed a sensible change, for it put the college calendar in line with that of the public schools—the institutions the state normal was created to serve. In conclusion, the *Daily Oklahoman* stated, "The course of study in its arrangement is stronger than any other normal in the state."<sup>3</sup>

In an editorial echoing the sentiments expressed by the *Daily Oklahoman*, the *County Democrat* offered additional reasons why Southeastern had obtained a reputation as the best normal in the state. The local paper reported the essence of an interview with one newly arrived student. When asked why he had decided to attend the Durant school, the young scholar replied that he had heard "the Normal at Durant had one of the strongest faculties in the state." The editor concurred with this opinion of the faculty. According to the paper, "the heads of all the departments have been taken from city superintendents and high school principalships, so that everyone is an expert in his or her line." Yet, these same people, the paper observed, "are comparatively young men and women, and . . . they have more energy, ambition and desire to help the student." In the last few days before the opening of the fall term on September 13, 1909, President Moore finally solved one of his biggest worries—his fear the normal would be without a graduating class for the first year. However, he diligently recruited five seniors, insuring there would be a graduating class in 1910, and he enrolled twelve students as juniors. The importance of his success cannot be overemphasized. Without a senior and junior normal class, there would have been no real valid reason for the school's continued existence.<sup>4</sup>

On Friday, September 10, 1909, Southeastern State Normal began registration for the first fall term in the school's long and colorful history. To insure all arriving students would be properly taken care of, the president sent special faculty committees to meet all incoming trains. Upon their arrival at the temporary campus, students were enrolled by the faculty registration committee and informed of all academic matters pertaining to the school. Students who had not already arranged for room and board undoubtedly were relieved to find that the administration also had a

reception committee ready to assist them in locating proper housing. Following the two days of class registration and enrollment, the fall term formally opened on Monday morning, September 13, 1909, at eight o'clock. The first major activity of the new school year, one which would be repeated annually for many years, was the convocation of a chapel service for all faculty and students. Attendance was mandatory, and each student was assigned a seat in the auditorium; usually, the faculty was seated on the stage. Hymnals were provided since chapel was the time during the academic week for songs, prayers, and the reading of the gospels. Most of the time, prominent members of the religious and lay community of Durant would attend the services which sometimes lasted two hours.<sup>5</sup>

Chapel was also the primary method used by the faculty and administration to make necessary announcements to the student body. For example, one of the most exciting pronouncements of the first chapel service in 1909 was that an excellent lyceum course for 1909-1910 had been secured for the entertainment of the young men and women attending Southeastern. An explanation of the primary purpose for Southeastern's creation was the most important topic of a speech given by President Moore to the faculty and students at the inaugural chapel assembly. In accordance with his conviction that a normal school was neither a high school nor a college but basically an institution for the training of teachers, Moore declared, "To that end, we have laid out the course along professional lines." For this reason, special emphasis would be given to courses in pedagogy, psychology, history, mathematics, English, science, and the philosophy of education!

The first full academic year, 1909-1910, was divided into terms of six weeks each, which the 1910-1911 catalog explained as "calculated to offer advantages to teachers who have only a limited time in which to do credit work." Composed of two fall, two winter, and two spring terms, with an additional six-week summer session, the arrangement made it possible for area teachers desiring to improve their credentials to enroll in short courses at frequent intervals during the calendar year. The region served by Southeastern, then and now, was largely agricultural. In 1909, a high percentage of the arable land in southeastern Oklahoma was farmed by sharecroppers with large families whose children helped with the farm work, especially the picking of cotton, the staple crop.<sup>7</sup>

Accordingly, in the majority of educational districts, the public school calendars were planned so that the holidays occurred chiefly during periods when child labor was needed on the farms. The Southeastern normal schedule was designed therefore to fit the needs of its chief clientele, the rural school teachers. Most rural schools closed at "cotton chopping" time in the summer and other harvesting periods in the fall, as well as planting seasons in the spring. Also, near the beginning of the century it was the rule, not the exception, that most rural schools in eastern Oklahoma were under-financed and few were able to complete a full nine-month term. It was of little significance, according to the division chosen by Southeastern, what season a rural school was closed; the rural teacher in the area could enroll at, or near, the beginning of a term at SEN?

Like a modern high school, students attended classes five days a week for six weeks to receive one unit of credit. The full academic arrangement provided for a regular normal course consisting of 168 units. Arranged by academic years and subject areas, the curriculum offered by SEN in 1909 was as follows:

### Sub-Normal

<i>First Year</i>	<i>Second Year</i>	<i>Third Year</i>	<i>Fourth Year</i>
Arithmetic	Algebra	Algebra	Geometry
Algebra	Rhetoric	Geometry	Trigonometry
Physiology	Reading	Theme Work	Bookkeeping
Domestic Art	Composition	English Literature	Literature
Agriculture	Latin	Reading	Reading
Civics	Physiography	Chemistry	Physics
Latin	Botany	Geology	Elective
Grammar	General History	Zoology	Latin or Modern
Music	Music	American History	Language
Drawing		Latin or Modern	
		Language	

### Normal Course

<i>Junior Year</i>	<i>Senior Year</i>
Psychology	Methods and Management
Philosophy and History of Education	Practice Teaching
Political Economy	Oratory
Literature	Major Electives
Major Electives	

Although none of them held a terminal degree, the original faculty members who greeted the students on September 13, 1909, were all listed in the first catalog as "Professors." The men and women of the first faculty included the following: Andrew Clarkson parsons, psychology and pedagogy; Edward F. Proffitt, mathematics; George B. Morris, mathematics; William C. French, history and civics; L. Stanley Demand, history; Bessie Trent, English literature; Hugh A. Carroll, English; Paul E. Laird, physics and chemistry; Jesse A. Ryle, agriculture; Ela Hockaday, biology and botany; Kenneth C. Kaufman, modern languages; Virginia Fitzgerald, Latin; Gertrude Hunt, geography and geology; Annie Pearson, commerce; Mrs. L. C. Hampton, vocal music; Alice McKinney, piano; Hallie McKinney, domestic science; Isabelle Boyd, oratory; Alice Colvin, drawing; Ella Greenwood, librarian; Anna Eastwood, librarian; and Reuben D. Hardy, secretary to the president and registrar. The faculty for the model school included Miriam Herod, Ghaska D. J. Baker, Hattie Rainey, Lillian Bartlett, and Sarah C. Bosworth. (Henceforth, the reader should consult appendix B for a list of the faculty to the present-day.)

A number of the original faculty, who were practically all young teachers just beginning their careers, went on to distinguish themselves in education and other fields. Two of these early teachers subsequently founded the "Miss Hockaday School for Girls," a well-known Dallas educational institution. The school was named for Ela Hockaday who was the first professor of biology, physiology, and botany at Southeastern during 1909-1911, and who had previously taught for a short time at Durant Presbyterian College. Hockaday's partner was Bessie Trent, professor of English literature at Southeastern during the first two years. Trent and Hockaday became close friends at SEN, dreamed of founding a private girls' school which would emphasize classical education, and finally established their successful institution in 1913.

Another prominent member of the first faculty, Kenneth C. Kaufman, later became chairman of the Department of Modern Languages at the University of Oklahoma and editor of *Books Abroad*, a quarterly devoted to reviews of the works of foreign authors. Kaufman Hall on the Norman campus stands today as a monument to his teaching career in Oklahoma. Two of the original faculty who remained at Southeastern their entire careers were Hallie McKinney, who taught domestic science and became Dean of Women, and Paul E. Laird, who was coach, director of athletics, and dean at various times. Their services to the institution have

been commemorated by the existence of Hallie McKinney Hall and Paul Laird Field on the Southeastern campus today."

As in the initial summer term of 1909, the model training school remained the most essential part of the normal school organization until after the institution became Southeastern State Teachers College in 1921. In fact, as early catalogs revealed, it became the policy of the administration to make the training school the nucleus around which the normal was built. Thus, it became possible by 1921, and was true in a great number of cases, for a student to enter the model training school in the first grade and complete elementary school, high school, and college without ever enrolling elsewhere. For example, after the final two years of college were added in 1921, a student who had entered the first grade in 1909 could have completed the eighth grade in 1917, received a high school diploma in 1921, and then qualified for a bachelor's degree in 1925. This was possible during the 1910s because four years of high school courses had been purposely included in the regular normal school curriculum. They were listed in the early normal catalogs as the "Sub-Normal Preparatory Course," a term less subject to disparaging interpretation. The freshman and sophomore levels were called "First-Year" and "Second-Year" and the junior and senior high school years were designated "Freshman" and "Sophomore." Students of the regular normal school became "Juniors and Seniors," although they actually were at the freshman and the sophomore college levels. Later, when the high school years were labeled the "Normal Preparatory Course," the succeeding years became the "Normal College Course."

In order to provide adequate course offerings at the college level, it was necessary to offer subjects for which students could receive either high school or college credit. Such an arrangement is no longer tolerated, but the 1919-1920 catalog specified certain courses offered at the normal preparatory level which could also be used for college credit. With some restrictions these included botany, foreign languages, all elective courses offered in the third and fourth years at the preparatory level, arithmetic, algebra, American history, agriculture, civics, and physiology. As a result, during the early years most college level students likely attended classes in which the majority were enrolled for high school rather than college credit. The only classes composed entirely of college students were probably advanced English, education, and psychology courses.<sup>12</sup>

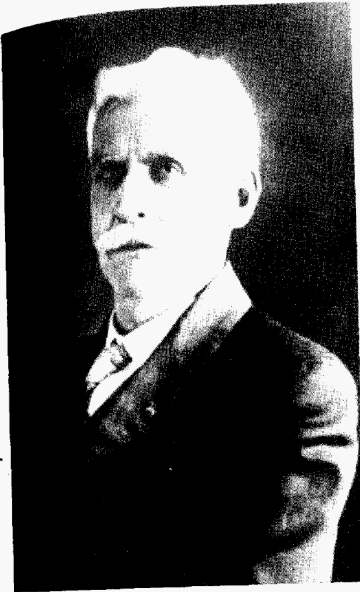
Entrance requirements at Southeastern were minimal. A certificate from the eighth grade of any common school allowed a student to be admitted to the first year of the sub-normal course without examination. For students who had not had the opportunity to finish the eighth grade, the normal school offered an exceptionally strong preparatory course. Any student having attended another school of equal rank or an accredited high school would be given credit for such work provided he could show credentials properly signed by the necessary authorities. Parents of new students arriving on campus were assured that excellent room and board could be obtained in private family homes at a cost of \$3 to \$5 per week. Unfurnished rooms could be rented at even lower costs. If the student preferred to prepare his own meals, furnished rooms could be found in good homes from \$4 to \$10 per month.

The parents of entering students could rest assured the spiritual life of their children entrusted to the faculty and administration would not be ignored. According to early college catalogs, Durant had more and better churches than any other town of its size in the state. In the bulletins issued by SEN, the presidents made it clear that the administration and faculty regarded their moral role as a serious and sacred trust. "The president and faculty of this normal school," the catalog read, "believe that all education should have a moral and religious tendency." It was insisted that the faculty be composed of Christian men and women, who encouraged the authorities of the city to be diligent in suppressing all agencies which tended to "demoralize the youth."<sup>13</sup>

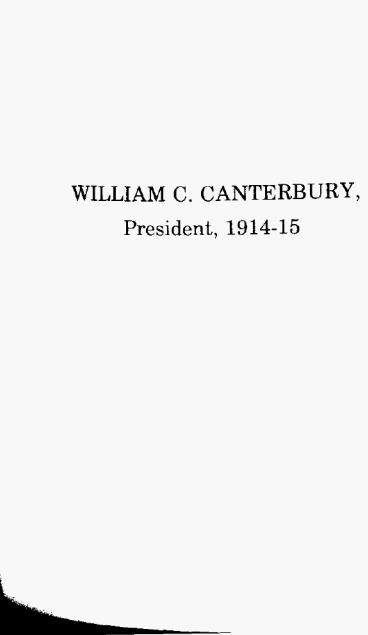
The off-campus life of all students would be carefully watched, the president promised. Faculty members were expected to visit students at their residences and to report anything not conducive to the pupils' moral or physical welfare. The faculty and administration not only watched the moral life but also tried to encourage discipline and other good character traits among the students. As one of the first catalogs stated, "The development of character is based upon a training in the right use of liberty." In cases where the student proves himself unworthy of the confidence placed in him by an abuse of privilege, the bulletin declared that "the liberty shall be withdrawn until circumstances justify its restoration." The academic progress of each student would, of course, be carefully followed. As stated in the early bulletins, "Accurate records of class work and absences are kept by each instructor; reviews are given at least once each month, and final examinations are conducted at the close of each term." Any student who failed to make



MARCUS E. MOORE, President, 1909-11



EDMUND D. MURDAUGH,  
President, 1911-14



WILLIAM C. CANTERBURY,  
President, 1914-15







ANDREW S. FAULKNER,  
President, 1915-16



T. D. BROOKS,  
President, 1916-19



HENRY GARLAND BENNETT, President, 1919-28



EUGENE S. BRIGGS,  
President, 1928-33



WADE H. SHUMATE,  
President, 1933-35



KATE GALT ZANEIS, President, 1935-37

A



WILLIAM B. MORRISON,  
Acting President, Summer 1937



H. VANCE POSEY,  
President, 1937-39



T. T. MONTGOMERY, President, 1939-52



ALLEN E. SHEARER, President, 1952-67



LEON HIBBS, President, 1967 to Present

the required monthly academic standing found his name reported to the president. Unless immediate and continuous improvement was made, the student would be dropped from the rolls and failed.<sup>14</sup>

Naturally, there was more to life at Southeastern or "The Teachers," as the school was popularly called, besides scholastic and religious activities. Students in the early 1910s looked forward to making the mile trip to downtown where they would find all kinds of wonderful sights. Durant was simply the biggest town most of them had ever visited in their entire lives. Some of the popular places for students to go in the 1910s were the Grand, the Orpheum, the Bungalow, or the Peoples theatres. There, for a nickel or a dime, students could enjoy motion pictures with stars like Maurice Costello and Mary Charleston. If students did not wish to attend the movies, they might watch a play at the Durant Theatre and see, for example, Frederick Wards, "The Eminent Tragedian," star in *Julius Caesar*. The Durant Opera House also presented renowned Chicago and New York stage and vaudeville productions. Students interested in politics and world events could spend a nickel for a copy of the *County Democrat* or the *Durant Daily Democrat*. In the pages of these newspapers, the young scholars could follow the events in Washington, where the trusts, monopolies, and the money power were under attack. Or, they might read about the threat of world revolution which seemed to be looming in Europe where the Leninists-Marxists reportedly had made inroads. Some of the male students undoubtedly worried as they read the accounts of the great spreading social and political revolution in Mexico, realizing they might not be in school at all in a few days. Instead, they might be marching with United States troops to meet the threat against the southern national border.<sup>15</sup>

In a happier vein, coeds could wander down Main Street looking in store windows stocked with hundreds of things to buy. Stores like Durant Mercantile were always running "gigantic sales" of the latest women's and men's fashions. As noted in chapter one, Durant had become a booming town in the early 1910s. The business establishments were expanding rapidly, and Durant would soon have a new federal building housing a post office and court rooms at a cost of \$80,000. In early 1910 Durant took a big step toward urban progress with the paving of a portion of Main and several other streets in town. The brick paving imported from Texas was considered one of the wonders of southeast Oklahoma.

Many visitors made special trips to Durant just to admire the new hard-surfaced streets.<sup>16</sup>

Durant was becoming a sophisticated city in many other ways. By early 1910 the very first automobiles, or "buzz wagons" as the Democrat editor called them, had already made their appearance to the great dismay of many of the town's equine owners. Despite its growing sophistication, however, the town did not seem ready to accept the latest fashions from New York and Paris. The editor of the Democrat wondered whether or not any young lady at Southeastern might be bold enough to adopt a new creation called a "harem skirt." Although the new fashion was considered by many to be scandalous, the Democrat predicted that "if rumors count for anything, Durant is soon to go up against a real sensation — ne of those kind of sensations that stop your breath, take you off your feet and make you think and see things you never dreamed of."

On campus the one school activity which received the most attention, especially by the senior class, was the operation of a model training school. Because they had chosen teaching as their profession, seniors naturally regarded the operations of the training school and their personal role in it as the most important aspect of their scholastic life at SEN. Under the direction of Elihu B. Hinshaw, the academic vice-president, the school consisted of eight grades under the immediate charge of four elementary teachers. The enrollment of the model school came from children who lived in the vicinity and whose parents had applied for their admission. At the beginning of their senior normal year, students were assigned to teach or observe in the training school for one hour each day.

At first, students spent a majority of their time observing the methods of the critic teacher. As soon as considerable familiarity with the work was attained, the seniors were required to teach the classes themselves. While the seniors went about their training in the model school during the fall term of 1909-1910, the faculty and administration were overjoyed to learn that the State Board of Public Affairs at Guthrie had finally awarded, and signed a contract in the amount of \$94,385.40 with the Daugherty Kirby Construction Company of Sulphur for Southeastern's permanent normal building. As the *County Democrat* reflected, the signing of the contract was a source of great joy not only for the faculty and students but also for the city of Durant itself—since the normal had instantly and permanently become the major industry in the town."

Besides personally conveying the glad tidings to the city, Representative William A. Durant, Southeastern's staunch legislative leader, quickly took active charge of supervising the rapid completion of the construction contract. After returning to Durant with the news, the solon selected, hired, and physically led a working force of six men to the campus site to begin clearing the ground of "scrub trees and rubbish." The *County Democrat* praised the initiative of the Bryan County legislator by stating that Durant's citizens were happy with the efforts being expended so quickly after the awarding of the contract.<sup>19</sup>

In an article in early December entitled "Are At Work On The Normal," the *County Democrat* described the architectural design of the proposed "beautiful and splendid structure." The plans for the new school called for a building 160 ft. long and 110 ft. deep. The outer walls would be faced with buff-colored, pressed brick; the foundation, beams, girders, and floors would be of concrete and the partitions were to be constructed of building tile. Consequently, the use of wood in the construction of the new building was practically eliminated. Directly facing the block between Fifth and Sixth streets, the front line of the building was placed four hundred ft. north of the south line of the twenty-acre campus tract. This location left 530 ft. of campus ground behind the building."

Because of the enormous haste in which Southeastern had been forced to open its doors for the first fall term of 1909-1910, the faculty, administration, and students focused most of their attention on academic endeavors. Nevertheless, President Moore and the faculty gave a great deal of attention to the encouragement of extracurricular activities among the students. For instance, one of the first accomplishments of the 1909-1910 year was the formation of a Young Women's Christian Association, the YWCA. The creation of a young men's literary society called the Western Debating Club was another important student activity initiated in the inaugural term. The objectives of this organization were to instill in the students the form and mode of good debating and parliamentary procedure. Another important development during the fall term was the publishing of a student paper called *The Southeastern Normalite*. The publication was to be issued six times a year by the student body. The purpose of the *Normalite* was to present the best literary efforts of the students together with as much school news as might be of general interest to the campus and to the public in Durant and southeastern Oklahoma.<sup>21</sup>

The days of fall, 1909, also brought excitement in student athletics. The encouragement of student sporting activities was considered to be an important function of the normal because of the "pedagogical maxim that the perfect man must have a sound body as well as a trained mind." The first catalogs asserted, however, that these activities would be carefully supervised by members of the faculty, and parents need not worry that their children's time would be wasted. According to the bulletin, no student who was doing unsatisfactory work would be allowed to engage in athletics or hold a place on any team representing Southeastern State Normal?

As soon as Moore and the faculty could arrange it, a Southeastern State Normal football team was organized. To the cheers of students and fans, the SEN team, dressed in blue and gold, immediately rose to prominence in football circles throughout Oklahoma by defeating three of the normal schools and by losing only to Austin College, Epworth University (Oklahoma City University), and Oklahoma A&M College. With the beginning of the first football season at Southeastern, a campus custom became firmly established—a tradition which declared any football season that included at least a victory over Southeastern's arch rival, East Central, would be considered a successful year. Among the young men who wore the colors of Southeastern State Normal on its first football team and who defeated East Central were Frank Price, Bill McNeeley, Tobe Morrow, Lester French, Al Jennings, Laudy Sauls, Charley McCain, Harry Levine, Rowland Poulter, and Calvin Bryant.<sup>23</sup>

Following the end of the pigskin season, a Southeastern State Normal basketball team was organized. Although the scores for the initial season are not extant, the catalog stated the team won a great majority of the games played. During the winter term of 1909-1910, the students and faculty also were cheered by the news that the excavation work had been finished, the concrete foundations had been poured successfully, and the actual structural work had begun on the normal school building. By February 1910, fifty men were employed on the concrete flooring project, while two hundred carpenters and other workers waited to join them. Over one hundred carloads of building materials had been delivered to the site of the former Schuler peach orchard. According to local press reports, the building would be the first "absolutely fireproof" structure in all of southeastern Oklahoma. In every possible way, inflammable materials had been eliminated. The only wood used in the construction would be in the doors, windows, and floors.<sup>24</sup>

The two main school events held at Southeastern during the winter and spring terms of 1909-1910 were the presentation of a play entitled *The College Widow* at the Durant Theatre and the holding of the first annual Southeastern High School Track Meet. Presented by the faculty of SEN, the four-act comedy was held at the Durant Theatre to provide entertainment for the entire community. The *Democrat* reported the performance as "wellcast" and one which "went off without a hitch." The paper's editor further remarked that the performance vividly demonstrated the great cultural advantages made available to the southeastern Oklahoma residents by the presence of the normal in the city. The first high school meet occurred on May 7, 1910, at the cotton yard, located downtown near the compress mill. Each winning contestant in the meet received a medal which was purchased with monies contributed by Durant merchants. Although only one school, Ardmore High, entered the first annual gathering, President Moore and the faculty believed an important campus tradition had been established. Because of the good publicity the meet attracted, the faculty felt a much greater number of schools would enter the next year. Even at that early date, they fully realized entertaining high school students on campus was one of the best methods of making SEN's attributes known to future students.<sup>25</sup>

After several delays during the spring, about which there was much concern, the work finally started again on the new building. Meanwhile, the president and the faculty were anxious in early 1910 about future appropriations for the normal. Happily, late in the winter term, they learned the legislature had funded the institution for another year in the amount of \$30,500. An additional appropriation of \$10,000 was made for badly needed equipment. Although heartened by the allocation for the 1910-1911 school year, Moore openly worried about the appropriated monies being the same amount as for 1909-1910. As he knew too well, it would not be sufficient to keep the normal open for another year. Moore publicly explained that Southeastern would soon be faced with additional financial and money-related problems if the appropriation was not increased for the 1910-1911 year. In fact, the school had operated so far under severe financial difficulties, he related. The financial crunch would be much larger in the fall of 1910 because the enrollment will be greater since "the teachers of this section of the state more fully appreciate the advantages of a normal education," Moore said. Therefore, he believed that many

more would enter SEN to work toward a life certificate. For the moment, however, all he could do was worry.<sup>26</sup>

The spring term of 1910 was made even more pleasant for the faculty by the announcement in early May that most of them would return for the next school year. Explaining the joy Durant felt for the faculty and the president, the *Democrat* proclaimed that the "Board of Regents had made no mistake in giving us this man to continue the work he has so well begun . . . of which Bryan County and Durant are so justly proud, and which in return, is doing so much for them and all counties adjacent." Because of the excitement of the many activities surrounding the first academic year, President Moore, the faculty, and the students must have found it hard to believe that the time had come for the year to end. On the morning of June 9, Southeastern's first commencement exercises took place. After listening to an address by Dr. A. Grant Evans, the president of the University of Oklahoma, President Moore handed diplomas to the first five students to graduate from SEN. The first graduation class consisted of Clara Petty, Mabel Nolen, Edna Crudup, Joe Yerion, and Beulah Wair.<sup>27</sup>

Following the commencement celebration at Southeastern, the president turned his attention to making preparations for the summer term. As in the previous year, the summer session was to be a cooperative effort with the superintendents and teachers of the surrounding counties. SEN's chief executive assured the success of the second summer academic gathering at an organizational meeting for area superintendents called at Madill in early March. Among those present at the tremendously important conference was, for example, Superintendent Henry Garland Bennett of Choctaw County. At the conference presided over by President Moore, the superintendents again unanimously voted to bring their teachers to Durant. The county leaders perfected their organization by electing Superintendent Bennett as chairman of the group and dean of the summer faculty. In essence, "The Associated County Superintendents," as they were called in the press, constituted a board of supervisors for the summer school. With Moore's full agreement, the board determined the following rules would be followed for the 1910 session: (1) Each superintendent will retain control over examinations in his county department, and the handling and grading of test papers will also be left entirely in his charge; (2) President Moore will have complete charge of the examinations relating to credits granted by Southeastern State Normal School; (3) Each county agrees to contribute

\$100 for the maintenance of the summer normal, except Bryan, which will be assessed \$300.<sup>28</sup>

Following the Madill conference, President Moore appointed H. C. King to head a faculty committee to secure proper accommodations for the eight hundred teachers and students expected to attend SEN for the summer term. It soon became apparent from Professor King's reports to President Moore that the Durant community would do its best to make the expected invasion of teachers-students feel welcome. (See footnote 29.) The majority of Durantites indicated they would open their doors to the teachers for \$3.50 to \$4.50 per week. The *Democrat*, in an article on the approaching school term, thanked the Durant residents for their generosity. According to the paper, the citizens' charges were reasonable and that situation "will do much toward stimulating a large attendance." Furthermore, the paper praised city leaders for providing the funds to build a comfortable new wooden auditorium large enough for all occasions at the normal's temporary location. Because of the advanced planning and the enthusiasm of the Southeastern administration, the faculty, and the people of Durant, the summer school of 1910 was indeed a success beyond all expectations. Although the exact number of students who attended can no longer be determined, local press reports, as well as notes in the registrar's office, indicate at least seven hundred students and teachers attended the 1910 summer session. Following the conclusion of the summer activities, President Moore and the faculty looked forward to the opening of the second fall term at Southeastern State Normal.<sup>29</sup>

The new academic year began on the makeshift campus a few blocks from downtown Durant because the new Southeastern State Normal building had not been completed by the September 12, 1910, opening date. To the astonishment of President Moore and the faculty, far more students enrolled than expected—in fact a record number of 260 students had entered by noon. Obviously, the reputation of the small southeastern Oklahoma school had grown enormously. Students from four other states, Missouri, Tennessee, Texas, and Arkansas had joined with Oklahomans in attendance at Southeastern. Forty students who needed boarding house accommodations already had arrived, and the number was expected to grow to over one hundred. Even at this early date, it had become apparent Southeastern would not be just another "suitcase" institution. Although still quartered in the old Presbyterian College structure and other temporary quarters, the faculty

was pleasantly surprised by the marked improvements made in the buildings during the summer by the residents of Durant. In addition to the new frame auditorium, two new wooden "bungalows" had been erected to serve as classrooms, and many repairs had been made to the other buildings. The faculty for the 1910-1911 term remained basically the same as the previous year. (The reader is reminded to consult appendix B for faculty names.)<sup>30</sup>

President Moore, the faculty, and the students immediately expressed their gratitude to the citizens of Durant for the efforts expended on their behalf. The president publicly invited "all the patrons and friends" of Southeastern to attend the first assembly. The entire administration and faculty recognized at this very early date in Southeastern's history that continued progress at the institution could only be assured by the full cooperation and support of the civic and business community. The *Democrat* shared this view and expressed it thusly: "The only way in which the school can maintain its position of respect and friendship for the city, and vice versa, is to perfect a mutual acquaintance, and hence a mutual interest; this can only be brought about by repeated visits on the part of patrons and those interested."<sup>31</sup>

As always, chapel service started with a prayer and a short scripture lesson. Following the opening religious ceremony, Moore made several announcements of immediate concern for the year's work and then introduced the man who would soon solidify his reputation as "The Patron Saint of SEN," William A. Durant. During an extended address, the legislator explained the need for the city and the institution to comprehend the tremendous economic, educational, and cultural potential for southeastern Oklahoma that could be realized through genuine cooperation. After Durant's inspirational talk, Bryan County Superintendent C. L. Neeley and City Superintendent of Schools W. H. Echols assured the faculty and students that the county and city schools would render SEN their full and hearty support. Following the two-hour chapel service, the president dismissed the faculty and students to begin the work for the 1910-1911 year.<sup>32</sup>

The natural excitement felt in the days of the opening of any new term heightened in early September when it became known that the new normal building located approximately one mile to the north of the city was ready for wall and ceiling plaster. Since the installation of the exterior walls was one of the last remaining tasks to be completed on the structure, the faculty and the students could rightfully expect SEN to move into its new headquarters by



early December. Spirits were further raised at the second chapel service held on September 15 when President Moore introduced Professor and Coach Paul E. Laird, who took a few minutes of the students' time to outline the prospects for the new football season. But first, Professor Laird both surprised and inspired the students by leading some good old time yells.<sup>33</sup>

Having aroused the enthusiasm of the students, Professor Laird announced practice for the normal team would begin promptly that afternoon at the cotton yard. The last announcement Coach Laird made that day in his presentation demonstrated the determination of the faculty and administration that athletics would be subordinate to academic endeavors. In a serious tone, the coach informed the student body that anyone who played football for SEN would be required to observe the following rules: (1) Each player will be required to enroll in at least three major subjects; (2) Each player will be required to do satisfactory work comparable to that of non-athletic students in the same class; (3) Each member of the faculty will report to the discipline committee every Friday afternoon the name of any student athlete absent or tardy or delinquent in his work. All football players who have been so delinquent will be suspended from practice. If any student in the audience breathed a sigh of relief because he did not have to conform to the strict rules imposed on the athletes, the sense of relaxation did not last for long. Besides the restrictions placed on football players, President Moore and the faculty had decided a formalized code of discipline also would be proper for the general student body at SEN. It is obvious from the recommendation of the discipline committee that the faculty and administration at Southeastern did not intend for the students to spend too much of their time in unproductive activities.<sup>34</sup>

Rules formally adopted by the faculty on September 16 included the following: (1) Each member of the faculty will furnish the classification committee the names of all pupils registered for work in his or her class; (2) The study hall teacher will report absentees to the chairman of the committee on discipline. No communication will be allowed in the study hall except by the permission of the teacher in charge; (3) There will be absolutely no smoking allowed on the school premises; (4) All pupils boarding in Durant will be required to remain at their boarding places after dark every evening from Monday until Thursday. Henceforth, students must arrive at their boarding places not later than 10:30 on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings; (5) At no time will

pupils be permitted to attend places of amusement of a questionable nature; (6) No student will be allowed to leave the normal premises without permission from the president; (7) All pupils will assemble in their respective rooms or in the study hall at the ring of the last bell; laziness will not be tolerated. Undoubtedly, modern-day students at the institution and country wide must marvel at their freedom compared to that at Southeastern in the early part of the century.<sup>35</sup>

As the month of September neared its end, the students of SEN were cheered by the news that work on the new normal building was progressing at a rapid speed. Workers had begun plastering the upper floor, and the construction of the roof had been finished and soon would be papered and tarred. Celebrating the news, the *Democrat* related that the normal had recently been visited by a great many Durant people, "all of whom were surprised at the rapid progress being made with the work." The level of excitement at SEN further increased in early October as the time for the first football game approached. The game against Alverson High, a large suburb of McAlester, was expected to be a good contest. Arranged as sort of a modern-day scrimmage, the encounter was intended to give the normal boys an opportunity to test their strength and to familiarize themselves with any new rules before starting their schedule against the normal teams of the state. To the pleasure of the students and supporters of Southeastern, the Teachers, as the school's team came to be known in the early years, defeated the Boneheads. The description of the event printed by the *Democrat* was interesting not only in its details of the game but also for the insight provided into the nature of the sport in its formative years. Although the Alverson team was supposed to be a group of high school boys, it proved to be composed of six office employees, two mercantile clerks, two school teachers, and three miners.<sup>36</sup>

Although Coach Laird stated, following the game, that he had enjoyed the contest, one development about the team greatly worried him. The problem as reported in the *Democrat* arose from the fact, "It is regrettable that some of the Durant boys still manifest a disposition to quarrel and wrangle. At times during the game Saturday some even wanted to fight. It was such conduct that spoiled more than one good game last year and brought the sport into disrepute," the paper explained. Coach Laird responded to the unsportsmanlike conduct by canceling several games. Yet, the local paper said there was one major saving grace about the game

which offset the disagreeable actions by several of the Durant football players. The local publication extolled the laudable conduct of the many young ladies of SEN present at the game who had sat on the sidelines waving their Southeastern pennants and enthusiastically cheering the Teachers on to victory. Without the presence of the young ladies and their gaiety, the paper declared, "the game would lack much of its interest." And, the participation of coeds in the color and pageantry of football games has been an enduring feature of autumn at Southeastern.<sup>37</sup>

Another football contest did not occur until almost a month later when Southeastern lost to Austin College. Despite the defeat at Sherman, supporters of the Teachers vowed they would go to Tahlequah the following week to cheer Southeastern State to victory over the Northeastern State Normal. However, the expected contest did not take place. In a short and terse pronouncement on November 2, 1910, it was announced that "the football team of Southeastern State normal has been disbanded." Rumors quickly circulated around the school and town that a heated disagreement between faculty members over the eligibility of several players had caused the team's dissolution. The local press responded to the surprise announcement by declaring, "The news will cause general regret among the lovers of the sport in Durant, and many predict that it will be a serious loss to the school."<sup>38</sup>

The reasons offered by the *Democrat* for the sudden demise of the football season at Southeastern were quickly rejected by President Moore. In a communiqué printed by the local press on November 3, Moore declared, "Will you do us the kindness to correct a statement in your issue of yesterday in which you say that football has been cut out at the Southeastern State Normal on account of a disagreement among the faculty." According to the president, no such problem existed. Rather, the reason for discontinuing football at SEN had resulted because the entire faculty had decided the team was not meeting academic and resident requirements. The scholastic rules at SEN demanded that a student athlete take three major subjects and attend classes regularly.<sup>39</sup>

Since several members of the team had failed to continue to meet those regulations, there were not enough players left to play a successful football season under inter-normal rules. Again, the news release by President Moore proved the seriousness with which he and the faculty took their academic responsibility at the institution. Near the start of the century it was very common in

football, as indicated by the description of the Alverson Bonehead team, for schools to use players who were not scholastically eligible. President Moore's press statement left no doubt that as long as he presided over the faculty and administration of Southeastern State Normal, the school would not field teams which were not composed of true student athletes. Southeastern would engage in athletics, as he had promised in the catalog, only as long as its student athletes met their required academic responsibilities.<sup>40</sup>

Although the sudden demise of the football season certainly distracted from the generally jovial attitude on the campus, there were many other exciting events which stirred the students' imaginations. One major event of the fall term, 1910, was a visit to the campus by the world renowned politician and orator, Colonel William Jennings Bryan. As every student at Southeastern knew, the very county in which the normal school was located had been named in honor of that great American. It was indeed a rare opportunity for the students to hear the international statesman speak on the subjects of religion, politics, and the practical things of life. There were other interesting developments at Southeastern during November 1910. For the first time in the school's history, a women's basketball team played a contest; in fact, it was the first game of girls basketball ever witnessed in Durant. In preparation for the game against Sherman High on November 26, the Southeastern girls trained for over two months under the supervision of Professor W. C. Braly, who had coached at the University of Arkansas for two years before coming to Southeastern. Because SEN was not yet in its new building and had no gymnasium, the second floor of the A. L. Severance hardware store on South Second Street was transformed to use as a court for the game. Temporary seats were secured for three hundred spectators, and the Kimbell Clothing Company kindly bought enough SEN pennants to decorate the entire hall. The first female athletes ever to wear the blue and gold Southeastern colors were Ruby Stephenson, Jewel Cantrell, Annie Reynolds, Lillian Morrow, Bessie Nolan, Ruth Stinson, Mary Braly, Pearl Yates, and Anna Paullin.<sup>41</sup>

To the delight of the students, faculty, and citizens of Durant, the "Female Teachers" easily won the game. This initial victory was followed by one over Coalgate High School, which was witnessed by a full house of viewers at the Severance warehouse. Not to be outdone by the coeds, the SEN boys' basketball squad started the season with a victory over Atoka High School. The 1910-1911 men's team was composed of Helbach, Paullin, Farris, Reilly, and

Durant. Other teams played and defeated during 1910-1911 by the boys included Denison High School, Denton State Normal, Atoka High School, and Austin College. Losses came at the hands of Texas Baptist College, Poly Tech College of Fort Worth, Texas, and Sherman High School. (See footnote.)<sup>42</sup>

Following a break for the Christmas holiday season, on January 2, 1911, the headlines of the Democrat proclaimed that the long-awaited event had finally occurred. The new administration and classroom building at Southeastern State Normal had opened its doors. As visitors who toured the new structure on opening day saw, the Democrat said, "The building is steam heated, splendidly arranged, and the faculty and pupils were delighted to 'get to books' in the cozy and comfortable structure." As Homer Reese, one of SEN's first students and a current resident of Heavener, Oklahoma, recalled for the author about the appearance of the splendid new edifice, "Upon entering the main entrance which faced the south, a student found himself on the second floor. To the immediate right down the hall, the first suite of rooms housed the offices of the president and the registrar." Farther down the east hallway, one encountered the offices and classrooms of the music department; down the west hall were the rooms for the education, the home economics, and the teacher training departments.<sup>43</sup>

"In the center of the second floor," Reese remembered vividly, "there was a magnificent auditorium with a stage and the audience area was equipped with stationary folding chairs." On the top floor a person found the biology, physics, and chemistry facilities; the third floor also housed the piano room and English department as well as the library. On the ground floor, or the basement as it became known, a student could see the manual training center and the agriculture department.<sup>44</sup>

The main portion of the first floor was occupied by the gymnasium and the boiler room. "Today's student accustomed to the high rafters of Southeastern's famous gym, the 'Snake Pit,' would hardly believe," Reese stated, "that basketball could be played in our gymnasium. The ceiling of the basketball court area was only ten to twelve ft., and there were several beams running across the court." Reese also laughingly recalled, "Many times I saw visiting teams bang the basketball against the beams while trying to throw the ball down court. Because the goals hung almost flush with the walls, players sometimes put their feet on the sides to get higher toward the basket." Despite the drawbacks the early student recounted about SEN's original gym facility, the inside court offered

a fantastic alternative to the outside places most schools played their games and held physical education classes.<sup>45</sup>

The House Appropriations Committee of the Oklahoma legislature joined the opening celebration by recommending the passage of a revenue bill to appropriate \$20,000 to help equip the building and landscape the grounds. But, the entire House did not accept the committee's action with full approval. In fact, a bitter and heated debate erupted with the announcement of the bill. In the ensuing legislative battle, Representative William A. Durant further solidified his reputation as being the one person most responsible for the continued existence and growth of Southeastern State Normal during its formative years.<sup>46</sup>

As reported in news stories originating in the new capitol, Oklahoma City, opposition to Representative Durant's bill was led by the administration's floor leader, W. B. Anthony. The legislative leader maintained waste, graft, and corruption might result if monies were appropriated for Southeastern without specific itemization of costs for each expenditure. Angered, Durant replied to his colleague that money needed for the necessary landfill around the foundation of the new building and to supply the school with classroom and laboratory equipment was essential, and time should not be wasted. Durant and his legislative supporters further argued that the Board of Regents could better supervise the expenditure of funds at Southeastern than the House. The final vote on the measure dramatically revealed Durant's persuasive political powers. On a vote of 98-0, the House passed the beautification bill on January 20, 1910. For this particular action and other support given to Southeastern State Normal, opponents of Durant bitterly dubbed the new institution, "Bill Durant's High School."<sup>47</sup>

Other interesting and important developments surrounding the opening of the new building and campus occurred in early February 1911. That month, the city council of Durant voted to bring the Normal Heights addition, in which the Southeastern State Normal campus was located, into the municipality. Incorporation into the city especially pleased President Moore and the faculty because it had become known that the city of Durant would soon sign a contract with the Western Electric Company of Dallas, Texas, for the construction of the town's first electric light plant. Because SEN had become a part of the city of Durant, the campus would soon be provided with the benefits of electricity.

Success in athletics also increased the euphoria surrounding the opening of the new structure. Two victories by the girls' basketball team over Sherman and one victory by the boys' team over

Tishomingo caused an outburst of school spirit at the newly opened campus. On the night of January 25, 1911, the entire student body assembled at President Moore's home on Elm Street to celebrate Southeastern's three basketball victories "with a big stomp-dance." After meeting at the president's home for a "pow-WOW" and a congratulatory speech by the president, the students who were dressed as Indians with Polk-berry paint on their faces and rooster-tail feathers in their hair marched down Fourth Street and descended on Main Street yelling whoops which put the unprepared citizens "upon their toes with shivering limbs." After parading through the business streets, the band of celebrants stopped in front of Steger Lumber Company where a tepee had been placed and boxes had been gathered for a victory bonfire. In the light of the flames, many Durant citizens joined the normalites in war whoops and "a stomp-dance that would put the Comanches on the back seat," the *Democrat* observed. As the event ended, the campus and town knew they had a new and festive tradition to brag about to their rivals at the other state normals.<sup>48</sup>

Suddenly, in February 1911, a debate took place in the state legislature which frightened the faculty, students, and supporters of all the state normal schools. On February 21, 1911, Senator W. P. Stewart formally proposed the abolition of several of the state normals by stating, "We have too many institutions. States a century old have no normal schools." Following Stewart's speech, a bill abolishing three of the state normals and one of the state's preparatory institutions appeared on the legislative calendar. To the relief of the faculties of the state normal schools, the legislature failed to take action in subsequent weeks, and the controversy seemed to vanish. With the disappearance of the darkening clouds at the state capitol, President Moore, the faculty, and the students relaxed their vigil and turned their attention to the business of educational and extracurricular activities on the campus of SEN.<sup>49</sup>

One of the main attractions held in March 1911, was the annual social event known on campus as the junior-senior moonlight picnic. On the night selected, the juniors went to Dixon Durant Park at dusk to build a bonfire, prepare a delicious picnic, and arrange a night of games and singing in honor of the seniors. Meanwhile, during March and April, the girls of Southeastern continued to win every game they played, including a victory over the University of Oklahoma. In late March, Coach Braly agreed to

a special series between his team and ones representing the University of Oklahoma and Central State Normal for the championship of Oklahoma girls basketball. To the disappointment of everyone at SEN, the female Teachers were defeated by the squad from the University of Oklahoma.

To the further dismay of Southeastern fans, the game scheduled with the Edmond normal did not even take place. Instead of arriving in Norman on Saturday morning as they had agreed, for some unexplained reason, the Edmond team played at Pauls Valley Friday night and then silently passed through Norman on a train sometime before daylight—not even notifying Southeastern they had called off the contest. The *Democrat* and other newspapers which supported SEN for the state championship loudly deplored the action of the Edmond school. Consequently, the question of who really owned the female state basketball title remained in doubt. But, as the editor of the *Democrat* explained in a front page article which castigated the treatment accorded the female normalites, since Southeastern's team had the highest winning percentage of any team in the state, their true title to the state championship could not be logically rejected.<sup>50</sup>

While the girls were completing their highly successful season, male athletes at the institution had turned to the spring sport of baseball for the first time. The initial baseball game against Durant High School ended in a score of 9-5 in favor of SEN. Among the young men participating on the first baseball team were Helbach, McKinney, England, Croom, Beal, Durant, Collins, Early, and Riley. While students loved watching the national pastime being played, they also looked forward to the second annual Southeastern State Normal High School Track and Field Meet and Oratorical Contest. Although the first effort had only one team in attendance, the second competitive high school meeting turned out to be a tremendous success for Southeastern and the city of Durant. Hundreds of young debaters, athletes, and musicians from more than fifteen high schools participated in the two-day event. The last major accomplishment of the spring semester was the publication of the first annual in the institution's history. Called *The Holisso* (the Choctaw word for book), the annual was planned and produced by a student staff led by Verna Eddleman as editor and Harold K. Maxwell and Lennie Davis as business managers. Bound in a leather cover, the first effort by the students of SEN to leave a pictorial and literary history of their stay at Southeastern was a remarkable product—especially considering the institution had been in existence for only two years."

Suddenly in April 1911, new rumors emanating from Oklahoma City began to worry the administration and faculty of Southeastern. Widely circulated gossip throughout the state intimated that State Superintendent of Education R. H. Wilson and the Board of Education had conducted secret investigations into the normals with the idea of eliminating several and concentrating state resources at one great state university or a new state central normal. Another rumor was that "a big shake-up" in the administration of several normals was pending. By late May, the rumors became fact; on May 26, 1911, President M. E. Moore learned he had lost the presidency of Southeastern. The State Board of Education announced he would be replaced by Dr. Edmund D. Murdaugh, then president of Claremore Preparatory School. Almost simultaneously, the Board also decreed that the new president would have complete charge and responsibility of nominating the faculty at Southeastern. The faculty members at SEN, already deeply saddened by the news of Moore's dismissal, naturally began to worry about their own positions being in the hands of the newly elected president. Moore's removal also caused general sadness among the students of Southeastern and within the Durant community at large. In the two years he had guided the institution during its infancy, Moore's mild and fair manner and his pleasant personality had won the hearts of the pupils and city. The dedication page of the 1911 *Holisso* revealed the inspiration Moore had been. The honorary page stated, "To our president, M. E. Moore, for his word, his sympathy, his sacrifice in inspiring us toward that noble goal of life—a true teacher."<sup>52</sup>

Although publicly disappointed at his dismissal, President Moore presided over four final duties in a dignified and dedicated manner. A beautifully conducted reception for the graduating class of 1911 was held at his home; Sunday morning, May 28, Moore and most of the town attended a baccalaureate sermon given by the Reverend C. C. Weith at the First Christian Church. Then, on Tuesday, May 30, 1911, after a speech by soon-to-be governor R. L. Williams, Moore presented the diplomas to the graduating class of 1911 in Southeastern's spacious new auditorium. The class of 1911 included the following: R. D. Hardy, Weaver Johnson, H. K. Maxwell, Isabel Work, Lillian Morrow, Lennie Davis, Cora Parker, Verna Eddleman, Ina Lewis, Dora Crudup, and May Fulton. The last major event of Moore's administration was to preside over the organization and opening of summer school on June 5, 1911. As always, the summer session had

been geared to the needs of the rural school teachers in southeastern Oklahoma. The normal faculty was, as usual, assisted by as many additional teachers recruited from southeastern Oklahoma school superintendents as was necessary to meet the course demands.<sup>53</sup>

While performing his last official duty as president of Southeastern, Moore sought another position. The support he received from the citizens of Durant dramatically illustrated the love and admiration the community held for the educator. When Moore boarded a train for an interview in Ardmore, he found that a large delegation of Durant businessmen, public school teachers, Southeastern faculty members, and the editor of the *Democrat* secretly had decided to accompany him and lobby for his election as superintendent. But Moore did not take the Ardmore position; instead, he accepted the superintendency of the Leavenworth, Kansas, school system. On the day he left to assume his new duties, the *Democrat* published one final tribute to the man whom the school and community had come to love so dearly. The tribute read as follows:

The people of southeastern Oklahoma, particularly those of Durant and Bryan County, will learn with a considerable degree of regret that Prof. M. E. Moore and his estimable family are to leave the city and state. We give them up with great reluctance. . . .

To the good people of Leavenworth, we extend our most hearty congratulations in their ability to secure Prof. Moore as superintendent of their city schools. He will make them, as he made us here, a most exemplary educator, citizen and Christian gentleman, in whom they may place implicit confidence and esteem. And the same is true of his family.<sup>54</sup>

In conclusion, the importance of Moore's direction of affairs at Southeastern must be emphasized. Without his steady and unpretentious treatment of the county and city superintendents, the school could easily have collapsed. Any real opposition to its opening and continuance by those officials would have destroyed any valid reason for the school. Furthermore, the success Moore had in securing the support of Durant's leading citizens was very important for the school's destiny. By so doing, Moore had managed to create a strong lobby for the normal's welfare. The seriousness that

he and his faculty had given to academic affairs had instantly placed the school in the state's limelight. By the time he left the presidency, the institution was attracting an ever-increasing number of students. By the skillful use of the faculty in presenting cultural programs for the community, he had further demonstrated the school's worth. Although the plays and other events may not have been as professional as the rave reviews they received in the local press, they were of good entertainment value. And, although Southeastern was little more than a high school, it was on the way to a glorious future. For all these reasons, Moore's name and place in the history of Southeastern Oklahoma State University must be recognized. If he had failed, there would be no present institution within the city.

### **The Normal Matures While Fighting For Its Life: The Presidency of Edmund Dandridge Murdaugh, 1911-1914**

The primary topic of interest during the summer session of 1911 was a visit to the campus by President-elect Dr. Edmund Dandridge Murdaugh. To the disappointment of the normal faculty, Murdaugh remained silent during his tour of the campus about any possible changes in teaching personnel. The only statement he made was to order faculty members who desired to retain their position to make application to him, enclosing recommendations and a letter from some prominent minister "as to their moral and social standing." After this simple declaration, Murdaugh returned to Claremore, Oklahoma, announcing he would not return until the middle of June. Despite his silence regarding future plans, the *Democrat* believed the new executive would make few alterations in personnel or policy at the institution. "Durant and the county will rejoice in Dr. Murdaugh's intention to maintain the institution's present high standing of excellence," the *Democrat* said, "one that is pointed to with pride by all of southeastern Oklahoma, particularly." The faculty, students, and citizens of Durant soon learned, however, the *Democrat* was terribly wrong. Murdaugh was indeed planning considerable changes at SEN.<sup>1</sup>

Edmund Dandridge Murdaugh came to the state of Oklahoma in January 1895 to assume the presidency of Oklahoma A&M College at Stillwater. Described as a "strikingly handsome man with steel gray hair, impeccable clothes, and a military type of poise and bearing," Murdaugh quickly became known as "one of the most able political orators in either Indian or Oklahoma territory, too." Born on November 18, 1853, at Uniontown, Alabama, the third son of the Reverend Edmund Christian Murdaugh, a Morengo County Anglican clergyman, and Roberta Henrietta Shields Murdaugh, the new president "descended from an illustrious Old Dominion family." The Reverend Murdaugh returned to Merchants Hope Parish as bishop of the Virginia Diocese soon after the birth of Edmund. Subsequently, the young Murdaugh attended the University of Virginia and, in 1867, he entered the preparatory school of William and Mary College; the next year he became a freshman student at that institution.

By the time he assumed control at Stillwater, Murdaugh's resume claimed the educator not only had a degree from William and Mary College but also held a Doctor of Pedagogy degree from the Maryland State Board of Education. In the years prior to his appointment at Oklahoma A&M, the executive had served for eighteen years as the head of a vocational school located in Eaton, Maryland—an institution regarded as the leading one of its kind in that state. The educator also had become well-known nationally for his pedagogical and psychological lectures; in fact, Murdaugh was indeed in "the vanguard of the movement to professionalize public school administration and teaching." Initially, Murdaugh enjoyed wide popularity as chief executive at A&M. Unfortunately, the period of euphoria Murdaugh experienced in Oklahoma did not last long. For unexplained reasons, less than three months after he became president, faculty relationships began to deteriorate and Dr. Murdaugh was dismissed from his post.<sup>3</sup>

Although behind-the-scene political conflicts probably caused the termination, the public explanation certainly aroused controversy. In a statement to the press, S. H. Kelsey, an outspoken member of the A&M Regents, declared politics had absolutely nothing to do with the change. He stated that Murdaugh was fired because of immoral conduct. A few months before his dismissal, Murdaugh had accepted an invitation by John Clark, a former member of the Regents, "to accompany some of the 'boys' on a camping trip." Campus gossip was that the campers had taken a large supply of alcohol along to their overnight site on Stillwater Creek. Following the outing, local reports charged that Murdaugh and the others "had too much to drink." And, "during the festive hours of the night, someone took a pair of shears to Murdaugh's hair, leaving abundant evidence that a barber had not done the trimming." Other such incidents had occurred too frequently, Kelsey further reported. "Reputable sources had informed the Board that Murdaugh had been under the influence of alcohol in a neighboring city," he asserted, and "that his behavior was so poor that a local Sunday School instructor had used the president as an example of intemperance in one of his classes." The last proof of Murdaugh's excessive drinking came, Kelsey concluded, because the dismissed executive "had appeared on the streets of Stillwater, in the saloons, and at his hotel room on the evening of his discharge in a 'maudlin condition from the effects of liquor.'"<sup>4</sup>

In fairness to Murdaugh, it should be noted, as Professor Philip Reed Rulon has written, "It is difficult to ascertain if the charges levied against Edmund Murdaugh were true, for no formal investigation was made nor do many documents pertaining to his administration currently exist." Professor Rulon also has suggested that the "accusations may have been exaggerated in order to justify a change in the leadership." Whatever the truth, Murdaugh did not leave Oklahoma after his release. Instead, he became the president of Central State Normal; after serving six years at Edmond, Murdaugh "organized the Northwestern Normal School at Alva, served as superintendent of the Woodward Public School System, and presided over the Claremore Military Academy." Between his terms at Woodward and Claremore, he returned to Maryland as president of the Frostburg Normal School. Then, in 1911, he accepted the presidency of Southeastern State Normal.

Following his return in late June, Murdaugh wasted little time in asserting his control over the Durant normal. The new president immediately expressed his belief that the institution must be upgraded considerably. Thus, he announced he would see that Governor Lee Cruce soon visited the normal to observe the dramatic need for better and more modern equipment at the school. Little did Murdaugh know that gubernatorial politics would soon threaten the very existence of the Durant school. Unfortunately for Oklahoma teachers and students, politics too often played a major role in the administration of school affairs in the early years of statehood in Oklahoma. Presidents, faculties, and the role of institutions often changed at the whim of governors and politicians—both state and local. Having served as president of Central State and Oklahoma A&M, Murdaugh was, of course, no stranger to the political world of Oklahoma educational activities. And, this political acumen served the institution well in the troubled years ahead—a development yet unforeseen.

In the first few weeks at Durant, President Murdaugh demonstrated that he possessed remarkable political abilities. As reported by the *Democrat*, "In some way or another he has secured an appropriation of \$10,000 which will be expended this month for schoolroom and laboratory equipment." The new administrator also found money to have workmen, under the direction of Professor N. E. Winters of the agriculture department, enhance the beauty of the campus grounds surrounding the normal. Experts were hired to repair leaks in the roof and weak places in the structure's foundation. Students returned in September to find

new desks and chairs in the classrooms and opera-style seats in the auditorium. Additional improvements included the following: the purchase of athletic equipment, a large shipment of books and periodicals for the library, over one thousand ft. of new blackboards, the first electric appliances for the domestic science department, and electric bells and clocks for the classrooms, library, and halls.<sup>6</sup>

Despite his elation about the accomplishments, the president publicly admitted the normal had further needs—ones over which he had no control. In his opinion, he faced a serious problem in getting students to come to Durant because of the high rates charged for room and board. In other state normal towns, he declared to the press, accommodations could be found for \$3.00 to \$3.50 per week—while Durant residents demanded \$4.00 to \$6.00. The exorbitant prices clearly served, the new president surmised, to discourage students from attending the Durant normal. Although Murdaugh's words to the press must have angered many residents, his selection of a faculty caused an even greater public outcry. Undoubtedly anticipating an adverse reaction, the new president telephoned the news concerning the faculty changes from Oklahoma City.<sup>7</sup>

To the displeasure of school loyalists, only seven of the original faculty members were retained. The Democrat immediately commented on the great public stir caused by Murdaugh's refusal to reappoint many of the faculty who had served under President Moore. In a statement about the unsettling news that many familiar faces would be gone from Southeastern, the Democrat commented that although "few were hopeless in the belief that they would be re-elected, but as politics seems to continue to prevail, the result will not cause any great surprise." Except for politics, the *Democrat* obviously believed that the entire faculty would have been retained. The dismissed faculty members, the paper decreed, "have labored in many ways to build up the school and the city and the people of Durant are due them a vote of thanks—a sincere word of appreciation." Furthermore, the paper frankly questioned whether the new president's action would strengthen the faculty. Only time would tell, the paper observed, if the professors selected by Murdaugh would prove to be as competent as the faculty which had been **fired?**

The 1911-1912 school year was different for more reasons than the appointment of a new president and many faculty members.

During late summer 1911, the State Board of Education announced a reform in the scholastic code for all state normals. Certain basic courses had to be offered by all the schools; and, henceforth, only two kinds of teaching certificates could be offered—a two-year certificate at the end of four years and the life certificate, or diploma, at the end of six years. All the normals would observe academic years divided into three terms of twelve weeks, with a summer term of ten weeks. All normal students must maintain a grade of at least 75 percent, and failure to do so would cause immediate suspension or dismissal.

On September 11, 1911, Southeastern opened its doors for a new fall semester. The traditional chapel service began with the invocation delivered by the Reverend W. P. Ripey of the Southern Methodist Church. Then, President Murdaugh addressed the assemblage. In a very strong lecture, he introduced a policy of strict supervision and rigid regulations for the conduct and performance of the faculty and students. "System, absolute system was the keynote of his remarks," an observer related. The new president did not intend for students or faculty to waste their time. "If there ever was a time when administrative and student activities were more lax than they should have been," the Democrat later observed, "that day is distinctly past." It was obvious that only men and young females "of worthy ambition" intent on seriously preparing themselves for life and the teaching profession should enter the doors of the normal. In conclusion, the paper stated that during Murdaugh's administration "loafers" and "good-time people" were not welcome at SEN. Everyone must have a growing pride in academics and efficiency, for these attributes "stamp an institution, and consequently those who go out as its graduates."<sup>8</sup>

Following the president's remarks, the faculty and students filed from the auditorium knowing, the Democrat reported, that school had started for certain. Yet, to the students' delight, Murdaugh had ended his speech by demonstrating his understanding that academic life must be accompanied by a good social atmosphere on campus. For one day, classes at SEN would be dismissed for the parade signaling the opening of the Bryan County Fair—one of the most exciting social events of the entire year for all persons in Bryan County in the early 1910s. With the town decorated with American flags flying over every business and along the sidewalks, the wondrous parade started with nine cannon shots followed by the blowing of whistles and the ringing of bells all over the city. Despite the marvels of the parade, the students



were probably even more excited about the week-long carnival which accompanied the fair. The Kennedy and Booger Carnival Show which furnished the country's widest variety of entertainment, including the world's largest steam merry-go-round and Ferris wheel, was unquestionably the biggest that most normal students had ever attended."

Another amazing occasion for the students occurred only a few days after the fair. On September 29, the pupils at Southeastern learned they would have an opportunity to see a real "aeroplane" fly over the campus. Most of the students and, in fact, most of the residents of Durant had never seen an airplane. After an exciting early morning vigil, at 8:00 A.M. fire bells, storm whistles, and bells ringing at Southeastern alerted the entire countryside of the imminent arrival. To the amazement of all, the "Birdman" not only flew over the city but also suddenly landed on a hill about two miles south of town near the cemetery. Here, the students rushed to see the aviator "all rigged out for heavy going" in his airship "with top boots, goggles, and cap."<sup>11</sup>

In early October, other extracurricular events including the beginning of the football season offered relief from the rigorous academic schedule. To the dismay of the blue and gold faithful, on October 2, the Teachers played their first football game against Ardmore High School and "were taught the science of football" by the visitors. Despite their disappointment in losing, the Southeastern team practiced harder and won the second game against Armstrong Academy. But the tremendous dramatics of the 1911-1912 term generated by the football victory, the appearance of "Birdman" Rodgers, the fair, and the demands of academic study, suddenly dimmed in mid-October with a serious announcement by the Oklahoma City press. The problems of overcrowded conditions and the need for more revenues paled with the appearance of a much more dangerous threat to the school's continued operation."<sup>12</sup>

On October 18, 1911, Governor Lee Cruce publicly declared he had reached the decision that Oklahoma had erred when the legislature created six state normal schools and four of the institutions should immediately be abolished. No other state in the union with a population as small as that of Oklahoma had half as many educational institutions. But because of political logrolling tactics, the governor had little hope the legislature would act; therefore, he made an emotional appeal to the voters for help. In his press release, Cruce remarked thusly:

The people are groaning under taxation that is becoming larger year by year, and with no hope of relief unless the people take hold and settle the matters in the right way. . . .

This is one case in which the people could very profitably to themselves and to the educational interests of the state invoke the initiative. . . .

What I am saying may not be popular, but some man in the state ought to give voice to the situation. . . .<sup>13</sup>

Despite the threatening news, the faculty and students continued their endeavors at Southeastern with as much enthusiasm as possible and hoped the governor's wishes would be ignored. Near the end of October much attention was focused on Murdaugh's announcement that the presidents of the normal institutions had agreed on a series of formal debate contests to be held between the schools. The basic plan contemplated an initial series of debates among the three schools on the west side of the state and similar contests among the three schools on the east side. The team receiving the most points on the west side would then debate their eastern counterpart for the state oratorical championship. The news created immediate excitement at Southeastern. Debating practice already played a major part in student life, and the chance to win a place on the team, to visit another school, and to defend the colors of SEN would indeed be a great honor. Tension on the campus further abated when in successive weeks the Southeastern football team played a tie game with Oklahoma Baptist College and defeated Northeastern State.<sup>14</sup>

At a celebration held in the auditorium characterized by uproarious college yells by the student body, Coach Laird addressed the students and faculty praising the cordial treatment and receptions the team had been accorded at Shawnee and Tahlequah. It was evident, he said, that citizens of both cities loyally supported their respective institutions by entertaining visiting teams, by closing their businesses and attending the contests in mass, and by contributing money to the school's athletic programs. The *Democrat*, in its report on the assembly, noted that Coach Laird's remarks had correctly questioned civic pride. In the opinion of the paper, one of the few negative aspects about events at Southeastern had been the lack of public support in the past—a situation which stemmed from ignorance about the nature of football and a

failure to perceive that the team played for the honor of Durant as well as for Southeastern. To the delight of Southeastern advocates, after losing to Dallas University, the Teachers were victorious in the next two games played against Hargrove College and Grayson County College. Also, it was clearly evident that the editorials of the *Democrat* had made an impression on some in the community; the Grayson County boys left the campus very impressed by the royal treatment they had received, especially the free tickets given them to a "first-class picture show."<sup>15</sup>

Regrettably, the remainder of the football season was not so glorious. After another loss, the season ended with the traditional game against Southeastern's arch rival, East Central State Normal. For the first time since football was inaugurated at the institution, Southeastern only managed to tie, not defeat, the Ada team. Any lingering disappointment soon vanished, however, with the beginning of the basketball season. After several weeks of practice, Coach Laird selected a team comprised of Lewis Riley, Rudy Helbach, William Durant, Roy Bridges, and Bailey Collins. But the happy campus atmosphere surrounding the start of basketball season and other festive events of the commencing winter term suddenly changed to an air of anxiety. The cause of the dramatic shift in mood resulted from a new series of reports circulating in the state press that the next legislature would drastically reduce the number of normals in Oklahoma. And, an initiative bill sponsored by Representative Oliver H. Akin, of Moore, and a referendum petition calling for a state-wide vote to abolish several normals did, in fact, surface in late 1911. In view of the reports, the faculty, administration, and student body of Southeastern went home for the holidays uncertain about their school's continued existence.<sup>16</sup>

To the relief of SEN proponents, by the time the winter term ended and the spring session began, the threatened referendum had failed to materialize. Then, in the middle of March, students and supporters of Southeastern State Normal were relieved and cheered to hear that the entire faculty and administration had been unanimously reappointed by the State Board of Education for the 1912-1913 year. As the *Democrat* observed, "This will indeed be pleasing news to the citizens of this city. . . . The entire faculty is working harmoniously and the past year has been very successful." With their futures assured, the faculty, administration, and students turned their attention to the two most important events

of the 1912 spring term—the annual Southeastern Oklahoma High School Track Meet and the Triangular Debate Contest.<sup>17</sup>

The third annual high school competition held on April 5 and 6 brought to the campus over two hundred student athletes, debaters, and musicians from such places in the southeastern part of the state as Ardmore, the 1911 champion, Pauls Valley, Marietta, Hugo, McAlester, Goodland Academy, Armstrong Academy, Tishomingo, and Shawnee. Showing their increasing support of events at the institution, the merchants of Durant gladly donated sufficient funds to purchase medals for the winners in each category. Furthermore, the faculty and many residents of Durant provided free room and board for the contestants, coaches, and chaperons; attendance was so great at the 1912 event that Southeastern's effort was second only to that of the state meet held every spring at Norman. Meanwhile, the Teachers baseball team provided another spectator sport for the students to enjoy during the spring."

During the latter part of March, school pride heightened as the time approached for the first annual Triangular Debate Contest. To the delight of the SEN students, the team from East Central had to travel to Durant for the big debate to be held at the First Christian Church in Durant. The question discussed in the contest was whether or not the commission form of government should be adopted in the cities of the United States. The affirmative side of the issue was defended by the Ada contestants, Mark Trent and Tony Edwards; Durant students, Dan Stewart and Lewis Riley, took the negative position. A sidelight to the 1912 debate contest was an event called the "Girls Declamation Contest," in which coeds vied for the honor of their school. Lena West, of East Central, spoke on the subject "The Death of Benedict Arnold," and Eugenia Carter, of Southeastern, presented "The Sign Of The Cross." When the men's debate ended, the Durant school had reason to celebrate; the judges awarded the victory to Stewart and Riley. Although Southeastern lost the next series of debates and thereby failed to win the championship, still a strong debate tradition had been started on the campus. A few weeks after the debate contests, the 1912 commencement activities took place. Extending over five days, the graduation week festivities included a concert by the normal chorus, the intersocietal contests, the drama club's presentation of the play, *Alma Mater*, and the commencement sermon preached by the Reverend Frederick Payne Thurston. The formal

awarding of diplomas on Tuesday, May 21, followed a commencement address for the twelve seniors by President Charles W. Bridges of East Central."

From all indications he had received by the time the 1912 commencement ceremonies ended, President Murdaugh believed hundreds of students would attend the summer session. To handle the numbers expected, he asked the Durant Chamber of Commerce to help make arrangements for the visitors' room and board. Responding admirably, the Chamber placed newspaper advertisements requesting residents who cared to make room in their homes for the teacher-students to notify the association as to how many they could accommodate, what price they would charge, how far from the normal residence was located, and whether they preferred men or women boarders; the response was immediate and enthusiastic. By the end of the first week of the summer term, it became apparent the 1912 session would be the largest in the school's short history—hundreds of teachers from eleven counties enrolled. The most significant summer development was that a large number of students took credits designed to lead toward a diploma; those students who were not seeking a degree took courses leading to the examinations for county certificates."

By the end of the second week, the attendance mark passed three hundred. As in past summer schools, the teachers and students were treated to several social gatherings arranged by the citizens of Durant and the faculty. One of the most important occurrences during the summer school of 1912 was the formation of an alumni association, which decided to hold an annual banquet. The dinner occurred on the evening of June 3 at the First Christian Church, where twelve members were initiated, and R. D. Hardy was elected president of the association. A favorite topic of conversation at the alumni celebration that night undoubtedly was how the campus beautification program which was initiated by President Murdaugh already had changed the appearance of the institution's grounds and how Southeastern was fast becoming one of the most beautiful schools in the entire state. The fact that two senior class members, Florence Gill and Lola Harris, had been elected to teaching positions in the Madill and Ardmore school systems obviously proved SEN was doing a great job in training competent teachers. Reports circulating on campus indicated the Kingston school system would soon hire several more recent graduates.<sup>21</sup>

During the latter part of June, the president returned from Oklahoma City where he had presided over a meeting of the normal school presidents. After his arrival home, Murdaugh announced the conference had agreed to a major change concerning the state normals and their respective summer schools. All state normals would henceforth be required to accept only those teachers for summer school who came from within a certain territory. The counties in Southeastern's district, Murdaugh told the press, included Atoka, Bryan, Carter, Choctaw, Jefferson, Latimer, LeFlore, Love, Marshall, McCurtain, McIntosh, Pittsburg, Pushmataha, and Stephens. The area covered 14,000 square miles and had a population of 300,000 people. The available scholastic population was estimated at 98,000 (white), and the number of teachers who would need to take courses was calculated to be 1,650 (white)."

Following the summer term, Southeastern State Normal opened its doors for a new academic year on Monday, September 9, 1912. The administration and faculty for the 1912-1913 school year basically remained the same as in the previous year. (See appendix B.) By the end of the first week of the new year, all attendance records had been surpassed. Professor Andrew S. Faulkner, the new director of the training school, reported that his department was filled to capacity and many pupils had to be turned away. Enrollment in the normal courses was so heavy that new sections had to be formed in beginning Latin and geometry. The normally busy first days on campus were made even more pleasant by Murdaugh's announcement that school again would be dismissed for one day so that students could patronize the Bryan County Fair.

The enthusiasm surrounding the fall term mounted at chapel service on October 1 when Coach Laird took the floor stating that "never in the history of Southeastern has there been brighter prospects in football." Naturally, Laird's declaration convinced the student body a great season was ahead. According to the *Democrat*, Laird's words served "to arouse the enthusiasm of the entire student body of Southeastern as it has never been before. Put it down, Southeastern will be on the Athletic Map before the season is over." Coach Laird also told the faculty and student body that Professor J. C. M. Kruntum had just returned from Oklahoma City where he represented Southeastern at the formal organization of the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Athletic Association, which had as its mission the betterment of athletics by completely eliminating the use of professional athletes in the schools. Coach

Laird said it was indeed creditable that Southeastern had been the first institution to ratify the constitution and by-laws and to pay the membership fee.<sup>23</sup>

Events occurring immediately following the chapel service revealed the higher degree of sophistication the young institution was rapidly achieving regarding the quality of student life on campus. After the assembly, every student was invited to gather at previously designated places to join one of the school's literary clubs. During the 1910s, literary societies were among the more important educational, social, and academic organizations on campus. One of the most active groups in the early years of the institution was the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). Under the leadership of President Edith Gragg and Vice-president Lydia Collins, more than fifty young ladies tried to make the YWCA "a living factor for the good of the campus" and its student body. One of the chief non-religious functions of the female group was to invite new girls to the frequent parties and receptions hosted by the group; traditionally, the first major social event of any new school year was the "Welcome To Southeastern Reception" given by the YWCA to all new students on campus.<sup>24</sup>

The Southeastern Debating Club was another student group of good merit. Formed in early 1912, the male organization dedicated itself to teaching each member "the art of self-expression and parliamentary law." The ultimate goal of the society was to make its members intellectually adaptable to ever-changing conditions in the institution and in American society. From its general membership were chosen the young men who represented Southeastern State Normal in the Triangular Debate Contest. A third early influential group was called the Delta Literary Society. This coed organization endeavored to promote literary appreciation, to develop originality and individuality, to awaken interest in current events, and to provide intellectual, cultural, and social pleasure. At their meetings during the 1912-1913 term, President Edwardine Wilmot Crenshaw, Vice-president Meda Smith, and Secretary Mary Ritchey urged the girls to live their motto of "Virtue, Perseverance, and Scholarship." Because they often wore pennants on their clothing bearing the Greek letters Delta, Gamma, and Sigma, the Deltas could be easily recognized on campus.<sup>25</sup>

A second female society founded in 1912 became known as the Place Aux Dames (Reserved For Women). Choosing the motto, "True Art Is To Conceal Art," the Place Aux Dames society was dedicated to the goal of enlivening campus life by providing

dramatic presentations for the students, faculty, and community at large. Charter members of the society included Joe Lou Adams, Bess Nolen, Lois Jarrell, Ruth Abbott, Ruth Dickerson, Ruth Cox, Julia BeaVert, Gladys Davis, Alma Fuller, Gertrude Nelson, Nelle Haynes, and Sue Pettey. The administration also encouraged the formation of coeducational clubs on campus. The Pierian Literary Society, for example, had more than thirty members during the 1912 term, of which almost one-half were male. Uniting in the motto, "The Light Of Truth Leads," the Pierian Society met every Saturday to hear programs consisting of essays, declamation, and musical numbers. Furthermore, the Pierian Society performed another valuable service to campus life. At every meeting the members were informed by the administration of current or future events at the normal; the society then acted as a human bulletin system for the dissemination of the information about campus events. For the 1912-1913 school year, Ben Blanchard served as president, Miriam Crenshaw served as vice-president, and Ola Human served as secretary.<sup>26</sup>

The social and scholarly interests of the first- and second-year students also received attention from the faculty in the early formative years. One literary organization, the Utopian Society, was expressly restricted to these students. At the meetings of the society in 1912-1913 presided over by President Waldo Schenk, Vice-president Oscar Palmer, and Secretary Mabelle Poole, the young students participated in programs of reading, piano solos, essays, orations, vocal solos, original stories, and a variety of contests. The faculty was so impressed by the work of the young scholars during their first year that they awarded them a handsome loving cup as a reward for their excellent work. Thereafter, the cup was given annually to the society judged to have provided the most service to the campus life during the year.<sup>27</sup>

Not all the early groups at Southeastern were created for literary or other educational goals. Two student organizations existed merely for recreational and social activities. These two organizations, basically pre-Greek societies, known as the Daughters of Rest and the Sons of Rest boasted that they organized "to discover among ourselves the missing link in Darwin's Theory of Evolution" and "to retard the mad rush" for study and deliberation. According to their mottos, the memberships consisted entirely of "the laziest girls and boys in school." Officers carried such exalted titles as "Her Laziness," for President Ruth Cox, and "Chief," for President William "Weasley" Jones. The inspiring

slogan of the Sons of Rest declared "Raw Buck-Saw Buck-Malum Labor Est! Rest Ever-Work Never-Ah-h-h-Amen." Decrying the fact that "the faculty compelled them to work against their natural inclination," the female society claimed in the 1913 *Holisso* that members often won campus medals for class cutting, assembly shunning, big talking, and society doing. In keeping with their efforts to appear frivolous, both groups added much societal gaiety to campus life at Southeastern.<sup>28</sup>

One club on the campus allowed only faculty to join its ranks. Known as the Pedagogical Club, the members of this learned society met to study scientific methods of teaching and pedagogical questions. Under the direct and strict supervision of President Murdaugh, the faculty took turns leading discussions on academic material at weekly gatherings. At meetings of the faculty club, President Murdaugh used the time trying to encourage the faculty to improve their knowledge. Notes taken at the meetings indicate the president often kept the faculty for lengthy sessions while he lectured on pedagogical subjects. The minutes of the club further demonstrated that the chief executive used the time to insure that the faculty were abreast of the current political tides in the state of Oklahoma. Because the sessions were very formal and systematic affairs, it is very doubtful anyone left the Pedagogical Club sessions wondering who was the boss at Southeastern.<sup>29</sup>

Besides the enthusiasm created by the organization of the various clubs and societies, the faculty and students experienced a sense of growing school spirit as the time approached for the first football game of the season. As the SEN students hoped and Coach Laird confidently had predicted, the 1912 Teachers certainly were capable of playing great football. A colorful post game press report of the long-awaited event read as follows:

Toward the close of last week Coach Laird's men held a solemn pow-wow at the Normal, and . . . their coach made medicine while the braves. . . watched the chief draw curious figures with chalk upon the board. . . . When the pow-wow broke up, the braves hurried to their tents and donned their war togs. . . .

Laird with his first team chose to attack the village of Ardmore, having heard that the tribe there was strong in numbers and possessed of skillful warriors. . . .

But the story of the pluck and daring of Coach Laird's band had fired the whole Normal camp with enthusiasm upon the return of the victorious braves. . .

Although written in a lighthearted manner, the article about SEN's victory over Ardmore had a long-lasting effect. Actually, the newspaper accurately portrayed an important aspect of the developing history of Southeastern State Normal, which was located in the old Choctaw Nation. The influence of the Indian culture of the region played a significant role in the life of the institution, songs, school yells, and athletic teams later demonstrated the Indian heritage that was proudly respected by SEN. This newspaper article was probably the first attempt in the school's history to link the institution with the Indian community in the public mind. The concept grew tremendously in the years ahead.<sup>30</sup>

Southeastern's second game ended in a victory over Burleson College, unfortunately, the joy of this victory and the remainder of the football season was greatly dimmed by the news that Coach Laird had suddenly become seriously ill with typhoid fever. For nearly two months Laird suffered such an extended case of the disease that everyone at SEN feared for his life. But, as the 1913 winning record published in the *Holisso* showed, the athletes worked harder in dedication for their sick leader. During Coach Laird's absence, Professor A. W. Gilliland admirably assumed the management of the Teachers.<sup>31</sup>

While the students savored the two victories on the gridiron, a major social event of the fall term occurred in mid-October when the seniors met at the home of their class sponsor, Professor Myra Williams, where the students filled their arms with chickens, frying pans, coffee pots, and hiked to Chuckwa Creek. A few minutes after arriving at the beautiful spring, the boys made a blazing log fire and the girls soon had the chicken fried and the coffee made. Later in the evening, the fire was rebuilt and the seniors gathered around to listen and to discuss the past history of the school and its faculty. Many times during the early decades of SEN's history this scene would be repeated. Another of the social happenings of the 1912 fall term was the annual candy-pulling contest held for the senior class at the home of Bertha Washington. Members of the faculty were also present to compete with the seniors in hilarious contests of pulling and eating various candies.<sup>32</sup>

Pep assemblies held during the next few weeks inspired the SEN football stars to defeat Austin College and Kingston High

School. The victories set up a Thanksgiving Day meeting with Southeastern's old foe, East Central State Normal, for the so-called championship of the state normal schools. For weeks the atmosphere on campus remained electrified. Not even the holding of final examinations in the middle of November diminished the anticipation of the championship pigskin contest. To encourage a spirit of enthusiasm and support at the institution, students such as Walter Chitwood and Grady Wann drew and pinned signs of huge skulls and crossbones with the inscription "Old Ada" all over the campus. According to the *Democrat*, biology classes at Southeastern dissected a crow revealing the oracles of the gods. The outcome of the alleged operation on the sacrificial bird, the humorous account related, supposedly predicted a Southeastern victory. In reporting the spirit existing on the campus, the *Democrat* stated that since the time of the pronunciation, "excitement had been running at fever heat."<sup>33</sup>

The height of the emotion surrounding the game became evident in other ways. Under the rules governing intercollegiate play between the normal schools, Ada was required to pay the travel expenses of only fifteen visiting players; the SEN faculty and students would have to raise the money for the team to carry any extra men on the trip. Consequently, at the last chapel exercise held before the game, Professor Gilliland announced that his wife had baked a chicken pie, and it was on its way to the auditorium to be sold to the highest bidder. Following the auction for the pastry, the young ladies of the domestics department announced additional pies and cakes would be sold in the hall and other places on campus. The proceeds paid the expenses of several players who otherwise would have missed the chance to play in the "championship game."

As all loyal fans of SEN fervently hoped, on Thanksgiving Day the Southeastern Teachers won a decisive victory over East Central. The outcome of the thrilling contest was undecided until the fourth quarter when Southeastern rallied to score three times within the last ten minutes of play, the *Democrat* reported. For Southeastern, Bailey Collins was easily recognized as the offensive star because of his running and passing from his halfback position. Also, Fred Early played an equally inspiring game blocking passes and gaining valuable yardage from his fullback position. Walter Chitwood and Calvin Bryant played a great game on the defensive side of the line. The support shown the athletes by

the faculty, the community, the administration, and the students of the Durant school was also outstanding.<sup>34</sup>

Responding to the newspaper's cry, "On to Ada," many people from the community hoarded a chartered train to attend the out-of-town contest to cheer their team on to victory. As could be expected, the win over Ada provided the occasion for many stomp dances, yelling contests, bonfires, and other public celebrations for the next week or two in honor of the victorious season. The single most impressive event was a formal victory supper given in honor of the team by the president at the Merchants Cafe. The meal consisted of a delectable, expensive oyster fry, "which the young men enjoyed very much." Soon after the celebration, Murdaugh announced that he had received a large panoramic photograph of the game which would be framed, displayed to the entire student body at a victory assembly, and then hung in his office; thus, SEN's great moment in athletics would always be on permanent display.<sup>35</sup>

In early November, the *Democrat* published a very long front page editorial entitled "Southeastern Normal Rapidly Forging Ahead." As the community soon learned, there was an ominous cause for the paper's article. The Durant publisher had learned that a new rumor was circulating throughout the state intimating that many citizens considered the state normals to be a waste of taxpayers' monies. To help counteract such an opinion, the *Democrat* decided to editorialize about the tremendous value it believed the normal to be to the Durant community and southeastern Oklahoma. According to the editorial, the citizens of the city had ample reason to be proud of the splendid advancements which the normal had made in "the efficiency of its organization and the extension of its usefulness to the people of southeastern Oklahoma." Letters constantly arrived at President Murdaugh's office asking for teachers, and the demands could not be met due to the scarcity of college graduates in Oklahoma, the paper reported. "This fact alone is a most convincing argument," the *Democrat* declared, "to the citizen his money is being expended in no dubious enterprise, but that our normals are meeting a social and civic demand in preparing leaders to instruct our youth in domestic, social, economic and political duties which shall presently confront them as responsible individuals of the community and citizens of our commonwealth." The paper also praised the atmosphere of harmony existing between the president and the faculty "regarding the promotion of a higher standard of scholarship, punctuality, and

preparation on the part of the students of the normal." If there ever was a time when student activities and scholarship might not have been up to expected standards, the Democrat observed, that era had ended.<sup>36</sup>

The paper assured its readers that the marked improvement in the scholastic attitude at SEN was clearly evident all over the campus. For example, the Democrat said, "The senior class, the largest in the history of the Normal, is busily engaged shouldering the responsibility of publishing a creditable annual this year." The paper praised the seniors for getting out in the community and working for funds to defray the \$700 publication cost. As the student editor, Edith McKean, explained in the introduction to the annual, the word *Holisso* was the Choctaw Indian expression for book. The 1912-1913 *Holisso* was the first hardback edition of the Southeastern State Normal annual ever printed. The quality of the writing, printing, pictures, and coverage of faculty and student life set a high standard for later editions.<sup>37</sup>

The air of apprehension concerning the normal's existence increased as the Christmas holidays approached when Governor Lee Cruce announced he would insist that the next legislature abolish several of the state normals. The time had come, he believed, for a final decision on the school matter. While professing he was not an enemy of education, the governor remarked to the state press that he was opposed to "a policy that makes the state spend money like a drunken sailor does his shore allowance." Following the chief executive's pronouncement that a showdown would occur in the fourth legislature, press reports soon revealed many state representatives feared the governor might succeed if payrolls and other expenses were not cut drastically at the normal institutions.<sup>38</sup>

Undaunted by the threatening reports coming from the Oklahoma City press and encouraged by the kind words of the Democrat, President Murdaugh and the faculty continued their enthusiastic activities at the institution. As further evidence of the school's worth, President Murdaugh proudly told the press in December 1912 that the Board of Public Affairs recently had made an inspection visit to the campus and had favorably commented on the modern and excellent appearance of the institution. One of the Board members remarked that the curriculum arrangement was excellent and that the teachers of the Durant normal were accomplishing more "than the teachers of any of the six normals." The observations of the State Board of Public Affairs regarding

Southeastern were fair and accurate. During the last week of November 1912, President Murdaugh, for example, had taken time to address the teachers of Madill. As the Board had discovered, there existed a constant demand for the president to address the teachers in the various counties in the southeastern district. Others from the institution also catered to the needs of southeastern Oklahoma. In early December, Professor W. T. Dodson represented Southeastern at the LeFlore County Teachers Association, where he delivered a lecture on "The Proper Fitness Of A Teacher." During the Thanksgiving holidays Professor Adolph Linscheid had delivered an address before the Choctaw County Teachers Association in Hugo. Because of the deeds of the faculty, there could be no question that Southeastern's education admirers in the counties were rapidly advancing in numbers by the 1912-1913 term.<sup>39</sup>

Several events in early December 1912 made those present at Southeastern partially forget the threatening comments made by the governor. The most dramatic one happened on December 7 when Coach Laird, who had been absent for nearly two months "stole into his office" during the chapel hour. Informed of the beloved teacher's return during the assembly, Murdaugh instructed the football team to rise and bring him to the auditorium on their shoulders. "As the thin but smiling face of Prof. Laird appeared at the door above the shoulders of the husky first team," deafening shouts erupted in the auditorium and continued long after the still seriously weakened professor had been seated. The joy demonstrated by the return of the respected teacher unquestionably demonstrated the deep affection and admiration the students held for Laird and the remainder of the faculty. It is very doubtful that anyone present at that poignant moment would ever think of allowing the school to be destroyed because of political maneuvers in Oklahoma City.<sup>40</sup>

And, if it became the immediate intention of the administration, faculty, and students of SEN to demonstrate the continuing worthiness of their institution to the governor and legislature, they certainly were equal to the task. On the night of December 19, 1912, the residents of Durant and southeastern Oklahoma were treated to a comic opera at the Durant Opera House. The roles were performed by faculty, students, and several members from the Durant population at large. Newspaper reports about the presentation of the opera, *Silvia*, proclaimed that no words of praise could

be too strong when referring to the professional abilities demonstrated by the directors and actors involved in the production. With such cultural activity radiating from the normal students, there could be no doubt, the *Democrat* obviously believed, about the value of the institution to Durant and the surrounding area of southeastern Oklahoma. Perhaps the paper was too lavish in its "critic's" praise, but the fact remained that the community thoroughly enjoyed the presentation from all accounts.<sup>41</sup>

Another bright hope on campus in December was that the fantastic record of the football season would be recreated with the arrival of the basketball campaign. After only a few days of practice, interim Coach Gilliland confidently stated, "We are going to have lots of good material to pick from this season, and we expect to have a winning team." Although the coach scheduled two games before the Christmas holidays, for some unexplained reason, the contests never took place. In fact, apparently, there was no basketball season at all for the 1912-1913 year; no scores or pictures of basketball players appeared in the Durant papers or the 1913 *Holisso*. One can only speculate about what caused the season's

Certainly there was no shortage of qualified athletes and school spirit was not depressed, as the triumphant return of Coach Laird clearly showed. Perhaps President Murdaugh decided, given Governor Cruce's attitude about the normals wasting the taxpayers' monies, that Southeastern should not spend funds for athletic events at that time. In view of events in early January 1913, such a decision was a wise move by the chief administrator if that is what happened. The spring term at Southeastern had barely begun before the clouds threatening the school's existence darkened. Shortly after the legislature convened in Oklahoma City in early January, the political issue concerning the state normals heated considerably; yet, in spite of Governor Cruce's insistence, members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives refused to accept his demand for the immediate abolition of the normals. On February 28, 1913, the solons rejected a bill which would have eliminated twelve state schools, including Southeastern. Nevertheless, the dire threat remained as long as the governor continued adamant in his desire to destroy the normals.<sup>43</sup>

Despite the situation in Oklahoma City, the faculty and students of SEN tried to go about their lives in an orderly, routine, and positive manner. February was a time for several notable social events. An exceptionally appropriate party for the season was

given for the senior class by their sponsor, Professor Myra Williams, at the home of Professor and Mrs. Allen Berger on the evening of February 22. The guests arrived at the social wearing costumes representing some famous American colonial character. In a contest held to judge the most elaborately dressed, Professor and Mrs. Faulkner, who impersonated John and Priscilla Alden on their way to church, emerged victorious. After an elaborate lunch had been served, Professor Gilliland, dressed as Uncle Sam, told the fortunes of the seniors. Class pride demanded that the juniors not permit the seniors to outdo them in any social activity. On Valentine's eve, Morris Lively, the president of the junior class, had entertained his fellow members and friends with a party at his home on West Main. After enjoying songs, music, and dancing, an archery contest determined winners of party prizes consisting of boxes of candy and large valentines.<sup>44</sup>

While the social season was in full swing, Southeastern took two additional strides forward in Oklahoma intercollegiate activities. For the first time in its history, SEN had a track team in the spring of 1913. This first effort in fielding a track squad included a March meet against Armstrong Academy and a match between the normals on the east side of the state in May. For his great effort in the track season and other sports, Rudy Helbach was named best all-around male athlete for the year; his most remarkable accomplishment was a five ft. four in. effort in the high jump. Further, in the 1913 spring session the fielding of the first real Southeastern baseball team occurred. This team, unlike earlier unsuccessful attempts at organization, actually played a series of games. Dressed in uniforms with Southeastern printed on the front, the team won six out of eight games played.<sup>45</sup>

While the fate of the normal schools continued to be debated in Oklahoma City, the faculty and students turned their attention to the two occasions held every spring at the institution. One of these was, of course, the Triangular Debating Team championship. The four young men chosen to defend the school's honor were Leonard Wells Thomason, Walter N. Chitwood, Dan D. Stewart, and Morris U. Lively. For the 1913 oratorical contests, the Tahlequah team came to Durant, and Southeastern's men traveled to Ada. For several weeks Durant students planned an uproarious arrival for their opponent.

On March 28, the Tahlequah team was greeted at the railroad station where normal school colors and pennants of various shapes



and descriptions were evidenced everywhere, the *Democrat* reported. After the Tahlequah team stepped off the train to the blaring of horns and other noisemakers, the *Democrat* related that a parade was held that "far excelled any circus parade ever yet to be seen in the city." Routed through the main streets of the town and ending at the Atwood Hotel, the parade was headed by the SEN debating team riding in an automobile, and Dr. Murdaugh driving a horse and buggy. Next came the Tahlequah debaters sitting on a wagon with the word "Doomed" written on the sides. Tied to the vehicle of the visiting team was a goat carrying a sign proclaiming "We Got Tahlequahs Goat"; next, the crowd saw a buggy containing a skeleton which was taken from the biology department and was bearing a placard reading "Tahlequah Hasn't Got A Ghost Of A Show." Following the skeleton float was a large hoodlum band badly attempting to play musical numbers from pieces of horn, tubes, tin cans, and many other ridiculous instruments. When the "hoodlum parade" ended, the visiting team received a cordial welcome to the city by Dr. Murdaugh and Durant civic leaders.<sup>46</sup>

The formal debate was held that evening in the sanctuary of the First Christian Church which had been decorated with pennants of blue and gold. To the overwhelming delight of Southeastern partisans, the contest concluded with the judges declaring Stewart and Lively the winners. Meanwhile, SEN debaters, Chitwood and Thomason, journeyed to Ada where they won similar honors. With the east side championship reigning at Southeastern, the faculty, students, and citizens of Durant anxiously awaited the state championship debate with Northwestern State, the west side champions. To the disappointment of Southeastern loyalists, the team of Stewart and Lively failed to win by only a few points.<sup>47</sup>

The other major event of the spring term was the annual Southeastern high school meet. By the spring of 1913, the high school gathering had become so expanded that it required a new name; the event became known as "The Southeastern Oklahoma Inter-High School Track and Field Meet—Piano, Declamation and Oratorical Contest." The direction of the meet was, as always, under the leadership of Professor Laird. By April 1, it became apparent that the 1913 meet would be the largest ever held as over thirty cities informed Laird they would send teams and fans to Durant. The *Democrat* immediately supported Southeastern and Professor Laird by publishing an editorial stating that although

the citizens of Durant were to be congratulated on their hospitality and loyal support of Southeastern in the past, a much greater effort would be needed that year to take care of the great numbers of visitors expected in the city.<sup>48</sup>

When the meet took place on April 11 and 12, the highest expectations were realized. Even the railroads of southeastern Oklahoma did their part; in honor of Southeastern's high school gathering, all the railroads running through the city reduced fares from the ninth through the thirteenth of April. Many cities took advantage of this opportunity. Ardmore, for instance, sent over one hundred contestants, faculty, and citizens. Nearly one thousand visitors came to the city where they were provided with room and board, free entertainment, and tickets to the local theatres; as Murdaugh's correspondence revealed, Durant and the normal truly had proven themselves to be wonderful hosts. A letter from Superintendent C. N. Richards, of the Ardmore school system, for example, related the appreciation many people held for the tremendous efforts expended on their behalf. According to Superintendent Richards, "My teachers and pupils all came back from Durant Saturday evening and have been singing your praises ever since. A tour celebration in chapel this morning, I believe that the treatment accorded by you and the people of Durant was mentioned as often as the victory of the men on the team."<sup>49</sup>

The attention the faculty and students gave to the meet was even more remarkable given the fact that the very life of Southeastern had once again come under fire; this time the threat, unlike previous periods of anxiety, became a reality. The renewed level of apprehension started when the abolition forces under the mandate of Governor Lee Cruce resumed their attack on the state normals in early February. Their efforts proved fruitless until early March when a farmers' caucus and many republican members of the legislature formed a new political combination designed to eliminate the normals. Led by Representative H. H. Smith, of Pottawatomie County, the abolitionists charged that several of the representatives from the area of the established normals had used the issue of education and the goal of destroying ignorance in Oklahoma to control millions of dollars in taxpayers' monies for their own political fortunes.<sup>50</sup>

On March 3, 1913, in one of the most bitter debates ever witnessed on the floor of the Oklahoma House of Representatives,

Representative Smith chastised supporters of the schools by declaring that there was "a nasty political combination in the legislature," who wished "to take money out of the pockets of the people already groaning with an overburden of taxation and place it in the local schools." Answering Smith with a face crimson with anger, Representative Archibald Bonds, of Rogers County, in a long and spirited rebuttal, denied that a combination of political interests representing the normals existed. Bonds declared that he and many like-minded members would not allow Smith and the governor to destroy the battle to eradicate ignorance in the state. Finally, he charged that Smith was trying to create an issue upon which he could run for the speakership. The inference concerning the speakership was clear. Bonds obviously believed the only thing saving the institutions was the fact that he and other representatives like William A. "Bill" Durant controlled the leadership of the lower chamber, and their power must be broken if the normals were to be abolished. There can be no doubt that Bonds was correct; men such as Durant, the immediate past speaker and chairman of the powerful Committee on Appropriations, did not intend for the normal to be destroyed while he served and still held power.<sup>51</sup>

Concern intensified when, on March 6, 1913, the headlines of several state papers read "State Normals Are In Great Danger." As the papers revealed, forces in the House led by Durant failed to secure passage of an appropriation bill for the continued operation of the schools. Alarmed, Southeastern proponents in Durant immediately organized a lobby group led by Dr. James L. Schuler and Colonel J. H. Downing to meet with Governor Cruce and legislative leaders in an effort to save the institution. Although the work of these concerned citizens was admirable, they failed. In an interview with the governor, the Durant citizen delegation could not ascertain whether or not he intended to support the continued operation of the Durant normal; Cruce simply stated he intended to seek the abolition of at least three of the institutions.<sup>52</sup>

Meanwhile, the Senate appeared to be in a different mood. On March 8, 1913, the upper chamber passed a measure appropriating \$56,400 for Southeastern's operation for the next two years. Faced with this legislative action, Governor Cruce responded in the press by declaring he still intended to abolish three or more state normals. Soon after the Senate's action, the legislature recessed for a few days in late March. During the adjournment, Representative Durant paid a visit to his beloved Southeastern. The purpose of his appearance at an assembly on March 20 was to reassure all those

present that he would find some way to defeat the attempt to abolish the institution. As the solon waited for the meeting to start, "His face was that of a warrior cheered by the prospect of his cause," one observer stated.<sup>53</sup>

Following a chorus of three "Hip-Hip-Hoo-Rahs" and a standing ovation in his honor, Southeastern's patron explained the current status of the legislative battle and warned those in attendance that they must be vigilant. "From the opening day of the regular session to its close, covering sixty-eight days, there was not an hour when the school was not in jeopardy through political intrigue," Durant reportedly said. The legislator blamed the problems on demagogues who wanted to destroy Oklahoma's education establishment through the false argument of unfair high taxes. Opponents of Southeastern and the normals simply did not wish to pay their fair share of taxes to educate Oklahoma's masses, he asserted. Finally, Durant informed the assemblage he had told the governor that he would marshal his forces to defeat the newest proposed threat, the so-called Woodward Resolution—named for W. G. Woodward.<sup>54</sup>

This resolution, in essence, contemplated placing the issue of the normals' survival to a vote of the people in a general election. In concluding his address, Durant promised he would see that an appropriation bill for Southeastern passed both chambers. The former speaker pledged, "We will pass appropriations for all the normals and put it squarely up to the governor to kill them if he dares, and in the event Southeastern should be closed I will personally campaign the state in support of the governor who will again open her doors." Finally, Durant asked those in attendance for their continued support in writing letters to the legislature for the next session. Following Durant's speech, President Murdaugh addressed the group concerning a recent interview which he had been granted with the governor. Showing "his undying affection for the normal school work and life of Southeastern," Murdaugh related that he was willing to "forego his salary and give his last dollar to see Southeastern live." Although he had admitted his meeting with the state's chief executive had failed to change Cruce's mind regarding abolition of the normals, the silver-haired president declared, "Students! I want to make a prophecy here today, that **from** this time forward Southeastern takes new hope, and that in spite of governors and legislators Southeastern will continue to live."<sup>55</sup>

Before the legislature adjourned, a Normal Investigative Committee had been appointed by the solons to visit the several campuses. A few days after the legislators went home, the fact-finding group arrived on the campus; the delegation consisted of representatives Thomas Hunter, of Choctaw County; J. L. Spangler, of LeFlore County; and R. J. Morgan, of Jackson County. Upon their arrival at SEN, the legislators were immediately presented a scholarly brief about the state normals, which detailed the scholastic, social, and other activities offered to their students and the communities in which they resided. The document, which was compiled by lawyers, doctors, bankers, educators, and businessmen, clearly related to the citizens and lawmakers of Oklahoma the great benefits being derived from the educational institutions.

After a meeting with Dr. Murdaugh, the visitors carefully inspected the grounds and the school building "paying particular attention to the character of the student body and the grade of work being done." After thoroughly reviewing the school, the committee attended an assembly, where they confessed their prejudice toward the schools before they had started on their investigative trip. In a stirring statement, Representative Spangler declared that he and the others had changed their minds about the value of Southeastern and the other normals. "If any of these normals are abolished," he declared, "it will be because the entire membership of the legislature could not be with us on this tour of inspection." Representative Morgan spoke in conclusion, declaring that he and his fellow members of the House Investigative Committee had pledged they would return to Oklahoma City and try to "educate the governor" against abolishing the normals. Furthermore, they would insist that the appropriations be increased and the institutions be better equipped.<sup>56</sup>

The changed attitude of the committee unfortunately did not alter the governor's mind. The struggle continued in Oklahoma City during April, while supporters of Southeastern constantly worried about the outcome. Then, in the middle of the month, the break which Dr. Murdaugh and everyone at Southeastern had hoped for became a reality; on April 15, 1913, the Woodward Resolution met defeat. A disagreement over the exact nature of the proposal to be presented to the voters offered an opportunity for William Durant and his allies to stop the measure. Governor Cruce and the Woodward coalition wanted the issue to be presented to the people on a ballot containing the names of all the state normals. The voters would merely check the ones they wished to continue in

existence; the three normals receiving the lowest number of total votes for their continued operation would be closed.

Fortunately, this concept was totally unacceptable to enthusiasts of the state schools. As an alternative, Durant and his legislative comrades argued that first an election should determine if the electorate wished any of the schools to be eliminated. If a majority voted favorably, the issue of which schools should be abolished would then be presented. Furthermore, the opponents declared that all of the state schools, including the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma A&M, should be on the second ballot. The controversy over the form of the resolution instantly deadlocked the House of Representatives; and, in the resulting anger and confusion, the lower chamber voted to kill the question for the moment.

To overcome the governor and his forces, Durant and other House members quickly moved to seize this opportunity. Declaring that since the Woodward Resolution was no longer a current issue, the legislators should immediately pass an appropriations bill and lay the responsibility for abolition with the governor, who had started the entire controversy. If Cruce wished to close the institutions, he could veto the appropriations bill. When informed of the legislative action and asked what he intended to do about it, Cruce replied, "I have nothing to say on that point." When the bill actually passed both houses, however, the governor reacted angrily to his defeat. His renewed animosity immediately instilled new fear in the hearts of Southeastern loyalists. On April 23, headlines in various Oklahoma papers proclaimed the governor had become adamant—he was quoted as saying he would veto the appropriations for the normals "he thought were useless." All Cruce would say when asked which one of the three normals on the east side of the state he would allow to continue was that he would give the supporters from Ada, Tahlequah, and Durant one final interview before abolishing two of the three institutions.<sup>57</sup>

Faced with the governor's veto threat, the House of Representatives, in a state of confusion which approached panic, recalled the Woodward Resolution and passed the measure—after eliminating the two largest state institutions from the proposal. Oklahoma A&M and the University of Oklahoma had been removed from the list because state officials had decided that state law mandated those two schools could only be abolished by constitutional amendment. Unable to stop the initial, hasty deliberations, Durant and other representatives supporting the normals reacted instantly to the newest threat, charging that the

Woodward Resolution could not have passed without representatives from the University and the A&M college towns "breaking faith with them." Durant and his pro-normal colleagues voted to slash the appropriations for the two big schools. Meanwhile, Durant and his forces lobbied to defeat the Woodward measure in the Senate. To the relief of all those who loved Southeastern, the Bryan County representative and his fellow members were successful. Debate in the upper chamber soon demonstrated the measure might pass, but only after the two large colleges were put back on the ballot to take their chances with the voters as well. Some senators, obviously fearing the people might vote to abolish the state university, decided to delay passage of the Woodward proposal. With the Senate action, the House agreed to restore the appropriations for the state university.<sup>58</sup>

After learning of the demise of the abolition bill, on April 25, 1913, Governor Cruce signed the appropriations measure for Southeastern and the other normals. In the end, the governor refused to veto the bill as he had threatened because, as he explained to the press, he could see nothing to be gained by a temporary closing of the institutions. Naturally, the administration, the faculty, the students, and the residents of southeastern Oklahoma rejoiced at the news. But, the celebration was short-lived; within days the chief executive let it be known he would try a different tactic to present the matter to the electorate. Representative Woodward and Governor Cruce again joined forces to recommend the adoption of a citizen-initiated abolition bill. The chief executive announced he would call a special election for August 5, 1913, if the initiated drive succeeded. By early May, the proponents of the normals could only wait and see how successful the governor's new plan would be. Then, on May 12, 1913, shouts of cheer could be heard on the Southeastern campus. The news finally broke that Southeastern's existence was assured. The committee drafting the initiated bill had decided not to include the institution on the proposed list for possible abolition.

In time, because the public did not respond, the entire effort was dropped. Therefore, through the efforts of Durant and other education-minded legislators, the most serious crisis in Southeastern's history had passed. For his great effort on their behalf, a grateful student body and faculty dedicated the annual *Holisso* to their legislative hero. In part, the dedication page read as follows: "To the Honorable William A. Durant without whose interested and able assistance 'Southeastern' would have perished." Besides

the good news from Oklahoma City, Dr. Murdaugh and the faculty were further cheered by the announcement in late May that with one exception they had all been reelected to serve the next school year. For personal reasons, Professor Gilliland had asked for a transfer to another normal. Commenting on the good news, the Democrat said that the community should rejoice at the announcement because Dr. Murdaugh's reappointment insures "another successful year's work and the continued healthy growth of power and influence of the school."<sup>59</sup>

Thrilled with the knowledge that they would be allowed to spend their senior year at SEN, the juniors of the normal engaged in scenes of rejoicing which approached the ridiculous. On May 16, for example, the headlines of the Democrat announced, "Students Indulge In Class Fight At The Normal." According to the report in the newspaper, the junior class had been trying to gain recognition of their coming importance, and this "smug" attitude had been rejected by members of the sophomore class. The result of the spirited competition was a tussle in the halls of the administration building. Although the average person might think such a demonstration by the students was not newsworthy, the administration felt differently about the incident.<sup>60</sup>

To President Murdaugh and the faculty, it showed a healthy attitude on the part of the students. As the school catalog stated about such events, "One does not have to be around Southeastern long to discover that it is a real, live school. Class spirit was never so high, and yet it is good-natured." A few days after the *Democrat* reviewed this demonstration of silliness, it reported, in sharp contrast, a most solemn and dignified occasion which had taken place on campus. In an article describing the commencement exercise held for the 1913 graduating class, the *Democrat* said the increased number of graduates and the tremendous events which had taken place during the school term demonstrate that "Southeastern State Normal has forged ahead until today she ranks as a firmly established institution for the higher preparation of teachers and enjoys a growing confidence in the state, which means that the school is just entering upon a career of growth and usefulness of which but few of its closest friends had ever dreamed."<sup>61</sup>

After a summer school session which had hundreds in attendance working on certificates and, most impressive, 224 who did credit work toward a diploma, Southeastern started its fifth annual term on the morning of September 9, 1913. By the end of the first week, over two hundred students had enrolled in the

normal department — again of 33 percent from the preceding year. Both Murdaugh and the faculty felt especially encouraged because a great many of the new students were high school graduates — “a most gratifying sign.” Coeds returning to campus were delighted to discover that several businessmen in Durant had formed a corporation and built a dormitory located close to the normal school building. The new domicile was presided over by a matron; therefore, parents could rest assured their daughters would receive attentive care and supervision. Certainly no parent could complain about the small charge of \$4.50 per week. Furthermore, the dinners served in the new housing facility were so good, the *Democrat* reported that “the entire faculty, headed by the president, take their dinner there every day.”<sup>62</sup>

As in other years, Dr. Murdaugh insisted the faculty meet regularly once a week and that part of the time be spent studying pedagogical subjects. During the year such topics as, “What can we do to improve the English of our pupils?” and “The development of the normal school ideal,” were discussed at the staff meetings. As in the past, the strict control always exercised over the faculty by Murdaugh continued. In a meeting on January 10, 1914, Professor W. T. Dodson, who acted as secretary for the faculty gatherings, noted that teachers who did not attend the state association meeting were asked to state in writing the reason for their absence. On April 8, 1914, Dodson wrote, “Dr. Murdaugh announced everything was quiet on the Potomac, and the watchword ‘All is Well’ had gone down the battle line. For some unknown and mysterious reason, he was in a good humor, a condition rarely experienced and most highly appreciated by the members present.” Dodson also recorded that “as the session closed, Dr. Murdaugh reminded all male members of the faculty that they were required to accompany him Sunday afternoon to attend the YMCA meeting.”<sup>63</sup>

At the beginning of the 1913 fall term, several new social organizations made their appearance on campus. With the telling motto, “We Live To Eat,” the aim of the Chafing Dish Club was easy to guess. Dedicated to having a “good time,” the girls in the organization boasted that “nothing pertaining to books, laboratories, teachers, pedagogy, or boys was permitted to be present or even mentioned in meetings.” Actually, at various times during the year, the society cooked and served delicious meals to lucky groups of faculty and students. The Tapa-Kega-Da fraternity made its presence known on campus for the first time. Led by Rudolph Helbach, the chiefswish-boomoogle-oogle, the TKD<sub>s</sub> took

as their school motto, “Horche zu mir, Horche zu mir, Wir trinken ja das beste bier, Anheuser, Schlitz, and Pabst, Ja.” In keeping with the humorous name and slogan, the group hosted many enjoyable social events during the year. The fall of 1913 also brought the formation of the first men’s Greek letter club at Southeastern, Rho Alpha Rho. Choosing the slogan, “To Better Ourselves And Society At Large,” the members of the Rho Alpha Rho quickly made a name for themselves in campus functions.<sup>64</sup>

Another new social club called Les Soeurs (the sisters) organized and received a school charter. To the surprise of the campus, the sisters made their appearance known at SEN by appearing robed in green and blowing whistles one bright, fall morning. Sworn to keep their name secret from the boys, each member was solemnly initiated and warned that those who proved unfaithful might face a punishment of raw oysters and turpentine. Like their counterpart, Rho Alpha Rho, the Les Soeurs soon became a vibrant social club. A new social-religious group also came into existence after the start of the year. With the blessing of President Murdaugh, a Young Men’s Christian Association received its charter at SEN. Elected to serve as charter officers were Don Rogers, president; Harry Nobles, vice-president; Rudolph Hetbach, secretary-treasurer; and Grady Wann, corresponding secretary. Because of their moral influence, the faculty considered the YMCA to be a most welcome addition to the campus scene.<sup>65</sup>

When several lettermen failed to return to school, the prospects for a winning football season seemed dim. Then, on the first day of practice, Coach Paul Laird gave the squad a lecture about how he expected them to practice hard, get regular hours of sleep, and eat healthy meals. The coach’s speech must have been too effective because the next day there were not enough men at practice to make two teams for scrimmage work! Undaunted, the enthusiastic coach asked Dr. Murdaugh to call a special assembly. After a spirited pep talk by Coach Laird asking for volunteers, a sufficient number of men reported to make a second team. Little did anyone suspect that the hastily assembled squad would become one of the most successful teams in Southeastern’s early history.

As the time for the first game approached, Coach Laird realized just how good his team’s prospects had become. Regarding the coming season, the local press said that he was “as proud of the gang as a man can well be, and he is confident that this is the best team that has ever been put out in this city, and this is saying a

great deal." In reporting on Coach Laird's enthusiasm, the *Democrat* urged Durant residents to go out and watch the team because "if you do, you will become as much enthused as the coach." Also, the local paper asked the residents of the town to buy season tickets because "when you boost football, you are also boosting the Normal as that is one of the best advertisements it has. Good football teams bring good students."<sup>66</sup>

The blue and gold clad team opened the season against Tishomingo A&M on October 4. Although the Aggies supposedly were "all large, husky, Indians of the type that do not care how hard they hit," they must not have hit too hard because the game ended in the incredible score of 101-0 in favor of SEN. But the euphoria of victory quickly ended when the Teachers lost the next game to Dallas University. A cheerful mood returned to the campus on October 18 when Southeastern defeated Northeastern State Normal. As always, the faculty insisted that good sportsmanship be encouraged at SEN, and visiting student athletes could look forward to a warm reception in Durant. For example, the Tahlequah football team was entertained on October 16, 1913, at the home of Professor Dodson. After being ushered into a dining room decorated with school pennants, the boys were greeted and served punch by the girls of the Place Aux Dames. Later, the young ladies "formed a line for the inspection of the gentlemen," and the visitors selected a partner for a theatre party. The night's festivities ended at the visitors' hotel with a snake dance, school yells, and songs.<sup>67</sup>

Enthusiasm reigned the following weeks as the Teachers defeated the Wilburton School of Mines and Burleson College and tied the powerful Tigers of Ouachita College. Then a return match with Dallas University, which ended in a victory for Durant, set the stage for the biggest contest of the year. Like the previous year, if the Teachers could beat East Central, the Oklahoma state normal championship again would be theirs. On the morning of November 27, Durantites watched excitedly as Adaites arrived in Durant on a chartered train with the steam whistles blowing, cowbells ringing, a brass band playing, hundreds of pennants flying, and a banner proclaiming, "We are after Durant's goat, and we are going to get it." The game played that November afternoon brought out the largest crowd ever to witness an athletic event in Durant. Responding to the screams of approximately fifteen hundred supporters, the SEN gridiron warriors won the championship.<sup>68</sup>

The Democrat described the scene thusly: "When the referee blew the game into history, the visitors silently folded their pennants and banners, placed their horns in their cases, threw away their bells, lost their hats, silently wended their way to the Frisco Depot, tied the bell clapper of the engine down, muffled the whistle on the 'Choo-Choo,' and sadly and sourly made their way back to 'Rodney's Roost,' a sadder but wiser bunch of football players, rooters and citizens." Yet, in a more serious tone, the paper praised the spirit of the fans from both institutions. In its concluding remarks about the game, the *Democrat* stated, "The college spirit predominated at every point, and the students of the competing schools controlled the city. And it was a pretty sight with the beautiful colors flying in the breeze. . . . The representation sent over by the East Central Normal was indeed one in which that city should feel proud."<sup>69</sup>

The victory over their arch rival and the capturing of the state championship naturally caused a celebration in Durant. After gathering at the home of Professor Dodson, several hundred students and fans marched to the intersection of Main and Third streets where a huge pile of dry goods boxes had been amassed. After starting a bonfire, the students proceeded to visit every theatre in the city, where they surprised the spectators with their college yells. In further recognition of their season, on the night of November 27, the "Heroes of Southeastern" attended a victory banquet at Sinclair's Confectionery. In the restaurant, decorated with pennants and banners in the SEN colors of blue and gold, the president presented to each player a sweater coat bearing the "S" monogram. The greatest moment for the young men on that night undoubtedly came when their respected coach spoke about their exploits. In paying tribute to his young players, Coach Laird said, "There has never been a year since I have been coaching, but that I was not glad to see the season end, but this year I am sorry it is over. These are the only boys that I have never had to look after and, to some extent, follow around when out on a trip. I don't know that I ever expect to get another bunch of boys who will work as these have." A final tribute to the 1913 champions came when five members of the team were named to the Oklahoma all-conference team. Named to the star squad by the *Daily Oklahoman* were Walter Chitwood, William A. Durant, Jr., Guy B. Dickerson, Grady Wann, and Alexander Bateman.<sup>70</sup>

Although the football campaign dominated the fall term of 1913, there were many other great occasions which provided pleasure for the student body. October was always a favorite month because of the social activities associated with Halloween. One event known on campus as "The Midnight Feast" was held in honor of the senior class on that night. As darkness fell on Halloween eve, the seniors, dressed as witches and hobgoblins, assembled at the home of their class sponsor, Professor Alice McKinney. After being met at the door "by a grotesque witch with long, boney hands," the seniors were seated around a caldron in the den. Jack-o'-lanterns, large spider webs, bats hanging overhead, and black cats everywhere created a weird and scary scene. After eating a witch's broth of creamed chicken and beaten biscuit, the seniors listened to ghost stories until after midnight. Many students considered the month of February as the best time of the social year. The major event of February 1914 was a Valentine party given in honor of the seniors by the junior class at the home of Sue Pettey. After dancing, playing cards, and hearing their fortunes told, the participants enjoyed a three-course dinner. The evening ended with the seniors declaring the 1914 junior class as the best in the school's history.<sup>73</sup>

For Southeastern fans, the 1913-1914 basketball season was a sharp contrast to the superlative football season. Only five games were played by a cage squad composed of Rudolph Helbach, Karl Helbach, Grady Wann, William Durant, and Oscar Palmer. There was, nevertheless, an interesting explanation of the short basketball season given in the *Hollis*. According to the annual, "The season was cut short on account of the fact that most of the team were in the play *Bul-Bul* [an operetta] and had to stay out of practice so much." Durant audiences were, in fact, treated to the comic operetta, and several members of the basketball team did have parts in the production. Cast in the leading roles for the performance were Carroll Franks, Gladys Davis, Floyd Hagood, Kathleen Abbott, Sue Pettey, John Leonard, Howard Jarrell, and Hollis Hampton.<sup>72</sup>

Southeastern also fielded a girls' basketball team which played and won four games. The victims were Atoka High School, Madill High School, North Texas State Normal, and East Central. The team's roster listed Lottie Biffle, Elsie Wann, Zaylon Yates, Clarice Jenkins, Lois Jarrell, Carrie May Stephenson, Bess Nolen, and Anna Paullin. In describing the play of the SEN ladies, the Democrat said that the team had several of the best goal shooters in Oklahoma. Because Southeastern's gymnasium still did not

have bleachers, both school teams played their entire season downtown in either the McKinney building or Shannon's garage.<sup>73</sup>

In any discussion of the academic year, two major happenings of the spring must be mentioned. In the annual Triangular Debate Contest, Marvin Shilling and Clarence Crudup successfully defeated their opponents from East Central. As usual, the students of SEN planned for a series of fun events prior to the actual debate held at the Durant Opera House. For the 1914 contest, the students arranged another grand parade to be held in downtown Durant upon the arrival of the visiting team. As in similar years, a hoodlum band led the festivities, followed by a stretcher with a human skeleton on it bearing the legend, "Ada's fate." Behind the skeleton came a coed carrying a large placard proclaiming a funeral would take place for Ada that night at the opera house. After the young woman came the "Doomed Wagon," but that year, to the surprise of the spectators who lined the streets, the wagon was unoccupied. The visiting Ada debaters had slipped off the train unnoticed. Before the debate began, the audience was treated to a "yell and song fest," which pleased the large gathering. When the oratorical contest ended, the Durant team was proclaimed the winner; but, the elation felt by Southeastern rooters was rather short-lived. A few minutes after the victory, word came by telephone that the team of Morris Lively and Howard Jarrell had lost at Tahlequah. Thus, there would be no state debate championship victory for Southeastern that year.<sup>74</sup>

An interesting incident that occurred soon after the debate dramatically demonstrated the intense loyalties the respective communities had developed for their institutions in six short years. In covering East Central's defeat, the *Ada News* proclaimed, according to the Democrat, that "a certain amount of horseplay is always in good order in a football game, but we have always been taught when it comes to debates or other literary contests, a little more dignity was in order." Therefore, at East Central "visiting teams are shown every possible courtesy. At Durant, however, there seems to be just a spirit of coarse humor, worthy only of the backwoods, and far back at that." What had angered the Ada newspaper, apparently, was the parade and the demonstration of school spirit exhibited at Southeastern before the debate.<sup>75</sup>

In response to this attack, the Democrat lashed out in the following language: "We are surprised that Editor Norrell who always seemed to be a good fellow, should allow himself to be so

inveighed into making the above statement and begin to do the 'baby act.' We realize that it takes a good, strong American citizen to stand such defeat as the Southeastern boys had administered to the boys of the East Central school, but our understanding is that it is the very thing for which the school stands—Americanism." The *Democrat* carefully explained to its readers that the officials and students of Southeastern had done their best to entertain the Tiger team, President Charles W. Briles, and all the Ada visitors. Yet, even though the visitors were invited to a banquet especially arranged for them, the Adaites ignored the affair entirely, went to the hotel, and refused "to accept the hospitality of the Durant citizens." The paper concluded its remarks by saying that when the men of SEN attend the debate next year at Ada, "We want to put Ada on notice right now that they can put our boys next year in any sort of cage they desire, do with them as they see fit, have as much fun with them as you may, and you will never hear the 'baby act' cry arise from Durant."<sup>76</sup>

The eventful 1913-1914 academic year came to a close in the middle of May. The original announcement was that Robert L. Williams, former Chief Justice of Oklahoma who was making a successful campaign for the governorship at that time, would be the speaker for the commencement exercises. For some reason not apparent from the sources used for this work, the commencement address was actually made by Judge Summers Hardy of Hugo. Other commencement events held included the annual contest between the Utopian and Pierian literary societies on May 16, the senior play at the Durant Opera House on May 18, and the junior-senior banquet on May 20. A very important organization had its first annual meeting during the week of commencement activities. Under the leadership of Reuben D. Hardy as president, the Southeastern Alumni Association convened to discuss ways to encourage former class members to return to Durant each year to attend the exercises and alumni banquet. As the administration and faculty knew even at this early date, a growing association composed of people loyal to their alma mater was the best insurance for a bright and prosperous future for SEN. The importance placed on the alumni association by the faculty and administration could be seen in the early edition of the *Holisso*. In each issue in the 1910s, special pages were devoted to the names, addresses, and professions of the graduates. As the pagination indicated, most of the graduates had entered the teaching profession as soon as they had left the hallowed halls of Southeastern State Normal.<sup>77</sup>

Dramatically and without forewarning, a change in the presidency of Southeastern State Normal occurred in June 1914. At a meeting of the State Board of Education, Dr. Edmund Dandridge Murdaugh offered his resignation; it was immediately accepted. Somehow Murdaugh apparently had angered a large element within the school and in the community of Durant. The only thing ever made public about his resignation was that a large committee of Durant citizens had attended the meeting to ask for the change in the presidency of the institution. In his only statement to the press on June 17, Murdaugh related that he had offered to resign in the interest of peace. Yet, the executive said, confusingly, that the Board had asked him to continue in charge indefinitely, and they would make a final decision on any change on July 1. But the matter had not been left in doubt as Dr. Murdaugh's press statement implied. An article appeared in the *Democrat* on June 19 in response to a large number of complaints regarding Murdaugh's July 1 statement. According to an unnamed member "of the large and representative delegation" which went to Oklahoma City to oppose Dr. Murdaugh's retention, the president had failed to relate that his resignation had been formally accepted. Furthermore, Murdaugh had offered to quit his position only after he saw that he would be removed. Furthermore, the spokesman said that Murdaugh did not have any thought of resigning when the meeting started. Finally, the writer of the article declared that the decision of the Board had been unanimous regarding Murdaugh, and the officials had informed the citizens that he would in fact be replaced effective July 1.<sup>78</sup>

The reasons for the apparent animosity between Murdaugh and a large segment of the institution and the Durant community were never made public. His exit from the city certainly did not elicit the same kind of open remarks of regret which followed President M. E. Moore's departure in 1911. Yet, Dr. Murdaugh had served the institution well. The campus grounds and the building were in much better shape than before his arrival. Most important, during the intense battle to destroy the institution, Dr. Murdaugh's administration had given the school's attackers no reason to fault its existence. In fact, a formal paper drafted and prepared with Dr. Murdaugh's assistance during the crises entitled, "A Defense Of The Oklahoma Normal Schools By The Presidents," effectively answered and stilled many of the criticisms being aimed at the normal institutions by the press and legislature. Apparently, the major reason for Murdaugh's demise must be



attributed to personality and perhaps political conflicts within the Durant community itself. Certainly the removal of Dr. Murdaugh from the presidency of Southeastern did not end his educational career in Oklahoma. After leaving Durant, he became director of the department of education at the Tonkawa University Preparatory School for three years. Then, he became professor of psychology at Central State Normal; in July 1922, he became president emeritus of that institution. Dr. Murdaugh died in Edmond in May 1925, and was buried in East New Market, Maryland.<sup>79</sup>

Perhaps the most controversial thing regarding the colorful career and life of Murdaugh never surfaced while he lived—the man completed his entire educational career in Oklahoma without anyone learning he did not possess the academic qualifications and degrees he claimed! A thorough search of the files and records at the University of Virginia and at William and Mary University in preparation for this study revealed that Murdaugh did not receive a degree at either institution — nor did the Maryland State Department of Education grant him a diploma. In fact, the records indicate the Maryland native did not have an undergraduate degree much less any kind of doctorate. As Philip Rulon has written, “But regardless of Murdaugh’s academic background, his aristocratic ancestry always made him stand apart from his contemporaries. A close friend at the Central State College called him a disciplinarian of the old school, one who believed that ‘the educational process worked best under strict tutelage. . . .’ A southerner to the manor born, he never betrayed his Virginia antecedents.” Perhaps his dominating, cavalier, and undoubtedly condescending mannerisms may have created a demand for his removal. Dr. Murdaugh always appeared in public dressed to the hilt, carrying a golden tipped cane, and often with his two well-bred dogs at his side, a figure quite apart from the majority in Durant’s rural-oriented society. Whatever the cause, his firing necessitated a new chief executive for the institution.<sup>80</sup>



The “Patron Saint” William A. Durant



The Indian Heritage Exhibited in a Holisso



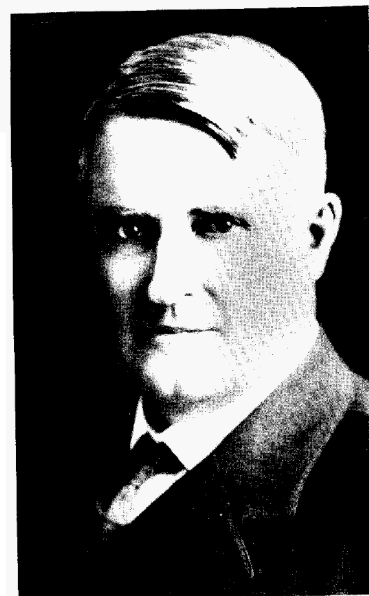
Reverend Dixon Durant



Jesse Mercer Hatchett



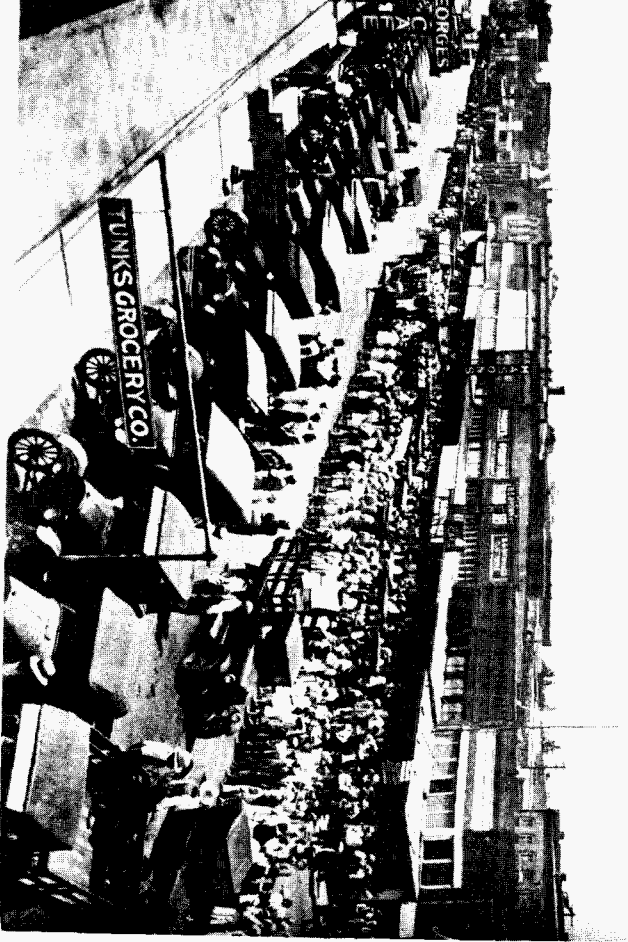
William E. Utterback



Governor Robert L. Williams



The Founder of Durant at Work: Circa 1895



Main Street in the 1920s



SOUTHEASTERN STATE NORMAL SCHOOL

"Old Main": Circa 1911



MISS ANNIE PEARSON  
*Commercial Department*



MISS VIRGINIA FITZGERALD  
*Latin*



MISS HEROD  
*Kindergarten*



MISS MORGAN  
*Model School*



MRS. HATTIE RAINEY  
*Model School*

Members of the 1910 Faculty



PAUL E. LAIRD  
*Physics and Chemistry*



A. W. GILLILAND  
*Mathematics*



H. C. KING  
*American History and  
Political Economy*



HUGH A. CARROLL  
*Grammar, Rhetoric and  
Composition*

Members of the 1910 Faculty



MISS ALICE MCKINNEY  
*Piano*  
CLASS SPONSOR



MISS BROWN  
*Piano*



MISS BESSIE TRENT  
*Literature*



MISS ELLA HOCKADAY  
*Biology*



W. C. BRALEY  
*Latin*



MISS ALICE COLVIN  
*Dancing*



GEO. B. MORRIS  
*Mathematics*



A. S. PENKNER  
*Philosophy and History*

Members of the 1910 Faculty

Members of the 1910 Faculty

The First Graduation Notice

Auditorium

Thursday, May 30, 1910, 8:30 p. m.  
Durant, Oklahoma

Southeastern State  
Normal School

Comment  
Exercises

Clara White, President  
for Men, Secretary-Treasurer  
Mabel Nolen  
Bertha White  
Edna Crump

Class Roll

The First Annual Meeting

of the

Alumni Association

of the

Southeastern State Normal  
School

Tuesday, May 31, 1910, at 8:30 p. m.

Durant, Oklahoma

Auditorium

...Program...

The Full Life From Various Points of View

Mr. M. E. Moore ..... The Educator  
Hon. Wm. Durant ..... The Statesman  
Mr. Jas. McKinney ..... The Business Man  
Rev. Boyet ..... The Minister  
Mr. W. E. Utterback ..... The Professor

The First Alumni Notice

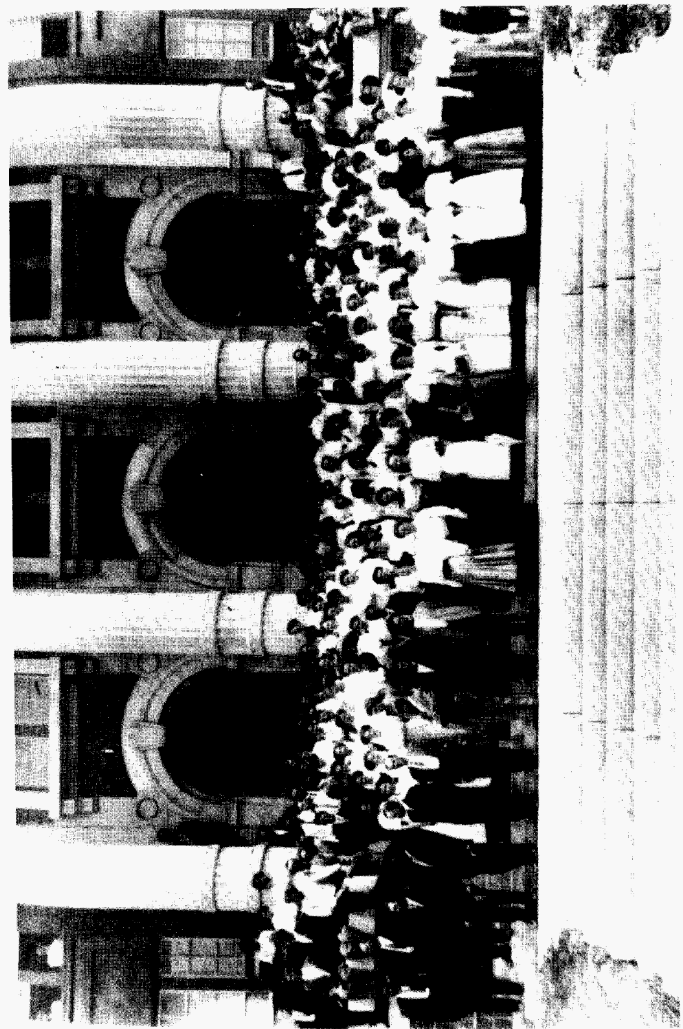
Prominent Men on the Program



The First Graduates



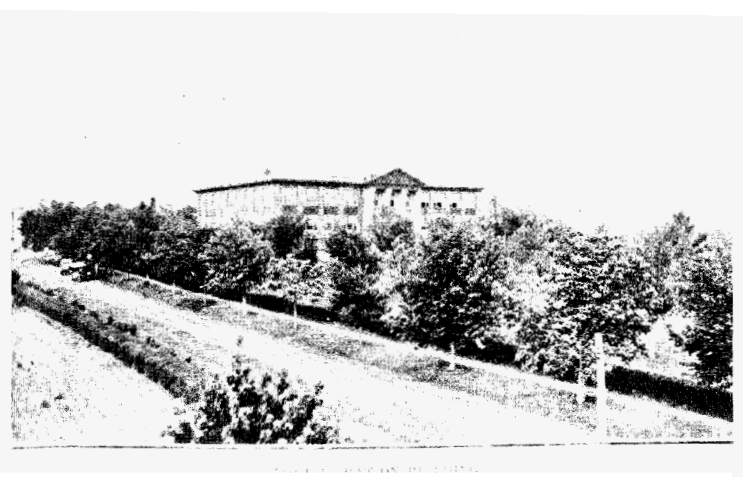
The First Alumni Association



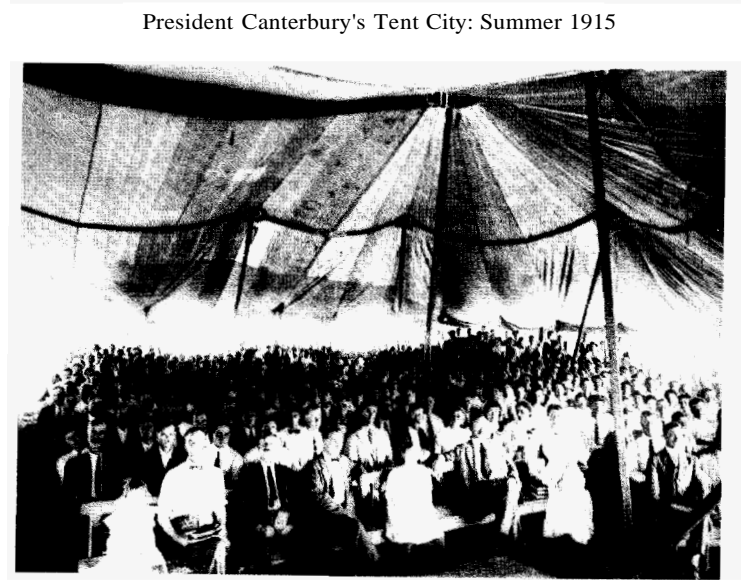
An Early Student Body: Circa 1911



President Canterbury's Tent City: Summer 1915



A Tree-lined Campus Begins to Emerge: Circa 1930



Inside the Main Auditorium Tent



A Sister School: Oklahoma Presbyterian College: Circa 1950



**S. E. N. SCHOOL SONG**

Words by Edith McKean.

Tune, Annie Laurie

Here's to Southeastern Normal!  
 Great may thy record be,  
 And may all fame and honor  
 Rightly belong to thee.  
 Sing of the students' vic'tries,  
 Repeat them again and again,  
 Deep in our hearts forever,  
 Love for our S. E. N.

Here's to our good old colors!  
 Here's to the gold and blue!  
 Gold for thy worth and metal,  
 Blue for the good and true,  
 Highest above all others  
 Breezily float these two,  
 Here's to our dauntless colors!  
 Here's to the gold and blue!

Here's to Southeastern Normal!  
 Thy future may be great,  
 Sing of thy coming glory  
 In good work for the State,  
 We'll watch thy progress always,  
 Singing of thee again,  
 We'll not forget our Normal,  
 Hail to our S. E. N!

The First School Song

**SONGS WE LIKE (?)  
 TO SING**

Yo Ho! Yo Ho! Yo Ho!  
 Southeastern Normal's  
 The only Normal  
 Yo Ho! Yo Ho! Yo Ho!



It's the way we have at Southeastern  
 It's the wiry we have at Southeastern  
 It's the way we have at Southeastern  
 To drive dull care away  
 To drive dull care away  
 To drive drill care away



Oklahoma Big Chief's Country  
 Of the great Southwest  
 S. E. N's, the only Normal  
 School we love the best  
 Give a rousing three times three  
 Hold her banners high  
 It's the place for you and me  
 We will do or die.

Normal School Sentiments: Circa 1920

**Politics, War, and a Parade of Presidents,  
1914-1919:  
The Administrations of William C. Canterbury,  
Andrew S. Faulkner, and T. D. Brooks**

After a lengthy meeting on the night of July 2, 1914, the State Board of Education announced its selection of a new president for Southeastern Normal. William Curtis Canterbury, superintendent of the Marietta school district, would become the third president of the institution. Canterbury was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, April 5, 1873. After attending public schools in Cincinnati, Canterbury attended National Normal University, Ohio Northern University, and Peabody College for Teachers, obtaining the degrees of B.S. and M.S.C.E. While teaching in Kentucky the four years following his graduation, Canterbury met and married Mary Eddie Sedberry of Smithland, Livingston County, Kentucky. In 1905, the young couple moved to Ardmore, Oklahoma, where Canterbury had accepted the high school principalship. Leaving Ardmore in 1909, he served as superintendent of the Marietta school system until his appointment as president of Southeastern. Because he had taught in several summer sessions, Canterbury was certainly no stranger to the Durant campus.<sup>1</sup>

Word of the selection of President Canterbury was well received in Durant. Actually, after the resignation of President Murdaugh, school teachers and superintendents throughout southeastern Oklahoma had "lined up strongly for Mr. Canterbury

because it was felt he understood the needs of our school better than anybody else who might be elected," the *Democrat* noted in announcing his appointment. It was hoped, the paper continued, the Canterbury era would bring about "a rapid and substantial growth in the institution, both materially and influentially. That for which the friends of Southeastern have hoped since its establishment."<sup>2</sup>

The happiness surrounding Canterbury's appointment was evident at the first personal appearance of the new chief administrator on campus. All morning on July 3, 1914, it had been rumored that Canterbury had arrived in Durant and would be present at the daily assembly. To the crowd's disappointment, when

A Day of Fun and Games: Circa 1910s

Professor W. T. Dodson rose to give the invocation at chapel, the new president was not there. Then, suddenly and "un-ceremoniously," the *Democrat* related, Canterbury entered the auditorium and instantly the audience rose to greet him with a standing ovation. When the applause stopped, Professor Andrew S. Faulkner introduced the new chief administrator. In a sincere and "unpretentious manner," Canterbury greeted the audience and announced the basic policies he would pursue in his tenure. In part, he said: "As I now come to you in the capacity of co-laborer, I trust that it is so that you may in return repose a share of confidence in me." Specifically, Canterbury declared that, contrary to Dr. Murdaugh's regime, the atmosphere on the campus would be less formal and systematized among faculty, staff, and students. "A catholic and democratic spirit shall mark," he decreed, "the dealings and friendships of faculty and students alike." The newly appointed president also related that he believed in simplicity rather than unnecessary formality. Furthermore, with a policy of frankness, goodwill, and generosity established among the administration, staff, faculty, and students, he explained, "we shall unite for the large task before us, and with simplicity and universal harmony proceed to the task of jointly building this institution." As the *Democrat* observed, many people who heard the speech believed a new day had dawned at the campus. "As the students and faculty filed out from the assembly, there was written visibly on the countenances . . . a profound satisfaction in the opening of the regime which is destined to mark the palmiest days of Southeastern State Normal," the paper said.<sup>3</sup>

On the day he assumed control of SEN in late July 1914, Canterbury had reason to be optimistic about the prospects for a noteworthy year. The new chief executive surmised that the attendance at the school would double because of a new state law which raised educational standards in the commonwealth by requiring all teachers to have professional training at a state normal school or state university. Although an enormous amount of money had not been appropriated, Canterbury believed the \$24,000 allotted for the 1914-1915 school year would be sufficient to meet anticipated expenditures.

President Canterbury wasted little time in implementing his new attitude toward governing the campus. At the first faculty meeting, it quickly became apparent the days of Dr. Murdaugh had ended. Canterbury announced he would not require lengthy, weekly faculty meetings. Instead, the faculty would meet twice

monthly for round-table discussions never exceeding thirty minutes. Examples of the type of topics the president considered worthy included: what constitutes a teacher's knowledge of his subject matter; current educational thought; and similar broad topics. Undoubtedly the faculty found the open and stimulating atmosphere of Canterbury's administration a pleasant change from the paternalistic attitude of Murdaugh's "system, absolute system."<sup>4</sup>

The new president quietly launched a program of beautifying the campus and improving the physical plant of Southeastern. With the meager appropriated funds for maintenance, he gave orders to re-roof the normal, modernize the furnace heating system, install sanitary drinking fountains, and repaint walls and ceilings damaged by leaks. During the winter of 1914, three thousand privet plants were set along the borders of the lawn and a number of trees planted—Magnolia, Elm, Locust, Maple, Cedar, and Umbrella China. It should be noted that although some Magnolia trees were planted, it remains a matter of debate over which person in SEN's past was really responsible for the idea of a Magnolia drive at Southeastern.

In a wise move, the new administrator initiated a public campaign to enhance Southeastern's chances for increased legislative appropriations, community donations, and any other type of monetary assistance he could manage. In late July 1914, Canterbury presided over a "booster meeting" held on the campus. On July 22, 1914, he welcomed the arrival of R. H. Wilson, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, for the booster celebration. Also present were several state officials, legislators, and most prominent members of Durant's business and civic community. As President Canterbury hoped, the booster meeting proved to be a huge success. Approximately four hundred citizens of Durant took advantage of free automobile rides starting at Third and Main streets to visit the campus.

After being ushered into the building by students, the visitors received cookies and fruit punch, listened to the normal school orchestra, and heard speeches given by several dignitaries. R. E. Powers, president of the Durant Chamber of Commerce, promised that his organization would do everything possible to help promote future growth at the normal. To the new president's delight, Superintendent Wilson spoke at length on the most poignant reason for the meeting. In pointed language, Wilson charged that part of the earlier troubles at the institution had resulted because the

citizens of Durant and southeastern Oklahoma had in the past "not cooperated in the way they should." Wilson declared that it was regrettable "there were many who had never before been inside this building." However, Wilson asserted that he felt the booster assembly had witnessed a new birth of interest and the joining of the community's heart with Southeastern. Fervently hoping that Superintendent Wilson's words were true, Canterbury thanked the business and civic leaders for coming. In fact, after the meeting a permanent booster club was formally organized to involve the Durant community in the long-term future growth and destiny of Southeastern.<sup>4</sup>

Tragically, the relaxed atmosphere which President Canterbury hoped to bring during his administration at Southeastern State Normal was almost destroyed before the new executive had a chance to create it. By the time he formally entered the presidency, all school teachers in the United States were worried about a very dark cloud on the nation's horizon. On June 28, 1914, the assassination of the Austrian Archduke Francis Ferdinand in Sarajevo brought the world to the brink of war. On July 28, 1914, only a few days after President Canterbury had assumed control of Southeastern State Normal, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. The details of the hurried diplomatic measures which failed to avert the war are too well-known to need summarization here. All Americans immediately feared that the United States would be brought into the holocaust which had engulfed Europe. Soon after Europe entered its madness, however, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation of neutrality. With their fears somewhat eased, President Canterbury and the faculty tried to prepare for the opening of the fall term with a positive and optimistic attitude.

When the term began on September 8, Coach Laird and the student body had never been more enthusiastic than they were over the 1914 team's possibilities. In an interview with the local paper, Coach Laird said, "With nine of the old men in line who last year carried the normal squad to so many victories, . . . we are in better position to give a better game than ever." As predicted, the first contest ended in a win over Austin College. Following the victory, a large crowd of students and citizens gathered at the train station to welcome the team home. The game had ended too late, however, for the team to catch the 7:40 P.M. train for Durant so the crowd returned to meet the midnight train. After cheering and shouting school yells, the gathering accompanied the team to the

YMCA where arrangements had been made for a midnight meal for the gridiron warriors. In reporting the tremendous welcome the team had received, the *Democrat* remarked, "This rooters club is an enthusiastic bunch and deserves much credit for the support they are giving the team. Such support makes the boys feel like playing real football."<sup>6</sup>

But the football team for 1914 did not perform as well as their fans expected. Although an ambitious schedule of twelve games including one with Oklahoma A&M had been announced, the sources used for this study disclosed scores for only six games for the entire year—of which two were won, three were lost, and one ended in a tie. The worst thing about the entire campaign was a bitter 10-8 loss to the Ada Normal. If other games were played, the scores failed to reach the school or local papers. The *Holisso* for 1915 did not mention the season's record, although it did list the members of the team by last name. Evidence suggests the abbreviated schedule resulted from team dissension. The *Democrat* stated that before the Thanksgiving Day game with Ada three Southeastern regulars would be out of the lineup having "left the team."<sup>7</sup>

The basketball season was more successful. In reviewing the team's accomplishments, the 1915 *Holisso* called the squad a "collection of stars." The team composed of Oscar Palmer, Karl Helbach, Rudolph Helbach, Prentiss Moore, Ben Flinchum, and Clarence Crudup won six of the seven games, the only loss being to Atoka High School. Meanwhile, the SEN girls' basketball team played six games and sported a record of four games won, one lost, and one tied. Mainstays of the coed team were Lottie Biffle, Carrie May Stephenson, Vera Williams, Roxye Williamson, and Consuela Pirtle.<sup>8</sup>

Unexplainably, the large number of parties and other social events usually held on campus every year declined during 1914-1915. At least the *Holisso* only reported three such occasions: a reception for the student body at the YMCA; an "old time chicken fry"; and the senior class party hosted by their sponsor, Professor Hattie Rainey, on Halloween eve with guests and seniors dressed in costumes appropriate for the occasion. One new addition to the campus social scene in 1914 was the Southeastern Music Club. Composed of senior girls and led by President Leila Hampton and Vice-president Sue Pettey, the musical endeavors of the club proved to be a delight for the community and the campus.

Near the start of the winter term, Canterbury announced an ambitious plan for the coming summer school. As previously

noted, the president believed a new state education law would bring a record number of students to Southeastern. Most of the vast increase would come from teachers in the field returning to take courses to meet the new standards. (See appendix J for state laws relating to the raising of teacher standards that affected SEN's growth.) In essence, the law required all who would teach in Oklahoma to attend a state normal for a spring or summer term for a third grade certificate; to attend both the spring and summer terms for the second grade certificate; or to be present for two regular terms and one summer term for a first grade certificate. To accommodate the numbers anticipated, President Canterbury announced he had planned a "tent city" to house the male students; this would leave the regular boardinghouses in downtown Durant to care for the female summer students.

In addition to the high hopes generated by the new law, spirits were further raised early in the spring when Representative W. A. Durant informed Canterbury that the legislature had appropriated \$86,000 for Southeastern for the next two years. The bill carried \$74,000 for salaries and maintenance, \$10,000 for new equipment, and \$2,000 for conducting the annual summer session. Concerning the glad tidings, the Democrat said, "this will certainly be pleasing news to Durantites, as money has been badly needed for some time. The building has needed new equipment ever since it has been erected." Furthermore, President Canterbury managed to secure an agreement with the civic leaders of Durant whereby electric current would be provided to the institution for the coming summer term.

Another moment of rejoicing on campus came when Southeastern won the normal school debating championship. On Friday, March 26, 1915, a team composed of Jack Hayes and Ira Eaker defeated Central State on the question of "Should there be peaceful annexation of Mexico to the United States." Although Clarence Crudup and Howard Jarrell lost the second triangular debate to Ada, Southeastern had enough cumulative points to enter the state finals against Northwestern State Normal. In striking contrast to the actions of the defeated Ada debaters the previous year, the president of the Edmond normal and their debate coach, Professor F. C. Oakes, highly praised the reception they had received in Durant. About the treatment accorded them, Professor Oakes said, "Our reception and entertainment while here is without parallel in our experience in contesting with other schools."

After winning the east side contest, the students and faculty of Southeastern looked forward to the state championship. In mid-April, Ira Eaker and Clarence Crudup were chosen to defend Southeastern's honor at Alva. In early April, Stratton D. Brooks, president of the University of Oklahoma, chose three impartial out-of-state judges for the contest. The event occurred on the evening of April 27, as excited students and faculty members waited in Durant for word concerning the outcome. Finally, at 11:00 P.M., President Canterbury, who could no longer stand the suspense, placed a long-distance telephone call to President Greenbush of the Alva Normal. When the connection was made, Canterbury recognized the voice of Professor Adolph Linscheid, SEN's great debate coach, replying that Durant had won by one point. The victory telephone message immediately set off a flood of calls in the city as anxious supporters of SEN informed each other of the institution's triumph. Commenting upon the victory, the Democrat said "To the Southeastern as an institution, to Prof. A. Linscheid as coach and director of the debating team, and to Messrs. Eaker and Crudup, all hats are off. This is the first time that such a victory has come this way and every citizen of southeastern Oklahoma may well feel proud for his institution."

The annual inter-high school meet for 1915 was bigger and better than ever with several events being added. The track and field meet was won by Armstrong Academy with 33 points. One other major event of the late spring was the publication of *Holisso* number IV. The brown-jacketed volume produced by the senior class of 1915 was compiled by a staff composed of Editor Florence Baker and Bess Cudd, associate editor. (For a list of those who served as editors on the *Holisso* staffs, see appendix G.)

Following commencement exercises for the 1914-1915 academic year, Canterbury looked forward to the creation of his "tent city." And, by the middle of May, over one hundred tents, each providing two cots for sleeping, had been put in place in a grove back of the normal and so arranged that it appeared to be a "young city." A large commissary or "mess" tent where the young men could buy their meals and a huge auditorium tent for assemblies and group lectures had also been erected. The Democrat hailed the actions of SEN's chief executive; the "tent city" was a unique idea and not only more convenient for the young men who were going to school but also was reasonably priced and helped relieve crowded conditions downtown. Because of his agreement with civic leaders, Canterbury had authorized the moving of the normal

building for electric lights. For the first time, it became possible for the students to use a lighted library at night. As the president had expected and planned for, there were more students in attendance in the normal summer school of 1915 than any previous term. Additionally, Canterbury and the faculty were cheered by the news on June 7 that the entire faculty had been reappointed. The educators were further elated by the news that they would all receive raises — the new salaries would range from \$900 to \$1700 annually.<sup>13</sup>

Ironically, the huge success of the summer normal and the “tent city” was not only the apex but also the climax of Canterbury’s stay at the institution. In late July rumors began circulating that the president would soon lose his position; the rumors proved all too true. On August 3, 1915, while R. H. Wilson, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, was out of state, the Board of Education voted unanimously to fire Canterbury after three long and bitter hours of debate between the officials and supporters of the president.

In a fiery speech, Senator J. T. McIntosh presented the Board with a petition signed by a great majority of Durant’s leading citizens. McIntosh warned the Board that if Canterbury lost his position, it would be difficult to prevent “a great indignation meeting” from being held in Durant. Such a gathering, he declared, would denounce Governor Williams’ administration. “You cannot say that our fight is a fight on Governor Williams or on you,” the senator stated, “it is a fight for the school that will be wrecked if this Board makes the removal threatened.” He also predicted that “a protest will resound through southern Oklahoma and the school buildings of the Durant normal will become the abode of bats and owls.”<sup>14</sup>

Following McIntosh’s speech, Dr. Fite, a member of the Board, asked the large pro-Canterbury delegation, “If we would give you a better man would you be satisfied?” Senator McIntosh replied, “If I wanted to see Governor Williams’ administration go down in history as the most contemptible in the annals of Oklahoma, I’d say to fire Canterbury.... I love Bob Williams, but if you do this thing you will ruin him.” After more than three hours of debate, the only actual and ambiguous charge made against Canterbury was that he “had failed to control the student body.” There simply were no other formal charges made by the Board to justify its decision. Apparently, the Board believed that

Canterbury had attained far too great a popularity among educational forces and was building some sort of a political machine through his endeavors. But in light of the facts presented in the public hearing, the charge made little sense.<sup>15</sup>

To the disappointment of Canterbury’s supporters, Governor Williams refused to intervene and ask the Board to reconsider its action. The Board’s decision was necessary, he obviously believed, to eliminate school politics and would stand. Governor Williams officially took the position that final authority rested with the Board of Education and stated his position thusly:

I told the board of education that if they had made such a mistake as to ask for the resignation of a school president who ought not to resign it was a question whether they or the president should go. I told them that they ought to stand pat on their action in requesting the resignation of Prof. Canterbury or they ought to resign their offices. So long as I am Governor the people of institutional towns shall not become mobs to rule the schools in those towns.

With the governor’s final statement on the matter, the issue was settled. The only remaining question was who the next president would be.<sup>16</sup>

On August 31, 1915, the students and faculty at Southeastern learned that Professor Andrew S. Faulkner, the director of the training school, had been named as acting president. Expressing the sentiment of the campus and community regarding his appointment, the *Democrat* observed, “The selection of Professor Faulkner will give universal satisfaction. . . . He is competent in every way for the arduous duties that will be imposed upon him and we predict a successful term for Southeastern under the management of Professor Faulkner.” The *Democrat* also welcomed the appointment of W. H. Echols, the Durant city school superintendent, as a professor in the education department to relieve Faulkner of some of his teaching duties.<sup>17</sup>

Although born in West Virginia, the new president spent most of his childhood in Missouri. After graduating from public school, Faulkner entered Missouri State Normal at Kirksville, Missouri. Following his graduation, he taught in various rural and village schools in Missouri. For nine years the new head of Southeastern served as superintendent of the Ladonia and Wellsville, Missouri,

school systems. Faulkner then left that state to become superintendent of schools at Hugo, Oklahoma. When Southeastern State Normal opened in the summer of 1909, Faulkner became a member of the first faculty. In 1911, he became director of the training school and education department.

Only one week after his appointment to the presidency, SEN opened its doors for the 1915-1916 academic year. At the first chapel service on September 8, President Faulkner announced the keynote for his new administration. In his opening remarks to the students and faculty, the new president stated that his attention would be directed primarily to scholastic advancement. "It matters little," he said, "how well the state may equip this institution, or how learned or extended the faculty may be, if the student body of this institution does not become earnestly studious, the institution has failed." Furthermore, the most important reputation Southeastern must nurture, he declared, was "that we go after educational results and obtain them." Although he recognized a school was, by necessity, a business institution, the new president urged those in attendance to remember that Southeastern "stands primarily for mental development, and every department of the school should impress student and visitor in the fact that actual work is being done."<sup>18</sup>

In addition to his hope for an improved scholastic atmosphere, Faulkner planned to upgrade the athletic situation at the school. He reported that a new coach, Professor Harry Brown, had been hired to institute gymnasium classes and assist Coach Paul Laird. The new president wanted to see the existing athletic grounds greatly improved. In fact, he had already ordered work to commence on grading a new football field, and plans were being formulated to erect permanent grandstands to encourage attendance at athletic events. The new president promised that all brush and undergrowth would be removed from the north campus in the near future, and the soil would be leveled and sodded with Bermuda grass to provide one of the most beautiful campus areas of any institution in Oklahoma. The president further announced that "what has been an eyesore and an utter nuisance to every carriage and car driver who goes to the normal was to be remedied" by the leveling, grading, and filling of potholes on the Sixth Street approach to the campus. Finally, Faulkner said the city had promised to do everything possible "to secure good walks and drives to the campus before winter."<sup>19</sup>

President Faulkner's desire for street improvements received a boost from a letter written by W. F. Bennett and published in the Democrat on September 14. In his communique, the local citizen said that it was a shame to the community that the territory surrounding the normal was "checkerboard in its sidewalk appearance. According to Bennett, during or after it rained, the Sixth Street approach to the normal looked like a "Texas black land county road" and people who did not have a car were forced to wade through the deep black mud. The concerned citizen felt that the city council must give consideration to sidewalking the main streets to the normal. In Bennett's opinion, the merchants along these streets had benefited for seven years from the normal's presence, and the merchants must have made enough money to build sidewalks for the convenience of their patrons at SEN. To the ecstasy of the faculty and the student body, Bennett's letter appeared to have an effect. In a meeting of the Twenty-Five Expansion Club, whose motto was "The Betterment of Durant," the members voted to get busy on the important matter of improving the streets and sidewalks.<sup>20</sup>

Football prospects at Southeastern looked good for the 1915 term. When Coach Laird called for the squad to assemble, "thirty husky gridsters" reported. Nevertheless, the year did not prove to be very successful. The results included one tie with Austin College of Sherman, Texas, and only three victories. All-conference players who wore the blue and gold for 1915 included Oscar Palmer and Fon Lee. Regardless of the team's dismal season, there were many other festive occasions which cheered the student body. One interesting development in the fall of 1915 was the formation of a new social-dramatic club on campus. Choosing the motto, "Seeking Higher Things," the Alta Petentes organized to study the different techniques of drama and the works of authors such as Tolstoy. Soon after receiving their charter, the Alta Petentes decided they held a legacy from the earlier Place Aux Dames society. Rediscovering their heritage, the group changed their motto to "True Art Is To Conceal Art," the original slogan of the Place Aux Dames. Leaders for the new group were Ina Mackin, president; Buenos Phillips, vice-president; and Vera Williams, secretary-treasurer."

The first day of the winter term brought the beginning of the basketball campaign at Southeastern. As with football, the basketball record was somewhat disappointing. In a twenty-one game schedule, SEN won only six victories. Yet, the future looked

encouraging because SEN had played well against some of the strongest teams in the state and most of the squad would return next year, the *Holisso* declared. Although the annual stated that Southeastern had one of the best girls' basketball teams "feared by every girls team in southern Oklahoma and northern Texas," the scores reported in the press did not reflect such power. In fact, only the results of six games could be found. The only college game played, which was against North Texas State Normal from Denton, ended in defeat."<sup>22</sup>

One of the special social events of 1915-1916 was the junior class play and fashion show. The evening combined live entertainment, comedy routines, and a fashion show of the latest styles for evening wear, street costumes, school attire, and sporting outfits. Those participating included Helen Haynes, Roy Taylor, Howard Jarrell, Hal Matthews, Harold Haynes, Kathleen Abbott, Hollis Hampton, Louise Adams, Wilma Mason, Ruth Mackey, Elizabeth McKinney, Ethel Purdy, Elsie Wann, Daryl Williams, Bernice Pendleton, Minnie Collins, and William Rogers. Despite the efforts of the juniors, the 1916 *Holisso* bragged that the circus given by the senior class broke all records for student performances at SEN. Before a packed audience, the senior circus began with a parading hoodlum band followed by western roughriders, acrobats, comedians, cowgirls, clowns, weird animals, and trained dogs. The parade and circus was such an uproarious event, the Democrat observed, that the laughter and shouts of the spectators "made one grand hubbub of joyous abandon and excitement, not surpassed at the performances of the Ringling Circus." Performers taking part were Mary Lou Boyd, Buenos Phillips, Carrie Stephenson, Roxye Williamson, Clarence Crudup, Grady Lewis, Cal Severance, Camille McKinney, Pearle Arnold, Cole Yeager, Lloyd Roach, George P. Beane, Florence Rivers, R. D. Beane, Wade McAlister, Maxey Hart, Ben Cudd, Hermine Truby, Walter Ryle, and Bryan Nolen.<sup>23</sup>

As stated in every catalog, the administration and faculty of Southeastern took their obligation to protect the morals of their students seriously. In this vein, in early March 1916, members of the administration and faculty of Southeastern went before the city council to request the abolition of all dance halls within the city limits of Durant. In essence, the representatives from Southeastern, along with other concerned citizens, argued that the public dance halls were a violation of the moral ideals which the schools and churches tried to teach. After listening to the protests,

Mayor James Yarbrough said that the council had consulted with the best attorneys in the city and had been unable to find any grounds to close the offending establishments. But, Yarbrough promised that the city council and the police department would continue to investigate the situation. The interested groups did not have long to wait. In late April, Mayor Yarbrough, acting in his capacity as a municipal court judge, issued an edict closing all such places in Durant. This action was taken because of testimony given by various "young maiden patrons" to representatives from the Durant Police Department.<sup>24</sup>

Despite the many good things taking place during 1915-1916, there continued to be one major factor which undoubtedly prevented the institution's rapid expansion. As yet, the city of Durant still had not started to pave the main streets leading to the institution. The Democrat certainly understood the detrimental effect this was having upon the fledgling institution. On March 4, the paper published an article which said, "It is a lamentable fact that Durant has never appreciated the normal as it should. . . . By paving the street to the normal, the city would only be showing its appreciation to this great institution, which is doing so much for Durant." The Democrat asked the citizens of Durant to consider the fact that the normal was saving thousands of dollars in taxes for their pockets each year. In fact, the paper contended, if the over two hundred students in the training department and the higher grades of the institution were not at SEN, the city would be forced to build two new schools and hire additional teachers — all at taxpayers' expense.<sup>25</sup>

In a second editorial in early April, the paper continued its campaign. In an article entitled "Must Have Paved Street To Normal," the local paper argued that "it is known the State Board of Education has many future improvements under consideration for SEN." Unfortunately, it was also well-known that state officials declared that the city of Durant had never realized the full importance of SEN. Admitting that the Board felt "the school has been more or less neglected," the Democrat said it was particularly well-known that "when the heavy rains come, it is virtually impossible to get to the school either by walking or riding. This must be remedied, and remedied in the very near future — at that."<sup>26</sup>

With the coming of spring, everyone at Southeastern waited and wondered what decision the Board of Education would make regarding the presidency of the institution for 1916-1917. By the first week of March, rumors from the capitol hinted another



change would take place. It was most sincerely hoped that acting President Faulkner would be named as the permanent head. At its meeting on March 6, 1916, the State Board of Education received a telegram drafted by the student body of Southeastern declaring that an open campus election had produced a unanimous vote for Faulkner's continuance. The Board was further informed that the faculty and community agreed with the students. Disregarding Faulkner's widespread support, the Board decided to offer the office to someone else. On March 7, 1916, the headlines of the *Daily Oklahoman* (an Oklahoma City newspaper) announced that Dr. T. D. Brooks, of Hillsboro, Texas, would be offered the presidency. Loyal supporters of Southeastern must have wondered at this point if stability would ever be gained at the normal. The Board's decision had established only one fact for certain, another presidential era would soon begin.<sup>27</sup>

Apparently taken completely by surprise by the decision, Dr. Brooks hurriedly arranged a visit to inspect the community and the institution. Arriving on the morning train on March 10, Brooks was met by a committee of business and civic leaders who drove him to the normal to attend a chapel service. Accompanied by the members of the Twenty-Five Expansion Club, President-elect Brooks walked to the building "beneath the shielded gaze of hundreds of eyes looking from the class windows and halls."<sup>28</sup>

President Faulkner immediately left his office to receive the party and accompany Brooks on an inspection trip of the various academic departments. Following the tour, President-elect Brooks and his entourage entered the chapel just as the students filed into the assembly hall. As the last student found his seat, Hal Matthews, a student yell leader, ran to the stage "flinging his hands into the air" as a signal for the student body to rise and cheer Dr. Brooks. Following the outburst, total quiet prevailed in the auditorium as Faulkner stepped forward to speak. Southeastern's outgoing president opened his speech by declaring: "If there is any opinion that . . . there is any rankling in my heart because the executive work has been given into the hands of another . . . then let me say that there is not a discordant note in my heart or speech."<sup>29</sup>

Following Faulkner's remarks, "Dr. Brooks rose with unostentatious gravity and advanced to the front of the stage" where his "resonant voice" enthralled the audience. In his opening remarks Brooks said that he had come to Durant to see the institution, the students, the faculty, and to talk to the city's leading

residents before he made a decision to accept the great honor which had been offered him. Although uncommitted, the president-elect admitted that he had been touched as he listened to the addresses and read on the faces of the students the school spirit, "which augurs much achievement in the days that lie ahead before you and that of the school to which you are so loyal." Lastly, Brooks observed that nothing had so impressed him as the love and admiration the students held for Professor Faulkner, "who has so effectively labored as your head and won your hearts and lasting affections." In conclusion, Brooks declared that if he accepted the position, he hoped he could win the students' confidence, esteem, and cooperation.<sup>30</sup>

That evening a formal reception in Brooks' honor was held at the Atwood Hotel. Following a five-course dinner, Attorney Charles E. McPherrin, the toastmaster, began the speaking festivities by stating to Dr. Brooks that the citizens of Durant were assembled there that night because they are deeply interested in the normal and recognized the school's value to the community. McPherrin then introduced Judge J. G. Ralls, a member of the State Board of Education, who assured Brooks, "There was a time when Oklahoma paused in this great program of education after the establishment of her institutions, but it was but for a moment. Regaining her equilibrium, she has started a new pace and a new era marks her educational future." Senator J. T. McIntosh then took the floor to tell Dr. Brooks and the crowd that a rosy future lay in store for SEN. The state of Oklahoma finally had come to the time when the legislators admitted that money had to be spent as well as saved. The legislature had finally realized that the state must spend more money for the schools, he said, "and we are going to see that education becomes the biggest business of the State. You may depend upon it that my friend, Bill Durant, and I will work shoulder to shoulder in seeing that this normal gets the funds for maintenance and growth."<sup>31</sup>

Finally, it was time for President-elect Brooks to speak. After thanking those assembled for the gratifying day he had spent in Durant, he observed, however, that he knew that if he answered the call to become president of SEN, he would have to leave the fellowship he had established in a community where he had worked for so long—a hard decision he alone could make. Then, to the surprise of everyone present at the Atwood, Brooks announced that he had already made the following decision:

But . . . when I see the determined and advanced policies of education which you have inaugurated; when it is evident to me that your splendid citizenship is in full sympathy with enlarging the borders of educational standards and opportunity; and when it is apparent that the city proffers material improvement of the streets and sidewalks; and your senator and representatives pledge their legislative support; and there comes from the governor's office assurances of a material assistance in expanding the institution, then I am constrained to accept the presidency which has been tendered me tonight.

A prolonged wave of applause interrupted Brooks' speech at that moment. When the cheering stopped, he ended his address by pledging he would work with energy and deep loyalty to the advancement of SEN. In ending its remarks about the day's events, the *Democrat* predicted that Southeastern State Normal had entered upon an era of unparalleled growth and expansion.<sup>32</sup>

As President Faulkner soon learned, the reason he had not been given the presidency was not because he lacked expertise or had pursued unpopular policies during his year as chief executive. In reality, Brooks' appointment resulted from an attempt by Governor R. L. Williams to initiate an educational reform program. As Frank Leecraft, a spokesman for Governor Williams, revealed to the press, Oklahoma's chief executive had decided it would be better to go outside the state to find a qualified person to fill the vacancy originally created by the forced resignation of W. C. Canterbury. Throughout the early history of education in Oklahoma, as noted earlier, presidents of the normal schools and other institutions often changed with the election of each new governor. Too often, the appointments were made on the basis of political patronage and not educational merit. Governor Williams had simply decided to try to remedy this situation.

Following Brooks' visit, spring activities attracted the students' attention at SEN. April was, as usual, a busy time at the normal. It was the traditional month for the Southeastern Track, Field, and Oratorical Meet. For 1916 the events had been enlarged to span three days. As the final attendance figures for 1916 indicated, over four thousand people came to the campus during the high school gathering. Again, the city's downtown merchants

proved equal to the occasion. In reporting on the treatment accorded the visitors, the *Democrat* stated that the city had "never failed to take care of the visitors. And, no matter how many come, they will always be taken care of and will be sent home, as in previous years, singing the praises of the metropolis of southeastern Oklahoma."<sup>33</sup>

A new and unique sport made its debut at Southeastern in 1915-1916. Because tennis had become extremely popular, the Southeastern coaches decided to field a team, and President Faulkner had three clay courts added to the athletic grounds. From a large number of players participating in the tryouts, Wyatt Freeman, Will Roach, Joe Helbach, and Karl Helbach made the team. In the invitational tournament for secondary schools and the normals at Norman the last week in April, Southeastern made a clean sweep. Freeman won the singles against a foe from Central Normal, and Joe Helbach and Freeman teamed to win the doubles over a team from the same school. Praising the squad, the *Holisso* said that Southeastern's "team has proven worthy of the hearty support the students and faculty of the institution have given it."<sup>34</sup>

The annual triangular debates held in the spring were, as always, hotly contested. To the disappointment of the campus, a victory for SEN was not to be in 1916. On April 18, J. F. Hastings and C. P. Crudup met defeat at Edmond, while G. P. Beane and William Morgan lost their debate against Tahlequah on the Southeastern campus. April was also the month the track team anticipated because of the state normal meet in Oklahoma City. Representing Southeastern in the cinder contest on April 29 were Prentiss Moore, LaVere Yarbrough, Bill Morgan, Albert McFarland, Karl Helbach, and Ed Battaile.

In keeping with tradition, the 1916 *Holisso* was a work of beauty; the staff was headed by Editor Gladys Severance. For his great devotion to the students, the 1916 senior class dedicated their edition of the *Holisso* to President Faulkner. The dedication page read thusly: "To one who, strong and courageous, has marked the road we should follow and guided us along it with both patience and firmness."<sup>35</sup>

As the time for the 1916 commencement approached, the faculty and students of SEN undoubtedly awaited the coming ceremonies with mixed emotions. Naturally, there would be joy for the thirty-eight seniors. But, as everyone knew, the exercises would be the last official act of Andrew S. Faulkner in his capacity as chief executive of the school. Yet, if President Faulkner was

disappointed, he certainly concealed his feelings. With true loyalty to the institution he had served so well, he presided over the commencement week with dignity and humility.

The festivities started on May 12 with the annual junior-senior banquet. On May 14 the baccalaureate sermon was held in the normal auditorium. Then, on May 17 "the most beautiful and the most impressive commencement exercises that have ever been held in Southeastern's history took place, according to the *Democrat*. As the SEN orchestra played the processional, the seniors of 1916 entered the auditorium passing through floral arches which were supported by members of the junior class. After taking their seats in the front of the auditorium, which was beautifully decorated with flowers throughout, the seniors solemnly listened to their esteemed president praising their academic and extracurricular achievements. The audience then witnessed the formal transference of power to President Brooks, who made the commencement address to the class of 1916. As Brooks clearly noted in his opening remarks, he fully understood that he had been asked to give the address to emphasize that the change in leadership would be orderly and cordial. Brooks proclaimed that he would not demand respect but hoped he would have a chance to earn it, as his predecessor had. Brooks concluded by asking Faulkner to present the diplomas to the graduates.<sup>36</sup>

At the annual Alumni Association banquet held that evening, officers elected to serve for 1916 were Dan Stewart, president; Lois Jarrell, secretary; and Edwardine Crenshaw, treasurer. Several announcements made at the dinner noted the accomplishments of SEN graduates. For example, Joe Yerion had been appointed head of the domestic science department at Southern Methodist University, and five former students, Dan Stewart, M. U. Lively, W. A. Thomason, Mary Ritchey, and John Mosley had become straight "A" scholars at the University of Oklahoma. Furthermore, Mosley had brought distinction to Southeastern by winning a Rhodes Scholarship.

Less than a week after the commencement ceremonies, Southeastern State Normal opened its doors for a ten-week summer session. Actually organized by former President Faulkner, the summer session of 1916 was a tremendous success. For the convenience of the summer students, President Brooks opened a cafeteria in the gymnasium of the normal where warm lunches could be purchased for a nickel. Statistics issued by the State Board of Education revealed SEN had a total enrollment of 986

summer students, second only to Central State Normal. For the 1915-1916 academic year, a total of 1,216 people attended Southeastern. The average enrollment for each term was 266, and students had come from 32 Oklahoma counties and 7 states. Obviously, Southeastern truly was becoming an important educational institution in Oklahoma and the Southwest.<sup>37</sup>

On September 13, 1916, with a new president in office, another school year commenced. In the auditorium that morning, 275 students heard welcoming speeches by President Brooks and V. B. Hayes, spokesman for the Durant Twenty-Five Expansion Club. In his effort to make the students believe that the civic leaders of Durant really cared about having them in the city, Hayes promised that soon a sidewalk and a paved street would run to the front of the normal. Furthermore, he stated that a \$50,000 dormitory would be constructed before another year had elapsed. As the *Democrat* fully realized, such rapid developments within one year would take a miracle. The promises, nevertheless, had been made. After a standing ovation for Hayes, President Brooks, according to the local paper, made an instant hit with the student body when he told them he had decided it was absolutely necessary for them to miss a day of classes to attend the Bryan County Fair.<sup>38</sup>

By the time the term began, Brooks' cordial relationship with the businessmen in downtown Durant had made it possible for Southeastern to have a modern athletic field at last. For several years, part of the east side of the campus had been used as a temporary field, but the area was just too small and hilly. Brooks knew that the State Board of Education had been willing for several years to designate funds for improved athletic facilities at Southeastern. But, the money would be withheld pending the acquisition of sufficient acreage to accommodate a field large enough for football, baseball, and track events. Brooks felt the time was right to ask community leaders for financial help and he received it. In an article entitled "Durant Citizens Make Possible For Southeastern A Modern Athletic Field," the *Democrat* explained how the new president had convinced leaders of the Twenty-Five Expansion Club to purchase nearly two acres adjacent to the campus, the land extending from Fifth Street to the future line of Fourth Street with frontage on Normal Boulevard. President Brooks promised that the purchase price would be repaid from ticket sales at SEN athletic events.<sup>39</sup>

The social festivities at Southeastern for the fall of 1916 started with a chicken fry by the senior class. After a hike to

pedagogues" enjoyed a five-course dinner, and psychology, pedagogy, English, science, and mathematics were entirely forgotten for the evening while the professors took turns telling interesting stories of past events at Southeastern.<sup>42</sup>

The greatest dream of all Southeastern supporters was not to be fulfilled during 1917. On March 17, the Oklahoma Senate refused to concur with the House bill appropriating \$75,000 for a greatly needed classroom building. Yet, one dream did come true; a bill appropriating \$15,000 for the erection of a new heating plant at SEN passed and was signed by the governor. President Brooks instructed the architect to design adequate space above the boiler area to house classrooms for the modern training school, thereby alleviating the terribly overcrowded conditions of the administration building. Construction began almost immediately on the new structure, located directly behind the main building so that it would be in a position to furnish heat for any other campus additions funded by future legislatures. Once the new boilers were in place, President Brooks planned to obtain funds to redecorate the present heating room and use it as a modern cafeteria.<sup>43</sup>

Debate remained an important part of the lives of many students at Southeastern. By 1916 a new club dedicated to debate and oratory made its presence known on campus. Organized in late 1915 with only twelve members, the Websterian Debating Club became very noteworthy. It was formed as a rival to the Southeastern Debating Club so that a series of joint inter-school debates could be held to help prepare SEN entrants in the normal triangular debate contests. The Websterian Club enjoyed strong leadership from its beginning. For the fall term of 1916, the Honorable John S. Vaughan, who was the state senator from Marshall and Johnston counties and was also a SEN student, presided as president of the organization.

The Southeastern Debating Club continued to be the oldest and most important such club on campus. This organization, led by President Ira Eaker, won three of the four inter-school debates and continued to live by the slogan, "It is easy to open the soul on paper, but to speak the truth elegantly, forcefully, convincingly before an audience of one's fellow men requires at all times ability and self-confidence and in many cases courage of a higher order." The club also placed three of its members on the school's triangular debate team. Although hopes ran high for another victory in the state contests, Southeastern's team composed of Marvin Shilling,

Homer Reese, Robert McCollum, and Ira Eaker failed in its bid to repeat as champions.<sup>44</sup>

Activities in the spring semester at SEN centered around the fielding of teams in track and tennis. In the inter-normal state track tournament held on the campus of the University of Oklahoma, Southeastern won third place. Stars of the SEN cinder squad for 1916-1917 were Eddie Battaile, Prentiss Moore, and Roy Taylor. In the state tennis contest held at the same time, the Teachers team of Deugar Moore and Murr Arnold took second place. Baseball was also reintroduced at Southeastern, according to the *Holisso*, "and was met with plenty of enthusiasm." For 1917 the Southeastern team won four games and lost one. One of the victories was a 10-3 defeat of East Central State Normal in the first hardball contest ever held between the two arch rivals.<sup>45</sup>

Suddenly, in early April 1917, everything at Southeastern and throughout the United States dramatically changed. In February 1917, the Germans resumed unrestricted submarine warfare and in early March began to attack American ships without warning. Deciding that the United States could no longer remain neutral, President Woodrow Wilson went to the capitol on the evening of April 7, 1917, where he addressed a joint session of Congress stating that nothing less than war against the government and people of the United States had erupted. Four days later the United States declared war on Germany and her allies.

Reaction to the declaration of war was immediate on the campus. A voluntary military company, organized by Professor Joe J. Miller, began daily drills. Observing the military maneuvers, the Democrat declared, "This movement has brought many compliments to the school and will do great good in preparing these young men to understand military training when called into service." By early May, several members of the faculty had been accepted into officer training programs. The first professor to join was Professor Isaacs, the athletic director. Among the first students to volunteer for active military service were Edward Battaile, Ira Eaker, and Clifford Costley. When the *Democrat* heard of the boys' enlistment, it praised the magnanimous spirit of "these young men who are among the brightest in the city and that they will make good there can be no question."<sup>46</sup>

All normal extracurricular activity on the Southeastern State campus ceased almost instantaneously. The headlines of the Democrat on May 4 announced, "Athletics Discontinued At The Normal; Stars Of School Join Army." According to the local paper,

all athletic activities had been discontinued for the remainder of the year because Coach Isaacs and most of the school's athletes already had joined the army or the navy. Meanwhile, President Brooks and the faculty held chapel services to demonstrate their approval of the patriotic responses of the students. Brooks held a special assembly on May 7 where the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" and similar songs by the normal school chorus fanned the flames of patriotism. The most memorable moment in the service came when Brooks pointed throughout the auditorium to the many empty seats decorated with American flags. As those in attendance knew, only a month before these seats had been occupied by students who since had enlisted in their nation's service. To signify that their spirit went with their departed comrades, Brooks announced that the senior class had voted not to observe any of the traditional graduation festivities except the formal commencement ceremony. That afternoon another war effort became evident at Southeastern when government war bonds, popularly called liberty bonds or loans, went on sale at the institution. Wishing to support the war effort in every manner possible, the young ladies of the normal hurriedly rushed to buy the bonds.<sup>47</sup>

The hasty departure of many male students and faculty members stunned the SEN campus. Students remaining on campus worried about and thought of their departed friends. The 1917 seniors placed a poem in the *Holisso* expressing their fears and feelings for those who had left. The main section of the poem read, "From our classrooms they are missing, and the campus promenade; on their courage we're relying for defense of home and flag; God defend them, and if dying, rest them near some Pisgah's crag."<sup>48</sup>

On the morning of May 23, 1917, the commencement exercises took place in the school auditorium. The seniors entered the hall passing under a canopy of the national colors held by the junior class; and, all decorations and flowers in the auditorium were done in the national colors. After an address by Theodore F. Brewer, member of the State Board of Education, President Brooks handed out the diplomas to the class of 1917. One unusual aspect of the ceremony was the fact that eight of the young men—Clifford Costley, Ira Eaker, Hollis Hampton, Howard Jarrell, Hal Matthews, Homer Reese, Cooper Schuler, and Roy Taylor—received their diplomas in absentia because they had already left for the military.

In addition to the adverse effect the war was having on the campus, headlines of the *Democrat* on May 27 further disturbed the faculty and students. In a story entitled "Brooks May Be Given The Higher School," the paper informed the public that a vacancy in the presidency had occurred at Central State. Because of his effective leadership at Southeastern, Brooks would undoubtedly be offered the position, the paper reported. The fear the president might actually leave increased when it was announced by the local press that his name was not on the faculty renewal list at SEN for the 1917-1918 term. To the relief of everyone associated with the institution, Brooks soon announced he would not accept the presidency of Central State Normal, or anywhere else, to leave Southeastern. The president's pronouncement, coupled with the fact that work had actually started on the heating plant and model school complex, brought a spirit of renewed optimism to SEN. Shortly after the end of the summer term, all Southeastern loyalists were saddened to learn that one of the most important and influential faculty members would no longer be on campus. On August 15, 1917, Professor Faulkner, head of the department of education and former leader of the institution, accepted an appointment as president of Northeastern State Normal.<sup>49</sup>

The 1917-1918 academic year began in September and despite the terrible war, the senior class tried to have as much fun during their final year as possible under the circumstances. On the evening of September 13, for example, the senior class and their dates departed for the Liberty Theatre "where they were marvelously and highly entertained by the famous Charley Chaplin and his funny antics." Afterwards, the seniors went to Sinclair's Restaurant where the parlor had been decorated with pennants and streamers of ribbon in SEN colors. The students also tried to continue the traditions which had prevailed on the campus since its beginning. Exemplifying this spirit, on the evening of October 5, the girls of the normal entertained the football boys from Wesleyan College with a "weiner wurtz roast."

Probably the most unusual "social event" presented by any senior class was held in the fall of 1917. To raise funds to publish a *Holisso* volume, on October 13 the senior class went to Professor Echols' farm located south of town to pick cotton. For their twelve hours spent in the field, the class made the "generous amount" of \$10. Proud of their rather "rough work," the seniors wanted to

prove they still had "pep" after their labors; therefore, the students gave several class yells as they passed through the city. The strenuous work must have taken its toll on the laborers, however, "because Durant druggists reported the supply of arnica was exhausted and an SOS call was sent out for a still greater supply."<sup>50</sup>

One special page in the 1918 *Holisso* detailed the patriotic endeavors pursued by the senior class for the school year. As the first liberty loan was being raised nationwide, the senior class bought a \$50 bond from money earned by selling coffee and ham sandwiches downtown. The seniors wanted to lead the community in efforts to "go over the top" in liberty loans, war saving stamps, conservation, and Red Cross work. Consequently, six members bought individual liberty bonds in the amount of \$500. The seniors also invested \$616.50 in war savings stamps. The girls of the class immediately became active workers for the Red Cross. Most of the young women spent an average of two hours a week sewing, knitting, and making surgical dressings at the Durant Red Cross headquarters. Those who could not go to town spent their spare time in the sewing room helping Professor Hallie McKinney make clothes for the Belgian children.

The young men attending Southeastern who suffered from physical disabilities or were too young to join the military found other ways to express their patriotism. Most of them joined the United States Working Boys' Reserve. This group was designed to organize youth to join the ranks of national production for thirty-six days during the summer. The Southeastern State Boys' Working Reserve, led by Captain Cecil Mackin, assisted County Director M. M. Wickham in enrolling boys throughout southeastern Oklahoma. In addition to their service in the national war related organizations, the students found other productive ways to help the war effort. Many students assisted Professor Robbins in planting and harvesting the produce from the normal school's garden. Trading their labor and energy for credit hours, the students' motto was "Not to forget that 'biscuits' as well as 'bullets' count in winning the war." Coeds worked in the domestic science department devoting many long hours to promoting and encouraging home canning. Much of the food consumed at Southeastern State Normal throughout 1918 came fresh from the garden or from canned vegetables costing only the price of the containers.<sup>51</sup>

During 1917-1918 almost all festive campus occasions had patriotic overtones. One such event occurred in late November when the members of the Alta Petentes society were entertained

by their sponsor, Professor Joe Lou Adams, at her home, which was decorated in red, white, and blue. Audiences in southeastern Oklahoma also watched and enjoyed patriotic plays presented by the girls of the Alta Petentes dramatic society. One play entitled *The Girls in Khaki* was a two-act comedy filled with "thrilling, patriotic songs" revolving around life in an army camp. In the words of the *Holisso*, "all who saw the play went away with an everlasting desire to be more useful to humanity who is being crushed and beaten down by the gigantic tragedy now being played in the western theatre at the front."<sup>52</sup>

Another very special occasion connected with the school's war effort took place on the morning of November 20, when the clashing of pots and pans were heard throughout the building as the girls of the domestic science department prepared a "wheatless and meatless war luncheon." The purpose of the luncheon was to prove that a delicious meal could be served without the inclusion of such rationed foods as flour, sugar, and meat. Honored guests of the war luncheon included Representatives W. A. Durant and Porter Newman; Senator J. T. McIntosh; and Durant businessmen R. F. Story, E. M. Evans, B. A. McKinney, A. B. Davis, J. R. McKinney, W. F. Pendleton; and President T. D. Brooks.

Despite the departure of many of the star athletes for the military, SEN still managed to field a football team for the 1917-1918 season. When Coach H. O. Tudor called for volunteers, only two lettermen reported. Although Southeastern won the initial contest of the season against Wesleyan College, the next three games ended in defeat. Then on November 8, President Brooks announced he had canceled the remainder of the football schedule and disbanded the team. The action had become necessary, he said, because of scholastic delinquencies of some of the normal's athletes. Explaining his decision to the press, Brooks said, "I believe in interscholastic athletics very firmly indeed, but I should prefer that Southeastern withdraw permanently from such competition than to have it represented by teams whose members are not students." For the 1917-1918 basketball campaign, Coach Tudor was able to find enough boys who met the proper academic qualifications to field a team. Because of the disruptive nature of the war, however, Southeastern was only able to schedule four games. During the shortened campaign, SEN defeated Wesleyan College and Atoka High School while losing twice to the University of Oklahoma.<sup>53</sup>

S.O.S. O. EDWARDS

Several events of the spring semester, 1918, as usual, brought a great deal of excitement to the campus. In April, the eighth annual interscholastic high school contest was held. Unfortunately, the 1918 event failed to meet previous standards because the weather refused to cooperate. A blustery cold front on the day of the track meet made conditions so unbearable that most spectators departed. The debating team chosen by Professor Linscheid for the 1918 spring inter-normal debates was most unusual in one aspect. For the first time in Southeastern's history, the school's contestants included three coeds: Hallie Burris, Edna Lyday, and Julia Munson.

In the first round of the debates, Burris and Lyday defeated Southwestern Normal, and Munson and Cecil Mackin defeated Central Normal. Having won these two contests, Mackin and Munson debated Northwestern State Normal for the state championship. To the thrill of the campus, especially the coed population, on the evening of May 12, the SEN debaters were triumphant for the second time within three years in bringing home the state title. Although Southeastern did not field a track team, the school was represented at the state 1918 inter-normal meet in Norman by the tennis team of Deugar Moore and Roderick Renick. Proving he was the best college tennis player in Oklahoma, Moore won the state singles championship. In the doubles, Moore and Renick lost the event by one set to East Central.<sup>54</sup>

Because of the new state law requiring military training in the state schools of higher education, President Brooks announced in the spring that military training would be a required feature of summer school. "And in order to avoid delay and expeditiously swing the big summer school into military line," the chief executive announced that Professor J. J. Miller would immediately organize a school drill company from which officers for the summer operations would be selected. Students selected for officer positions at the end of the training period would be given double credit for the work performed. Soon after Brooks' pronouncement, the *Democrat* observed, "Every afternoon as the summer breezes drifted into the classrooms at Southeastern, the coming of Latin conjugations ... is punctuated by the rhythmical [sounds] of marching columns and the sharp shrill commands of officers in the officer training corps."<sup>55</sup>

The seniors at SEN again produced a remarkable *Holisso*. Heading the staff for 1918 were Edna Lyday, editor, and Gay Scarbrough and Hallie Martin Burris, associate editors. For the

first time since the publication started in 1911, the *Holisso* did not use its dedication page to salute a person. Instead, the page contained an emotionally moving poem written by Gladys Welsh of the 1918 class and entitled "Dedication." It expressed how much the students who were left behind thought of their classmates who had gone to serve. On the page following the tribute by Welsh, readers of the *Holisso* found the names of the missing students under a picture of a flag with sixty-two stars in the center and the legend, "Our Service Flag."<sup>56</sup>

On May 22, 1918, commencement exercises for the year took place in the auditorium decorated as the previous year with American flags and floral arrangements in the national colors. After the invocation by the Reverend E. G. Butler, a short welcoming address by President Brooks, and a commencement lecture by President E. M. Waits, of Texas Christian University, the graduating seniors received their diplomas. At the banquet held on the night of May 23, a particularly inspiring and meaningful event occurred. At the request of President Brooks, Professor Linscheid offered a toast in honor of the young men absent from the Southeastern campus. The selection of this teacher was significant, for, despite his unstinting service to and concern for the SEN students, Linscheid at times had to endure vocal abuse because of his Germanic origin, Professor Linscheid rose and delivered one of the most eloquent expressions of love for the institution and its students ever given by any person associated with Southeastern. In part, the professor stated the following:

Southeastern is not a large institution. It does not boast of great laboratories or libraries. It does not boast of hoary traditions, for its youth precludes that; it does not have a nationwide reputation. . . . But it has many things to which it may call attention with pride which is entirely pardonable. It has a record for honest work; it has a golden hearted student body of which this company this evening is a splendid example; it has a faculty sincerely devoted to its duties from the president of the institution down to its humblest assistant teacher; it has made an honorable record. But the proudest and noblest thing within the institution we love is the service flag in our auditorium. That flag contains within its field of white 62 stars, each star representing one of our boys in the service. . . . They represent the imperishable

souls of our boys in the service, each one of which, we pray, is as spotless as a star. . . . We pray that these fine men may be returned to us but not one minute sooner than necessary . . . to win a just, an honorable, and a lasting peace.<sup>57</sup>

Near the end of summer school, 1918, a new kind of military training became possible on the Southeastern campus—the United States Student Army Training Corps. Congress and the War Department decided in 1918 that students could continue their education while actively preparing to enter military service as a commissioned officer. Learning of this decision in Washington, President Brooks and civic leaders in Durant quickly moved to make Southeastern State Normal eligible for a unit of the Student Army Training Corps. To receive this designation, Southeastern had to recruit at least one hundred young men for the program. President Brooks immediately met with the Durant Commercial Association to outline a campaign to recruit the needed students, each of whom must meet the SEN entrance requirements. The men were to receive special military training, \$30 a month, free uniforms, equipment, and other fringe benefits furnished by the United States government.

Concerning the efforts of the president and the Commercial Association, the *Democrat* believed that every young man in Durant who was eligible to enter the college classes of the normal should enlist. "All boys, eighteen years of age and over are going to have to go to war. The question is will they go as officers or as privates," the paper remarked. To have the corps functioning by the next semester, Brooks and the Commercial Association sent a recruiter throughout southeastern Oklahoma talking to eligible young men. By September the one hundred men had been successfully recruited and a unit of the corps was training on the

As Brooks and the faculty soon discovered, the fall semester of 1918 was not to be a normal term by any means. By the middle of September, residents of Durant learned that a dreaded disease known as Spanish Influenza was striking thousands of Americans, leaving many dead in its wake. By early October, the terrible disease had arrived in southeastern Oklahoma. On October 10, 1918, Mayor F. P. Hynds issued the following proclamation: "Whereas the health and safety of the citizens of Durant, Oklahoma, is now jeopardized by . . . the disease known as Spanish

Influenza . . . the city officials of the city of Durant deem it expedient to recommend that the schools and all places of public assembly be closed." The mayor's order, of course, ended activity at Southeastern. Unfortunately, the entire student body was not able to return to their homes in Durant or to board trains for their respective communities. The students who could not leave were the boys enrolled in the army training program, many of whom were ill. To accommodate the sick young men under his direction, Brooks immediately turned the normal building into a barracks; sleeping cots were installed on the second and third floors, and the gymnasium was turned into a cafeteria. Meanwhile, the government sent a physician to care for the boys during their illness, and President Brooks arranged for two rooms to be isolated and fixed up as a modern hospital ward.<sup>59</sup>

With the passage of time, the illness subsided, and SEN reopened its doors in late December. Since the war had decimated the male population on campus, most of the social events of 1918-1919 naturally involved coed organizations. One of the most active groups proved to be the Alta Petentes, led by Sallie Leonard as president; Thelma Ritchey, vice-president; Carol Townsend, secretary; and Willie Raines, treasurer. And, in fact, one of the most delightful social occasions held by the group in 1919 was a valentine party at the home of Sallie Leonard. As reported in the *Holisso* society news, the house was decorated with hearts and cupids "gracefully twined over windows and doors and suspended from the chandelier." After an elaborate luncheon, a program of stories and musical numbers was enjoyed by the members. Later in the month, the Alta Petentes held a George Washington party at the home of Haydee Ritchey. Another important social event occurred on February 13 when President and Mrs. Brooks entertained the juniors and seniors at a banquet in their new home on Normal Boulevard. The president's home had been built as the result of an executive request to the legislature by Governor R. L. Williams. The new residence, a beautiful two-story home with a basement, constructed at a cost of \$18,000, was situated at the northwest corner of Sixth and Normal streets."

Although the season started off "with plenty of good material and lots of pep," the 1918 football campaign ended in a complete disaster. According to the *Holisso*, "Just before the first game when the men were in the pink of condition, the influenza broke out and football was suspended." And, because most of the players were student soldiers who had to drill everyday at 5:30 P.M., Coach

10,300. 1918-1919



Laird only had one hour a day for practice between drill and classes. "Since this amount of time was entirely inadequate to whip a football team into shape," he stated to the press, "they were never in proper physical and mental condition to play classy football." In fact, with all the problems and sickness, the team only played one game the entire year, which resulted in a loss to the Denton State Normal. At first, the prospects for the basketball season also looked bleak. As reported in the *Holisso*, "The material for basketball looked so poor at the start of the season that Coach Laird decided not to play any outside games, but organized four teams for inter-class basketball." After watching the inter-normal games for a few weeks, however, Laird decided he had enough talent on campus to form a worthy collegiate team.<sup>61</sup>

In the short season which followed, the Teachers won enough games for Coach Laird and his men to claim a co-championship of the Oklahoma state normal schools. But, the Southwestern team and their coach, J. F. Lance, rejected SEN's claim and boasted in the pages of the *Daily Oklahoman* that they alone had won the title, the *Democrat* reported. After reading the article, Coach Paul Laird wrote a letter to the Oklahoma City newspaper stating that Southeastern certainly did not concede the normal championship. In response to Coach Laird's remarks, on March 1, the *Daily Oklahoman* published a statement from the Weatherford Normal challenging SEN to play them in Oklahoma City for the title. President Brooks and Coach Laird immediately accepted the Weatherford challenge. To the disappointment of the SEN basketball team and Southeastern supporters, the game never took place. After arrangements had been completed for the two teams to meet at the Oklahoma City High School gymnasium, Coach Laird suddenly received a call from Coach Lance informing him the day of the game would have to be switched. Coach Laird immediately agreed to another date. Two days before the team was to leave for Oklahoma City, Coach Laird received another message informing him that Weatherford could not play on the new date, but might agree on some future time. At this point, President Brooks and Coach Laird declined. In a telegram to Coach Lance, which was subsequently printed in the *Democrat* and other state papers, Brooks and Laird stated, "We have agreed on two nights with you and have everything ready for Thursday and if you will not meet us then you will not meet us any other time." When no further word came from Weatherford, all Southeastern could do was to accept a co-championship.<sup>62</sup>

The *Holisso* for 1919 was dedicated, as in the previous year, to the memory of those who had left SEN to serve their country. But the honorary page for 1919 had a much sadder message than the sentiments expressed the prior year. The dedication declared, "To those brave boys who so heroically gave their lives that freedom, justice, and peace might live." On the front page, a poem written by Vallie Fox related the most terrible impact the war had brought to the Southeastern campus. Entitled, "To SEN Lads," the poem in part read, "On foreign soil, you buried are and brightly shines your golden star. With a will you did the task you tried, full worthy and nobly you died." And, as the words of the poem said, the war did indeed take the lives of several SEN lads. Although the war had officially ended on November 11, word did not reach campus until December 11 that Sergeant Calvin R. Bryant had died from wounds he received while in the trenches of France. The announcement of Bryant's death was not the last such solemn message heard on the SEN campus in the aftermath of the war. Although the allied victory brought joy to the campus, the death of their fellow classmates never was forgotten. The staff who prepared the 1919 *Holisso* included Sallie Leonard as editor-in-chief and Ettie Gibson and Lafayette Pritchett as assistant editors.<sup>63</sup>

With the coming of spring 1919, an outgrowth of new vigor permeated the student body of Southeastern. One result of the new optimistic spirit was the publication of a school paper—the first attempt since the old *Southeastern Gazette* published in 1913-1914. Designed to be "of the students, by the students, and for the students," the new paper was named the Na-Na-No-Wa (newspaper). For Coach Laird and SEN supporters, the track team's performance that same spring was the highlight of the athletic year. The 1919 track team scored more points in more meets than any other track team in the institution's history. At the Southern Methodist University meet held in Dallas, the team placed second at the Oklahoma intercollegiate meet the SEN thin clads took fourth place. The playing of the national pastime also made its reappearance. Because most of the area colleges did not field baseball teams, the squad played most of their games in the Durant city league. The only collegiate contests held during 1919 ended in two losses to Austin College.<sup>64</sup>

During the month of May, SEN students inaugurated a new event that became a campus tradition—the May Day pageant. The event, described by the *Democrat* as "one of the most beautiful outdoor pageants ever witnessed in Durant," began with the pupils

S.O.S.O. LIBRARY

from the training school "routing King Winter." With Old Man Winter gone, Sallie Leonard, representing spring, was crowned the May Day queen. Following a Maypole dance, the queen and her court of beautifully gowned attendants watched students of the normal school dressed in magnificent costumes appear before her court "in a series of carefully planned episodes, which set forth the lives of people of the centuries."<sup>65</sup>

The greatest moment of the 1919 term came in the spring when Governor J. B. A. Robertson signed a bill appropriating \$100,000 for a new classroom building at SEN. As the Democrat explained, the legislative victory was a prime example of how an institution can grow rapidly if it has the full support and appreciation of a civic and business community behind its development. The effort to secure the appropriation had started on March 17, only ten days before the bill was signed, when a large number of Durant businessmen went to Oklahoma City to lobby the legislature and the governor. The Durant Commercial Association committee which descended on the legislature was composed of J. R. McKinney, W. F. Pendleton, V. B. Hayes, C. G. Shayne, Ed L. Spears, S. W. Stone, A. B. Davis, Green Thompson, Ben Brown, S. C. Boswell, John Lawrence, C. L. Johnston, Jewel Hicks, Jack Holmes, R. F. Story, Walter T. Turnbull, and Dr. W. S. Williams. At four banquets held at the Skirvin and the Lee Hutchins hotels, senators and representatives heard the businessmen from Durant successfully explain how Southeastern's enrollment had outgrown the present physical plant.

In honor of the civic leaders' action, President Brooks and the faculty held a banquet in late March in the diningroom of the First Christian Church. At the dinner honoring "the brilliant labors of the Durant businessmen who dropped their personal affairs" and traveled to Oklahoma City on behalf of the institution, Brooks introduced V. B. Hayes to explain how the committee had managed to accomplish the remarkable feat. Hayes humorously told the audience they could not understand the accomplishment unless they could picture W. S. Williams "running around the Lee Hutchins Hotel with no coat, hat or collar on, and that the rest of the bunch were going through the legislature in the same way."

Another speaker, however, went a step further in explaining the well-timed victory. In another humorous presentation, Ed L. Spears related to the crowd that "the banquet was a howling success" because of a beverage which not only made speeches but also received votes every time the glasses were filled or lifted. Spears remarked he had discovered the beverage called "logan-ju"

or "apple-ju" immediately prior to the banquet, and it had certainly proved to be "the best method of getting the desired results." One can only speculate about what the concoction really contained to be so powerful! In its coverage of the banquet, the *Democrat* in an article entitled "New Birth Of The School" stated the following:

In putting this magnificent program across it may be confidently said that this marks the renaissance of the institution with the close of the war. Southeastern was just entering upon internal and external expansion into the type of institution projected about two years ago, when the war beckoned for defenders. . . . But those days are history now, and the books of the registrar show a greater enrollment than any time since 1917.

Then, less than a month after the momentous legislative action, readers of the *Democrat* were shocked to read on the evening of April 25 the following headline, "President T. D. Brooks Resigns As President Of Southeastern Normal." Explaining his decision to the people, Brooks said, "In deciding to sever my connection with Southeastern Normal school . . . I am prompted solely by the feeling that I cannot longer defer some years of graduate study which it has been for years my ambition to accomplish."<sup>67</sup>

Although disappointed that Brooks was leaving SEN, as the time for the 1919 commencement approached, the seniors at Southeastern looked forward to the usual celebrations held around graduation day. The first such event happened on Saturday morning, May 10, when the seniors were happily entertained with a brunch at the home of Haydee Ritchey. For the first time in the school's history, the faculty and administration decided to have a formal homecoming celebration at the institution. The homecoming dinner, served by the ladies of the First Christian Church, became an instant "red letter" event of the institution. Many graduates left the festivity feeling that SEN was "the most loyal institution in existence" and determined "to do great things to help make the school the best of its kind in the west." Serving the graduating class for 1919 as officers were Cecil Mackin, president; Marguerite Jarrell, vice-president; Thelma Ritchey, secretary; and Vallie Fox, treasurer. Although the class chose as its official class motto, "We Don't Need Any," the seniors did in fact have a much more serious slogan. At the bottom of the page in the *Holisso* which listed the senior officers was the following message, "Don't

1919-20



in a Texarkana, Arkansas, business college. Trained for the classics and humanities, he soon quit to become a textbook salesman. In 1908 his work brought him to the small Oklahoma town of Boswell—a community in need of a teacher. With his outstanding academic record, young Bennett easily got the job; the following year he became superintendent of Choctaw County. In 1910, he decided to accept a much better paying position as superintendent of the Hugo, Oklahoma, school system. Bennett remained in this position until his appointment as Southeastern's sixth president in 1919.<sup>2</sup>

After coming to Oklahoma, Bennett did two things that greatly affected his future. First, he immediately became affiliated with and avidly supported Southeastern State Normal. In the opening summer session of 1909, he not only encouraged his fellow teachers to attend the new normal but also readily accepted a teaching position for the term. For the next nine years, Bennett continued to teach in the summers and to support the normal's growth in every way possible. Because of his enormous influence and popularity throughout southeastern Oklahoma, Bennett was able to help presidents Moore and Murdaugh to avoid opposition to the school's existence from county superintendents. (See chapter I.) Almost from the time he entered Oklahoma, Bennett's life became associated with the institution he would one day direct. Second, while teaching summer school in Durant, he met Vera Pearl Connell, the daughter of a prominent lawyer and judge. After a lengthy courtship, he proposed marriage and the ceremony took place on January 27, 1913, at the home of Judge Connell. For the rest of their lives, the Bennetts remained devoted to each other. A deep, mutual love for their five children and a strong faith in Christianity also shaped their married life. Henry Garland and Vera Pearl Bennett died together in a plane crash in Iran in 1951; situated between the two lifelong companions was a handbag—the family Bible was the top item found inside the luggage.<sup>3</sup>

Henry Garland Bennett assumed control of Southeastern at the start of the 1919 summer term. As a result of his time spent at SEN, the new president was well qualified to know the strengths and weaknesses of the Durant educational facility. More significant, Henry Bennett had developed a strong personal philosophy of the school's purposes. The new president believed Southeastern should play a major role not only in educating teachers for the rural area served by SEN but also in advancing the cultural, social, and democratic level of the citizens in the region. In a speech

made after he accepted the presidency, Bennett said, "I shall be cautious of generalization and not say that the school system is responsible for our social freedom; I shall insist only that the two go together." Another time he expressed his belief about the value of the higher education process in terms which "bordered on the utopian." In his speech Bennett stated that he would "like to see one generation of American youth reared and educated from cradle to maturity with the benefit of all that we know about medicine, health and hygiene, formal education, and psychology. . . . Truly, I believe that here lies the pathway to Utopia." But Bennett knew such idealistic concepts could not be accomplished by an educational institution without a proper foundation created by strong, assertive leadership. He once declared, "Great institutions do not result from haphazard development; they are the fruition of years of planned growth under the guidance of wise policy."<sup>4</sup>

To make Southeastern a truly great normal, Bennett had several immediate objectives in mind—policies he pursued successfully at SEN and later at Stillwater as president of Oklahoma A&M. First, the new president consolidated power exclusively in his hands or those of trusted assistants. As Professor Philip Reed Rulon has written, "In short, he was a dictator, though usually a benevolent one." During the nine years he spent at Southeastern, Bennett allowed only two other people to exercise considerable authority. Soon after his appointment, Bennett named John S. Vaughan, a state senator and superintendent of the Kingston, Oklahoma, school system, as registrar and assistant to the president; Vaughan remained the president's most trusted lieutenant. When Bennett left the campus on sabbatical leave in 1925-26, Vaughan served as acting president. The other person given authority was Professor Hallie McKinney. One of the first acts taken by the new chief executive was to make Professor McKinney the Dean of Women. Acting on the apparent assumption that if the coeds behaved, the male students would follow, Bennett gave almost complete authority for the regulation of student life and conduct at SEN to Dean McKinney.<sup>5</sup>

Besides providing capable direction, the new president believed the institution must offer the proper academic setting for the four kinds of students who attended SEN. The first three, constituting the large majority, were matriculants from the county schools who had finished the common course (grades one through eight), others who had partial high school work, and those who had graduated from a full four-year secondary program. For

the first two types, Bennett found it a privilege to deal with these pupils and send them back into the rural schools, "having added to their intimate knowledge of country life that professional and social training necessary for the exercise of community leadership through the agency of the country schools." For high school graduates, President Bennett said Southeastern had a special goal "because the insistence grows that those who would teach must have training." Finally, Southeastern should pay close attention to recognize and faithfully meet the needs of the fourth type of student, "the teacher already in service" who attended the normal "to keep pace with professional progress, and to merit promotion." To serve these constituents, the new president concentrated his attention on three main immediate tasks—expanding the physical plant, improving the quality of the faculty, and creating a strong alumni association.<sup>6</sup>

The move to enlarge the physical facilities at SEN started within the first few weeks of the Bennett presidency. The summer session for 1919 opened on June 2 with 767 students in attendance. Shortly thereafter, President Bennett announced that the barracks, constructed the previous year for the Student Army Training Corps unit and never used because the end of the war coincided with its completion, would be converted into "a neat, airy, attractive, and up-to-date cafeteria." Commenting on the president's decision, the *Democrat* observed that for the convenience of hundreds of students, the new chief executive had solved one great drawback to the normal. The decision also helped the Durant economy. "It will make it possible for people to build large rooming houses near the normal, where students can secure rooms and get their meals at the cafeteria," the paper stated. Being an astute politician, the new president actively cultivated a good relationship with the civic and business leaders of Durant by inviting them to tour the campus and eat at the new cafeteria. After a series of such dinners, Bennett's hospitality was rewarded. In July, a group of Durant investors incorporated to purchase a tract of land located half a block from the campus and built a well-furnished coed dormitory. The construction of the coed facility was the first of many successes derived from the close cooperation between "Town and Gown."<sup>7</sup>

Bennett spent considerable time and effort in helping build a statewide power base for himself, the institution, and education in general. Bennett's initial political and educational influence derived from his part in founding, during the summer of 1918, the

society of educators known as the Ancient and Beneficent Order of the Red Red Rose. Symbolically, the name was deduced from the members placing a rose in the lapels of the neophytes during their initiation. The stated purposes for the society were as follows:

1. To furnish a meeting place where friendship may be encouraged, isolation eliminated, false dignity laid aside, where teachers may meet and eat with increasing pride.
2. To foster fraternal cooperation and the development of all agencies which shall be for the advancement and profit of the teachers.
3. To work for the professionalization of teaching and the improvement of public schools and to relentlessly war against all forces opposed to these ends.

The founders of the Red Red Rose, M. A. Nash, J. P. Battenberg, T. T. Montgomery, and Henry Garland Bennett, intended for the society to play a very significant role in their lives. As *Rulon* has observed, "The organization, though purely social on the surface, originated at a point in time when education was evolving into a profession and when educators recognized the need for active involvement in politics in order to make changes. Perhaps, then, it was more than coincidence that the early members of the society gradually gained control of many of the state's public school and college administrative positions."

The society served other needs of the educators in the early part of the present century. Bennett and his allies meant for the Red Red Rose to have an important effect on the social life of the members and their wives—who formed an auxiliary society called the Blue Blue Violets. The actual operation of the organization after its creation has been summarized thusly:

There were few formal trappings during the early years of the organization. The agenda usually consisted of a dinner and certain other activities designed to breakdown the stone-faced facade sometimes associated with public servants. The humor grew less coarse and the titles of members more impressive as the society expanded in size and influence. Some of the more colorful positions were: The Exalted Grand High Mokus of

the Universe; The Exalted Grand High Provider; The Exalted Grand High Eulucidator; The Exalted Grand High Inner Wicket; The Exalted Grand High Organizer. The Red Rose offered the rural school teacher much of value. Poorly educated and paid, it gave him an opportunity to meet college presidents, university faculty, and governors of the state. The organization also provided some fond memories never to be forgotten.

The importance of Henry Garland Bennett's place in the society eventually allowed the new president of Southeastern to speak with power and authority to the politicians who controlled the state of Oklahoma in the early decades of the current century. With hundreds and then thousands of members both statewide and nationally, no political figure could ignore listening to the advice and wishes of the leaders of the Ancient and Beneficent Order.<sup>9</sup>

Bennett's energy and dedication made his first term at SEN notable. Finishing the summer with a total of 882 enrolled, second in attendance only to Central State, the *Democrat* called the new administrator's performance "remarkable." According to the paper, the students had done far better work than any other student body which had ever attended this normal school, and the summer faculty had demonstrated "a vim never before shown." The selection of State Superintendent of Public Instruction R. H. Wilson as the commencement speaker reflected the president's political acumen. As Bennett had hoped, Durantites came to the ceremony in great numbers—a showing of support for Southeastern which the important state educational official could not fail to notice.<sup>10</sup>

The return of the students to the campus on September 8 marked the beginning of the fall term. Although the school's leadership had changed, the faculty remained basically the same. (See appendix B for faculty.) Significantly, several new faculty members had been hired on a temporary one-year appointment. These teachers joined the faculty because of a new policy instituted by President Bennett for the academic and professional benefit of the permanent instructional staff at SEN. Because Bennett knew a great institution must have a learned faculty, the practice of granting good teachers sabbatical leave for graduate school study leading toward an advanced or terminal degree was initiated at

SEN. Southeastern would definitely benefit, he indicated to the public in an article in the *Democrat*, because any professor who accepted the leave with half-pay would have to sign a bond to return to SEN and remain at the institution for at least a period of three years.<sup>11</sup>

As the students soon learned, the new chief executive also had their interests at heart. With his support and approval, many different kinds of campus organizations formed early in the semester. For example, in the 1919 academic year, Bennett encouraged the formation of an important and permanent organization at SEN—the Student Council. As explained in the student annual, President Bennett and the faculty felt that it was necessary and appropriate that some of the governing power of the school should be vested in the student body, as well as in the administration. After the new president announced his desire for such a governing body, each class was asked to select a representative to the group, and a presiding officer was chosen by the student body at large. After an interesting and spirited campus campaign and election, H. Grady Eaker was elected to fill the most honored position that a student henceforth could hold at Southeastern—president of the Student Council. President Bennett soon demonstrated that he really intended for the student leaders to have an important place in the campus decision-making process. The student government was allowed to debate and decide the qualifications athletes representing the normal must meet in order to represent the institution. The new council also sponsored a basketball tournament with teams from the various high schools in the southeastern district participating, and proclaimed April 1 as a legal holiday at Southeastern. Most important, the council was given the responsibility for helping Professor Laird organize the annual spring track meet.<sup>12</sup>

Bennett, a devout Christian, encouraged the students to participate in religious activities on the campus. After becoming disorganized during the late 1910s, the YWCA was rechartered during the winter term of 1919 and enjoyed great prestige during the Bennett years. Members and officers elected for the term were Floy Schoonover, Stella Reynolds, Georgia Stuart, Bonnie Mae Pruitt, Kathryn Jackson, Opal Crawford, Ruth O'Banion, and Lucy Leonard. Sigma Omicron Lambda, a new fraternal social club, also made its appearance during the year and chose as its motto "Do Others Before They Do You." Members of the group declared their society had begun "on the 13th day of February, 1920, A.D. . . . in Room 13 where a vision appeared before them." In their ghostly

dream "a great learned man with a skull and cross bones on his chest and dressed in gleaming white appeared before them and in a voice of thunder" gave them secret instructions for fun and jollity on the campus. Officers of the fraternity were Honest Wallender, chief undertaker; Hubert Dees, veterinary surgeon; Grady Eaker, chief bonekeeper; A. W. Dagley, sky pilot; and Walter Lambert, grave digger; pallbearers (general charter members) were Claude Eaker, Edfred Shannon, Henry Greer, Max Schreiner, Orville Harris, Woodson Tyree, and Alfred Purdy. The society became a complete success by sponsoring such delightful campus events as the April Fool Frolic.<sup>13</sup>

A much more serious-minded organization was the SEN Forensic Club. Founded October 10, 1919, under the leadership of Professor Floy Perkinson Gates, the club met to study parliamentary rules and argumentation and to train debaters to represent SEN at the annual interstate triangular debates. Charter officers and members of the society included Grady Eaker, H. S. Bates, Eleanor Coulson, Kathryn Jackson, Naomi Munson, A. W. Dagley, Honest Wallender, and Ross Quincy. The Southeastern glee club won honors for the members individually as well as for the organization and school. Chosen from the chorus by Professor Julia E. Stout, the twelve girls performed before the student body, Durant organizations, and in seventeen towns throughout southeastern Oklahoma. For 1919 the elite musical group was composed of Stella Reynolds, Opal Crawford, Emmeretta Wood, Floy Schoonover, Pearl Clay, Flodelle Dyer, Wilma Yates, Barbara Combs, Jeffie Collier, Irma Nolen, Pauline Allen, and Nell Austin.<sup>14</sup>

The Bennett presidency brought a hope of renewed stability to the athletic scene. In reviewing the football campaign, the *Holisso* declared, "The football season of 1919 at Southeastern has been one of the most successful seasons in many years and it seemed that we were beating back to the days when Southeastern won the annual football championship in Oklahoma." Actually, the season was not quite that good if success meant victories. In a seven-game schedule, SEN tied one game, lost three, and won three. But if success meant playing a vigorous schedule with more players representing the blue and gold than ever before, the *Holisso* was correct; over thirty-five players won places on the team. And, the season ended happily when the Teachers convincingly beat their arch rival, East Central, 21-0. For the convenience of fans and to encourage attendance, Bennett had bleachers built on the west side of the field. Following the pigskin campaign, the basketball season opened

with "practically all of last year's star team back on the job" and an "unusually full schedule of games," the *Holisso* reported. Unfortunately, after one practice game, an influenza epidemic attacked Durant and the basketball team "was badly 'shotto pieces,'" the student press explained. Then, "owing to a shortage in the athletic funds and the epidemic," the *Holisso* stated, "Coach Laird wisely cancelled the remaining games scheduled for the season."<sup>15</sup>

Bennett, as he had promised, scheduled academic courses and other events during the fall of 1919 designed to benefit the rural school teachers of southeastern Oklahoma. Professor R. R. Tompkins was hired to create a department of correspondence study and extension classes. By offering such work, SEN was providing a vital service to the hundreds of her students who found it impossible to be in residence to take the required work for new standards of certification or to secure the normal college diploma, Bennett believed. The new president also wisely used the superintendents and principals of southeastern Oklahoma to help the institution teach the extension work. Bennett realized that, while the extension programs added to the knowledge and capabilities of rural educators, the loyalty of these people to SEN would be enhanced through on-campus activities; therefore, frequent conferences were held in Durant. In the fall of 1919 Bennett convinced the Southeastern Oklahoma Educational Association to hold its annual two-day meeting in the city. With the help of many Durantites and the Durant Commercial Association, over six hundred visiting teachers, speakers, and honored guests were provided free rooms for their visit. Because of the hospitality extended them, the association members voted to return to Southeastern and Durant the following year.<sup>16</sup>

The new chief executive never failed to return the support that he received from the leaders and citizens of the Durant community. When the city faced a dangerous and even life-threatening fuel shortage in the winter of 1919 as a result of a strike by the United Mine Workers of America, Bennett personally led the campus to the relief of the community. In an article entitled "Normal Boys Are Still Cutting Wood Doing Fine Work," the *Democrat* expressed the residents' gratitude thusly: "President Bennett, his faculty and his students deserve great credit for this magnificent spirit of loyalty and cooperation. The normal put 100 men in the woods all day yesterday, and the teachers and pupils worked as never before . . . Let's give three cheers for the normal."<sup>17</sup>

The many social events held during the 1919-1920 academic year included the choral production of *Pan on a Summer Day*, the president's faculty Easter party, the juniors' country frolic, and the annual senior class party held on St. Patrick's Day. But the one day on which the students of the Southeastern State Normal experienced the most enjoyment was April Fool's Day. As the students approached the administration building on April 1, they "discovered a black and orange mystery flag." Although the flag caused quite a stir on campus, "no explanation came till a special assembly was called at the close of the first hour's work" when the Student Council president, Grady Eaker, "dispelled the mystery and evoked a storm of applause," the *Holisso* reported. To the students' delight, the council had declared the first day of April a legal holiday; the flag belonged to Sigma Omicron Lambda, who had charge of the activities of the day. The fun of "hooky playing" was spent by the faculty and students at the famous falls on Chuckwa Creek enjoying games, a vast quantity of sandwiches, and red lemonade. As with the May Pageant, the April Fool Frolic became a traditional custom and was always looked forward to every spring at SEN.<sup>18</sup>

Among the many fun moments there occurred somber and meaningful ones as well. One special occasion was held on November 11. In what the Democrat called "one of the most impressive ceremonies ever held at the normal school," President Bennett, the faculty, and the students celebrated Armistice Day. In memory of those who fought and died in World War I, the entire campus assembled at eleven o'clock that morning at the flagpole. After a patriotic songfest, a company of sailors and soldiers marched up the campus walk and raised the national colors. Following several speeches, the honor guard lowered the flag to half-mast, while the students planted three trees and placed marble markers in memory of three fallen classmates, Calvin Bryant, Adolphus Holt, and Cecil Burnett.<sup>19</sup>

The largest single campus development project for 1919-1920 resulted from Bennett securing a contract for the construction of a new building. Although the appropriation originally had been approved in April 1919, it appeared by the time Bennett became president that the institution might lose the legislated funds. The problem arose when the State Board of Affairs and the State Board of Education decided not to let a contract unless the city of Durant improved the roads leading to the normal. Learning of the governmental decision, Bennett quietly acted to convince Durant's civic and business leaders to meet the state's requirement. For

several years past presidents had warned the city, to little avail, about the need for better roadways. Although at times it had seemed the town council would take action, the projected improvements inevitably fell through.

Because of his immense popularity and skillful policy of close cooperation between "Town and Gown," Bennett was more successful. In fact, one major improvement already had been accomplished in the first months of his administration. In August 1919, the laying of concrete sidewalks along Sixth Street had been completed. But convincing the council to pave Fifth and Sixth streets presented a much greater problem for the new president. Yet, he proved equal to the task. After discussions with Bennett, Representative William A. Durant, and other area solons, the Durant City Council quickly voted to let a contract for the paving of the streets. Bennett immediately left for Oklahoma City to inform state officials of the council's action. After his visits to Oklahoma City, Bennett was given authority to employ a local Durant architect, Jewel Hicks, to design the proposed structure. Once the plans had been approved, the State Board of Affairs agreed that construction could start momentarily if Bennett and the Durant city fathers could make some local financial arrangements to take care of the expenditures until July 1 when the state appropriation would be available. Again, the new president achieved an administrative and political victory. He convinced the Durant Commercial Association to assume financial responsibility until July 1, when the state would reimburse the local businessmen. Once more, Bennett's policy of "Town and Gown" had resulted in mutual benefit for the city and the "newly created college."<sup>20</sup>

As the above statement implies, the school had a new name and a new responsibility. In early January 1920, the president announced that the institution had been designed as a four-year college, and a full college academic course would begin with the start of the 1920 summer term. Naturally, the news that Southeastern had suddenly acquired college status caused a spontaneous celebration on the campus and in the city. And, Bennett hastily moved to see that the value of a degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State Teachers College (STC) would be recognized both locally and nationally. He said that he would arrange as soon as possible to have the college fully accredited and affiliated with the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities. If Bennett could succeed in having STC accepted into membership by



the association, the Democrat stated that SEN's degrees would be equal to those of the larger universities and colleges of the country.

The Democrat called the 1920 graduation exercises, the first of Bennett's presidency, "impressive." Although acknowledging that Senator Luther Harrison of Ada, the commencement speaker, had delivered a fine address, the paper felt that Southeastern's president had presented the most notable message to the class when he "admonished them to ever remember Southeastern." Serving as officers for the class of 1920 were J. T. Davis, president; Reazor Cain, vice-president; Nellie Green, secretary; and H. S. Edwards, treasurer. A few days following the ceremonies, Bennett and the faculty conducted the first summer term in the institution's history as a four-year college. (For a description of the academic curriculum and degree requirements, see appendix I.) Following the large summer session which had 1,213 in attendance, the school began its first full academic year as Southeastern State Teachers College on September 7, 1920. The catalog reflected the change to a teachers college by listing the teaching staff by academic rank, which was common procedure for a four-year institution. (The reader is reminded to consult appendix B for a list of the

Because of STC's new educational role, the 1920-1921 year was basically a transition period. Consequently, the social, cultural, and scholastic atmosphere on campus reflected this reality as faculty and students adjusted to the dramatic change in the institution's scope and purpose. As a result, the number of campus organizations and festive social occasions declined on campus as societies and clubs of the normal period disappeared and new groups began their formation. Yet, as Priscilla Utterback, a student at that time and presently a prominent lawyer in Durant, related to the author, "Although the *Holisso* may not record them, there were quite a few enjoyable student parties held at the Elks Lodge, at homes of the various students, and elsewhere." Furthermore, several important groups did continue to function on campus as in the past. The Forensic Club, the YMCA, the Southeastern Mixed Chorus, the STC orchestra, and the Alta Petentes and Sigma Omicron Lambda, the two social societies, attempted to make the student's life on campus a varied experience. The only new club founded in 1920-1921 was the Annumpa Society. Led by President Doris McKinney and officers Louise Abbott and Rosa Robinson, the Annumpa's goal, as stated in the *Holisso*, "was to train its members to speak and read in public." In the Student

Council's second year of existence, Bill Sexton served as the president of the energetic organization. Debate remained a vital part of student life; the 1920 team, composed of Rosa Robinson, Ohland Morton, Mattie Dell McCarty, Cotton Tyree, Naomi Munson, and Honest Wallender, defeated East Central and Northeastern—making Southeastern again the east side champions in the annual triangular debates.<sup>22</sup>

Prospects for a winning team in football brightened when seven lettermen reported for practice. As STC fans cheered, the 1920 team defeated Murray State, the Southern Methodist University "B" team, Central State Normal, and the Oklahoma School of Mines; losses were to Austin College, Ouachita College, and Texas Christian University. Strangely and unaccountably, the traditional Thanksgiving Day game with East Central did not take place. Unlike the pigskin results, the basketball season for 1920-1921 was a rather inglorious campaign. With a light, short team, STC won only two games while losing seven. The high point of the season came in the last game when the Teachers defeated Dallas University before "an excited and tightly packed crowd."<sup>23</sup>

The most memorable event during the year was the formal dedication and opening of Southeastern's new education building. Named the James Earl Russell Memorial Building in honor of the noted professor of education at New York's Columbia College, the new edifice had been erected in record time. Occupied for the first time on May 25 at the start of summer school, the Russell building impressed visitors at the dedication with its twenty-two classrooms, two libraries, a combination gymnasium-auditorium, and offices for the training school. On the first floor, students and guests found the training school rooms, offices, and grade school library. The second floor housed the junior high grades, study hall rooms, and the main library. On the third floor of the splendid structure were eight classrooms used by the education department and the gymnasium-auditorium for the training school pupils. Naturally, the entire Durant community joined President Bennett and the faculty in the joyous dedication day activities—for without the leaders of the community advancing the money to begin construction and agreeing to pave the streets to the college, the building appropriation would have been lost. The commencement service for the 1921 graduation classes, which took place on May 19 at ten o'clock in the morning, was another memorable event in Southeastern's history. As the headlines of the Democrat reported, Southeastern would grant not only life certificates to forty-three

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normal students and twenty-two high school students but also college diplomas to three graduates for the first time in the institution's history. After an address by Dr. I. N. McCash, the president of Phillips University, Bennett proudly handed A. C. Adamson, Mrs. R. E. Crump, and Grady Johnson their Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degrees.<sup>24</sup>

The second fall term in STC's history began on September 6, 1921, with Bennett and the faculty expecting a great year. On September 7 the front page of the Durant paper proclaimed, "Normal Enrollment Heaviest In Years; Are Still Coming." According to the local paper, 478 students already had registered, and they "are continuing to pour into the school for enrollment and will be for the next few days." Remarking on the attitude prevalent on campus, the paper noted, "President Bennett and the other members of the faculty are jubilant." Like the previous year, the second year of Southeastern's development as a four-year educational institution was still primarily a transition period. The great number of social and academic clubs and societies which would provide much enjoyment for STC students were still in the future. Yet, the 1921-1922 school year also had its share of momentous moments for those in attendance. The first week of the fall semester, for example, found one of the nation's greatest statesmen, Colonel William Jennings Bryan, on campus for a speaking engagement. As in every fall term on campus, the students enjoyed the arrival of the Bryan County Fair and the circus. Much of the excitement of the fall term centered around the start of the football season.<sup>25</sup>

As the *Holisso* stated, 1921-1922 found "athletics in Southeastern State Teachers College undergoing a decided change." Since the normal had been made a college, it was decided, therefore, that it was necessary to upgrade the athletic situation to the collegiate level, the annual related. Consequently, Bennett hired Athletic Director Requa W. Bell, the renowned McAlester, Oklahoma, high school mentor. Bell proved to be a fine coach, an energetic organizer, and a great recruiter. The first important change he made was in the scheduling process where several Oklahoma opponents were added. Bell did this, the annual avowed, "for the purpose of placing our men in the athletic limelight of the state so that they may be rewarded for their work on field and track by winning a berth on the All-State teams."<sup>26</sup>

The new athletic director's program produced instant results. In the nine-game schedule which followed fall practice, Southeastern defeated seven opponents—the best record the school had

achieved in nearly a decade. The only losses came against Austin College, an all male institution, and Northeastern State College. A further boost to school spirit was the presence of the first Southeastern cheerleading squad. Organized by Willoughby Johnson, the all male yell leaders became known as the "Bell Hops." Taking their name from STC's new coach, the spirit squad wore blue and white uniforms and small round caps designed to make them appear as, of course, hotel bell hops. Besides their sideline antics, the Bell Hops were primarily responsible for changing the nickname of STC teams from the Teachers to the "Savages." Deciding that a team from deep in old Indian Territory should reflect the great Indian heritage of the region of southeastern Oklahoma, the name Savages was selected. Rather than an insult to the Indians of southeastern Oklahoma, the student body of 1921 meant for the nickname to be a great compliment. The term "Savage" signified to them a fierce and proud fighter not an uncivilized, beastly per-

The entire student body, many of whom were Indian, agreed with the feelings of the Bell Hops; the 1922 *Holisso* dramatically and pictorially reflected this fact. Produced by a staff led by Eugenia Human as editor and Coleman Hayes and Roxana Blanton as business managers, the 1922 annual contained four beautiful insert pages which featured color pictures of original paintings by M. R. Marx. Three of the splendid paintings depicted Indian scenes. The page introducing the athletic section of the *Holisso*, for instance, depicted STC trackmen starting a race with an Indian warrior-like spirit hovering over them and urging them on to victory. The picture which introduced the various classes showed an Indian village at sunrise. The third page, which presented the section on campus organizations, featured a beautiful Indian maiden. Anyone reading the 1922 *Holisso* could not mistake the effort by the students to link the institution's history and campus life with its Indian heritage.<sup>28</sup>

The victorious spirit of the football season carried over into the basketball campaign. When Coach Bell held his first practice session two weeks before Christmas, ten lettermen and veterans reported. In the eighteen-game schedule against Oklahoma opponents, Southeastern won nine and lost nine for the best record in a decade. But victories for Southeastern in 1921-1922 came in endeavors other than athletics. In the triangular debates, Southeastern's Joe Clements and Sylvia Harris defeated Northeastern State and Bailey W. Diffie and Irene Castile defeated East Central.

These two victories gave Southeastern, of course, another east side state championship. Other orators who took part in a contest against North Texas State were Evelyn Winfrey and Russell Windes. Meanwhile, for the first time in the institution's history, the student body voted on Southeastern "favorites." Winning the contests were Lois Hulsey, prettiest girl; Norma Pendleton, most popular girl; Sue Hardaway, best all-around girl; Otto Shaw, most handsome boy; and Harry Kimhriel, most popular boy. The Student Council, led by President Coleman Hayes, sponsored various social events and debated issues about the campus. The most controversial resolution passed by the 1922 council forbade the parking of cars north of the college boulevard. Since only one student, Priscilla Utterback, owned a car, the reason for the resolution is impossible to explain.<sup>29</sup>

In addition to the usual spring events, a new offering that would become traditional was introduced. Concerning Southeastern's responsibility to its students and the community, the president acknowledged, "The work of the college is for the training of teachers." But Bennett also believed that "the college is the servant of the people and desires to offer the most efficient service to the largest possible number." Therefore, to provide cultural enrichment, he initiated the Artist Course whereby persons of national and international acclaim were brought to the campus. The president's idea was an immediate success. Regarding the appearance of the famous American baritone, Percy Hemus, on January 23, 1923, the *Democrat* declared, "Our citizens should attend tonight's attraction. . . . They are assured of a real treat, a fine time, and by their presence will encourage the Normal to bring more attractions of the same high and entertaining character to Durant." After the spring of 1922, the southeastern area of Oklahoma would have many more such opportunities.<sup>30</sup>

As the time for the 1922 graduation day approached, statistics released by the State Department of Education revealed Southeastern had passed through the transition from normal school to state college with remarkable results. For the 1921-1922 academic year, STC had enrolled 1,683 students. Of the total, 991 had attended the regular term, 564 had taken correspondence or extension work, and 128 were in the training department. Adding the 1921 summer record number of 1,442, Southeastern had a total attendance of 3,125—making the school the thirteenth largest teachers college in the nation. Of even greater significance than the transition and increased enrollment was the fact that, after

accreditation teams had visited the campus for two weeks during the spring term, the institution had been admitted with an "A" class standing—the highest given—into the two largest accrediting associations in America. Southeastern earned membership in the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities and the American Association of Colleges and Universities.<sup>31</sup>

Bennett and his faculty must have reflected on their accomplishments with a well-deserved sense of achievement and pride as they watched the graduation ceremony. But, even before the exercises took place on May 19, the president's mind had turned to the coming summer session. On May 15, the *Democrat* announced, "President Bennett Sends Out Urgent Call For Durantites To Open Their Homes To The Students Of The Southeastern." Because housing applications already had exceeded the known accommodations, the president urged residents to please call the college if they could possibly render assistance. The public's response to the chief executive's plea was immediate and gratifying. During the summer session, more than two thousand visiting students and teachers found places to stay. Because the attendance was so much larger than expected, Bennett appealed to Governor J. B. A. Robertson for a deficiency appropriation. Again demonstrating his personal and political persuasiveness, the request for \$5,250 to employ additional faculty received executive approval. The final enrollment figures for 1922 showed STC had become the eleventh largest teachers college in the nation and the biggest in the entire southwest. Besides the great educational, social, and cultural effect the summer term had on the community, the financial impact had been tremendous. During the time the visitors spent in Durant, the local paper explained that the normal brought more money into the city than several average size factories would. As estimated by the paper, if the students, especially the 800 out-of-town students in the regular semester, averaged spending a conservative \$50 a month on room, board, and incidentals, a total for the local economy would be more than \$360,000 a year. Furthermore, the paper continued, "they spent much more for clothes, books, and many other things, all of which helps every citizen directly or indirectly." If one added the \$225,000 spent during the large summer sessions, SEN poured almost \$600,000 a year into the Durant economy. And, the paper declared that the figure was probably closer to \$800,000.<sup>32</sup>

The fall term of 1922 barely had begun when misfortune occurred. On the afternoon of September 12, a fire totally destroyed

1922

the new cafeteria. Fortunately, the Durant Fire Department arrived in time to hose down the nearby administration building; the only damage incurred to surrounding buildings was the breaking of glass windows and the loss of shrubbery and trees in the immediate vicinity. But in a time when President Bennett was planning a campaign to seek additional state appropriations for new buildings, the loss of the 50 ft. by 150 ft. structure with all its costly contents and equipment was a major setback. The cafeteria had proven to be a great help and convenience to the students and faculty in the two years it had operated. It would have to be rebuilt—necessitating an even larger request from the legislature.<sup>33</sup>

President Bennett had many good arguments to justify STC's need for more buildings. Primarily, enrollment at the institution had tripled during the last four years, but appropriations had only increased 43 percent—as the following chart published by the Democrat indicated:

Year	Appropriations	Enrollment
1917-18	\$49,395.47	1009
1918-19	\$52,395.47	1200
1919-20	\$66,386.00	1615
1920-21	\$65,386.00	1804
1921-22	\$70,580.00	2962

But Bennett did not have time to dwell on the tragedy of the cafeteria fire—he had more problems on campus. Fall enrollment had exceeded all expectations and the institution needed more professors to relieve “the regular faculty who found themselves literally swamped with students and work.” Again, an urgent appeal to Governor Robertson met acceptance, and Southeastern received a deficiency appropriation of \$8,666 for more personnel.<sup>34</sup>

The first notable achievement of the 1922 academic year was the creation of a permanent campus newspaper. Named *The Southeastern* by the student body, the weekly paper ran its first edition on Monday, September 25, 1922. Since its inception, the *Southeastern* has remained the one most important source regarding the institution's history. A special editorial statement proclaimed: “This is the first issue of *The Southeastern* which is published in the interest of Southeastern State Teachers College and education in southeastern Oklahoma. It is the purpose of the editors of this paper to give news of interest to all students and

teachers of this part of the state.” (See appendix H for a list of the

A major change in the academic life on campus happened that fall when the faculty agreed to start night classes. As reported by the *Southeastern*, President Bennett realized, “There are many young men and women working in the Durant community who are not able to attend day school.” And, the evening classes would enable such people to take advantage of the college to improve their lives and positions and would indirectly benefit the entire town. The first class offerings clearly showed that the president meant to help these special students in the community. Southeastern's first night courses included business arithmetic, business English, and shorthand. The year also found the department of business administration greatly expanding its course offerings. Courses added, for example, were stenography, accounting, business law, business statistics, auditing, and salesmanship. Although still essentially a teachers college, as these and other courses being offered clearly indicated, Bennett was widening the scope and nature of the institution.<sup>36</sup>

The 1922-1923 academic year witnessed the formation of several new campus organizations. One such social-scholastic club became known as the *Societas Latina* (Latin Society). The society had as its basic purpose, “encouraging more students to take Latin.” The young scholars of the organization studied such topics as the role of the Roman slave, Roman banking and business practices, and classical literature. Officers for the new group were Tillie Frances Young, Harry Kimbriel, Landles Shannon, Helen McIntire, and Ross Morrison. The Shakespearean Workshop was another new scholastic club. Composed of students who desired to study Shakespearean dramas and present plays, the Shakespeareans brought Dr. Byron W. King, president of the King School of Oratory, to deliver a series of lectures on the art and science of expression. At the close of his visit, King presented *Romeo and Juliet* with a talented cast chosen from Southeastern students. Officers for the new society included Florice Lyday, Oma Lee Huber, Tillie Frances Young, and Rosa Robinson.<sup>37</sup>

Because of the severe recession in the early 1920s, many students faced financial difficulty. To assist the student body, in October, Bennett announced the establishment of a financial aid program called the Durant Student Loan Fund. In cooperation with leading civic and business leaders, a corporation was formed to lend worthy students \$100 a semester in monthly installments.

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The loans would bear, the president explained, an interest rate of 8 percent and be repayable within a two-year period following the time the student left the institution. Strikingly similar to the modern National Defense Student Loan program, the money enabled many attending STC in the twenties to continue school.<sup>38</sup>

As noted previously, Bennett did not overly concern himself with supervision of student life and conduct. Instead, he relied on the faculty, especially Dean of Women Hallie McKinney, to help him in this regard. Dean McKinney took the chief executive's trust seriously and left little to chance when it came to student behavior. A few of the many regulations issued for the 1922 year, and in force for many years afterward, included requiring students to secure rooms approved by her; permitting gentlemen callers to be received in a parlor on the first floor only; requiring callers to leave before 11:15 P.M.; allowing no dates on the first four evenings of the week; forbidding attendance at public dances and participation in cabaret dancing; and permitting women to ride in automobiles with men at night only when accompanied by a chaperon approved by her office.<sup>39</sup>

Elmer Sprague, president of the Student Council, provided assertive leadership for that organization during 1922 and 1923. On his recommendation, the council resolved one of the most controversial issues raised at STC in the 1920s. At a special assembly held in early January, Sprague asked the faculty to leave the auditorium, and then he called for a formal vote on whether or not the student body wished to institute a program called the Honor System. Following several pro and con speeches, the students voted to accept the code which made it mandatory that each student affix to any written work the statement, "I have neither given nor received help on this work." And, every student was placed on his honor to report any clear-cut case of cheating of which he had knowledge. Any violation of the Honor System was brought before the Student Council. In late February, the professors voted to support the council's action; the resolution adopted by the STC faculty approving the system read, "Resolved, that we, the faculty, commend the students for inaugurating the Honor System in Southeastern, and that we pledge them our hearty support in the successful carrying out of the system."<sup>40</sup>

The beginning of a golden era for sports in the 1920s started in the football season. As the *Holisso* stated about the year's accomplishments, "The records of our teams in all forms of athletics have been set at a high mark that compares favorably with any other

class 'A' college in the United States." When Coach Bell announced the beginning of football practice, a high spirit of enthusiasm swept the campus. Players making the Savage squad, destined to become co-champions of Oklahoma, were Brennon Witt, captain; Dillard Eubank, Oscar Fontaine, Ernest Gladney, Marion Currin, Frank Farmer, Jamie Denniston, Robert Beaty, Bailey Diffie, Omar Cleveland, Robert Roberts, Virgil Currin, Otto Roberts, Willard Gibson, Hal Malone, and Alvin Boyet.<sup>41</sup>

The quality of the Savage squad became known when they defeated the traditionally strong Henderson-Brown team of Arkadelphia, Arkansas. Then, after beating Murray State, the Savages lost to a major college, the University of Tulsa. The remainder of the season witnessed a scoreless tie with Burleson College and victories over Oklahoma City College, East Texas State, Dallas University, Oklahoma Baptist University, and East Central College. The defeat to Tulsa was later affirmed a win when the Oklahoma Athletic Association declared several Golden Hurricane players ineligible. In compiling their record, STC scored 326 points to their opponents' 6—one touchdown by East Texas State. The only sore spot for blue and gold loyalists was the claim by Phillips University that they were the champions. Although it was suggested in the state press that the two schools meet in a play-off game, according to the *Holisso*, Phillips refused to play because "they didn't want to lose it."<sup>42</sup>

One vital, long-range plan President Bennett implemented during the year involved a revitalization of the alumni association. The occasion he chose to publicize his desire for a strong, vibrant organization was the Thanksgiving Day game against East Central. Following a morning registration of visiting ex-students at the Atwood Hotel and the game, Bennett, the faculty, and the Student Council hosted a "turkey feast" for the alumni and the Savage team in the banquet hall of the hotel. After "a program of pep, music, and speech-making," the remainder of the evening was spent reminiscing about other days and making plans for the future of Southeastern. Officers of the association were J. Lee Cunningham, president; Blanche Fontaine, vice-president; and C. C. Dunlap, secretary. As the president had hoped, a well-organized and very active alumni association resulted from the festivities of the day. To help the association grow in numbers and importance, Bennett approved the hiring of an alumni secretary to locate the missing addresses of hundreds of former students and to maintain

regular contact with those whose residences were known by sending them copies of the school paper. "Many of the lost were found after letters had traversed the continent," the *Southeastern* later reported, "and hundreds were added to the membership." He also authorized his personal secretary to develop an active employment bureau to assist in securing positions for graduates; the effort soon proved to be a success.<sup>43</sup>

During the basketball season, STC attained the highest level in athletics, both state and nationally, in the institution's history. To devote more attention to his athletic directorship, Coach Bell asked Bennett to hire a new coach; the president selected George B. Hatley as the new cage mentor. Before coming to Durant, Hatley had become well-known in southeastern Oklahoma cage circles when his Caney, Oklahoma, team won a high school championship. Moving to Lindale, Texas, he coached a squad which took the state championship of Texas. When Coach Hatley issued the call for tryouts at Southeastern, he found "more men than he could take care of," and he selected an excellent team—in fact, a championship team. Players making the Savage squad were Brennon Witt, A. B. Hatley, Harlin Fannin, Marion Currin, Houston Tyree, Kenneth Windes, Oscar Fontaine, Dillard Eubank, and Virgil Currin. On the night of January 7, the team won its first contest against Murray State College. In the next two months Southeastern supporters went wild as the Savages won fourteen straight, including a victory over Southern Methodist University. Closing the regular season without a defeat, STC claimed the state championship; Northwestern State Normal, however, also claimed the title. Since the two schools had not met, the tie looked unbreakable. Then, in early March, Southeastern received an invitation to play in the National Amateur Athletics Union Championship at Kansas City, Kansas; the Alva squad had also been invited. After beating the Kansas City Eagles, a semi-pro team, Southeastern decisively defeated Northwestern—the Oklahoma collegiate championship was theirs. Although the Savages lost the final game to Two Harbors, Minnesota, the win over Alva and the national recognition they received had placed the school in the country's sporting spotlight.<sup>44</sup>

The fans also loved to watch the spirited activities of the Bell Hops during the early twenties. In an article entitled "Appreciation of Bell Hops," the *Southeastern* reported that too much cannot be said of the support the football team had received from the student body "led by one of the best Pep squads . . . seen in a long



An Early Football Squad: Circa 1910



An Early Baseball Squad: Circa 1913

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An Early Baseball Team: Circa 1919



1914 Football Champions



DEBATING  
TEAMS

EDNA LYDAY



HALLIE BIRCH  
Defeated  
Weatherford



JULIA MUNSON



Cecil Mackin  
Defeated  
Edmond, Alva  
Won State  
Championship



DEGGAR MOORE



EARL WARD



1918 State Normal Champions



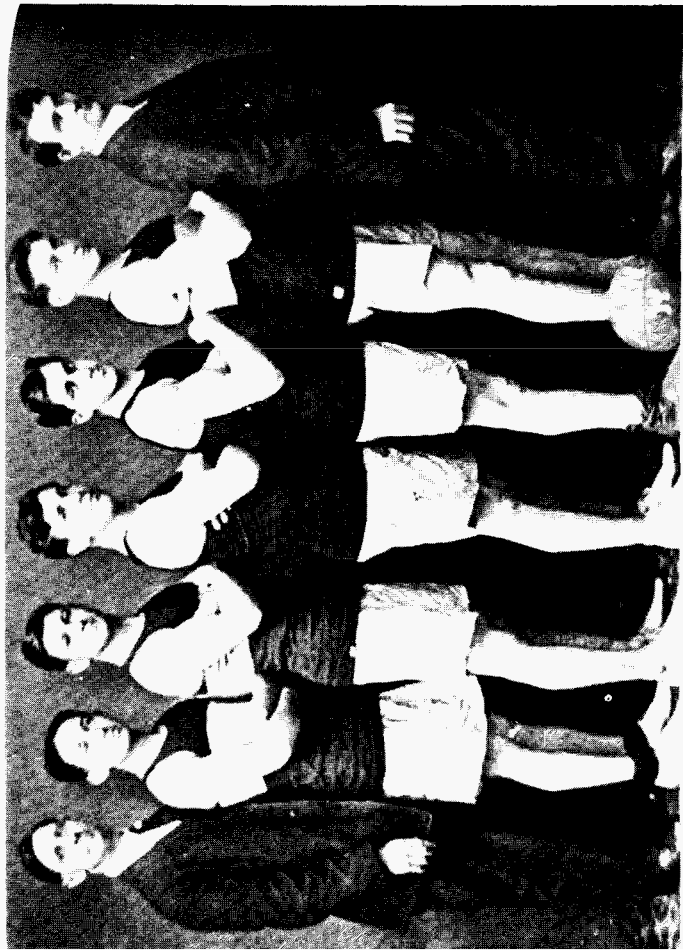
The 1915 Debate Team

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1917 Holisso Staff



Place Aux Dames Sorority: Circa 1914



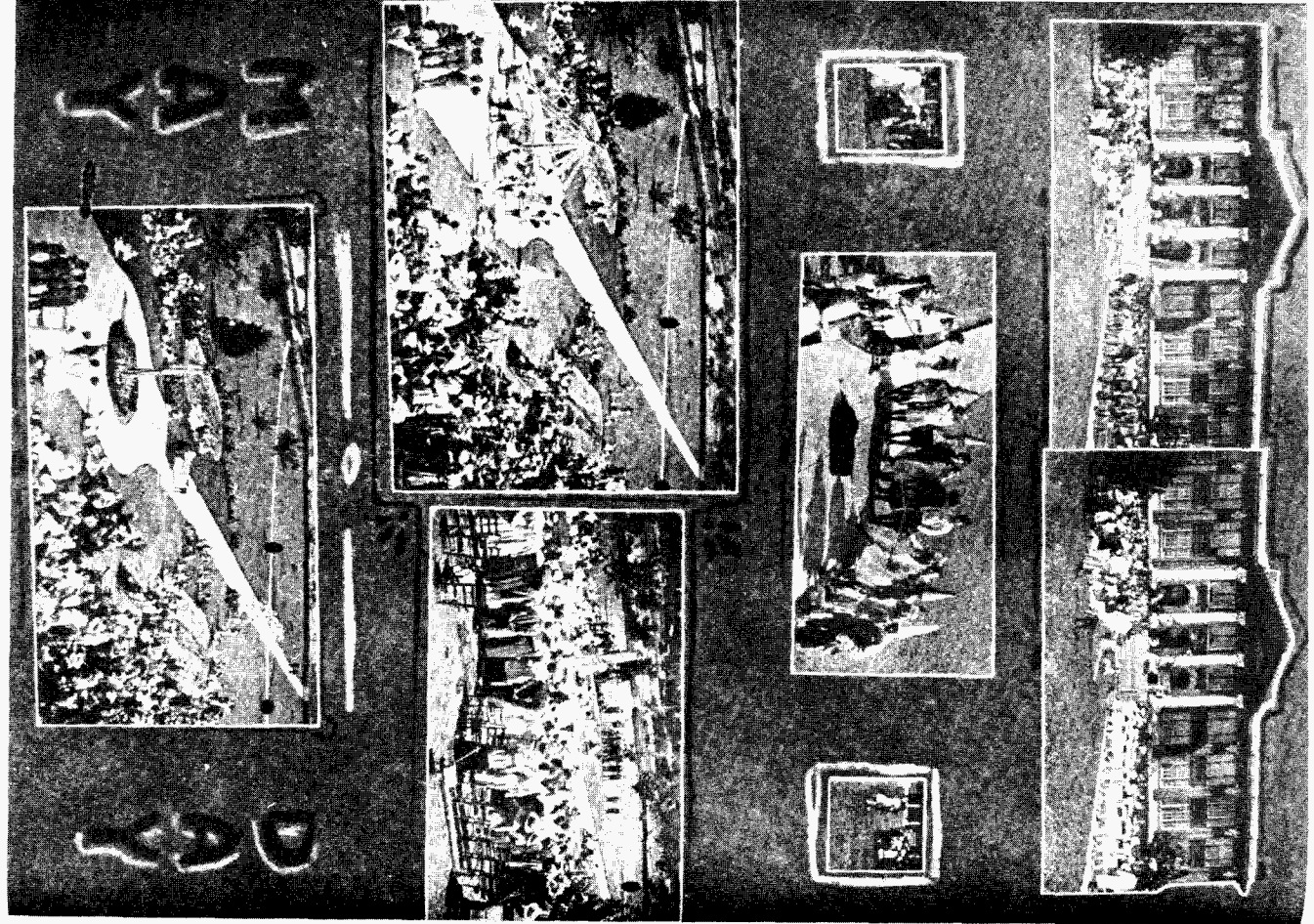
The 1914 Basketball Team



The 1914 Girls Basket all Team

Billy, Wain, Y. C. Jenkins, Jarrell, S. ... in ...  
Roster of names of Girls Basketball team 1914





The 1914 Holisso Staff



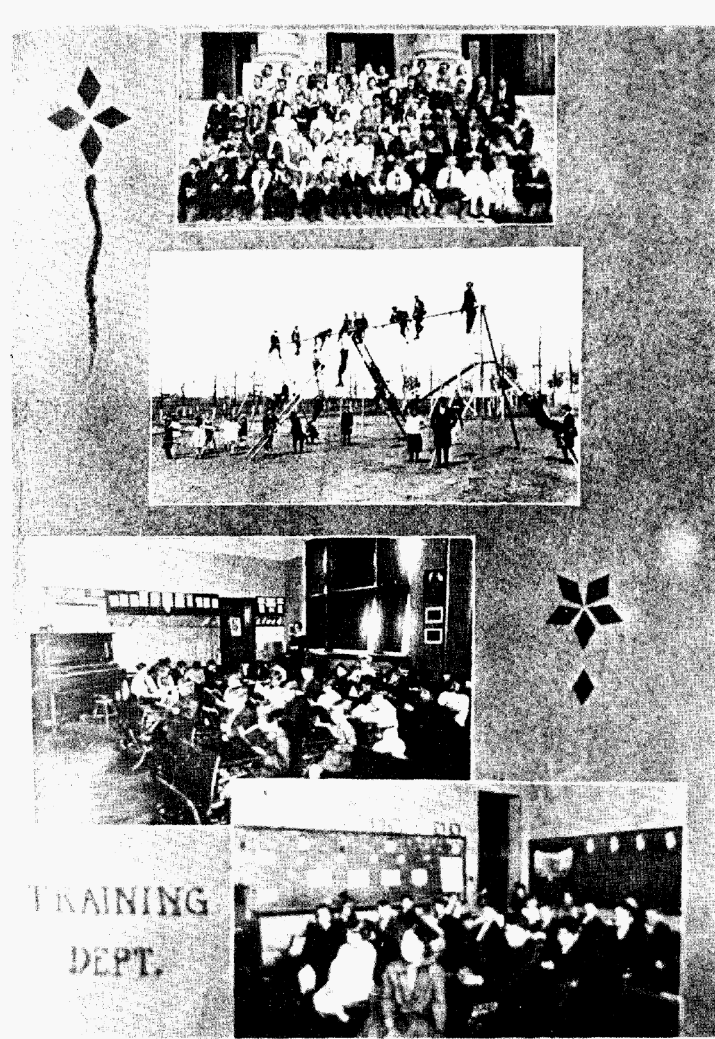
Circa 1922



Daughters of Rest Society: Circa 1913



Sons of Rest Society: Circa 1913



Scenes of the Training School: Circa 1910s

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The Reason that SEN was Foudned: Circa 1910s



A Scholastic Society with Trophy: Circa 1913



Young Women's Christian Association  
CLASS ROLL

Ethel Gregg  
Nellie Hayes  
Lena Collins  
Evelyn Farrell  
Sue Peters  
Paul Abbott  
Lena M. Kean

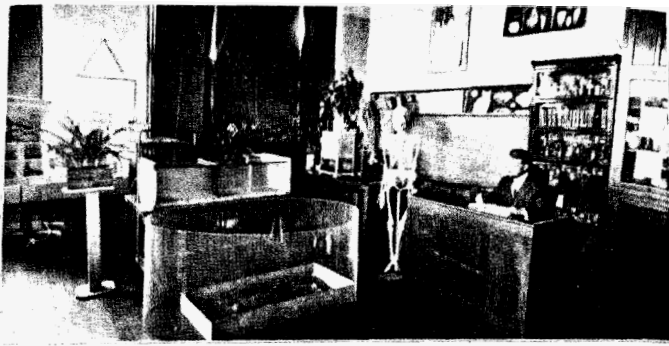
Bertha Creswell  
Grace Dodson  
Grace Watson  
Gertrude Nelson  
Ollie Simmons  
Lennie Williams  
Charlotte Malone

Mary Nichols  
Lelia Hampton  
Miriam House  
Meda Smith  
Cammie Atkinson  
Bess Nolen  
Verna Washington

Ola Human  
Ethel Harrison  
Gladys Davis  
Dimple Stone  
Ella Giv  
Georgia Parker

A Vibrant Organization: Circa 1913

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Vivaria and Aquaria Permit Live Studies



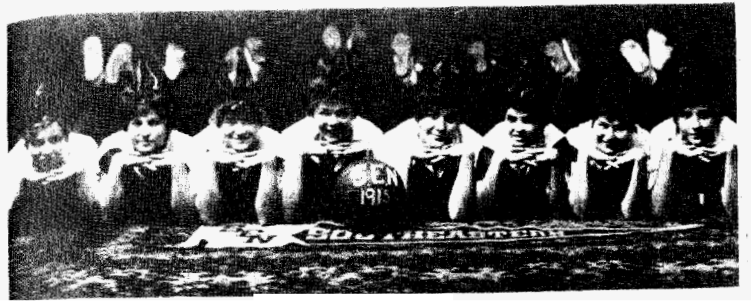
C. P. McDermott, L. W. Thurman, Floyd Hagood,  
Field Geology, Abundant Mountains, 1911



Mr. Wickham and Class on Rocky Bar  
Discoveries of Rare Epiphytes, Fossil March 1912

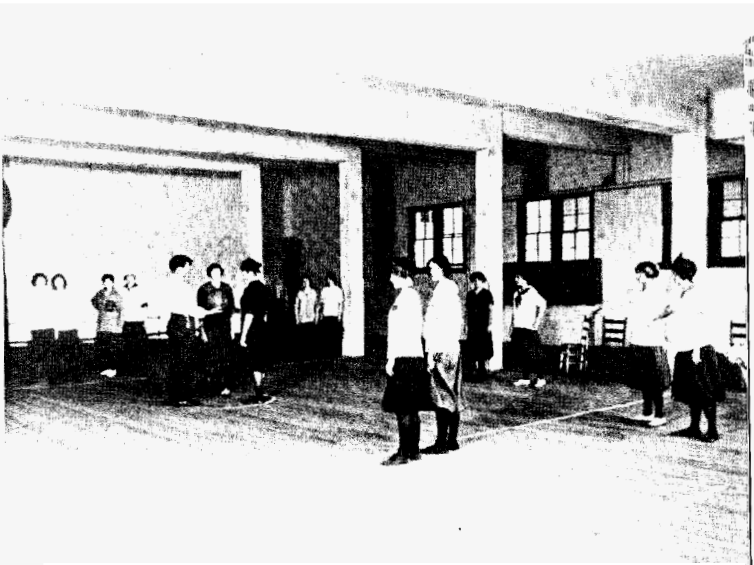


The Study of Science: Circa 1915



Girls Basketball Team

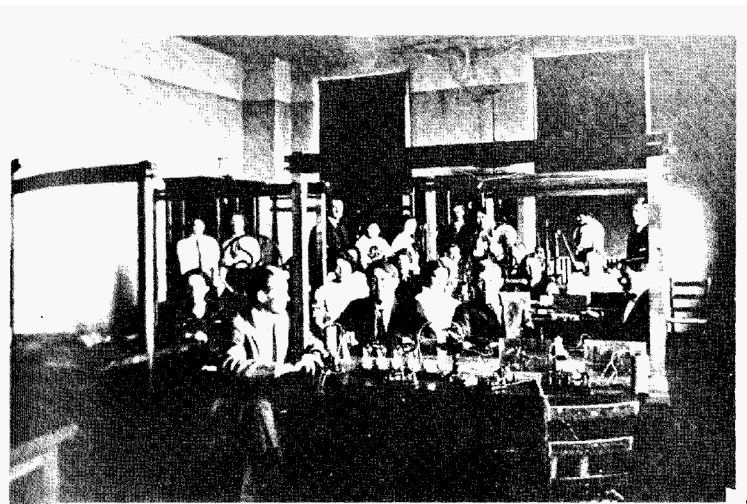
The 1915 Team



Coach Laird Teaches in "Old Main's" Basement Gym: Circa 1914



Circa 1910s



Physics Lab: Circa 1913



MANUAL TRAINING SHOP

Circa 1910s



Electronics Lab: Circa 1913

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All School Halloween Party: Circa 1915



Les Soeurs Sorority: Circa 1914



Chaffin Dish Club: Circa 1910s

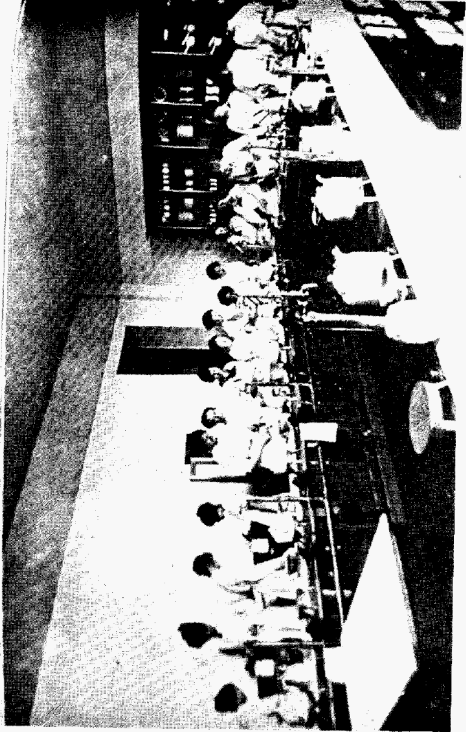


FIRST YEAR CLASS

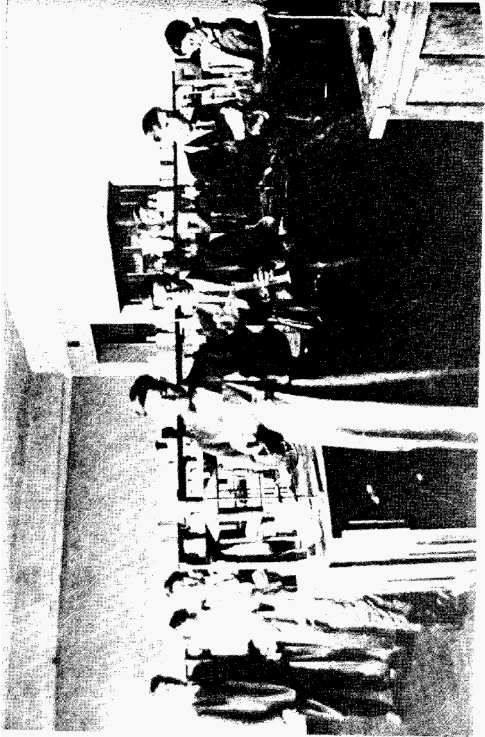
Freshmen in The Normal High School: Circa 1914

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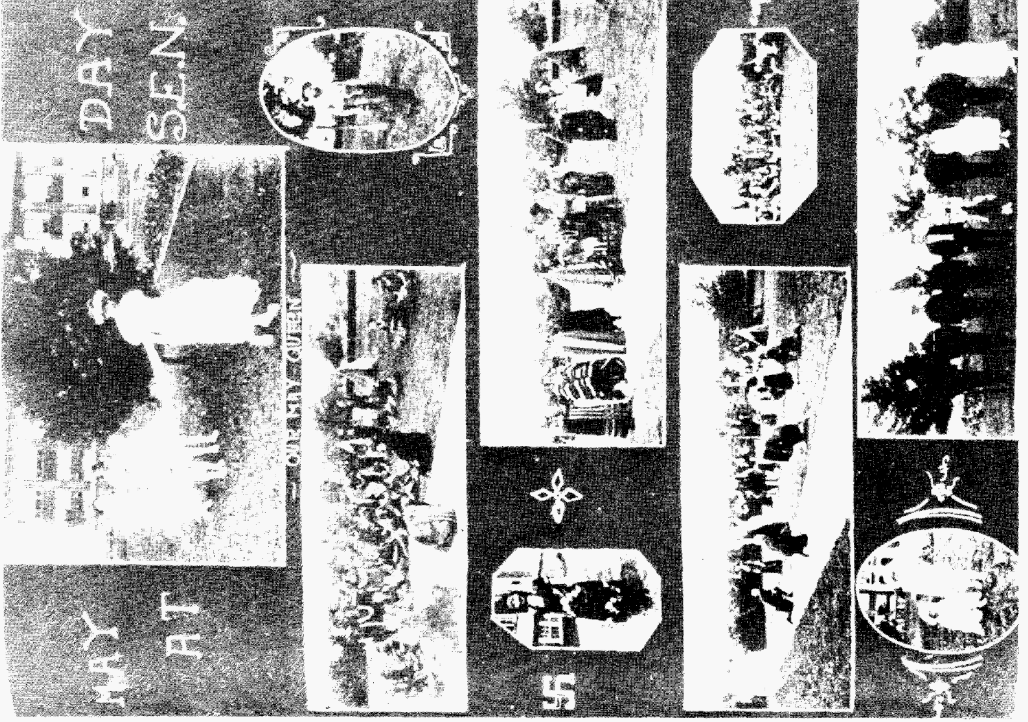
Interior Views



A Domestic Science Class: Circa 1920s



Chemistry Lab: Circa 1910s



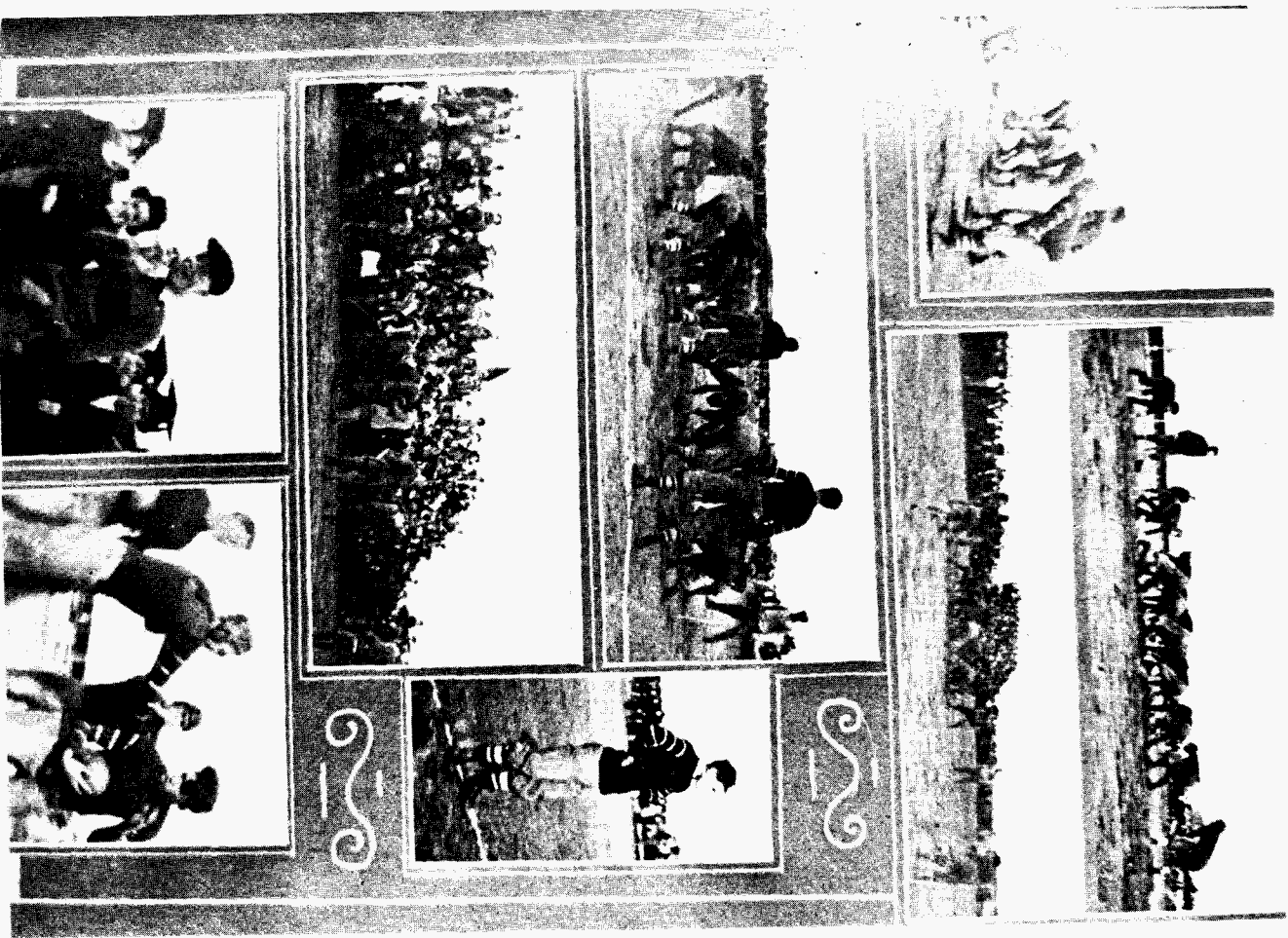
Costumes and Skits Characterize May Day: Circa 1910s



Farming for Food and Victory: Circa 1918



Student Soldiers: Circa 1918



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Hobo Day: Circa 1924



An Opera Cast: Circa 1914

time." In the opinion of the student press, "The Bell Hops, aided by the Hopettes, furnished the fun and gave the fans their money's worth at each game." Furthermore, the campus paper asked, "These boys have worked hard and . . . who knows but some of the victories would have been defeats if it had not been for these boys, with their hearts in the game just as much as any man on the team." The Bell Hops for 1922-1923 were Willoughby Johnson, James Morrison, Landles Shannon, Harry and Hardy Kimbriel, Joe Clement, Willis Lewis, Jim Downen, Fred Hill, Coleman Hayes, Harvey Cobb, Ed Bennett, Serge Shull, and Robert Williams. As the *Southeastern* statements related, the Bell Hops were joined in 1922 by a new coed pep squad called the "Hopettes." The female yell leaders appeared at STC games dressed in sweaters, bonnets, scarfs, and skirts in blue, white, and gold colors. Besides leading the crowds in victory yells, the Hopettes marched, waved Southeastern pennants, and assisted the Bell Hops in field routines. Both organizations sold candy, peanuts, and sandwiches at the games, on campus, and downtown, to finance the purchase of blankets for the Savages. Charter and early members of the Hopettes were Priscilla Utterback, president; Rosa Robinson, Ruth Sexton, Lucille Armstrong, Helen Laurence, Margaret Neely, Tillie Frances Young, Norma Pendleton, Myrtle Pratt, Elsie Beaty, Ruth Connors, Peggy Tricklin, Mary Hagood, Esther Clark, Ruth Gwaltney, Verna McLaughlin, Winnona Gardner, Sue Turk, Rachael Grad, Lillian Randall, Margaret Stewart, Joanna Tyree, Yuca Wallace, and Kathryn Smith.<sup>45</sup>

In the middle of the 1923 winter season, one of Bennett's main worries appeared to be at an end; the Ninth Legislature appropriated \$292,000 for the operation of Southeastern State Teachers College for 1923-1924. Of that amount \$95,000 would go for salaries, \$18,000 for maintenance, \$10,000 for land purchase, and \$11,000 for the operation of the summer school. The remaining \$158,000 was earmarked for new construction on the campus. Most people expected the president to use approximately \$25,000 to rebuild the cafeteria and \$125,000 to erect a greatly needed classroom building. Unfortunately, the president's plans did not matter—Governor J. C. Walton vetoed \$5,000 of the salary amount and \$150,000 of the building funds. Reacting immediately, Bennett and other state officials instigated a suit against the governor's action. Although it would be months before the outcome was decided, Bennett and other college officials began a publicity campaign to convince the legislators and the public

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that the appropriations were desperately needed and should be restored?"

While President Bennett and the faculty worried about funding during the spring term of 1923, the students looked forward to the usual spring activities at the institution. After winning the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Conference championships in football and basketball, the student body expected, the *Southeastern* said, "to keep up the pace by having a winning track team." With Harvey Cobb, a star sprinter, and Coleman Crawford, a high jump and hurdle man, returning, Coach Bell had the nucleus of STC's first outstanding cinder squad. In the five meets held during the spring semester, Southeastern did in fact perform well—defeating Austin College and winning a quadrangle meet against Oklahoma Baptist University, East Central, and Oklahoma City College. In producing the *Holisso* for 1922-1923, the president approved a change in policy. In early October, the *Southeastern* announced, "This year a different plan has been perfected which takes the *Holisso* out of the hands of the senior normal class and makes it a strictly college annual with all classes having representation on the staff." Elected officers for the 1923 edition were Ruth Sexton, editor; Priscilla Utterback, associate editor; and Landles Shannon and Harvey Cobb, business managers.<sup>47</sup>

As the time for commencement neared, it was apparent that the institution had enjoyed an outstanding year. The total enrollment reached 1,245, the *Southeastern* reported, excluding the 129 training school pupils and the extension students. Furthermore, over one thousand teachers had taken correspondence courses. The graduation ceremony for 1923 took place on May 16, with M. A. Nash, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, delivering the commencement address. At the exercises held in the auditorium, 15 students received B.S. or B.A. degrees; 165 obtained life diplomas; and over 200 were awarded two-year certificates. Meanwhile, President Bennett made plans for 2,000 students at the summer session; 75 faculty members in 20 departments would offer nearly 200 courses to the summer scholars. As always, the administration and the faculty arranged for all forms of athletic events, a free seven-day Chautauqua, and the appearance of nationally known lecturers.<sup>48</sup>

The summer session of 1923 produced spectacular attendance results. Final statistics revealed that 2,486 students had taken

courses, making Southeastern the eleventh largest teachers college in America. However, the huge number present had dramatically illustrated the acute lack of classroom space at the institution. As an article by the *Southeastern* entitled "Southeastern Has Outgrown Present Building" related, "At present every room in the administration building, education building and power house is being used every hour in the day." To handle the overflow, classes had to be held off campus at the Central Ward School, the Durant High School, and Oklahoma Presbyterian College. To the relief of Bennett and the faculty, the last days of the summer term brought good news for the future of the institution. On August 18, word came that the Oklahoma Supreme Court had overturned Governor J. C. Walton's veto of the appropriated monies.

In an article entitled "New Building For Southeastern Assures Great Future To Durant's Biggest Asset," the *Democrat* proclaimed, "Certification of the \$158,000 appropriation was received at the Normal this morning from the State Auditor and put at rest any doubt there might have been that the appropriation would not be made available." The newspaper article also reported a new decision Southeastern's chief executive had made regarding the funds; he was not going to build a new cafeteria. Early in the summer term, a makeshift lunchroom had opened in the basement of the present administration building in the gym area; when the temporary situation worked so well, the president decided to make the change permanent. Using money from his maintenance budget, Bennett had new equipment purchased and the gym converted to a thoroughly modern-looking cafeteria. With the money saved, Bennett could use the appropriated funds in another manner. In late August, the local paper stated that the Savages would have to find somewhere off campus to play the 1923 basketball season while the president supervised the building of a new combination auditorium-gymnasium and the conversion of the old gym to a cafeteria. Thus, STC was to have two new beautiful buildings, not just one as the legislature originally had intended.<sup>49</sup>

The month of August 1923 marked Southeastern's emergence as the only twelve-month college in the state. In another innovative movement, Bennett arranged for a special one-month term to be held on campus. First tried on a small experimental basis in the summer of 1922, the 1923 "short term semester" was a large affair. Impressed by the number of courses offered during the one-month period, the United States Veterans Bureau informed Bennett it would send four to five hundred ex-servicemen to the campus the following year to take courses in business administra-

tion and other related vocational subjects. Following the tremendously triumphant school summer, the 1923-1924 academic year started on September 4, with seventeen additions to the teaching faculty. (See appendix B.) With the addition of professors specializing in voice, expression, violin, and piano, Bennett certified the creation of a fine arts department. When the president approved the purchase of band instruments, the school paper declared that "Southeastern has always wanted a band and now it is a certainty which will be delightful news to the student body."<sup>51</sup>

The commercial department vastly expanded its course offerings. The new classes included advanced shorthand, typing, bookkeeping, and office machines. Students who took advantage of the "creditable office work," the *Southeastern* observed, "before long; will be ready to make a start in the business world." Bennett also endorsed the establishment of a service department. A forerunner of the modern student aid office, the service department was designed "to bring about closer cooperation between the college and the citizens of Durant in the matter of securing work for those students who desire to work their way through school." Considering farming states like Oklahoma were still in a recession in 1923, the creation of such an office was a wise and benevolent step.<sup>51</sup>

The 1923 football campaign ended with Southeastern again winning the state championship. Expectations ran high on campus from the start of fall practice, when Percy D. "Shrimp" Godfrey, STC's new athletic director, announced that over forty prospects had reported for the first scrimmage. Having coached on the west coast, Godfrey thrilled the players and fans when he installed the "California System" made famous by Coach Andy Smith of the University of California's Golden Bears. School spirit surged at the first pep assembly, held before the season opener against the Murray State Aggies, when Dean Vaughan introduced former Coach Paul Laird, "The Grand Old Man of Athletics," who "made the most enthusiastic and pep-arousing speech ever seen in the Southwest." After Laird's remarks, the Bell Hops led the students from the auditorium and soon "the halls of Southeastern resounded with the frenzied cheering of a thousand Southeasterners, and Coach Godfrey and his squad were sent forth on a crusade of conquest." The football season was made more exhilarating by the adoption of a school song. Entitled "Southeastern," the lyrics of the

song were written by Julia Munson and put to music by Julia E. Stout and Pearl Shull. The "fight song" proclaimed:

There's a school that we call Southeastern,  
Down South in the Red-chiefs land.  
There floats the gold and blue  
Over hearts so true  
In that loyal Savage band  
For where'er we go,  
or what'er we do  
It is S. T. C.;  
It's the gold and blue;  
It is glory be  
to S. T. C.,  
The School of the Rising Sun

The last line of the tune became more than just part of the lyrics. Immediately, the student body and faculty adopted the line as the institution's motto. Since time immemorial the rising sun has signified rebirth. A person could find a new life of opportunities and development at STC—"The School of the Rising Sun." The slogan soon appeared on every type of literature associated with the institution and remained the motto for over two decades.<sup>52</sup>

In the next weeks the pride of the school and community swelled as the team roared through a ten-game schedule, suffering only one lone defeat to Central State. As Priscilla Utterback recalled for the author, "Winning the championship was wonderful, but the season would have been a success even if we had just beaten East Central. I was the captain of the Hopettes and we sold candy, sandwiches and other things just so we could ride the specially chartered train to Ada. Those who witnessed the game had a memory to last a lifetime." Several post-season activities naturally followed. In early December, President Bennett honored the champions with a "Turkey Day Banquet" in the college cafeteria. At a special assembly in early January, the players received their letter sweaters, a gold neck chain, and a football charm. The funds came from donations by Durant civic and business leaders and the spectators who had taken the train to Ada. The team's final honor came when four Savages—Dillard Eubank, Brennon Witt, Alvin Boyet, and Frank Farmer—were named to the all-state team.<sup>53</sup>

The excitement surrounding the gridiron season had barely peaked when it became clear STC fans would have more reasons to

cheer. In early December, the Southeastern predicted that Coach Godfrey had selected a possible championship basketball squad. After teaching his players the Wisconsin short-pass style of play, which consisted of bounce passes, pivoting, and a systematic designed play offense, Coach Godfrey took the Savages on an extended trip through Iowa, Missouri, and Minnesota. On the long journey starting December 15 and ending on January 5, the Savage team not only became famous but also avenged their loss to the Two Harbors, Minnesota, team in the 1923 national amateur tournament. As they toured, reported the *Holisso*, "The tall Savages with every man over six feet and wearing two gallon Stetsons, with gold Savage hatbands, created admiration wherever they went."<sup>54</sup>

Because of the sensation caused by the team's trip, many people anxiously awaited the start of the home collegiate season. President Bennett and officials of the Durant Athletic Association—all prominent business and civic leaders—arranged for the 1923-1924 games to be played in the tabernacle, a sprawling edifice for large evangelical meetings, located at the corner of North Third and Beech. As everyone anticipated, the cage campaign became a memorable time for STC supporters as the Savages won twelve straight games. The Savage squad seemed invincible because of the agility of Captain Hugh Fannin as a dribbler, passer, and shooter, combined with Brennon Witt's brilliant center play, and the ability of Harry Pinkerton and Robert Beaty not only to score but also to play great defense. Then, in the middle of a four-game road trip in January, the improbable happened. Playing at Weatherford after a long train ride, the Southeastern team lost to Southwestern, their closest rival for the championship. Disappointed but proud, the team regained their composure and defeated Phillips University before returning home. The Weatherford defeat set up one of the most important games in the history of the institution and the Durant community. On Thursday night, February 21, over one thousand fans had to be turned away from the tabernacle for the return match with the Southwestern Bulldogs. Of the hundreds in attendance, the Southeastern reported, many were alumni who had traveled from one hundred miles away. At the close of play, STC had won its second Oklahoma collegiate championship. The sensational season brought many accolades from the press in Oklahoma and nationwide. Stories and pictures of "the team of lanky cagers" were printed in the pages of *The San Francisco Chronicle*, *The St. Paul Dispatch*, *The St. Louis*

*Times Democrat*, *The Daily Oklahoman*, *The Durant Daily Democrat*, and many other state newspapers.<sup>55</sup>

In addition to athletics, there were many other reasons for students to feel that the 1923-1924 year was an eventful one. Campus scholastic societies began to flourish. The Latin Society led by President Franklin Fry and officers Milton Cline, Joanna Tyree, Kenneth Campbell, and Helen McIntire continued to grow. The major accomplishment of the Latin scholars for 1923 was the booking of a major classic motion picture about the life of Julius Caesar for the enjoyment of the student body and the town's residents. The YWCA grew to over seventy-five members through the hard work of President Rachael Grad. But the main development concerning scholastic clubs occurred in September when, in the words of the *Holisso*, "The stork arrived at STC on September 18, 1923, bringing twins, a pair of attractive literary societies; one of which came to be christened, Forum, the other Ecclesia." The two scholastic, debating, and social societies quickly became very active clubs with large memberships. Choosing "Through Difficulties To The Heights" as its slogan, the Ecclesia was directed by charter officers William Wilhite, Ben Ogden, Robert Stricklin, Hazel Tate, Ethel Moseley, Sylvia Harris, Raymond Hill, and B. O. Banister. Chosen to head the Forum were Ohland Morton, Frank Reid, Helen McIntire, Ottis Kelley, Ralph Shaw, and Mae Thurman.<sup>56</sup>

The Student Council for 1923-1924, led by President James Wright, continued to be a vital force on campus. The most controversial decision the council made during the year resulted in a new custom at STC. On October 29, the council voted unanimously that henceforth freshmen boys were required "to wear insignia of their rank." The insignia chosen for the freshmen was a blue cap (beanie) with the numerals "27" upon it in gold. According to the council's action, the beanies were "to be worn at all times upon the campus of Southeastern and elsewhere." To the chagrin of the freshmen boys and, a little later, the coeds, the beanies remained a traditional requirement every fall—to the ecstasy of the upperclassmen—for many decades.<sup>57</sup>

The reappearance of a YMCA chapter on campus occurred during the 1923-1924 year. After an absence of several years, a group of young men, including Archie Pool, Ben Ogden, Leland Evans, Carl McIntire, A. M. Parker, Henry Hewitt, Robert Bryant, Frank Honts, and Troy Denton, met with the state YMCA secretary and an international officer to reorganize the religious-social club. Because of his devout Christian beliefs, Bennett gladly

granted the men a campus charter. Throughout his administration, he actively supported this student society in its efforts at STC. At least one of the charter members, Carl McIntire, went on to become a world-famous preacher. The fall of 1923 also marked the blossoming of fraternal life on campus with the growth of the Amigos (friends) Fraternity. Originally founded by Coach Requa W. Bell in the late spring of 1923, charter members and first initiates included Omar Cleveland, Harvey Cobb, Bailey Diffie, Dillard Eubank, Sam Roberts, Harry Kimbriel, Brennon Witt, Oscar Fontaine, Walter Kindle, Ed Bennett, Alvin Boyet, Joe Clements, Glen Ferguson, and Willoughby Johnson. In an article about the fraternity and its first goats (pledge class), the *Southeastern* declared, "The Amigos promise great things in the way of pep and school spirit — watch them."<sup>58</sup>

As always, there were many happenings which thrilled the campus and community alike. During the 1923-1924 year, for example, crowds of spectators attended the student-faculty plays, *Zalia* and Shakespeare's *Tempest*; the annual spring music week, which featured voice and instrumental recitals and the singing of world-famous Spanish tenor Jose Majica; and the Southeastern Chorus' presentation of "The Bohemian Girl." But the one very special night of any year enjoyed by hundreds of people was the annual Christmas candlelighting service. Originally begun in 1921 as a small campus event, by 1923 special arrangements had to be made to accommodate all those who wished to hear the chorus sing yuletide numbers under the direction of Professor Julia Stout. As Dr. Lucy Leonard, professor emeritus and a student at the time, recalled for the author, "I remember singing a solo in the 1923 service entitled 'Cantique De Noel.' The attendance that night was so great that students had to sit in the balcony with the chorus to allow sufficient seats for visitors." According to Dr. Leonard, "The chorus sang from the balcony, while students and faculty members presented visual scenes on the stage. Of course the entire first floor was decorated with candles and beautiful flowers." The candlelighting service remains to this day a campus tradition.<sup>59</sup>

The most important announcement of the year came late in the fall term when Bennett affirmed that the architectural plans and the contracts for the two new buildings had been approved. Ground-breaking ceremonies occurred in late October with hundreds of students, faculty, and visitors present. For the science building, the ceremonial shovels of dirt were dug west of the future library (the old training school). The new structure would face

Sixth Street and have three stories made of brick and concrete. The ceremony for the new combination auditorium-gymnasium took place at a point two hundred ft. directly east of the administration building. The dimensions of the combination structure were 150 ft. by 90 ft., with the front facing west. Bennett also explained that when the two campus additions were completed, the old training school would be completely remodeled to make a thoroughly modern library facility.

During the spring semester much attention was focused on the track season, producing the *Holisso*, and the debate contests. By the spring of 1924, the debate schedule had been expanded to include matches against teams from other states. Consequently, competition for places on STC's roster of orators became more intense as students looked forward to trips away from campus. Debaters who were named to the squad included Sylvia Harris, Carl McIntire, Ben Ogden, Jim Downen, Archie Pool, Frank Honts, William Wilhite, Ethel Moseley, and Frank Reid. Although STC lost the Triangular Debate Contest to East Central, the team did defeat Arkansas State Teachers College, Simmons College, and Northeastern State College. STC had an excellent record in track. The cinder squad composed of Fait Elkin, Coleman Crawford, Gibson Marshall, and Dan Smoyer won several events at the Texas Relays in Fort Worth and the Norman Annual Relays. In a meet at the University of Oklahoma, Crawford broke the state high jump record, leaping 6 ft. 1¾ in. As always, the *Holisso* was a first-rate publication by the senior staff led by Priscilla Utterback, editor, and Ed Bennett, business manager. Unfortunately, it would be the last student annual for the next three years. For reasons that are now unexplainable, after a tradition of publishing the *Holisso* since 1912, the series ended. Consequently, those who wish to study the past history of STC must be especially thankful to the 1924 staff; for the 1924 *Holisso* contained many pictures of the campus grounds and buildings. Without this volume, it would be impossible to visualize the way Southeastern appeared at that time.<sup>60</sup>

Commencement exercises for the the 1924 senior class, led by Ben Ogden as president, took place on May 14. After a commencement address by State Senator W. J. Holloway, of Hugo, nine students received their B.A. degrees and seventy-eight obtained life certificates. Two weeks later, Bennett led the campus in a "gala day celebration." On June 2, hundreds of visitors flocked to

the school to celebrate STC's fifteenth anniversary and the dedication of the two new buildings. Dignitaries present that day included Governor M. E. Trap; ex-governors Lee Cruce, J. B. A. Robertson, and R. L. Williams; former presidents M. E. Moore, E. D. Murdaugh, and T. D. Brooks; State Superintendent of Public Instruction, M. A. Nash; and members of the legislature, other college presidents, and the State Board of Education. During the day, students proudly led the campus visitors on a tour of the new structures. In the science building, the groups visited the agriculture and biology departments on the first floor, the chemistry and physics departments on the second floor, and the domestic science and art departments on the third floor. In the auditorium-gymnasium the dignitaries found a beautiful 90 ft. by 150 ft. maple basketball floor and the most modern type of backboards made. The facility could seat 800 people under its 30 ft. high ceilings—no longer could visiting teams bounce their passes into beams running across the court, as often happened in the old gym. When used strictly as an auditorium, the facility could seat 1,200 people for campus events.<sup>61</sup>

Following commencement, the president and the faculty eagerly awaited the start of the 1924 summer term. Bennett publicly predicted STC could have well over three thousand students for the new session, and Southeastern would offer two hundred courses in twenty departments. As usual, Bennett hired many of the prominent county superintendents and high school principals, along with specialized teachers, to augment the regular faculty. Besides the courses leading to the B.S. and B.A. degrees, the summer faculty continued to teach subjects designed to permit students to acquire life, state, or county certificates. Bennett also scheduled a high school principals' conference with nationally renowned speakers skilled in telling administrators how to improve their systems for accreditation. A rural school conference was also arranged to assist rural teachers and county superintendents. Because he believed there was more to college life than academics, Bennett made sure each summer had plenty of special entertainment available.

During the next three academic years, 1924-1927, Southeastern State Teachers College matured as a four-year institution under Bennett's leadership. By 1927, the regular enrollment passed the twelve hundred mark and summer attendance exceeded twenty-five hundred students. The rapid growth necessitated the hiring of new faculty members. Furthermore, Bennett

obtained the State Board of Education's approval for many new courses and the creation of new academic departments. For example, departments of religious education and secondary education were established. Older departments also received attention and support from the president. The home economics department, under the supervision of Professors Hallie McKinney and Lucy Leonard, was overjoyed to move into new quarters on the third floor of the new science building. As described in the *Southeastern*, the new facilities occupied the entire floor and consisted of two large sewing rooms, one large millinery room, a large, airy, well-lighted cooking room, and a complete apartment with a bedroom, a living room, a storeroom, a kitchen, and a full bath. After new gas stoves scheduled to be installed in the near future were in place, the paper correctly said that "Miss Hallie will have one of the best equipped Home Economics Departments anywhere." Southeastern began offering classes on two evenings a week, Tuesday and Thursday, and also on Saturday mornings. The courses taught were applicable toward either a life certificate or a diploma, and students could attend either the night classes or the special Saturday courses. The curriculum was further designed to help business people who did not necessarily want a degree or need it for their work.<sup>62</sup>

One unusual thing about the 1925-1926 academic year should be noted—President Bennett was not present on the campus. A firm believer in sabbatical leave, as previously stated, Bennett rewarded himself and took the year to finish his doctoral work at Columbia University in New York City. In his place, he named Registrar and Dean J. S. Vaughan as acting president. Remarkably, the president completed his terminal degree by the summer term, 1926. Many important developments regarding student life at STC happened during the 1924-1927 years. The Student Council, under the leadership of presidents Houston Wright, Carl McIntire, and Charles Rowland, continued to be a vibrant organization. Major accomplishments by the student government during the period included sponsoring a contest to create a standard emblem to be used as the STC logo on jewelry and other items, encouraging spirit at athletic events, sponsoring the formation of new clubs, and initiating new campus activities. Many of the efforts of the council proved highly successful. The emblem selected for rings and other jewelry consisted of a gold Indian head with Southeastern spelled out across the headdress. If worn as a pin, students

attached a miniature gold chain running to a guard which consisted of the letters "STC." The *Southeastern* joined the council in asking the student body to support the Savages and "show them that Southeastern has some real college spirit." Many students took time in those years to respond to the plea and write yells. One written by Florence Ledford became a favorite at athletic contests. The yell was as follows:

There was a school called STC  
that has Savages wild as could be  
They'd scalp and they'd yell  
and give everybody—well  
Until nobody was safe: Oh, gee.

One new event, the Friendship Fire ceremony, was destined to become a beloved campus tradition. Held at the beginning of the year to introduce freshmen to the campus, its traditions, and the many opportunities for scholarship, social growth, and enjoyment available at STC, the ceremony consisted of faculty and students assembling in front of the gym in late afternoon. After refreshments were served and dark came, a huge bonfire was ignited, and the crowd sang the "Fight Song." After the singing, new students had a chance to hear representatives from campus groups talk about their organizations. As each speaker finished, the orator added a symbol of his club to fuel the fire. The ceremony usually ended with a faculty member recalling great moments from STC's past. Professor Paul Laird often performed this task and "admonished those present" to remember the motto—"In Union There Is Strength." For many decades after 1924, the annual Friendship Fire would become the one most memorable incident of many freshmen's first year at Southeastern.<sup>63</sup>

A second happy celebration was known as Hobo Day. An enlargement of the earlier April Fool Frolic, Hobo Day required every student, administrator, faculty, and staff member to arrive on campus dressed in their most creative "bum attire." The spring "Hooky Day" began with the Student Council president conducting an election for a king and a queen of the hobos—the two people whose costumes seemed most unique to the crowd. Kate Galt Zaneis and Joe Bannister, the first hobo royalty, started the custom of fining any person too dignified or too forgetful "to don hobo regalia." Next, the hundreds of hobos marched to town to entertain the business district with their dress and pranks. Many people

downtown joined in the occasion by wearing costumes as the campus event demanded. The day ended every spring with the students and many residents returning to the campus for games, singing, and funny athletic contests such as the mud puddle rope pull, and sack races. As with the Friendship Fire, Hobo Day was eagerly anticipated each spring for many years at STC.

The period found many organizations and societies growing in numbers and increasing their prestige on campus. The Latin, the Ecclesia, and the Forum literary societies provided much entertainment by their spirited debates before the student body and at the many social festivities each group held every year. One of the most prominent new organizations of 1925-1926 was the group called the College Players, a successor to an earlier dramatic club named the Southeastern Players. The thespians formally organized and drafted a campus constitution in March 1926. The primary goal of the College Players was to meet socially to enjoy the reading of plays, to promote productions on campus, and, most important, to encourage original writing among the membership. During 1926, for example, the College Players presented an original one-act play entitled *Neighbors* by Zona Gale, several hilarious scenes from Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, a Black minstrel, and a comic farce entitled *Squaring It With The Boss*. Among the students who took an active part in the campus productions were Eugene Slaughter, Ralph Shaw, Alden Pierce, Elizabeth Stewart, Dorothy Truby, Irma Freeman, Clarice Tatman, Gladys Davis, Stewart Harral, and Billy Blanche Brewster. Another literary club chose the name, the Scribblers. The membership of this organization was limited to twelve students at a time and admission could be gained only after submitting an original manuscript to the club's existing membership. Charter members included Stewart Harral, Theo McClellan, Louise Cox, Dorothy Reeves, Maude Maxwell, Budge Harle, David Crockett, Fred Craig, Harris Glenn, Raymond Martin, and Jeanette Burns.<sup>64</sup>

The campus also had a secret literary and social society called Boule. According to the student newspaper, Boule was a secret organization within the membership of the Ecclesia society. Yet, despite its mysterious nature and ritual, the purpose of the organization was easy to understand—Boule members remained dedicated to making STC a better and bigger institution. At the time of the initiation for neophytes in 1926, a writer in the *Southeastern* reported, "As this is a secret society, it behooves me to tell no more, but I promise that the reader will hear more of it later. Inside of ten

years the reader will see another building added to the number now on campus. How will we do it? Just you watch." Among the early members of the club were Ruth Womack, Fred Craig, Stanley Watson, Charles Abbott, E. L. Cantrell, Carroll Townsend, William McBride, Clayton Enoch, and Lloyd Ward. Literary societies were not the only new groups started during 1924-1927. The fall of 1924 brought the formation and performance of the first formal band in the school's history. The initial appearance of the band happened on the occasion of the Central State Homecoming Day game. Members of STC's first Marching Savages were Fred Lutes, Taylor Matthews, Dennis Leister, Milton Cline, J. W. Sivells, W. F. Stephenson, Roy Martin, Sam Jackson, Raymond Martin, Marvin Fowler, Theo McClellan, Irving Hall, Vera Smith, Walter Austin, Dwight Sample, Jr., Otis Donoho, Tommy Sexton, Hail Basye, Fred Lowry, Jr., Armstrong Battiest, George Gilstrap, Wendell Hagood, and Stewart Harral.<sup>65</sup>

The fruition of fraternity and sorority life on campus happened in the fall of 1926. Until then, the only real fraternal organization was the Amigos. As noted previously, the Amigos received a campus charter from Bennett in 1923. As Dr. Eugene Slaughter, professor emeritus of STC and student on the campus in the 1920s, related to the author, "In 1923 when the Amigos organized, they had a house on North Sixth Street where the out-of-town members were living; the house belonged to Paul E. Laird, professor of chemistry and physics and former athletic coach." Regarding the subsequent development of the colorful society, Dr. Slaughter recalled the following information:

The aim of the fraternity was to create higher standards on the college campus, to stress development of higher character, and to promote every plan that was in the interest of a better college. Pledges called "goats" were required to make passing grades and obey the rules of the order. The name of the fraternity, which is Spanish for "friends," was divided into three parts to provide titles for the principal officers, namely: AM, president; IG, treasurer; and OS, secretary. In 1924-1925 the Amigos chapter continued to grow and was very active in campus events.

At the beginning of the school year 1925-1926, the Amigos members were buying new furnishings for a new house in the Hillsdale Addition. 302 West Willow

Street, which they had just rented. Besides paying on new furnishings, the members ordered beautiful pins before Christmas 1925. They had "Hell Week" late in January 1926, gave a banquet for the pledges on January 22, followed by a dance at the Elks Club; then, from a minute after midnight until six o'clock the next morning the members conducted an initiation for all the pledges who had passed their college courses.<sup>66</sup>

The first new fraternal group joining the Amigos on campus was a sorority. Organized in late October 1926 the group, led by President Dorothy Truby, chose the name Alpha **Le** Deca. Later, the local sorority became affiliated with Alpha Lambda Delta. A second new fraternity also formed that fall. On the night of November 11, fourteen young men met at a house known on campus as the Ark and from their meeting emerged the Sigma Phi Delta. A second sorority organized in early February 1927; this group, founded by Stella Dee Shannon, became the Kappa Chi Sorority. Although some on campus opposed the appearance of the several fraternities and sororities, anyone reading the school newspaper over the next several decades would have to admit that the organizations helped create a good collegiate atmosphere on the Durant campus. Very little, if any, of the abusive type of actions taken by a few irresponsible chapters across the country in the 1920s took place at Southeastern. "Hazing Week" or "Hell Week," as the days immediately prior to a neophyte's initiation were called, was a time of good-natured fun. Otherwise, Bennett and Dean Hallie McKinney would not have permitted it. Discussing "Hell Week," Dr. Slaughter recalled that "initiation of each pledge group lasted four months. Hazing was continual during that time but intensified in 'Hell Week,' which was more threatening than actual. Although the members intended to humble the pledges, they did not act with malice or sadism, and were not very imaginative or inventive. Token servility to members was required."<sup>67</sup>

Athletically, the 1924-1927 academic years had highs and lows. At the start of the 1924 football season, the *Southeastern* predicted that the Savages would have a good chance to win the conference due to the abundance of good material from the last year's team. With eleven veterans and a wealth of new talent, Southeastern began the most ambitious schedule ever played by a Savage squad. Not only would the team play the usual opponents but also would oppose the University of Iowa, champions of the Big



Ten Conference, and a perennial strong team from the Razorback state, the Arkansas Tech Wonder Boys. Unfortunately, the out-of-state opponents proved to be too strong. On September 27, the *Southeastern* informed its readers that the team had lost the game at Russellville, Arkansas. The following week Godfrey's team invaded Iowa Field where "fighting like their outnumbered forefathers, . . . the savage war party was smothered by the massive Iowa team." In the next seven games Southeastern claimed five victories. Then, two conference losses destroyed any hopes of a championship season. Outstanding performers and all-conference selections for 1924 were Brennon Witt, Alvin Boyet, and Frank Farmer. The 1925 season was a dismal time for supporters of the blue and gold gridiron warriors. In the next ten games, the Savages won only two. Worst of all, the season ended with a bitter defeat to STC's arch rival, East Central. Standouts on the squad were second-team all-conference selections Hound McCarty and Piggy Rappolee. In the 1926 campaign, the Savages coached by W. B. Graham, the new athletic director, won four games and lost five. Although the season's record was rather mediocre, the students and faculty at STC still considered it a successful year in one major respect; in the final contest, Southeastern avenged the previous year's loss to East Central.<sup>68</sup>

Despite the disappointing pigskin campaigns, Savage enthusiasts found pride in their basketball teams' records. For the 1924-1925 season, the first to be played in STC's new gym, Coach Godfrey confidently molded an outstanding team. By early March, loyal supporters of the blue and gold team began to believe their dreams of a championship would come true. After eight consecutive victories, Southeastern accepted an invitation to enter the Southern AAU Championship Tournament in Dallas. Hundreds of students, faculty, and Durant residents followed the team and watched in frenzied excitement as the Savages won the classic and brought "the handsome twenty-four inch high silver loving cup back to STC." Next, the Savages left for Enid and the state intercollegiate tournament. Again, the Durant cagers were superb. After defeating the Oklahoma City University Goldbugs and the Central State Broncos, Godfrey's cagers, the *Southeastern* jubilantly reported, "massacred" the Bulldogs of Southwestern for the title. Stars for STC on the championship team were all-conference players Brennon Witt and Harry Pinkerton, and second-team selections Johnny Bryce and Earl Cartwright.

In the 1925-1926 season, at first, it appeared another championship might be in order. On a west coast tour, the Savages received much publicity for the team and the institution while winning eight games over such teams as the University of Nevada, the University of Wyoming, and Arizona State Teachers College. The squad opened the home season before a "packed" house in the new gymnasium. Enthusiasm reigned on campus as the Savages defeated the Austin College Kangaroos. For the next several contests, Southeastern appeared invincible; but, in mid-February the Savages lost at Alva to the Northwestern Rangers. A second loss in March to the Oklahoma City Goldbugs ended any chance the team would be the state intercollegiate champions. The record of the 1926-1927 basketball team paralleled the previous year. The high point of the campaign came early in the season on January 8. On that particular night, the Savages played the 1926 Oklahoma collegiate champions, Phillips College, before a standing room only crowd in the new gymnasium. In describing the scene, the *Democrat* declared that the games began with "the Durant crowd being first silent as the grave"; then, with the home team ahead, the contest ended with the fans "roaring like mad with enthusiasm and delight." Although STC later suffered a defeat by Southwestern, the Savages remained in the title race until the final game of the season between Phillips and Southwestern State Teachers College—a win by Phillips would have given Southeastern the title. But as the buzzer ended the contest, Southwestern scored to win, and Southeastern again had to accept runner-up honors in the conference. (See appendix for all conference).<sup>69</sup>

In the 1925 cinder season, the performance of one of Southeastern's greatest track and field athletes was witnessed. In the first meet against East Central, Coleman Crawford emerged as a track marvel. Leading the Savages to an easy victory, Crawford won four events. At the University of Oklahoma's Relay Carnival in late April, Crawford won individual honors by placing first in the high jump, second in the shot put, and third in the javelin. The spring of 1925 found STC with its strongest tennis team since H. C. Pruitt and Earle Williams had starred in the sport in 1920-1921. Southeastern's 1925 tennis team, consisting of Lewis Armstrong and Joe Apple, lost in the doubles championship at the state meet to Central State. But Apple came back to win the Oklahoma singles tennis championship. Apple and Armstrong made another strong showing in the 1926 season. Although Southeastern had fielded a baseball team on a sporadic basis in the early 1920s, few

scores and no official team rosters appeared in the *Southeastern* or the *Democrat*. In the spring of 1926, however, baseball made a return to the campus as a major sport. That year the team wore new uniforms with Southeastern spelled out across the front of the shirt for the first time.<sup>70</sup>

Besides sporting events, there were other activities of note during the 1926 spring term. The annual Southeastern High School Meet had undergone a major change by that year. Instead of concentrating on the track and field events, the focus of attention shifted to scholastic contests. For the new format, schools were divided into classes according to the size of their student populations. For example, in the 1926 meet, four Class "A" schools and fourteen Class "B" schools competed in written exams in English composition, algebra, world history, American history, general science, Latin, and agriculture. Although the track meet continued for many years, most of the five hundred visiting high school students took part in the new scholastic contests. The tradition, emphasizing academic accomplishments by the pupils, has remained until the present day. The debate schedules, as always, were difficult ones, and the Savage orators performed well. In 1925 STC almost won the Triangular Debate championship when the team of Carl McIntire and Archie Pool defeated East Central, and Ernest Cannon and George Henry lost by just one point to Northeastern. In the next two years, Southeastern failed to win another championship. Nevertheless, STC orators did defeat teams from Simmons College, Arkansas State Teachers College, Austin College, Louisiana State Teachers College, and North Texas State College. Participating on the squads were John Honts, Fairy Davis, Kenneth Campbell, Pool, and McIntire.<sup>71</sup>

Returning to his administrative duties after receiving his doctorate, President Bennett approached the 1926-1927 school year with the same degree of energy, purpose, and drive he had shown in former years. He sagaciously used his political persuasiveness to advance the construction of an ever-improving physical plant at Southeastern. In early December, as the time neared for the opening of another legislative session in January 1927, Dr. Bennett and the Durant Chamber of Commerce held a banquet in the college cafeteria for many of the incoming state senators and representatives. At the dinner served by the ladies of the First Christian Church and attended by over one hundred citizens, Bennett and the faculty heard several solons promise that

STC had nothing to fear from the incoming legislature. This sentiment was expressed by such state leaders, the *Democrat* remarked, as Lieutenant Governor W. J. Holloway, and David Stovall, the Speaker of the House.

President Bennett wanted more, however, than assurances that the level of support STC had received in the past would be maintained—he wanted increased monies for campus acreage and physical plant expansion. To convince them of his wishes, the president cleverly had the church ladies place a miniature budget beside each solon's plate. "The needs of Southeastern State Teachers College as set forth in a small budget to each visiting legislator," the local paper explained to its readers, "included a new library building, containing also eight classrooms and costing approximately \$125,000, a pavement around the loop, the purchase of twenty acres of land adjoining the campus while it can be bought cheaply, . . . and some very much needed repairs on the administration building." Following the affair, the *Democrat* explained that the purpose of the banquet had been achieved. Each member of the House and Senate present acknowledged, the paper reported, that it was evident that the college needed the improvement. . . .

The *Democrat* accurately evaluated the situation; in early March 1927, the House passed an appropriation bill totaling \$516,000 for the next two years at STC. Of the total, \$260,000 would be for salaries, \$50,000 for maintenance, \$24,000 for the operation of the summer school, \$30,000 for operation of the extension and rural education departments, \$20,000 for sidewalks and paving, \$12,000 for general repairs to the administration building, and \$10,000 for the purchase of land. Most important to Bennett and the faculty, the bill also carried \$110,000 for the construction of the new library. To insure that the Senate concurred in the House bill, Dr. Bennett, Dean J. S. Vaughan, and Durant Chamber of Commerce representative Wainwright Bridges went to Oklahoma City to lobby for its passage through the upper chamber. The trio was entirely successful. In late March, Governor Henry S. Johnston signed the measure into law. Furthermore, the governor signed an emergency deficiency and supplemental bill in the amount of \$9,783 to meet anticipated expenditures above Bennett's budget request for the 1926-1927 fiscal year.<sup>73</sup>

The remainder of the spring term in 1927 was a busy time on campus as the seniors looked toward graduation and watched the groundwork being started for the construction of the new library.

As in past years, the student body took pride in accomplishments of the school's debating team. Although the orators did not win the state championship and the actual record made is not extant, the team, composed of Lorinne Harkey, Charles Abbott, B. D. Shilling, James Russell, Rochelle Agee, Hershel LeVan, Fairy Davis, and John Honts, did well enough that Bennett awarded the group gold medals at a special assembly. One new event that spring was called the Victors' Banquet. The purpose of the dinner was to honor all those who had represented Southeastern State College in various events in the past year. Less than a week after the Victors' Banquet, Lieutenant Governor W. J. Holloway delivered the commencement address on May 19 to 169 graduates; 23 received high school diplomas, 122 obtained life certificates, and 24 earned B.A. or B.S. degrees.

After another large summer session, Southeastern opened its doors in September 1927 for the eighteenth academic year in the institution's existence. No one at the time knew it would be the last year Bennett would be the president at Southeastern State Teachers College. Returning students were undoubtedly surprised when one veteran faculty member's name did not appear on the 1927-1928 class schedule. Dean J. S. Vaughan, the former acting president, had left Southeastern to assume a much more important position. At the end of the 1926-1927 academic year, Vaughan had become the new State Superintendent of Public Instruction. His appointment meant, of course, that Southeastern and President Bennett had a true friend in the most prestigious office in public education in Oklahoma.<sup>74</sup>

It soon became apparent that Dr. Bennett's last year at STC would be a fruitful one. Statistics released by the State Department of Education after the close of fall registration disclosed that Southeastern State Teachers College had, the college newspaper reported, 948 students in the college department — the largest enrollment of any of the teacher institutions. In total, the STC count was 1,364 students, including 53 special students, 126 high schoolers, 204 in the extension department, and 33 taking correspondence work. The leadership role that the Durant institution had taken in education by the fall of 1927 received a considerable amount of attention. For example, in an article written after the figures were made public, the *Daily Oklahoman* called the institution "the best normal school in the nation." One crucial event during the academic year lent credibility to that claim. During the fall session, Dr. Bennett and the faculty carefully prepared for a

review by the North Central Association. When the report of the visiting accreditation committee had been filed and evaluated, Southeastern was awarded a Class A-1 rating — the highest possible category. When compared to other institutions in the region, Southeastern, under Bennett's leadership, had become one of the finest colleges in the area. Only two other schools in Oklahoma, Central State and East Central, and one institution in Kansas, Emporia State, obtained Class A-1 ranking.<sup>75</sup>

The excellent academic record of the institution was also reflected in the type of scholars attracted to the Durant campus. Although many students attended the school and made remarkable records during President Bennett's tenure, probably none was more representative than Hicks Epton of Nashville, Arkansas. Arriving on the campus in 1924 "determined to get a college education," Hicks had "a hard life for he worked all night as a bellhop at a local hotel and went to school during the day, sleeping a few hours after school until six o'clock when he went on the job." In his few spare hours, he got a job on campus "sweeping floors and washing windows." Epton also could be seen around Durant washing dishes in cafes, digging ditches, mowing lawns, working gardens, clerking in stores during the rush season — everything "to obtain an honest dollar." In spite of his heavy workload, the school paper once reported, "Epton has been the leader in practically every worthwhile school activity since he has been here." For example, the energetic student was a member of the debate squad, the honorary Scribblers Club, the Amigos Fraternity, the Baptist Youth Organization, and was president of the Student Council.<sup>76</sup>

Football enthusiasts eagerly awaited the start of the 1927 season. As the annual stated about STC's new coach, "Dillard Eubank is one of those men who, after their college days were over, returned to their Alma Mater to help win new laurels for the school." But when the 1927 schedule opened, Southeastern discovered that an exceptionally high class of football was being played in Oklahoma. Furthermore, most of Southeastern's men were new to college football. After defeating Murray State, the Savages lost five games and played to three scoreless ties. Yet to the happiness of STC loyalists, on Thanksgiving Day the Savages defeated East Central. The great number of freshmen on the squad prompted the annual to conclude that "since only one man will be lost by graduation, 1928, 1929, and 1930 should be Southeastern years."<sup>77</sup>

After an absence of two years, the return of organized cheering clubs at Southeastern occurred in the fall of 1927. In fact, the student body had two different groups to watch at the Savage games—one male and one coed. The men's spirit squad chose the name the "Sitting Bulls." Charter members were Joe Parks, Fletcher Davis, C. R. Gregg, Lester Kirby, Aubrey Stephenson, Mitchell Clymer, Arthur Kizer, Billie Bone, Fred Lowry, Rochelle Agee, Clifford Armstrong, Lloyd Ward, Alfred Jackson, Floyd Raines, E. T. Haddock, and Clovis Farley. The coed organization called the "Squaws" was founded by charter members Mabel Gladney as president, Opal Barentine, Hermine Truby, and Ruth Hewitt. Soon after the club became active, many young women joined to wear the colors of blue and gold and to "P-E-P" for the Savages. Members of the Squaws for 1927, who added much color at STC athletic events, were Thelma Agee, Ruth Allen, Maxine Blount, Pearl Braden, Blanche Brewster, Velma Campbell, Vera Campbell, Lois Fontaine, Helen Hall, Opal Haynie, Leona Lovelace, Virginia Margrave, Frances Miller, Geraldine Moreland, Jessie Morris, Faye Phillips, Eleanor Rae, Buna Russell, Margaret Sample, Clara Schell, Stella Dee Shannon, Irene Spear, Wayne Stanley, Opal White, and Frances Wharton.<sup>78</sup>

Basketball prospects at Southeastern looked very bright at the beginning of the 1928 season, the school paper asserted. As in the football campaign, the main reason for the optimistic feeling was the presence of a new coach. The *Hollisso* hailed the return of Brennon Witt, "another famous athlete of Southeastern, who has returned to coach the students of his Alma Mater." Witt had seven lettermen back and several of the best high school recruits in Oklahoma as the nucleus for his 1928 squad. When the first game came on January 21, Witt started a veteran lineup of Captain Dee Davis, Charles Zinnecker, Robert Summerall, Vandal Yarborough, and Joe Laughlin. And, the Savages, to the cheers of their fans, smothered Oklahoma City University in the first conference game. In the next month it began to appear that Southeastern was unbeatable. Then the euphoria ended. "With nine state scalps hanging at their belts," STC invaded Ada, only to lose. Their hopes for a championship dashed, the cagers "fell an easy victim the next night, February 25, to Oklahoma Baptist University."<sup>79</sup>

The very active Student Council for 1927-1928 included Hicks Epton, president; Whitt Abbott, vice-president; and Veda McClen-don, secretary-treasurer. Praising the council, the *Southeastern* said, "In the early autumn they printed a Southeastern Yell Book, and then supported the college annual when others hesitated to

give it a thought." The council also approved two constitutional amendments repealing the honor system and giving Russell High School the right to govern themselves independently of the college student body.<sup>80</sup>

There were many bright moments scholastically during Bennett's last year. The 1927-1928 debate team brought, the student newspaper declared on May 2, "Glory to Southeastern." The 1928 team composed of Joe Apple, Roscoe Goins, Hicks Epton, William Parrish, Alvin Bruce, and Thompson Shannon defeated East Central and Northeastern in the Triangular Debate Contests and Arkansas State Teachers, North Texas State, Louisiana State Teachers, Mississippi College, and Burleson College. Besides watching the oratorical competition, students at STC were treated to visits by renowned scholars and noted artists. The most notable person to appear during the year was the famous writer, musician, teacher, and lecturer, John Erskine. Best known for his work, *The Private Life of Helen of Troy*, Erskine's appearance on March 17, sponsored by the Scribblers Club, was one of the most memorable and important educational events held in the twenties. Another great scholastic achievement in 1928 was the securing of a chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, a national honorary education fraternity. For the installation of STC's chapter, the forty-fifth in the nation, Dr. T. C. McCracken of Ohio University, the national president of the fraternity, came to the campus to initiate the members.<sup>81</sup>

The creation of new festive occasions and the expansion of others characterized the 1927-1928 academic year. One entertaining tradition started during the fall semester was the Harvest Carnival. Held at night in the new gymnasium, the carnival began when Stella Dee Shannon and Dee Davis, the Harvest king and queen, entered the west door and marched to the stage where they were crowned and received their honors. For their coronation, Davis wore "a beautiful wine-colored robe that would have done credit to any king of the middle ages, while Miss Shannon appeared unusually beautiful in a silver evening gown with a crown to match," the *Southeastern* noted. After the opening ceremonies, the hundreds of students in attendance spent the night watching prize fights, wrestling contests, buying delectable edibles, and attending amusements like the House of Horrors. A second particularly fun night occurred in the spring semester. In early March, the STC Follies took place downtown at the Liberty Theatre. A production of the physical education classes, the Follies

consisted of vocal, dance, and comedy routines performed by students in appropriate costumes.<sup>82</sup>

The one most singularly important happening during 1927-1928 took place on April 1, when Governor Henry S. Johnston gave the formal dedication speech officially opening Southeastern's new library. Built by the Underhill Construction Company of Oklahoma City and located 200 ft. west of the administration building with the front facing the east, the magnificent colonial-style structure consisted of three floors, each one measuring 67 ft. by 117 ft., and a mezzanine. Following speeches by the governor and President Bennett, a host of dignitaries and visitors went on a tour guided by STC coeds. Features of the library, to be named the Henry Garland Bennett Memorial Library fifty-four years later (1982), included four large Corinthian columns, 2½ ft. in diameter and 28 ft. high, and a first floor magazine and document room. The second floor contained a reading room capable of accommodating four hundred scholars, and a third floor housed the departmental libraries and several classrooms. Throughout the entire library, book stacks were made of steel and the floor was laid with rubber tile to insure absolute quiet.

Other capital improvements made in 1927-1928, of which President Bennett was justly proud, were the opening of the music building, the reopening of the cafeteria, the planting of many trees and shrubs on the campus, and the paving of the college loop. The music building contained six studios, seven practice rooms, a small concert room, and several general classrooms. It was a completely renovated and redecorated structure which formerly housed the boilers and training school classes. To celebrate the dedication of the music building, President Bennett purchased several new pianos including one concert grand. The cafeteria, still located in the basement of the administration building, featured a new concrete floor, plaster walls and ceiling, new lighting, and new tables and chairs. For only \$20 a month, students were served three family-style meals a day prepared by Mrs. Ollie James, a trained dietician. The college loop, which started at Fifth Street and passed beside or in front of every building and ended at Sixth Street, was paved at a cost of \$15,219.69. To enhance the beauty of the semicircle, Professor E. B. Robbins, STC's landscape expert, planted fifty Magnolia trees. In the remainder of the year, President Bennett had Robbins plant hundreds of different varieties of trees on the twenty-acre campus.<sup>83</sup>

On May 16, 1928, Bennett presided over his last commencement as president of Southeastern State Teachers College. After an address by J. R. Holes, superintendent of the city schools in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, Bennett awarded 18 high school diplomas, 119 life certificates, and 38 B.A. and B.S. degrees to 175 students the largest spring graduating class in the school's history in all categories. Soon after commencement, the shock came. In late March of 1928, Bradford Knapp had resigned as president of Oklahoma A&M at Stillwater. Various political factions began an immediate struggle over the naming of a new chief executive officer. On June 1, 1928, the Oklahoma Board of Agriculture convened in the capitol to elect a successor to Knapp. The members of the board had twenty names to consider. When the meeting started, Harry Cordell, a prominent spokesman for a number of the members, moved that Dr. Henry Garland Bennett be confirmed as the new president-elect. Some at the meeting feared that, because Bennett was a lifelong friend of Lieutenant Governor William J. Holloway, his appointment might involve the institution in state politics. Regardless of these feelings, the Board of Agriculture voted to extend the position to the president of Southeastern State Teachers College.<sup>84</sup>

In Durant, the reaction to Dr. Bennett's election was received with sadness and pride. As everyone knew, it would prove difficult to replace the man who had accomplished so much. Although the staff of the *Holisso*, which was renamed *The Southeastern* in 1928 and later named *The Savage* in 1947, including Nadine Neeley, editor, and Hermine Truby, assistant editor, could not have known at the time the publication went to press in April that Bennett would resign, the finished volume seems to have been produced with that fact in mind. (See appendix G for a list of the editors.) Following several pages showing pictures of the buildings on campus, the annual dedicated two pages to Dr. Bennett. Opposite a full-page picture of the beloved president, the yearbook listed many of the accomplishments of his tenure. The appreciation statement read:

To our President, Dr. H. G. Bennett, we dedicate this page as appreciation of the high position he holds as an educator, of the status our college has attained during his administration, of the friendly attitude he has for all those with whom he comes in contact, and the place he holds in our hearts. It is impossible to express

fully all that Dr. Bennett means to us and has meant ever since the first day he became President of the institution.

As the remainder of the sheet related, when the Arkansas native arrived in Durant, Southeastern was a normal school, not a college. Among the faculty in 1919, there were nine possessing the B.A. degree, five holding the B.S., and only one with the M.A. degree; none held a doctorate, nor were there any doctoral candidates. By 1928, among the faculty members there were thirty-five with the B.A., eighteen with the B.S., twenty-six with the M.A., four with the Ph.D., and four Ph.D. candidates. Enrollment had grown from 492 to over 1,400 students annually during the regular semesters, with hundreds more in attendance during the summer sessions.<sup>85</sup>

When Bennett accepted the presidency, the campus had an administration building, a training school annex and boiler room combination, and a president's home. When he left, the campus consisted of a new heating plant, an education building, a science hall, an auditorium-gymnasium complex, a music building, and a splendid library. The campus grounds in 1919 had patches of Bermuda grass and a few small trees. By 1928, the grass had covered the main twenty-acre campus, hundreds of additional trees had been planted, flower beds had been made, and a paved drive lined with Magnolia trees was well under construction.

Because everyone who loved STC took great pride in the splendid advancements made at the Durant institution under Bennett's administration, naturally, they hated to hear of his pending departure. More important, Bennett was personally loved and respected by the students, the faculty, the alumni, and the Durant community for his character and personality. As Philip Reed Rulon, the official historian of Oklahoma State University, has noted, "The Rotary and Lions clubs wrote glowing recommendations of Bennett and forwarded them to their organizational counterparts in Stillwater. More than one person in the Southeastern community broke down in tears." According to Rulon, "Fellow churchmen, however, probably felt the worst at his departure. The local congregation of the First Baptist Church took up a collection to purchase and engrave a gold watch." A statement included with the engraved timepiece expressed these sentiments:

To know Henry Bennett well is to love him. . . . He has the charm of personality that draws most men to him as a magnet. He has the power of leadership that makes other men gladly follow him. He is a democrat and meets with equal ease the low and the high—he treats all men as his equal. He is a clearinghouse for the troubles and worries of others and is capable of soothing the sick, cheering the discouraged, and lending a helping hand to the man who feels down and out.<sup>86</sup>

Bennett's life story after he left Durant is all too famous statewide, nationally, and even internationally—to need retelling here. The author recommends Professor Rulon's work, which is often cited in this chapter, as the single best study of Dr. Bennett's subsequent career. But Henry Garland Bennett did not leave Durant forever. When Bennett and his wife died, the descendants respected their parents' wish to be buried in a family plot at Durant's Highland Cemetery. In a happier vein, Dr. Bennett returned to Southeastern and Durant on many occasions to visit and to deliver addresses. Yet, in the summer of 1928, Southeastern had to find an immediate replacement for the man who had served nearly a decade at the institution.

**A Decade of Depression and Politics 1928-1937:  
The Presidential Era of Eugene S. Briggs,  
Wade H. Shumate, and Kate Galt Zaneis**

On July 1, 1928, a new presidential era began at Southeastern when Eugene S. Briggs became the seventh chief executive of the institution. Just how Briggs managed to secure his appointment remains a mystery. Because the new president was not a politically active person, the usual explanations do not suffice. Briggs certainly did not receive his presidency as a reward for campaigning for the election of Governor Henry S. Johnston. Also, unlike several past presidents of STC, Briggs did not achieve his position as a result of widespread support from the teachers and superintendents of the southeastern part of the state. Throughout his entire career in Oklahoma, the newly named chief administrator had been associated with the city of Okmulgee—located in the northeastern portion of the Soonerstate. Furthermore, Briggs was not a personal nor close friend of Dr. Henry Garland Bennett, the one man the Board of Education might have listened to concerning his successor. Finally, Briggs had not been a founder or a major leader in the Red Rose society of educators. Consequently, one is forced to speculate concerning his appointment.

In this regard, two explanations seem plausible. First, Eugene S. Briggs was a devout and highly visible Christian leader in his community. Governor Johnston was a favorite of the leading prohibitionists and Protestants in the state. Perhaps these forces brought Briggs to Johnston's attention. Second, there was one real connection between the new president and his predecessor, Dr. Bennett; both men had attended the Teachers College of Columbia University during the 1920s. Because they were both graduates of the same influential college, Bennett may have mentioned Briggs' name to the Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, John S. Vaughan. Furthermore, the influence of that New York educational institution was very strong in Oklahoma during the "Roaring Twenties," and an impressive recommendation from its faculty, which Briggs certainly would have received, would have appealed to the reforming spirit of Governor Johnston.

Born in Howard County, Missouri, on February 1, 1890, to Thomas Hale and Susan Almyra Pyle Briggs, the new president attended Central College, Fayette, Missouri. In his collegiate days, Briggs was an excellent student and an active participant in campus life. He edited the school paper, became the president of YMCA and Phi Alpha, a literary society, and lettered for three years on the basketball squad. After receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in 1912, he became a science teacher at Moberly, Missouri; from 1913-1919, Briggs served, in order, as the high school principal in the Carrollton, Slater, and Trenton, Missouri, school systems. In the years he spent in these positions, Briggs met and married three women. The first two unions, to Marie Cleveland Briggs and Edna Helen Briggs, ended in the untimely death of both women. The third marriage to Mary Betty Gentry Briggs in 1914 produced two children, Stephen Gentry and Eleanor Sue. Besides building a reputation as a capable administrator, Briggs became known for his coaching ability. At Moberly, his 1912 basketball team won the state championship. The following year his 1913 Carrollton football team won a state championship and his 1914 track squad won every meet.<sup>2</sup>

After moving to Slater, Briggs coached another conference champion football team. His last high school championship came when his Trenton basketball squad won the conference crown. In 1919 the young educator and his family moved to Okmulgee, Oklahoma, where Briggs had accepted the high school principalship; in 1925, he became the superintendent of the system. During his years in Okmulgee, Briggs became very active in Boy Scout work and other youth projects. Because he believed many students were not capable of pursuing a college education, Briggs became a leader in the movement to introduce vocational training in the public schools. Additionally, the Okmulgee administrator spent a great deal of his time and energy in activities related to the First Christian Church, the Masons, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Lions Club—organizations he continued to support after he arrived at Southeastern.<sup>3</sup>

Although he was unknown in the Durant community, Briggs' enthusiasm, seriousness of purpose, and administrative acumen made an immediate and positive impression. In an article on August 30, 1928, the *Democrat* asserted:

Out of a field of able prospects, Eugene S. Briggs, superintendent of the city schools at Okmulgee, was

named to succeed Bennett at Southeastern. He assumed his duties here July 1 in the midst of the summer session attended by nearly 3,000 students.

Not an iota of momentum in the forward march of Southeastern was noted in the administrative change, as Mr. Briggs, thoroughly an educator and executive, carried on immediately as his predecessor had done and the next term promises to be the greatest in the history of the institution?

In his first public statement after arriving in Durant, Briggs made it apparent, however, that his administration would not just be a continuation of the policies instituted by former President Bennett. The Missouri native had his own well-developed concepts of how a college should be run and for what purposes. And, he did not intend to waste time making his views known. First, the new president explained that academic standards at STC must be raised. Regarding this goal, Briggs declared:

This is our institution. Together we rise, together we fall. We have strong competition in the state. If Southeastern is not worth boosting she's not worth attending. It's the quality of a student body that counts. Sometimes we lose our heads over numbers or a record number of something.<sup>5</sup>

Like his professors at Columbia University, the new president truly believed that college should educate the whole person. Thus, not only educational standards would be raised at STC but also the level of extracurricular activities. But the expansion in the non-classroom programs would be carefully regulated. In essence, Briggs wanted Southeastern students to have a good time just as long as they did it within the rules which the faculty and administration had established. Briggs proposed that in addition to scholastic knowledge, a student must be provided with a highly organized, moral environment designed to create true character. In the educational philosophies prevalent during the period, a person developed character by imitating great men and being task oriented. In expressing this thought to the students, Briggs said:

This is a versatile age. We must go some to beat our grandfathers. Each of you is one of the fifty people who



has an opportunity of attending an institution of higher learning. I hope that each of you know why you're here.

We can accomplish many feats if we but stick to the task assigned us. So many things are wrong at the start. Charley Paddock, my friend, won his races by going fast at the start and holding the lead. Gain a little every day and when a crisis comes, you will be ready.

Southeastern is depending on you no matter where you are, on the campus at night or even in another state. Wherever you go, you advertise Southeastern. As you do, Southeastern is."

But President Briggs did not plan just to encourage good character development among the students of STC, he meant to instill Christian character and virtues. On one occasion he remarked to the student body:

The keystone of life is character. We started with character education but we got away from it. The pendulum is swinging back now. The first question to be asked every teacher in the future is, "Are you a Christian?" Christian teachers will be required in the future. . . . I would say that it isn't an easy task to be a Christian. If you are worth anything at all, the devil is after you, and will be as long as you have any value. Temptation should not be dreaded but should be welcomed. It should be a time of success and victory and not a time of failure.

Recognize the fact that when temptation comes something inside you will rise up and say "This is a time of victory and success."<sup>7</sup>

In addition to his personal preference for order, discipline, and stability, President Briggs undoubtedly surmised that the existing situation at Southeastern demanded that he instigate and maintain firm control. The Bennett years had been ones of rapid growth and expansion in the student body, the physical plant, the faculty and programs; in many ways, the rapidity had created a somewhat chaotic and nebulous organizational effect. In reality, almost everything at STC depended upon the leadership of Henry Bennett. Being a keenly intelligent man, Briggs must have perceived that it was inherently necessary for him to present the image that the college would continue to run smoothly and effectively

despite losing its long-time, benevolent dictator. Furthermore, the new president believed in objective results—something that the public could see and put their finger on—and, to achieve such goals in the shortest possible time, he sought to establish strict discipline and a regular and accepted manner of getting things done on the campus. Finally, the new president accepted that many people thought a formal education was unnecessary and a waste of time. As a true educator, Briggs felt he had an obligation to insure that the citizenry of southeastern Oklahoma and the remainder of the state could not point to STC as an example of the futility of institutions of higher learning. Instead, Briggs planned to prove that every minute of a student's time spent at the School of the Rising Sun helped society in general. Expressing this philosophy, he said:

Education is under fire today. Some say that a school course is one of frivolity, merriment, just a frill or a pastime. Some people even blame the schools on the colossal number of people who are failures. It isn't the fault of schools that so many people have failed in every walk of life.

Education produces prosperity and not prosperity education. When we think of other nations, torn by high taxes and poor living conditions, we should be thankful for the privileges and blessings which have come our way.<sup>8</sup>

As soon as the 1928 fall session opened, Briggs moved to implement his administrative strategy. At a special assembly he announced that certain forms of conduct would not be tolerated. For example, smoking was instantly banned on campus. Furthermore, he would not hire any teacher "who is addicted to the habit." In a second announcement, he related that "henceforth, if you are not in class by the last bell, you are marked absent." Comparing punctuality with a train, the new president said, "You either catch it or get left. . . . There are no exceptions whatever to the rule." Also, Briggs changed the grading system at STC. Because the manner of awarding grades had been rather subjective in the past, Briggs decreed that instead of figures being used, teachers would award grades based on the "A" through "F" alphabetical system. So that the four hundred freshmen could be certain of what was expected of them, as well as learn about the college and its traditions, the new president started the practice of holding required

orientation classes for the first-year students. To aid the faculty and administration in the special one-hour sessions held every Monday at 8:00 A.M. for the first quarter of the year, Briggs recruited outstanding upperclassmen. Additionally, every student in the institution was to be assigned a permanent advisor from the faculty. Briggs made it clear that he intended the faculty to take this responsibility seriously. "Every faculty member is expected," he announced, "to be in his room all during the hour, so the students may consult with him in regard to courses, difficult points, general matters of interest, and the like." Also, every member of the staff would be enlisted to sponsor either a class or a campus organization; and, sponsors were supposed to carefully plan the meeting and budget their time so they could effectively service their clubs or groups.<sup>9</sup>

Since the professors at STC were required to give their expertise, time, and energy to the students, they were due respect. Accordingly, Briggs laid down the following rules for teacher-pupil relationships:

1. When called into conference with a professor or with your advisor, or with the president of the school, go neatly dressed; be on time.
2. Procedure is due to the faculty members. One should let them pass through the doors first, or if meeting in a narrow passage, the student should step aside, bowing slightly, until the professor is safely by.
3. Hats should be raised to the faculty on the streets.
4. It is human nature for the students to nickname professors. . . . But nicknames should be reserved for private conversations and should be used sparingly as they have a way of slipping under embarrassing circumstances. The students should learn the correct names and titles of all the faculty and use them."

Male-female conduct on the campus received special attention from the new president. At the first assembly, he mandated, "No

dates are to be made except on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. We mean what we say." Furthermore, Briggs mandated that all social activities after the first week of classes must be held on weekends. Although he realized "the social life of a student is an excellent thing," he decreed that at STC, "the first obligation of a student is serious work in the classroom." After asking everyone to accept the new rules willingly, Briggs closed his speech by stating that because Southeastern had the best prospects for the finest football team in its history, "you girls can do your part by not having dates with football boys during the week." Actually, the new president really did not leave any discretion to the students. After meeting with Hallie McKinney, the dean of women, a new set of rules regulating campus conduct was announced. For example, because many people considered automobiles "to be houses of prostitution on wheels," the new regulations prohibited a coed from riding with a male except with a chaperon, even in the daytime. And, coeds could receive gentlemen callers until 10:30 P.M., not the former 11:15 P.M."

Actually, the change in rules from the Bennett years was more in emphasis than substance. During the prior administration, as long as the activities were held off campus, a great amount of freedom was permitted. Consequently, most dances were held in private homes, local fraternal lodges, or the National Guard Armory. At many of these occasions, liquor was either provided or made readily available. When the deans did try to interfere in the private parties to enforce a rule, their efforts sometimes brought resistance. One well-known story, for instance, involved Dean Hallie McKinney's attempt to prevent a student dance at the armory in honor of the track team after a winning season in 1922. Because the students did not provide her office with the required time, place, and chaperons, Dean McKinney "banned the dance." One of the student leaders, Bailey Diffie, who later became a world-renowned scholar and one of STC's most loyal alumni, convinced the celebrants to have the dance anyway. Diffie, who was regarded as a real character and a free spirit, informed Dean McKinney that if "she would just mind her own damned business, we'd get along all right." Diffie, when called into Dr. Bennett's office to explain his rudeness, escaped with only a firm reprimand. Under President Briggs, the punishment probably would have been expulsion from the institution."

In essence, where Dr. Bennett's tenure was more Catholic or more Lutheran in its outlook on student life with regards to rules

and regulations—Briggs was more Calvinistic-Puritanical. During Briggs' presidency (1928-1933), few dances and other parties were permitted off campus. Liquor and other bad influences were to be prevented from affecting the student body. Consequently, dances and other events normally were sponsored by the Student Council and held in the gymnasium. Faculty members supervised those entering the doors to make certain the participants had been invited, and none had been drinking or carried liquor on their person. At the official starting time for the event, the doors were locked until the activity had concluded for the night. Meanwhile, other male faculty members were required to patrol the area for security reasons. As long as Briggs remained in the presidency, such rigid supervision took place. By attempting to legislate morality and provide a Calvinistic Christian environment on campus, the new president was trying to create an atmosphere conducive to hard work and achievement. In expressing his intentions, Briggs said:

When we accept the colors of Southeastern we are interested in what Southeastern does. We are not concerned with what others are doing. It doesn't make any difference whether we are criticized or praised. We are going to build up a spirit here at Southeastern that will live for years to come.<sup>13</sup>

Enrollment statistics released the second week of classes augured a banner year for STC. With a record number of more than thirteen hundred students present, the new president's administration started to take definite shape. In an effort to avoid being labeled a dictator, Briggs called a special assembly with the coed population on campus in late fall. In his address to the young ladies, the president complimented them on helping to enforce the regulations he had announced at the start of the semester. Then, he related, "I do not believe in having set rules. I would like for us to have an agreement on what we think is right and follow this." Consequently, in his opinion it would be far better for the coeds to organize a council in cooperation with Dean McKinney to set their own standards of proper conduct and enforce them with the faculty's and the administration's assistance. The president's idea became an immediate success. Following the assembly, the female population at STC voted to form such an organization with four representatives elected from the senior class, three from the junior, two from the sophomore, and one from the freshman classes. A

president, who would hold "the highest office tendered to a girl at Southeastern," would be selected from the Women's Council representatives. After a vote by the entire student body approving the charter of the Women's Council, the new organization adopted a constitution and set of by-laws. By Briggs' second year at STC, the Women's Council was a vibrant and active governing body. And, in time the council did make its own rules and enforce them. For instance, for the 1929-1930 academic year, the women voted to allow dates during the week for coeds who maintained at least a "C" average in every subject; the curfew was extended to eleven o'clock, and dances were to terminate at twelve o'clock.<sup>14</sup>

President Briggs also relied on the YWCA and YMCA. In fact, the president once remarked, "The YMCA is the most important organization for young men on the campus." Briggs, ever the devout member of the Disciples of Christ Church, actively supported his statement. During his administration, he gave the YMCA and YWCA his full support in all their activities and programs; he also arranged for the installation of officers each year to be formal "impressive ceremonies," according to the *Southeastern*. One week each year was set aside as "Y Week" at STC. During this time, the two organizations sponsored vesper services, student mixers, picnics, huge slumber parties, and prayer breakfasts. But the most important event held by the two social-religious societies every year was the annual retreat. Recalling this fun-filled event for the author, Rector Swearingin, currently a prominent Durant businessman and a student at that time, reminisced:

The YMCA and YWCA were very active on the campus then. Once or twice a year the YWCA and YMCA members and the faculty would go over to Ardmore in the Arbuckle Mountains and spend the weekend, where they would do their own cooking, camp out, and spend the day in games and other fun activities. Usually, the students traveled on a big flat bed on somebody's hay truck—which made the trips all the more exciting. And, of course, the gatherings had a Christian influence, Sunrise and vesper services were held, and scripture readings took place. Another place that was quite popular for the retreats was Devil's Den near

Tishomingo, and students at STC always looked forward to going to those beautiful surroundings to have a good time and worship.<sup>15</sup>

By the time Briggs' tenure at Southeastern ended in 1933, the college YWCA and YMCA chapters had become both state and nationally known. But, the one student organization that the new president depended upon the most to help him administer student affairs was the Student Council as it was popularly called. When Briggs arrived on campus, he unexpectedly found that there was no student governing board functioning. In 1928, the students had become dissatisfied with the officers and voted to abolish the organization. Briggs judiciously found several students who thought the group should be reestablished and reformed. Together, Briggs and the students attained their objective. In March 1929, after three months of discussions, the student body voted to create a student government with a new constitution. The basic reforms included increasing the number of members from six to fourteen, allowing the student body to hold a recall vote upon the signing of a petition by thirty pupils, the holding of special elections to fill any vacancies which might occur, and raising the academic qualifications of the persons who could run for office.<sup>16</sup>

Under the leadership of its president, Burt Holt, the Student Council soon became "a vital STC organization," the campus newspaper declared. One of the first actions taken by the student governing group was to launch a monetary drive for a new athletic stadium. After listening to their student leaders about the need for the new facility, the student body voted unanimously to assess an annual \$1 fee per pupil for the regular terms and a fee of fifty cents for the summer sessions. By January 1929, the council had raised \$435 as a first payment on the new structure. In accepting the check, President Briggs praised the loyalty of the student body and the council's leadership and predicted that STC would have a fine new stadium within five years. Other positive actions taken by the governing body included the publication of the first student handbook, the reviving of many campus traditions like the Friendship Fire, the beginning of new customs such as Stunt Night, the sending of representatives to the National Federation of Student Councils, and the scheduling of appearances of nationally known

entertainers. For 1928-1929, the council presented performances by the Hart House Quartet and Fritz Lieber in the production, *Macheth*.<sup>17</sup>

President Briggs wanted every person at STC to participate in social-academic clubs. Furthermore, he planned to upgrade existing groups and introduce new ones as rapidly as possible. As part of his policy of "educating the whole person," the new president hired Professor Fred B. Dixon, a specialist in college social affairs and extracurricular activities. Under Dixon's direction, campus life at Southeastern soon teemed with events sponsored by over twenty-five different clubs and organizations. Among the newest and most active were the Art Club, the Dramatic Club, the Home Economics Club, Magic Pentagon (math), the Glee Club, the STC Quartet, the Social Science Club, the Commercial Club, the Physical Education Club, the SOTECA Club (camera), the Government Club, the Spanish Club, the International Relations Club, the Presidents' Club, and the Travel Club. Naturally, several older groups, including the Boule Honor Society, the Societas Latina, and the Ecclesia, continued to attract members.

The ultimate reason the new president and Professor Dixon had for expanding the extracurricular activities was to help improve the academic standards at Southeastern. And, as noted, they intended to have a regulated and well defined, even rather coercive, program to allow the student body to have a good time within the acceptable rules. The academic requirements to belong to the organizations were raised by the new administration; then, students were encouraged and even pressured to join the clubs. Once the groups had attained a certain level of achievement, the members were to seek admission to a national society—a step which would stimulate further and higher standards of conduct and grades. Here again, Briggs successfully carried out his policy. Remarkably, by the time he left STC in 1933, Southeastern had or soon would have chapters of several nationally known groups on campus—more than any other of the regional colleges. Among those honorary fraternities and groups installed were Kappa Delta Pi, education; Sigma Tau Delta, English; Alpha Psi Omega, drama; Alpha Phi Sigma, junior scholastic society; Blue Key, men's leadership; Pi Kappa Delta, forensic; Phi Alpha Theta, history; Phi Beta Sigma, senior scholastic society; Phi Delta Pi, physical education; Pi Omega Pi, commercial; and Cardinal Key, women's leadership.<sup>17</sup>

Although he emphasized the importance of academic societies, President Briggs did not discourage the growth of social

fraternities and sororities at Southeastern. Rather, the president followed his established pattern and encouraged the locally chartered groups to affiliate with established national societies. As a result, the Amigos and others followed the administrator's wishes. Before they could become associated with the national fraternal orders, the local societies had to meet several rigid standards; this was just the result President Briggs and Professor Dixon desired. National fraternities and sororities making their campus debut included Sigma Tau Gamma, formerly Sigma Phi Delta; Phi Sigma Epsilon, formerly the Amigos; Pi Kappa Sigma, formerly Alpha Lambda Delta; and Alpha Sigma Tau, formerly Nu Nu Nu. The only noticeable change regarding fraternal life at STC during the Briggs years was the decline in the instances of off-campus parties. Still, the societies observed "Hell Week," held rush parties, observed founder's days, and even had their own houses.<sup>19</sup>

One other area of student participation which improved during the new president's first year involved school spirit. As a former coach, Briggs understood the value of pep organizations in helping athletic teams have winning seasons. Accordingly, he allowed time at one of the first assemblies for a discussion of the need for more pep and spirit at Southeastern. In an assembly on September 26, the students heard senior class member Eugene Slaughter scold the student body for its lack of school spirit. Slaughter observed, "Spirit is down in this school; it isn't what it should be. We are not as proud of Southeastern as we should be." Asking his fellow classmates to respond, Slaughter concluded, "Each student is a personal advertisement of the school. Let's each one strive to make Southeastern better."

The senior's plea was quickly answered; within a few days, two new pep organizations had been formed—the "Kickapoos" and the "Scalpers." The Kickapoos, a coed association, soon appeared at the fall football games dressed in blue and gold costumes. Antics performed by the group included marching onto the field to form a line for the players to run through, assisting the Scalpers in leading yells during the contests, and delighting the crowd by forming the letter "S," a wheel, and other marching-drill figures. As the crowds stood to applaud their routines, the Kickapoos usually finished their half-time performances by releasing gold and blue balloons into the air and leaving an "S" marked in lime in the center of the field. The Scalpers, a male yell squad, chose costumes consisting of blue trousers, white shirts, and blue and gold sashes. The specialty of the Scalpers was to lead yells at pep assemblies

and on the sidelines throughout the gridiron contests. Often, the two pep clubs raised money to accompany the Savages on road trips. As a result, their reputation quickly spread across the state, and other institutions began to emulate them. Both organizations also performed at basketball games and other athletic events. At times, they served as ushers on special occasions, at banquets, and other similar special school functions."

The new sense of school spirit also became evident when an "S" Club was organized in the fall of 1928. Composed of students who had won Southeastern letters, the "S" Club had the Student Council vote to ban the wearing of high school letters on the campus. Athletically, the increased awareness of school pep and enthusiasm did not help much toward conference winning records. For the 1928 football campaign, the Savages won only twice in a ten-game schedule; victories were recorded over Burleson College and the Wilburton School of Mines. Outstanding players for 1928 were Leonard Sailors, Seymour Haas, Boyd Russell, Upton Dye, Dave Stevens, and Carl Buck. The basketball season proved to be somewhat more noteworthy. The hoopsters won eight games in the fourteen contests played. Individual stars included Charles Zinnecker and Joe Laughlin. In the spring of 1929, baseball returned to the campus. Unfortunately, the only score reported was a loss to East Central. Meanwhile, STC's tennis team, composed of Walter and Claud Leonard, Clifford Armstrong, and Clarence Dyer, continued its dominance over conference foes. On the cinder paths, STC's cross-country and track teams had only mediocre campaigns."

Although the athletic squad's efforts undoubtedly caused some disappointment, other events caused the prevailing mood to be one of excitement during the winter and spring of 1928-1929. In February, the faculty and students enjoyed appearances by the world famous writer and philosopher, Dr. Will Durant, and the internationally known educator from Columbia University, Dr. Jesse Newlon. The most singularly important occasion occurred when Captain Ira Eaker, one of STC's most notable alumni, visited the campus and city in early March. Concerning Eaker, a student when STC was a normal school, *The Savage Magazine* (an alumni publication started by Briggs) said proudly:

Captain Eaker will soon receive the distinguished flying cross, the highest gift within the powers of the government to a man in the world of aviation. He, with

other members of the crew of the *Question Mark* monoplane, recently smashed all records of endurance by remaining in the air for more than one hundred and fifty hours.<sup>23</sup>

Over one thousand people greeted America's newest hero when he landed in Durant for his homecoming celebration. Besides breaking the existing flight endurance record set by the French dirigible, *The Dixmude*, Eaker had become the first aviator to prove a plane could be refueled in mid-air. After being escorted to the campus by a welcoming committee led by Professor Paul Laird, Eaker addressed an assembly of over twenty-five hundred students, faculty, and Durant citizens. In his speech, the world famous aviator said that since he had left Durant, he had attended other universities, but that he would "always hold more dear the associations" with his classmates "at old Southeastern" than any others he had made. Following the standing ovation his remarks generated, Eaker was presented a beautiful fifty-piece set of sterling silverware as a memento, each piece was engraved appropriately with the words "Question Mark."<sup>24</sup>

Following the normal spring activities, the 1928-1929 academic year closed with the commencement ceremony held on May 16 when 121 students received their B.S. or B.A. degrees. Then, following a very well attended summer session, President Briggs and the faculty prepared for another fall term. In September 1929, Briggs' attitude toward the future must have been the brightest of any chief executive in STC's history. The country was in a gay mood as values on the stock market continued to climb and the economy never seemed stronger. The institution had the largest appropriated budget in its existence. The 1929 Oklahoma legislature had allocated \$250,000 to STC for the 1929-1930 academic and fiscal year—\$31,000 more than in 1928-1929. Of that amount, \$165,000 was earmarked for salaries, the most ever granted. And, for the first few weeks of the 1929 fall semester, the optimism continued. Suddenly, in late October the prevailing atmosphere on campus and in the nation dramatically changed.<sup>25</sup>

On October 29, 1929, the "Great Crash" on Wall Street brought an end to the greatest period of prosperity the country had ever experienced. As writer Marvin Kroeker had stated, "The decade-long party of the 'Roaring Twenties' was over—it was followed by a decade-long hangover. Farm states like Oklahoma were devastated by the economic collapse because agricultural prices had been severely depressed since the early twenties." Institutions

like Southeastern which depended upon public funds were immediately affected by the adverse economic climate. For the next four years, President Briggs had to struggle with declining revenues, decreasing enrollments, and a host of problems associated with the Great Depression. Eventually, salaries would decrease to the point of real hardships. By the 1932-1933 academic year, the last Briggs served, the appropriations for STC had fallen to \$168,768.17—a drop of \$81,232.00 from the highest level in 1929-1930. Consequently, by 1933 the faculty had suffered salary cuts of over 25 percent. Thankfully, the state's policy of issuing "warrants of questionable worth" never happened at STC. Although their checks were reduced, Southeastern's faculty fared well compared to other state schools. For instance, during 1932 a beginning faculty member at Durant made \$100; at East Central the figure was \$71 a month.<sup>26</sup>

The full effects of the stock market crash in 1929 did not become apparent at the Durant institution immediately. Instead, for a short while STC enjoyed a period of rising enrollments and increasing revenues. For 1930-1931 the funds appropriated for salaries and maintenance remained at the level prior to the depression's start. Enrollment for the fall term of 1931 showed a rise of 30 percent over 1930. According to Registrar M. G. Orr, the freshman class that year had over 400 and the number of students taking classes had increased to a record 1,622 (see footnote 27). Extension classes that year had approximately 800 enrolled. Meanwhile, summer sessions also reflected higher figures through the 1932 year, the last for teachers to qualify for life certificates after two years of college work. Thereafter, both regular and summer student headcounts declined, and by the fall of 1935 only 1,035 were enrolled.<sup>27</sup>

There were many reasons for the rise in the student populations through 1932. Granted, many people went to school because they could not find jobs. And, as Professor Kroeker has written, "Contrary to common belief, eastern Oklahoma did not experience a huge exodus of 'Okies' during the thirties. Most of the ones who left the Sooner State emigrated from the dust bowl region of western Oklahoma." Another powerful reason for students to attend STC was the personality, energy, and programs of President Briggs. For example, Briggs made over one hundred speeches a year throughout southeastern Oklahoma; naturally, STC benefited from his many public appearances. Furthermore, Southeastern continued to attract high school students to the

campus by holding special high school events such as the annual winter basketball tournament and the spring track and curriculum contests. As a result, it is very doubtful if any college in the entire state was better known to high school students.<sup>28</sup>

Most important, costs to attend STC remained low, and the school provided job placement services and loan programs. Under Professor Dixon's direction, the Student Council and YMCA manned a very effective employment bureau. In the fall of 1931, President Briggs informed the press that 60 percent of the students at STC were "working their way wholly or in part" through school. According to Southeastern's chief executive, this clearly revealed the fallacy in the widely held belief that "a person with little or no funds cannot go to school." As proof, he told the newspapers that the last five presidents of the student body earned their way through Southeastern. The college handbook advised those who arrived on campus, "It is no longer theory, but an established fact, that any average person who is able and willing to work can find enough employment for his spare time."<sup>29</sup>

Fees charged by the institution remained at a very reasonable level during the depression. A \$5 incidental fee permitted those who came to STC to be admitted to all athletic games and lyceum attractions. An additional fee of fifty cents per semester went for "the privilege of being treated in the school clinic by the school doctor, cared for by the school nurse, and furnished with necessary medicine." A \$1 library fee assessed each person was refundable at the end of the year if all books had been returned. Another \$1 fee was required in lab courses for breakage and supplies. Otherwise, tuition remained absolutely free to all Oklahoma residents. The major financial cost facing students trying to earn a degree—the cost of room and board—also remained relatively inexpensive. The 1933 catalog read, "Rooms cost, unfurnished, \$3 to \$5 per month; furnished, \$10 to \$15 per month. The rent per person may be materially reduced, of course, if two or more persons share a room." If the student desired, "excellent table board may be had from \$4.00 to \$6.50 per week in private families or in groups." Thus, if a student was prudent, the administration said the cost per year should run no higher than a total of \$250 to \$275. The importance of the part played by the residents of Durant in helping keep the costs down cannot be overemphasized. Since STC had no dormitories, a selfish Durant public could have ruined the administration's efforts to attract students to the institution. Since the per capita income in Oklahoma in 1932 was \$216, about one-half of the

national average, the generosity, loyalty, and cooperation of the citizens of Durant was crucial?"

Southeastern also provided a policy of assisting its students by maintaining loan programs. Two such loan funds were established by the Durant Retail Businessmen's Association and the Durant Masonic Lodge. Both funds usually had over \$2,500 available, which allowed needy students to borrow \$100 per semester in monthly installments. The rate of interest charged was a modest 8 percent and the loans had to be repaid within two years after a student left STC. The largest single program was known as the Lew Wentz Loan Fund. Established by Lew H. Wentz, a Ponca City millionaire and chairman of the Oklahoma Highway Commission, the fund had a \$10,000 capitalization. To qualify, a student had to have a high academic standing and be at least a sophomore. The loans bore an interest rate of only 6 percent annually. Sophomores and juniors could borrow \$200 and seniors could borrow \$300 per year.<sup>31</sup>

Because of President Briggs' and the faculty's energetic and positive attitude during the dark days of the depression, Southeastern maintained its reputation as "The School of the Rising Sun." Student activities and traditions continued to expand in the face of adversity. The Women's Council and the Student Council provided enthusiastic and capable leadership. Under the presidential leadership of Haskell Clark, William Carr, Jack Anderson, Robert Davis, Mildred Laird, Anne La Grave, Juanita Wallace, and Dorothy Truby, the student governing groups sponsored many wonderful attractions. Among these were:

1. The Pashofa Indian Dinner and Indian Memorial Association. The association was formed to promote and preserve the Indian culture of the region, and one day was set aside each year on campus to observe Indian artifacts, rituals, dances, customs, dress, and food.
2. Mother's Day. A day of honor for the mothers to enjoy teas, a dinner, campus excursions, and places of honor at an Alpha Psi Omega production.
3. Dad's Day. A day of honor for the fathers to gather each fall for a luncheon and be seated in reserved seats at a football game.

4. The International Day Observance and Dinner. Co-sponsored by the Y associations, this day was devoted to creating a closer feeling of friendship among the nations of the world by displaying campus exhibits of the culture of the foreign students at STC. The affair ended with a dinner and a renowned foreign national as the guest speaker.
5. All-School Halloween Frolic. A day and night of games and dancing in the gym amidst corn, pumpkins, and other decorations.
6. Stunt Night. An event in which all campus clubs presented colorful, playful, and humorous skits.
7. The All-School Wiener Roast. A day of food, games, and hiking to Chuckwa Creek.
8. The High School Student Council Conference. A day when hundreds of high school leaders came to observe and learn about the effective way in which the STC council worked, to participate in workshops, and to attend a banquet.
9. Friendship Fire. A revival of the campus customs of linking "the ancient Indian custom of casting symbols of their hope and aspirations into a ceremonial fire, that the smoke might transport the essence of their dreams to the Great Spirit for fulfillment." By 1933 the adaptation of this Indian custom, where every campus organization threw a symbol of its essence into a big bonfire and presented a skit, was often attended by more than one thousand people.
10. The Manless Party. Co-sponsored by the Women's Council, this was a night of games and dancing held in the gym by coeds—half of whom came dressed as men.
11. Intramural Sports. STC was one of the first Oklahoma colleges to provide an organized system of athletics for the general student body.
12. The Homecoming Parade and Queen Contest.<sup>32</sup>

Additionally, after sponsoring contests among the students, by 1933 Southeastern had an official seal, creed, and flag. The meaning of the seal, designed by Mrs. Howard Jarrell, was explained in the 1933 handbook as follows:

The ancient Indian council fire, the symbol of wisdom and power, secured through cooperation.

The twelve logs, one from each county in the district which our college was created to serve.

The rising sun, the symbol of opportunity. "Sapere aude," dare to be wise, the symbol of courage and the endless quest for knowledge.<sup>33</sup>

The flag, designed by Mrs. Lena W. Price and made by Professor Lucy Leonard, had a blue background with the picture of the sun half risen on the horizon and Southeastern spelled out in capital letters above the rays. As the handbook revealed, the reason for the rising sun symbol had been taken from a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The poetry read:

Labor with what zeal we will,  
 Something still remains undone,  
 Something uncompleted still  
 Waits the rising of the sun.<sup>34</sup>

The Southeastern Creed, written by Earle Veatch and Mary McCleary Alderson, proclaimed:

I believe in those traditions of loyalty and friendly cooperation which engender a spirit of earnestness and unselfishness of self-confidence and honest endeavor; in a diligent search for truth, and the courage to act upon that truth when I have found it; in those ideals which make for the development of character; in a wide and comprehensive education which leads to intelligent thoughts and sympathetic teaching, and which contributes to my understanding of life in its finer aspects: I believe in these purposes which make Southeastern the "School of the Rising Sun."<sup>35</sup>

Athletically, the years 1929-1933 produced mixed results. Conference championships escaped the Savages except in tennis.



Under the guidance of new head Coach O. L. "Runt" Ramsey, the 1929-1930 football team won only four games. The next season, however, seemed to herald a return of the Golden Twenties era, with the Savages compiling a fine 7-2-1 record. The exciting 1930 campaign was climaxed by four STC men, Carl Buck, Julie Bowden, Marvin Moore, and Buster Lynn, making the *Daily Oklahoman* all-conference first team, while Reece McCord made the second squad. STC's chance for a championship was prevented when East Central canceled the usual contest between the schools, claiming Southeastern had violated the contract concerning the game. Although the violation was never clearly explained to the public, in an Oklahoma Intercollegiate Conference meeting in early December, STC's bid for a forfeit was rejected and the title awarded to East Central.<sup>36</sup>

The 1931-1932 season provided more exhilarating moments for Southeastern fans as the gold and blue clad team compiled another 7-2-1 season. Playing in what is often called the "Julie Bowden Era," the Savages took second place in the conference and avenged the previous year's controversy with East Central by beating the Tigers 19-0. The star performer for the 1931 team was STC's great fullback, Julie Bowden, the only unanimous first-team all-conference choice. Another first unit selection was Buster Lynn, "a brilliant pass-snaring end." Savages selected for the second squad were Marvin Moore and Murray Fulsom. The next year, to the disappointment of thousands of fans, the 1932-1933 Savages did not perform as well as anticipated. With Bowden a senior, many people naturally expected the squad to finally win the conference title; but the season ended with the gridsters taking third place with a 5-4-1 record. All-conference honors went to Nathaniel Timmons, and Bowden.<sup>37</sup>

Two of the 1929-1933 cage campaigns ended in *glory* with Southeastern being invited to the National Amateur Athletic Union Tournament. After two rather dismal seasons, the 1931-1932 Savages played before packed crowds in the "Snake Pit" on their way to a second-place finish in the conference. The highlight of the year was a victory over the East Central Tigers, a team which had not lost a conference game in four years. The following 1932-1933 season was another banner year, with the Savages playing to a second-place finish in the intercollegiate conference. Because STC had twice defeated the conference champion, East Central, during the collegiate race, the Savages were again invited to the national tournament where they eventually lost in the

quarter-final round. Premier players during the years 1929-1933 included first-team all-conference cagers Boyce Ashford and Paul Hunnicutt; second team selections included Julie Bowden and Clifford Tipton. Meanwhile, Savage athletes also participated in the so-called minor sports. From 1929-1931 STC fielded a wrestling team. However, the need for economic cutbacks and the lack of fan support forced the administration to drop the sport at the start of 1932. Track and baseball teams also appeared at sporadic intervals. Unfortunately, records are not exact concerning their performances. Nevertheless, the story is quite different in tennis—here Southeastern sparkled. The 1932 Savage team won the conference championship, and the 1933 squad finished second. The school's leading players were Clarence Dyer and Maurice Plunkett, who respectively won the 1932 and 1933 state singles championship."

Because the depression steadily deepened after the winter of 1929, President Briggs struggled to administer affairs of Southeastern in an economical manner. Despite declining revenues after 1931, the campus and physical plant were maintained and improved as much as funds permitted. Through the efforts of L. F. "Doc" Johnson, STC's gardener, and Professor E. B. Robbins, the landscaping program remained alive. By 1933 Johnson and Robbins had planted more than five hundred trees "of practically every variety native" to the South and Southwest part of the country. In 1931, they planted 150 Sycamores along College Street and laid over 600 ft. of water pipe to the few areas not near an existing faucet. Probably the most publicized capital improvement came when an Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company's crew, mainly graduates of STC, offered to install a lighting system at the athletic stadium "free gratis." Money for the equipment, which consisted of floodlights, ten 60 ft. poles, seven 30 ft. poles, one 35 ft. pole, and two 25 KVA transformers, came from a donation drive headed by Briggs, the Student Council, the Alumni Association, and the Durant Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, money for new wooden bleachers was raised. As a result, by September 1, 1931, STC had one of the best athletic fields in the conference. Another campus landmark built during Briggs' administration was the native rock Memorial Archway located at the Fifth Street entrance to the college. Constructed from stones brought by students from all parts of Oklahoma, the class memorial, built by the graduating classes of 1926 through 1929, had "Southeastern" inscribed in wrought iron across the arch. New tennis courts made of

concrete were completed just in time for the championship play of the Savage netters during 1931-1933.<sup>39</sup>

In a constant attempt to renovate the existing plant and add what capital improvements he could, Briggs had hundreds of windows recaulked; walls, doors, and ceilings in most buildings painted and decaying areas replastered; floors stripped, cleaned, and varnished; a new dressing room added in the gymnasium; a fence placed around the football field; and a job printing shop established in the basement of the administration building. By using student labor to run the new press, the college saved money on work which previously had been done by off-campus private printing shops, and at the same time, provided jobs for needy students. Undoubtedly, President Briggs would have done much more had he not been forced to repair the administration building desolated by a fire detected by a security guard at 3:30 A.M. on March 31, 1930. The damage could have been much worse had it not been for the effective actions of the Durant Fire Department. By the time the fire fighters arrived at the scene, the flames, which had started in the basement, had reached the main floor and were climbing steadily upward into the third floor. Thousands of Durant residents, faculty, and students hurried to the campus to watch anxiously as city firemen quickly poured a constant stream of water into the president's and the registrar's offices to keep the records from being destroyed. Still, the entire basement with its woodworking equipment, the furnishings in the auditorium, the cafeteria facilities, and most of the classroom fixtures on the main floor were totally destroyed. Other areas suffered extensive smoke and water damage. President Briggs' greatest fear was that the understructure of the building had been weakened. The cost of repair was "expected to amount into the millions," the *Southeastern* reported. Fortunately, a careful inspection by state building and fire officials found the basic structure had weathered the fire unaffected and thousands of dollars, not millions, would be needed. And, well before the time he left STC in 1933, President Briggs had managed to have the renovation completed.<sup>40</sup>

Eventually, despite all his accomplishments, Briggs ran into one problem he could not solve. Although he was a fine educator and administrator, Briggs did not have the political ability needed for the times in Oklahoma. Yet, until the election of 1930, Briggs' lack of political acumen did not hurt him; he had no problem during the beleaguered administration of Governor Henry S. Johnston. Following Johnston's 1929 impeachment, Briggs got

alongwell with William J. Holloway, the lieutenant governor, who became the chief executive until the next election. Holloway, an advocate of educational reform, was one of the few true supporters of the teaching profession in Oklahoma. But the election of 1930 changed the scene drastically for Briggs and state education leaders. As one writer of the period has said, "political considerations were not to be taken lightly in that era. There was no doubt about who was running the state when William H. 'Alfalfa Bill' Murray was governor, and there was rarely a dull moment during his administration (1931-1935)." Briggs' experience with Murray certainly proved the validity of that reality. Southeastern's president was soon summarily dismissed from his position at the instigation of Governor Murray.<sup>41</sup>

The firing of Briggs came as a surprise to many. Initially, Southeastern's chief administrator faced problems with "Alfalfa Bill" which were common to all those who worked in higher education in Oklahoma. In essence, the governor talked economy and meant what he said—he literally hounded departments and institutions about expenditures. Facing a \$5,000,000 deficit in state financing when he entered office, the governor cut state personnel and threatened to slash college faculties at least 30 percent. Always a critic of higher education, Murray said colleges turned their students into "high toned bums." But if Murray treated all colleges and universities alike, why then was Briggs fired? The answer is unquestionably that Briggs was politically inept. Simply put, when a demagogue like "Alfalfa Bill" won office in Oklahoma in the twenties and thirties, a person employed by the state had better have campaigned for the winner or managed somehow to quickly jump on the bandwagon; President Briggs did neither and suffered the consequences.<sup>42</sup>

The president's dismissal brought instant reaction from the student body at Southeastern. Robert Davis, a former mayor of Durant and president of the Student Council at the time, recalled that "when the news struck, the students threatened a strike from classes. Finally, it was decided at a special assembly that we would show our displeasure by immediately establishing a Eugene S. Briggs Memorial Scholarship. At the conclusion of the meeting, students came down front, one row at a time, to donate money from their meager incomes for the award; faculty members and some sympathetic townspeople joined in the crusade." But, in truth, it must be noted that despite all his accomplishments in the half decade he guided Southeastern's fortunes, Briggs' firing caused

little if any reaction from downtown Durant. Again, a question must be asked. Why did the replacement of such a moral and highly trained man not cause a general public outcry? Perhaps the answer lies in Briggs' actions, personality, and administrative outlook. In point of fact, Briggs had no business trying to run a secular state college. Unlike Henry Bennett, Briggs remained a rather aloof figure for most of the community—he specialized in speaking mainly to educational gatherings on campus or in other towns. Another serious mistake was his failure to court Durant businessmen and the Chamber of Commerce in the skillful manner of his predecessor.<sup>43</sup>

In other words, the close policy of "Town and Gown" that Bennett had carefully cultivated slowly withered away in Briggs' administration. Worse, the president even started programs which hurt downtown interests. For example, the printing plant he had installed could not have been good news for the local publishing establishments. Also, Briggs' stern moralistic character certainly must have appeared priggish to many. Because he was not of the Baptist faith, he did not have weekly contact with approximately 50 percent of Durant's church-going population. These reasons must have combined to make Briggs a somewhat mysterious, nebulous, and even antagonistic figure to many of Durant's residents. Nevertheless, President Briggs had served Southeastern exceptionally well. For the faculty and for the serious students of the depression years, he was a much loved and respected educator, as their vehement actions on learning about his replacement plainly showed. Subsequently, Briggs continued his career in Oklahoma after a three-year absence to complete his doctoral degree at Columbia University and to serve as the president of Christian College at Columbia, Missouri. In 1938, he found a lasting and fitting place for his talents and philosophies. That year he accepted the presidency of Phillips University, a Disciples of Christ denominational college. In this proper institutional setting, Briggs had a long and illustrious tenure.<sup>44</sup>

A few weeks after Briggs left the STC campus, Governor Murray rewarded Wade Hampton Shumate, a close political ally, with the chief executive position at Southeastern. Although clearly a political appointee, the new president held a master's degree from the University of Chicago. Born on a farm midway between Sherman and Denison, Texas, on July 10, 1879, Shumate went to public school first in Denison and later in Tioga, Texas. After

attending Texas Christian University for three years, Shumate became principal of the Mangum, Oklahoma, High School in 1905; from 1908-1911 he served as superintendent of the Granite, Oklahoma, schools. After going to Fairview, Oklahoma, as superintendent of schools in 1911, Shumate became Director of Teacher Training at Northeastern State Teachers College from 1914-1920. Leaving his college position, he became superintendent at Sallisaw, Oklahoma, from 1920-1926. Finally, he served as superintendent at Mangum, Oklahoma, until he was appointed Southeastern's new chief administrator. While employed in Oklahoma, Shumate transferred his credits to the University of Oklahoma and graduated from that institution in 1914 with a B.A. degree. He and his wife, Maude Chenaulty, had one child, Wahlelu Maude. The new president was a member of the American Veterans of Foreign Wars, having served in Cuba in the Spanish-American War, the Masons, the Shriners, the Elks, and Rotary International. He also belonged to Phi Delta Kappa and Kappa Delta Pi, national fraternities.<sup>45</sup>

Described by many as a poor public speaker, the new president had only two years, 1933-1935, to show his ability as a college administrator before suffering the same fate as Briggs. In fact, Shumate's appointment heralded the beginning of a six-year period characterized by administrative instability at the institution—an unfortunate return to the situation which had plagued Southeastern too often before Henry Bennett had assumed control in 1919. The political upheavals STC endured until 1939, coupled with the deepening of the depression in Oklahoma, signaled an end to Southeastern's uncontested leadership as "the best teachers college in the state." Moreover, the damages wrought by the political patronage system prevalent in Oklahoma during that time did not stop with the presidency. Every time executive leadership changed for the next six years, so did roughly one-fourth to one-third of the faculty. This instability had a detrimental effect on academic standards and on faculty and student morale at the school. At the very least, it brought confusion, apprehension, and political involvement. For example, in 1939 at East Central, Governor Leon "Red" Phillips "showed his contempt for academic procedures by demanding that one of his ardent campaign workers on the faculty, Marion Zacheus Thompson, be promoted to a deanship." Named Dean of Administration, Thompson enjoyed "a newly created position in which he apparently did

little more than draw his breath and salary." During Governor Murray's regime, many faculty members at Southeastern and the other state colleges were often pressured to purchase subscriptions to the *Blue Valley Farmer*, a newspaper which belonged to the governor. Refusal could mean dismissal.<sup>46</sup>

During the Shumate administration, Southeastern entered its worst years financially. The appropriation for the 1934-1935 fiscal year was \$142,310—a sum which reflected a drop of \$89,680 from the 1931 appropriation. Even so, Shumate had more legislative monies available than the presidents of the other five regional colleges. Nevertheless, a drastic drop in enrollment during the 1933-1935 academic years terminated STC's advantage. Unfortunately, Shumate, unlike Bennett and Briggs, did not have a vibrant and well-conceived plan for his administrative tenure at Southeastern. In his second term, Shumate appointed a new dean of the college, Leonard L. Clifton, to help him develop a strategy for the college's growth. However, the two men had little time to implement their policy before being replaced. Consequently, in the time Shumate spent at Southeastern, the college practically stood still in terms of dynamics.<sup>47</sup>

There were, however, several developments and occasions worth noting during Shumate's administration. Southeastern's silver anniversary year was in 1933-1934, and an elaborate celebration honoring the occasion took place at Homecoming. The parade that year was the biggest and best ever held. The center of attention in the mile-long procession of floats, marching bands, decorated cars, buggies, horses—all led by a regally dressed Indian Chief—was, of course, the queen candidates. The custom of having a queen for the celebration first started on the Durant campus in 1930. In the three years prior to the silver jubilee celebration, Blanche Bragg, Rozelle Work, and Freia Mikkelsen had reigned at the homecomings. Ironically, the 1933 football team could not make a choice between two of the candidates, Cecile Jones and Martha Lou Vaughan, and both were crowned before the game—a situation which has never occurred again. A dance, a pep rally, and a special alumni luncheon highlighted the agenda honoring the institution's twenty-fifth birthday—which was also declared "Paul Laird Day" in appreciation of the educator's association with STC since its founding in 1909.<sup>48</sup>

Another exciting feature during the Shumate presidency was the play of Southeastern's international and national amateur champion girls' basketball squad, the Cardinals. Formerly known as the Oklahoma Presbyterian College Cardinals, the famous coed

group, coached by the legendary Sam Babb, enrolled at STC in the fall of 1933 and played several contests before the cagers transferred to Oklahoma City University (OCU). The reason for the change was never made public; however, the Cardinals always had been associated with a denominational school, and OCU was such an institution. Furthermore, Coach Ramsey and Coach Bloomer Sullivan were less than thrilled with the team's presence at STC. Furthermore, the girls had to get up at 3:30 A.M. to practice because the Savage men's team had the court after school; during the day, physical education classes were being held. Yet, while they were at Southeastern, fans enjoyed seeing the finest women's basketball in the nation.<sup>49</sup>

One of the male Savage athletic teams had a very unusual season during Shumate's first year. After winning three of four games in September and October, the 1933 football squad had to forfeit the victories and cancel the remainder of the schedule. According to a ruling by Norman Duncan, State Athletic Commissioner, the Southeastern coaches had failed to report their knowledge of a Central State player who was ineligible to play against them. In announcing the sanction against the Savages, the *Southeastern* declared, "With the best football machine in the conference, but lacking political finesse, Southeastern's loving cup chances faded this year." When asked to comment on the situation, Coach Ramsey said, "We'll get them in basketball." The coach kept his word. Southeastern won the 1933-1934 basketball championship and accepted an invitation to play in the National Amateur Tournament. Other Savage teams made strong showings during the Shumate years. The 1934-1935 football campaign ended with the blue and gold team finishing third in the conference.<sup>50</sup>

Then, with high expectations for another championship basketball season, the fans flocked to the "Snake Pit" in 1934-1935 only to see the Savages end the conference race in second place. Yet, because the cagers finished the year with several impressive victories, they again were invited to the national tournament. Although losing in the second round, *The Denver Post* called STC "great even in defeat." In the paper's opinion, Southeastern was "the best college team to date that has ever played in an A.A.U. tournament." Individually, all-conference pigskin stars for the 1933-1935 period included second-team selections, Raymond Martin, Paul Hunnicutt, Harley Kersey, and Fred Bement; 1933-1935 cagers making the dream squad included first-team choices Lee Lewis, Paul Hunnicutt, Lowell "Chic" Childers, and Odell Floyd.

In the minor sports, Southeastern continued to excel in one respect. In tennis, the **1934** *STC* netters won both the singles and the doubles conference championships. For the Savages, Maurice Plunkett and Fred Reed dominated the conference during the era."

Another area in which *STC* excelled in the early thirties was debate; in fact, by **1934** the school hosted what has proven to be the longest running annual national debate tournament in the country. Begun in **1929** with only a few teams in attendance, by **1934** the Savage Forensic Debate Tournament had over seventy-five squads competing in seven separate contests. In the men's team competition, Baylor University's orators won the title by defeating *STC*'s John Allen Phillips and George Sneed in the finals. In the men's oratorical contest, *STC*'s Stephen King was the victor. Directed by Professor T. A. "Uncle Tom" Houston, the Savage Forensics was described by George R. Phlam, the national president of Pi Kappa Delta (the national debate fraternity), thusly: "I've never seen a tournament that went off so smoothly or where the records were kept so carefully. There will be no keener competition at the national tournament." Furthermore, for the first time, Southeastern sent a team to the national debates."

One of several important traditions started during Shumate's presidency was the custom of having an Annual Awards Day celebration. Although other such programs had appeared sporadically in *STC*'s past, from **1934** the awards assemblies continued for many decades. Probably the most coveted honor was the Eugene S. Briggs Memorial Scholarship; the first recipient of the award was Elizabeth Click. Another campus custom begun during the **1933-1935** period was the naming of the college's ten most beautiful coeds. In a contest run by the Women's Council, the girls were chosen on "beauty, grace and dignity." By **1935** the pageantry surrounding the presentation of the ten winners to the student body had become exceptionally elaborate. First, an election took place for a Southeastern campus king and queen; the students were to vote for the boy and girl regarded as the most popular students on campus. A second election then was held for the ten most beautiful girls. Next, in a special assembly where the king and queen, Margaret Fuller Ross and Rex Davis, were seated on a throne on the stage, the ten girls wearing beautiful costumes representing different nations of the world were presented formally to the student body. Chosen for **1934-1935** were Julianna Hess, Lottie Click, Anna Carter, Bronaugh Morris, Mildred Horn, Martha Vaughan, Merle Johnson, Lucile Foster, Nadine Guthrie,

and Vivian Locke. A third campus tradition worth noting was the creation of a Southeastern A Cappella Choir. Throughout the next decades, the reputation of *STC*'s choir grew until the young singers performed not only in southeastern Oklahoma but also before state and national audiences. Finally, during Shumate's presidency, Southeastern added to the events held every year to attract and entertain high school students. The new occasion was called "Senior Day" and featured an appearance by nationally known entertainers or speakers, a buffet dinner, a tour of the campus, a band concert, games, and contests. Designed, of course, as a recruiting tactic, Senior Day was an immediate success as over five hundred pupils attended; by **1936**, the numbers grew to over one thousand.<sup>53</sup>

For students at Southeastern, the years **1933-1935** were times of economic hardships. As the depression deepened in the rural area of southeastern Oklahoma, President Shumate tried to help alleviate the terrible financial situation which affected most students and their families. As noted, farm families were already suffering from depressed times even before the stock market crash; and, most of the student body came from such a background. In a survey conducted by the registrar's office, of **96** professions listed, an overwhelming **224** pupils gave their families' occupation as farmers—second place went to merchants with only 48. To assist those attending *STC* who badly needed financial help, President Shumate used every means possible. The first opportunity came when President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal agencies, the Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Civil Works Administration (CWA) approved monetary grants for Southeastern in the winter of **1934**; in January, the PWA approved a \$4,000 appropriation for repairs to the heating facilities, and the CWA granted **\$5,000** to improve the campus grounds and stadium.<sup>54</sup>

Soon, seventy-five to one hundred students were using shovels, picks, axes, and wheelbarrows three hours a day at forty cents an hour. In February **1934**, Shumate asked the CWA for **\$5,400** for "remunerative work" based on *STC*'s enrollment; the largest amount any one student could earn was **\$20** per month. In March, the *Southeastern* announced that through Shumate's efforts Southeastern has been allotted several thousand dollars to help financially handicapped students. The federal government's grant allowed seventy-nine students to work part-time. Yet, Dean Paul Laird and Shumate devised a way to divide the work to accommodate ninety-four students instead. Students soon found

themselves "shoveling dirt, typing, sewing, interior decorating, and doing librarian and secretarial work." The wages earned ranged from \$7.50 to \$15.00 per month at a rate of thirty cents per hour. In the drought-stricken 1934-1935 year, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) approved another student program which permitted an additional "one hundred students who would find it otherwise impossible to attend Southeastern to continue in school." Later, the National Youth Administration (NYA) provided work until approximately 10 to 15 percent of the student body was employed by 1935.<sup>55</sup>

The federal programs helped President Shumate assist the needy scholar and also improve the looks of the campus. Projects accomplished included building new sidewalks, installing new bleachers at the football stadium, and laying new lines for steam heat and water. The longest lasting reminder of the work done by students at STC is the stone amphitheater, located northeast of the Russell building across Dunlap Boulevard. It was sad, however, that more pupils could not be helped; the number who wanted to work far exceeded the positions available. According to the *Southeastern*, the average young scholar at STC was no longer the "blase, sophisticated, rah-rah boy of the twenties," but a serious-minded person who needed to work and demanded more of the library, the laboratory, and his instructor "than his brother of a decade ago." Other projects finished during the Shumate tenure included installing an electric water fountain in the administration building, the planting of iris beds, and installing a public address system at the football field.<sup>56</sup>

Unfortunately, most of the president's attention during his last year in office was directed toward finding funds to replace books destroyed in a fire which struck the library on the night of October 2. As the fire bell sounded on campus, hundreds of horrified spectators gathered to watch the Durant Fire Department fight the flames, which started in the north end of the building. As was the case with the administration building fire earlier, another campus structure was saved by the quick action of the school's night watchman. Once the fire was extinguished, President Shumate, faculty members, students, and many Durant residents spent the night "separating and stacking thousands of wet books." Although he would have to find the monies to replace the burned or water-destroyed volumes of which the value was estimated at \$50,000, the campus community was lucky in two respects. First,

the beautiful colonial-style building was saved from total destruction, and many of the thirty thousand books were left undamaged. Second, thanks to the quick legislative action of Representative Sam Sullivan, an alumnus, the Oklahoma legislature quickly passed an emergency measure of \$7,900 to repair the physical damage.<sup>57</sup>

Although Governor Ernest W. Marland immediately signed the emergency bill providing the funds, he was not so kind when the time came to renew Shumate's appointment as STC's chief administrator. In May 1935, the president learned he had lost the presidency at Southeastern. True to his calm manner, Shumate, who had himself been a political appointee, quietly retired from Durant. Concerning his departure, the *Southeastern* said:

It is seldom that one comes in contact with a person who can take the "letdowns" of life with the same placid air of congeniality and goodwill as he takes the successes. We find this existing in the case of the outgoing President. . . . Mr. Shumate leaves Southeastern not with hard feelings toward anyone or any phase of his stay here. In departing Mr. Shumate leaves a feeling of goodwill and takes with him the best wishes and appreciation of the student body.<sup>58</sup>

On May 24, 1935, Kate Galt Zaneis became the ninth president of Southeastern Oklahoma State Teachers College. A staunch political supporter of Governor E. W. Marland, Kate Galt was born on February 17, 1887, to James Edward and Miriam Otis Galt in Springplace, Georgia. Although Kate's parents lived in Oklahoma Indian Territory, Mrs. Galt always returned to her home place to bear her children, of which Kate was the fourth. After each of her children was old enough to travel from Springplace, the mother and child would return to Ardmore, Oklahoma, where the father was a carpenter, contractor, and rooming house proprietor. First taught by her mother, a former teacher, Kate showed a remarkable propensity for educational instruction. When she graduated from Ardmore High School in 1907, Dr. Charles Evans, the superintendent of schools for the community, awarded Kate "a special gift" for her academic record, extracurricular activities, and her general interest in all school-related events. After telling the audience that "teachers were born and not made and Kate Galt was one of those born to lead," Dr. Evans hired her "without requiring her to enter college."<sup>59</sup>

A contemporary of the new president remembered her as a "tall, statuesque blonde with long hair done up in a braid but fluffed in the front." The new president was also a "well-proportioned woman" who liked "heavy blues that accented her hair"—a "flamboyant style" which gave her the appearance of a model. The attractive teacher met and married Herma Prince Zaneis in 1913 and moved to Wirt, Oklahoma, where her husband was an oilfielder. The marriage ended in a divorce after only two years, but Kate Galt Zaneis continued to use her married name all of her life. The divorcee then returned to Carter County where she had been the principal of Lincoln Ward School in Ardmore. In the next several years, Zaneis held different positions in Ardmore area schools. In 1915, she accepted the superintendency of the Lone Grove High School and Rexroat Consolidated School. During this tenure she was asked in 1917 if she would join the summer teaching faculty at Southeastern—a development which dramatically affected her life.<sup>60</sup>

Right away, the young educator became so impressed with the work being accomplished at the institution that she decided to attend Southeastern. The stay on the college campus also "broadened her horizons" about reforms needed in Oklahoma schools if the educational level of the state was to progress. The year following her summer at Southeastern, Zaneis became a political activist in the crusade to consolidate the state's many small schools. In 1920 she entered and won the race for Superintendent of Public Instruction of Carter County. Soon, the energetic crusader had consolidated many of the schools in her jurisdiction. Then, in 1922, the young administrator resigned her position and entered Southeastern; four years later she graduated with honors after an outstanding career as a student.<sup>61</sup>

While she was at STC, Zaneis' father died, and "it was at this time she established a relationship with Pearl Brent, a person who was to share a major part of her life." Hired to free Zaneis' mother from housekeeping chores, "Miss Pearl," as they fondly called her, became a permanent member of the family. In fact, Miss Pearl became Kate Zaneis' "best friend and confidant." In the forty-two years the two women spent together, the housekeeper-friend provided for Zaneis and her mother the luxury of living in the formal style they desired, such as dining at a table set with linen, napkins, china plates, and fresh cut flowers daily. Besides freeing Kate from "such mundane things as housecleaning, Pearl did all the cooking and even washed out Mrs. Zaneis' underclothes."<sup>62</sup>

Leaving STC in 1926, the female educator continued her teaching in Carter County. Then, in 1934 a circumstance occurred which eventually led Zaneis to the presidency at Southeastern. Because of insufficient revenues during the deepening depression, in 1934 the state and many schools began issuing warrants instead of checks to their personnel. These "promises to pay" were cashable only at banks, which usually charged a discount rate. After being given such a warrant, Zaneis denounced the practice which effectively cut already-low salaries in an impassioned speech on Main Street in downtown Ardmore. In her tirade, the irate teacher begged for listeners to support E. W. Marland, who was then running for governor on a platform which included educational reform and higher teacher salaries. Informed of her remarks, Marland "asked Mrs. Zaneis to join his political clan." She became his campaign manager in Carter County and soon made speeches on his behalf throughout Oklahoma. On one speaking tour, Marland reportedly asked her what she wanted if he were elected—to which she replied without hesitation, "I want to be president of Southeastern."<sup>63</sup>

Following his successful campaign, Marland appointed Zaneis to the State Board of Education. Meanwhile, she continued working toward her master's degree at Oklahoma A&M. In May 1935, the female educator suddenly resigned her board position. Then, a few days before her graduation on May 24, Governor Marland, supported by the Board of Education, named her to the presidency at STC. It was a momentous appointment since no woman had ever served as president of a four-year state college. However, not everybody welcomed the news of the governor's action. *The Capitol Hill Beacon* said about the appointment, "The state teachers' colleges have always been dominated by politics. . . . The record of the state board of education and Governor Marland this year indicates that no change for the better in the operation of the teachers' colleges can be expected." About STC's new chief executive, the paper declared, "Mrs. Kate Galt Zaneis, whose appointment as president of Southeastern State Teachers College at Durant was dictated by Governor Marland . . . has the doubtful distinction of being an 'original Marland man.'" The Oklahoma City paper had plainly presented the truth of the situation. And, the paper correctly concluded the possible consequences which might result from such political conduct by the governor. "While the game of politics goes on, a serious situation faces the teachers college," the paper predicted. Durant residents knew all too well that their college had

been adversely affected for many years by the political meddling of the state's executive branch.<sup>64</sup>

Nevertheless, initially President Zaneis' arrival in Durant did not portend further political problems. Instead, the town and the district evinced an enthusiasm reminiscent of the attitude which had greeted the selection of T. D. Brooks in 1916. On May 21, the first of several gala celebrations in honor of STC's first lady president took place at the Durant Country Club. Organized by the Durant Chamber of Commerce, the afternoon reception started at 3:00 P.M. in a room decorated predominantly with cut pink roses, Magnolia blossoms, and trellises of climbing roses. In the center of the tea table was a single Magnolia blossom floating in a punch bowl—a symbol of Southeastern State Teachers College and its famous Magnolia tree campus. For the occasion, President Zaneis wore a white quilted silk dress trimmed with a white summer fur and a corsage of sweet peas and roses. The guest list, headed by Governor Marland and President Henry Garland Bennett of Oklahoma A&M, included the faculty, prominent Durant citizens, members of the State Board of Education, other college presidents, and many state solons.<sup>65</sup>

That evening at 7:00 P.M. a formal banquet was held in the Southeastern gymnasium with hundreds in attendance. Initially scheduled at the Bryan Hotel, the number of people desiring tickets had forced the organizers to move the social event to the larger facility. Over five hundred people waited to shake hands with the new president who was "smartly dressed in a brown dress, a fingertip coat, and brown hat." After hearing words of praise from Governor Marland and President Bennett, who served as toastmaster, President Zaneis was welcomed to the city and campus by Judge A. H. Ferguson, spokesman for the community, and Allen Crutcher, president of the STC student body. In her remarks to those who came to greet her, President Zaneis said in part:

This is the proudest moment of my life, as I stand between my first teacher, my mother, and the man who conferred my first degree and will confer my master's degree, and as I come to Durant to accept the greatest task I have ever undertaken. I am happy to come back to Southeastern, the school I chose when I started my higher education, and within whose walls I have spent some of the happiest moments of my life.

Southeastern is not a new love, it is an old love which I have come back to renew. While a student I learned to love this institution, and I will love it more as I do my best to guide its destinies on to bigger and better opportunities for the young people of this district.

Continuing her speech "with a heart overflowing," the new president emotionally declared:

I have a conception of the great responsibility which I have accepted and to which I now dedicate my life. I had already dedicated my life to education; now I dedicate it anew to the task of teaching those who are to teach our children, the task imposed upon me. I dedicate my life to Southeastern to make it an institution of greater usefulness.

This is a step forward for me, and I ask the help of all of you and pledge you my life will belong to Southeastern as long as I can serve the institution.<sup>66</sup>

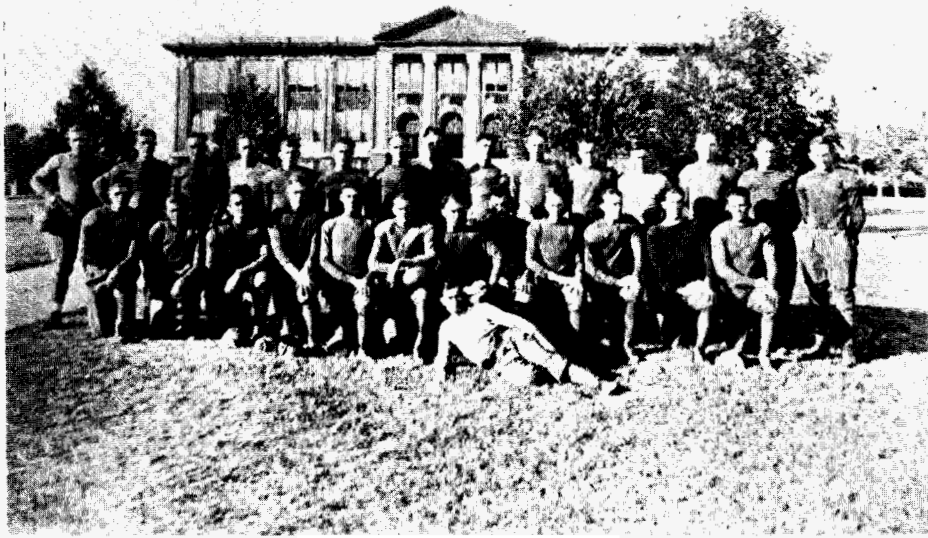
The euphoria surrounding her triumphal assumption of power continued for a while. E. M. Evans, editor of the *Durant Weekly News* said that Zaneis "shook hands like a man" and inspired people with her enthusiasm and her determination. Outside Durant, Zaneis' appointment seemed to be as well received. In June, President Zaneis received a very warm reception in Hugo at another dinner held in her honor at the Webb Hotel. Thanking the Choctaw County educators and citizens, the new president showed that she possessed a keen sense of humor. Concerning her appointment, she said, "I believe I can state that I will make the best woman president of any coeducational school in the United States, as I have no competition." In a more serious tone, however, she told the crowd:

With your help, we'll put Southeastern State Teachers College back to its former level as the leading school of its type in the state. . . . I have a duty to perform to the women of the state. I cannot fail, for then, all could say, the woman failed; a man might not, with your aid and cooperation, I won't. . . . Our school will again become the same leading college in the state that it was under the leadership of those two educators whom Hugo sent there—President A.S. Faulkner and

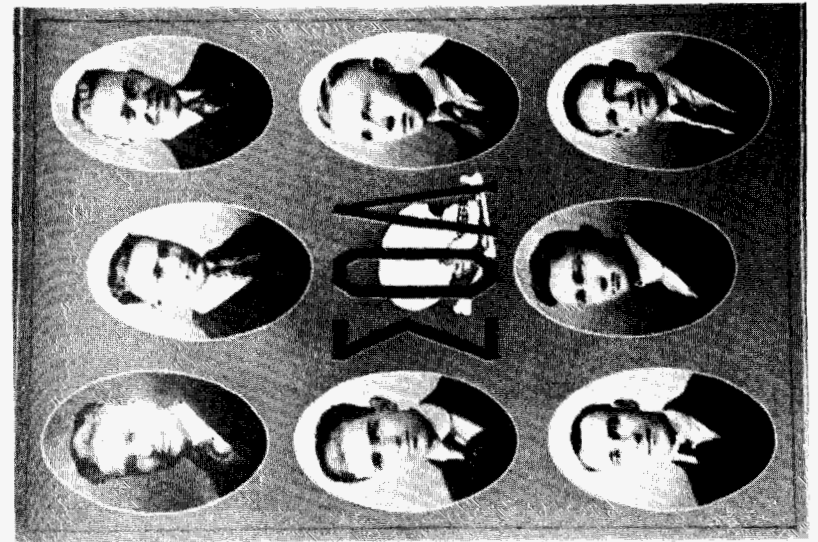
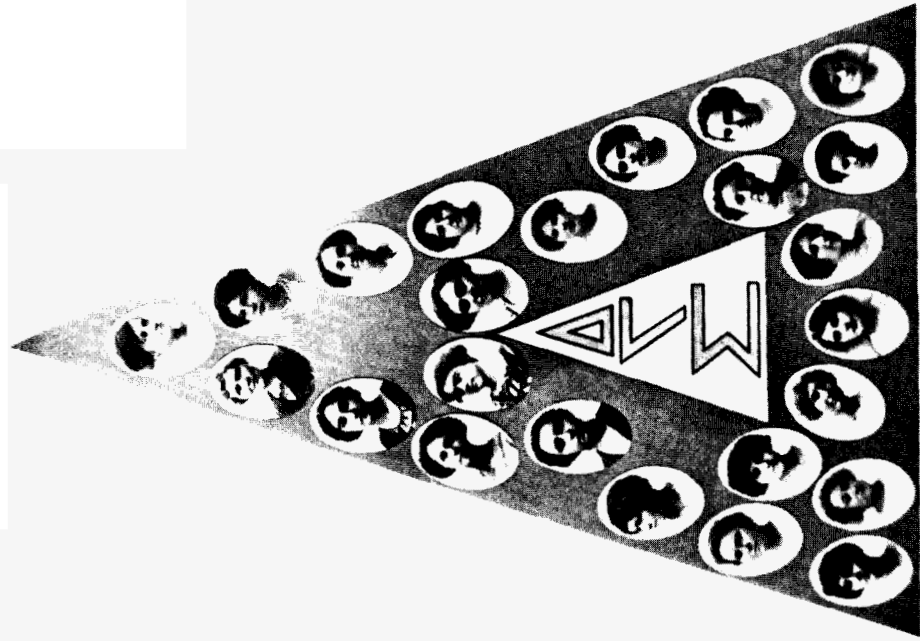




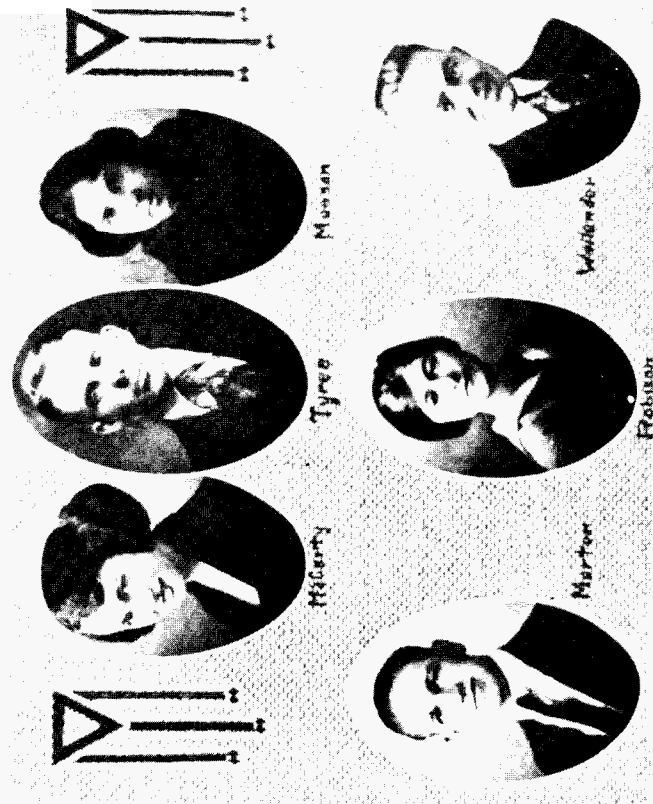
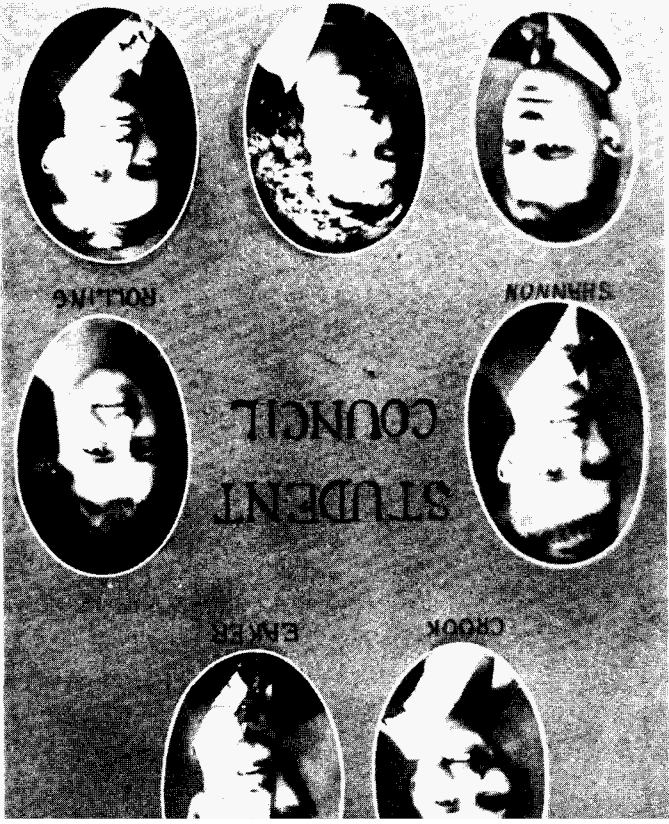
1913 Football Champions



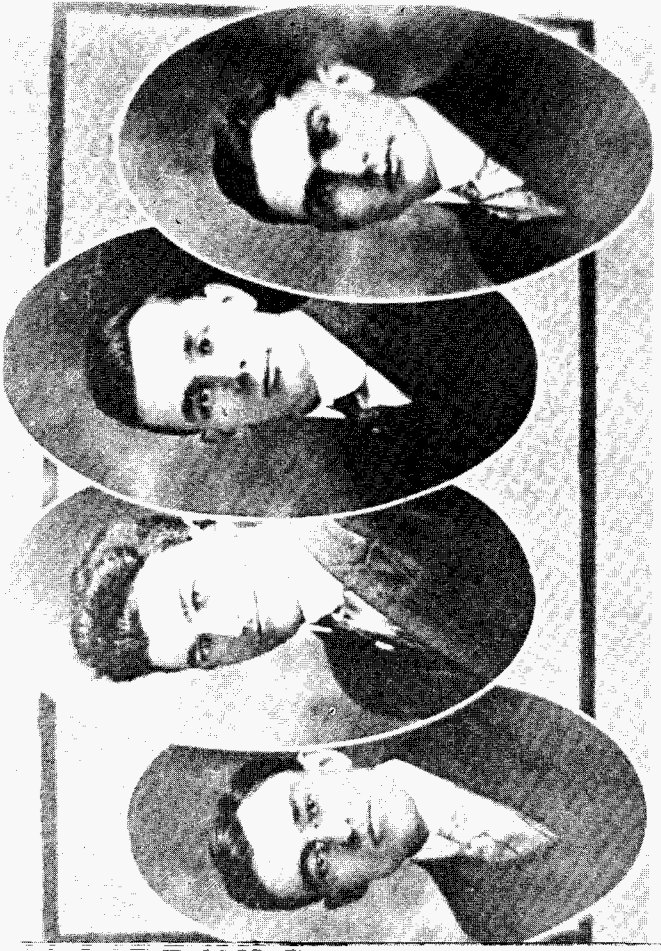
1923 Football Champions



Sigma Omicron Fraternity: Circa 1920s



1921 Champion Debaters



The 1917 Debate Squad



Bell Hops and Hopp-Ettes: Circa 1923



Marching Savages: Circa 1924

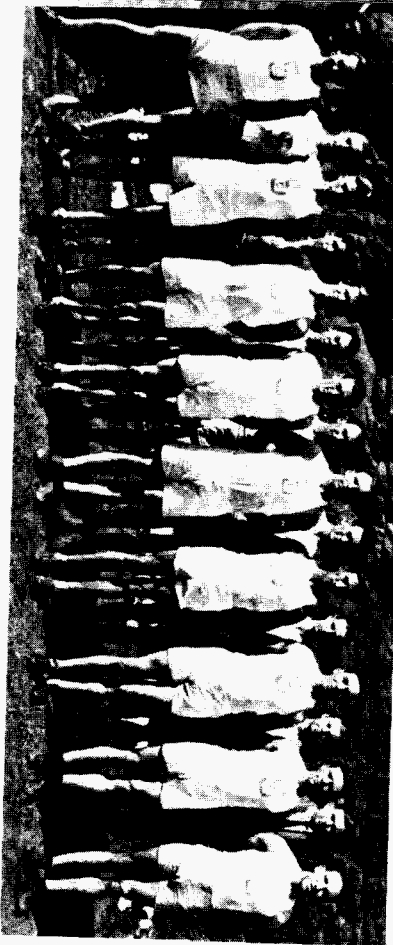


SEN. Chorus: Circa 1918



The 1921 Holson Staff

1924 BASKETBALL TEAM



1923 Track Team



1924 Basketball Team



1921 Track Team



Sorority Girls: Circa 1920s



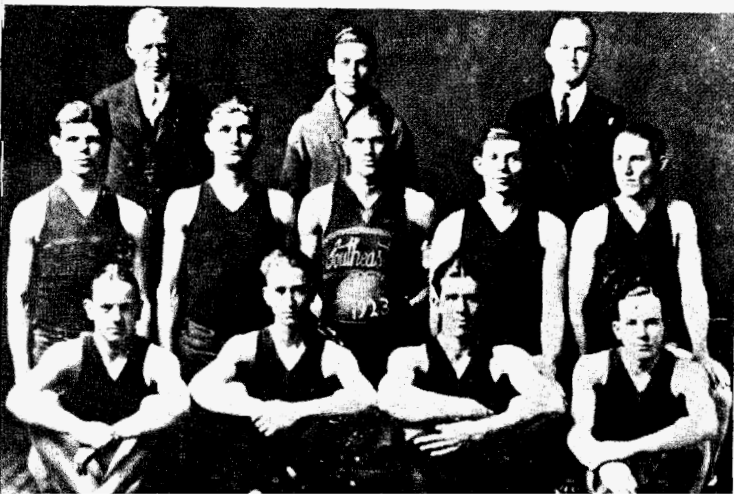
Fraternity Boys: Circa 1920s



The Hopp-Ettes 1923



Forum Scholastic Society: Circa 1924



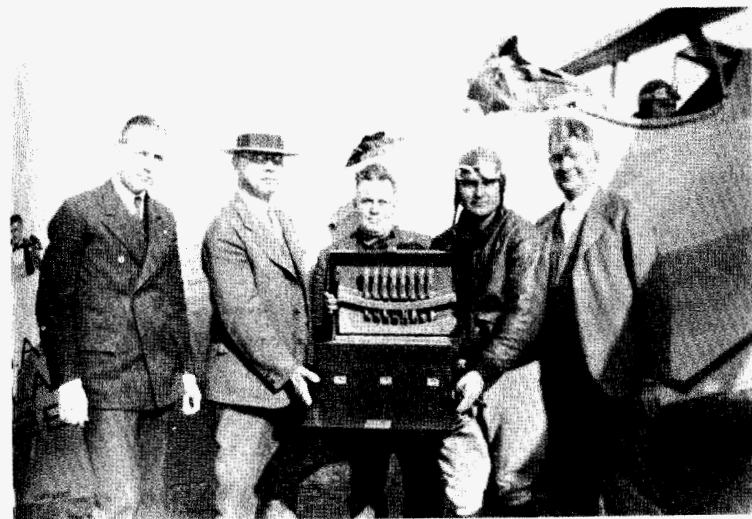
Savage Champions 1923



Ecclesia Scholastic Society: Circa 1924



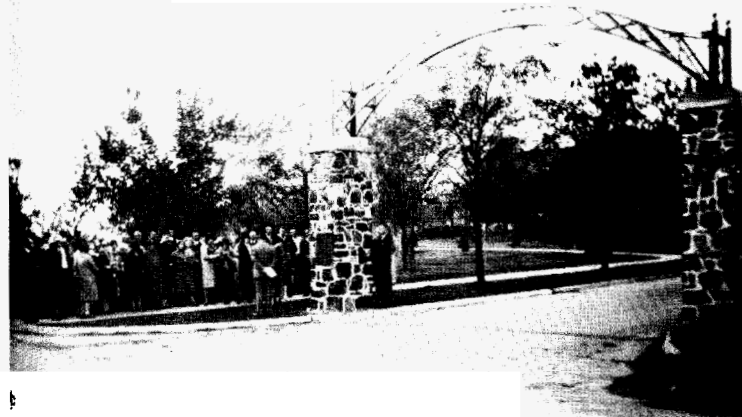
Rho Alpha Rho Society: Circa 1914



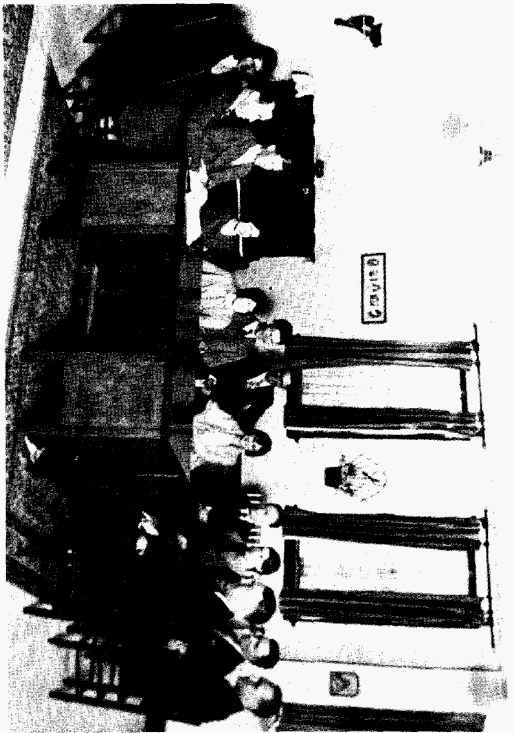
Future General Ira Eaker: Circa 1929



The Squaws. Circa 1928



Dedication of the Arch: Circa 1930



Meeting of the Student Council: Circa 1929



The Latin Society: Circa 1928



Fraternity Boys: Circa 1930s



Sorority Girls: Circa 1930s



A Fraternity and Their Housemother: Circa 1930s



A Student Council: Circa 1930s

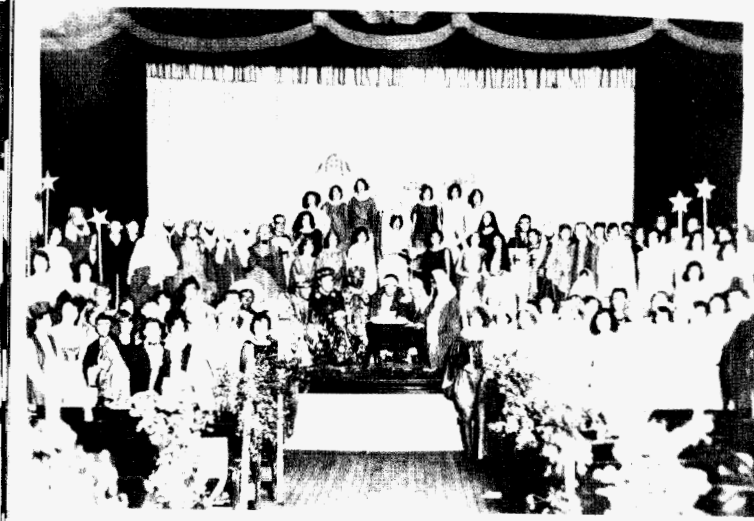


Marching Savages: Circa 1930s



The Women's Council: Circa 1930s





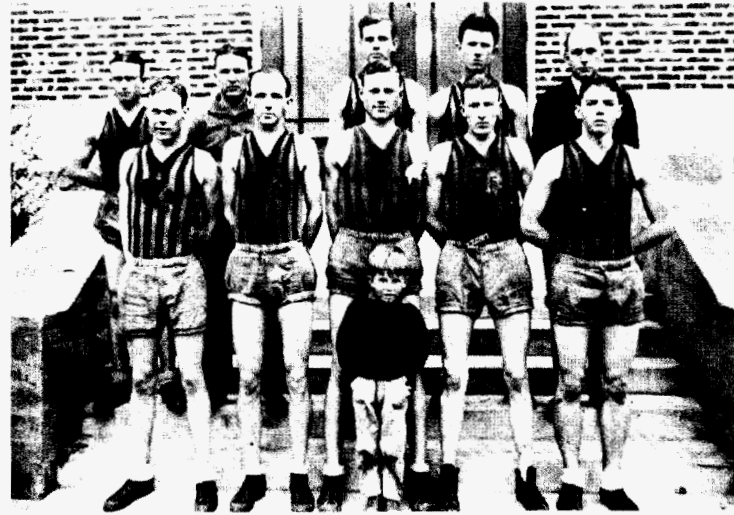
An Early Candlelighting:



Winners of Stunt Night: Circa 1930



Circa 1930



A Future Savage Star With His College Heroes



A Student Weiner Roast: Circa 1929



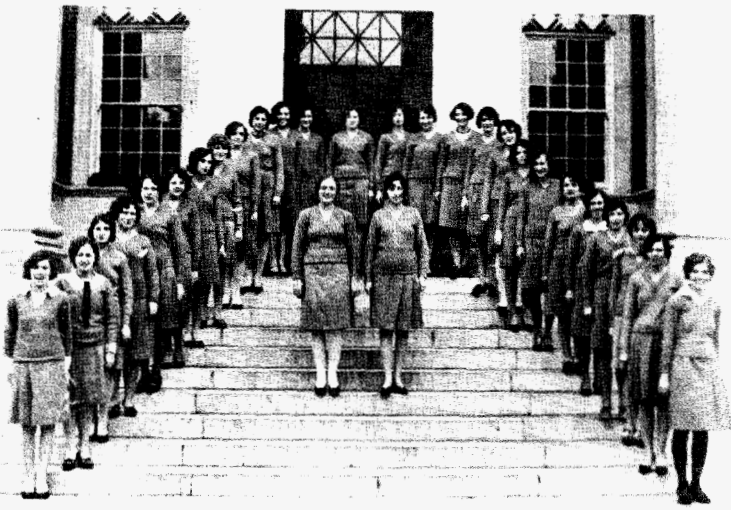
High School Track and Field Meet: Circa 1920s



A Visit to Devil's Den: Circa 1930



An Early Homecoming Parade: Circa 1930



Kickapoos and



Scalpers: Circa 1930

**S. T. C.** Pascal Stoll

*There is a school that we all admire Down South in the Old Cherokee Land, There is a school that*

*gold and blue over hearts so true In that loyal Savage band. For where*

*e'en we go o'er the sea we do It is S. T. C. It's the gold and blue. It is*

*glory be to S. T. C. The school of the rising sun.*

The School Song: Circa 1940s



Aerial View: Circa 1930

women, the school would henceforth have a base salary of at least \$150. For the female teachers in the room, the president's remark meant a favorable raise in pay. Immediately, one male faculty member, "perhaps eager to impress his new boss, stood up and announced that he was behind Mrs. Zaneis 100 percent." Had he known what the president would say next, the professor, one of the highest paid on campus, undoubtedly would have remained quiet. Continuing her comments about the base amount, the new administrator said that the policy would have to be carried out in light of a \$12,000 cut in salary appropriations. Consequently, to implement her plan meant that the male faculty members would be forced to take a substantial cut in their salaries. Thus, in one day, the new administrator managed to alienate many male professors and put the female staff in a position "of being between a rock and a hard place." Despite very vocal opposition by some, President Zaneis had made a firm decision. When one outspoken man instantly objected to her action in a night phone call, President Zaneis responded by announcing to the faculty the next day that she had made a mistake. Professor T. A. Houston's salary would be \$170, not \$180 as she had stated the day before. This pronouncement undoubtedly assured that the new president would have at least one bitter faculty member committed to oppose her continued stay at the institution.<sup>70</sup>

The president's practice of calling faculty meetings at 7:00 A.M. and expecting the men to wear a coat and tie and the women to be properly dressed caused further protest. Then, when the new chief executive called a meeting in the early fall at even a much earlier time, several disgruntled professors decided on a rather ridiculous action to show their displeasure. At the gathering to discuss "donations for fire insurance," a practice of extracting money from teachers to line the pockets of politicians, the president entered the room at 5:00 A.M. to find several of the male members wearing their pajamas; but, instead of expressing vocal anger, President Zaneis simply showed her displeasure by "coldly staring" at the protesters. Most impressive, she convinced the faculty, who had never complained for fear of being fired, that if they would sign statements indicating that such "donations" had been collected in the past, Governor Marland would stop the practice and expose those responsible. The president got her evidence, and the governor kept his word. As Linda Beech, an authority on President Zaneis has stated, "while the faculty may not have appreciated this early morning meeting, most of them were glad. . . the forced donations stopped. Many feel her success in getting

that done was one of her greatest achievements while in Durant.<sup>71</sup>

The most pressing matter the new chief administrator faced was the financial situation existing at the institution. When she arrived, the entire budget had been spent for the fiscal year, and the school owed local merchants approximately \$1,500. She immediately sought the help of John S. Vaughan, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Vaughan advised the president to submit a request quickly to the legislature. With his help in Oklahoma City, the solons responded with an emergency appropriation. The president's responsible and swift handling of the college's local debts speedily restored the faith and credit of the institution with local business leaders. In two other areas of fiscal problems, the solutions did not come so easily. As noted, the \$12,000 cut in state funds necessitated a cut in salaries. Also, President Zaneis faced an athletic department debt of \$1,278.62. To meet this crisis, she made an agreement with STC's creditors to pay the debts over a period of two years, and to avoid further expenses she had to severely "curtail physical education classes and athletic activities."<sup>72</sup>

As Linda Beech has surmised, the president "must have felt a twinge of pain when she looked out of her office window to see leaky roofs, scaling paint and crumbling mortar. Even the bare floors and dingy painted walls in her office must have been depressing." True to her dynamic, energetic, and aggressive personality, the female educator did not waste time in putting an end to this state of affairs at Southeastern. In an article entitled "Feminine Charm Touches Profs, Buildings, Campus," the *Southeastern* proclaimed, "Spiderwebs and dust move out of Southeastern as feminine President Zaneis moves in with an abundance of flowers following her." According to the paper, some of the first words uttered by the new chief executive were "let's clean up this place"; the results were astonishing to many. Soon offices and rooms throughout the school were overflowing with bouquets of fresh flowers cut daily. In less than a week a thorough housecleaning of the entire campus took place. Remarking about the changes apparent "in shining window panes, well-oiled floors and furniture," Professor Eugene Slaughter said, "My chair has been so well oiled that I haven't yet been able to sit in it." To make all the extensive repairs plus renovations which she felt the campus needed with a budget for such items of only \$9,560 was literally impossible; therefore, the astute politician-educator decided to approach the

federal agencies of Roosevelt's New Deal. Again, the female president achieved remarkable results. With \$30,000 in funds from the PWA, concrete floors were installed in the science building; several new walls were constructed in the library, and new cabinets, shelves, furniture, and desks were built for the deans and registrar. Additionally, improvements were started on the football field and stadium, a new 440 yd. track was laid, College Street from Seventh Street to Highway 69 was regreaved, and a relandscaping of the campus was begun.<sup>73</sup>

Another priority goal for President Zaneis was to increase STC's enrollment; once more the president proved capable of accomplishing her plans. The fall enrollment figure for 1935 was 997—a gain of 33 percent over the 747 at STC the previous year. The trend upward continued until the accumulated figures for 1936-1937 showed an attendance of over 1,500. According to the *Southeastern*, the gain in students meant that classes had to meet in halls, on the auditorium stage, and even outside when weather permitted. President Zaneis also expected the students to enjoy their life on campus. Consequently, campus organizations, both scholastic and social, were encouraged; fraternities and sororities came back into favor. Traditional festive events like Homecoming and the Candlelighting Service were enhanced, and the lyceum arts program was expanded. An all-out effort was made to encourage the alumni and the residents of Durant and southeastern Oklahomans to come to the campus and help celebrate the days set aside for special happenings at the college. The new president initiated and aggressively supported a well-organized recruitment program to increase enrollment and to help the general public identify with Southeastern. New mailing lists were compiled to insure that the *Southeastern* reached STC graduates, prominent citizens, and high schools in southeastern Oklahoma. Wisely, Zaneis reinstated the policy of inviting area superintendents to assist in summer school and extension classes. Additionally, the president courted Durant civic and business leaders by hosting frequent breakfasts on their behalf on the campus. At her residence, she often held formal teas for as many as 350 people.<sup>74</sup>

As her first academic year ended, many observers believed that President Zaneis had generated a "new spirit in the air" at Southeastern. According to an article in the *Southeastern*, one could see the new "changed order" reflected in the feeling of increased contentment and security by the faculty and in the increased pride in their college on the part of the student body. President Zaneis undoubtedly hoped such a feeling was generally

widespread among the citizenry of southeastern Oklahoma, because her tenure was, of course, subject to the political climate in the area and the state. With her benefactor still in the governor's chair, the president tried to accomplish more of her dreams and aspirations. First, she wished to change the name and purpose of the institution. Therefore, she recommended to the legislature and the press that the school be allowed to drop "Teachers" from its name. President Zaneis wanted the State Board of Education to permit Southeastern to concentrate on expanding its liberal arts program. In essence, the idea was to make the college a viable institution for students to prepare themselves for occupations other than teaching. The president's idea immediately found widespread support around the state. Second, the female administrator intended to continue her policy of upgrading the credentials of the faculty. Compared to other regional state schools, she had already accomplished a great transformation at STC. By the end of the 1935-1936 academic year, the qualifications of the Southeastern faculty members showed significant improvement. Furthermore, "lines of responsibility both of persons and departments" which were formerly "rather vaguely drawn" had been more clearly established along lines of "demarcation," in the opinions of Dr. Fixley and President Zaneis.<sup>75</sup>

According to one of her contemporaries, Zaneis "taught the country folk the meaning of culture." The president's habit of inviting famous personalities and performers to the campus continued in her second year. The high point of her cultural program came when Eleanor Roosevelt, the first lady of the United States, consented to be the guest speaker on Senior Day, 1937. The reception given Mrs. Roosevelt was one of the most exciting and spectacular in the history of the institution, the city, and southeastern Oklahoma. After the event, which attracted over two thousand high school seniors during the day and hundreds of older persons that night, the newspapers of Oklahoma wrote many stories comparing the remarkable similarities between the "first lady of the nation and the first lady of education." But, the happiness surrounding the visit of President Roosevelt's wife in the spring of 1937 proved to be the apex of President Zaneis' tenure at STC. On May 22, in the midst of gala celebrations marking the conclusion of her second year at STC, the State Board of Education suddenly fired President Zaneis. With enrollments above the one thousand mark and so many academic, physical, and psychological improvements apparent at Southeastern, the move took many by

complete surprise. The Board's decision certainly caused an immediate and heated reaction throughout Oklahoma. Students at STC threatened to boycott classes and several faculty members resigned. Most important, politicians again had created a situation which plunged STC into another tailspin. Many persons and newspapers asked why the only woman president of a state college had been removed. There is no one single answer; but the president's programs, policies, and preferences had created diverse and numerous enemies.<sup>76</sup>

The ranks of the faculty harbored persistent opponents. Several of the men had never liked working for a woman, nor forgiven her for the methods she employed in equalizing male and female salaries. Ironically, women considered the president to be rather condescending; there is no question that in general she worked better with men. In a time of low salaries and appropriations, some resented the many improvements she made in the president's home at a cost of \$2,665.78. Many faculty members disliked being required to wear tuxedos or long formal dresses at presidential socials. For others, President Zaneis possessed an appreciation of cultural attractions "beyond the bounds of good taste." Actually, this reaction was caused by one of the lyceum programs. On December 5, 1937, the internationally famous Frazer-James Dance Troupe appeared on stage "nearly nude." In reality, the dancers wore costumes very similar to swimsuits acceptable in other parts of the country at that time, but many left the auditorium shocked—even President Zaneis' mother. In the community, Zaneis' popularity suffered from adverse reactions to two of her decisions. One of them—the shifting of the school's printing business from the *Democrat* to the *Durant Weekly News*—cost her the support of the local newspaper. When the news of Zaneis' dismissal broke, the *Democrat's* editor certainly had little to say about the controversy. Previously, the paper had spoken out when a president had been removed. Usually, the *Democrat* at least had something good to say about the departing chief executive; this time, there was no such editorial.<sup>77</sup>

The second decision was of greater consequence to her tenure. The president affected instant anger in the community when she decided to have two dormitories constructed at the institution. Because they derived rental income from students, many of the town's residents opposed the president's desire for the dorms. Representative Sam Sullivan warned the president that he would have to fight her on the issue if it came before the legislature. Sullivan sincerely believed that the homeowners in Durant would

organize to protest the dorms because they could not afford to lose the income in a continuing depression era. Consequently, politically he could not support Zaneis' program. Nevertheless, the president went ahead and presented her plea before the solons in the 1937 session. Concerning her effort, the *Daily Ardmoreite* predicted, "she will get them . . . because she doesn't know how to take no for an answer and probably wouldn't if she could." Another paper praised the job she had accomplished when many thought "it was not a woman's job," and said "many are saying: 'It can't be done,' but it will be. The only word in the English language she doesn't know is the word FAIL." Both editors were correct. In an address before the legislature, Zaneis explained how STC "would be crippled in comparison to the other five regional colleges if school-controlled housing were not available. She related to the legislators how the student population had grown so rapidly that students were literally living "in attics, cellars, and even Durant tourist cabins." Responding to her persuasive arguments, the legislature voted to approve \$350,000 of the \$700,000 she requested for two dorms, a new training school building, and an industrial arts complex. The happiness she felt at her legislative victory was destined to be short-lived.<sup>78</sup>

Whatever their unexplained reasons, the State Board of Education asked for her resignation. The president, having a strong personality and faith in herself, refused; and, the Board fired her, effective immediately. The news, as noted, caused a storm of protests and several resignations—the most vocal protestor was Dean Fixley. When asked why she was dismissed, Zaneis replied that she had been "caught in the cross fire" between Senator John A. MacDonald and the Board of Education. In fact, she was correct. The actual problem was that MacDonald had sponsored the bill for the dorms in a manner unacceptable to the Board. The bill allowed President Zaneis to have control over hiring the architect and sharing responsibility for supervising construction with the Board. A. L. Crable, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the remainder of the Board balked at this agreement. Furthermore, the Board opposed her choice of Bryan Nolen, a brother-in-law of MacDonald, as architect. President Zaneis' response was that Nolen was the only STC graduate who applied for the position. Regardless, the Board's accusations placed the president in an untenable political and ethical situation and prevented Governor Marland from intervening on her behalf. When questioned about what action he would

take to protect his appointee, Marland simply said, "I am sorry to see her lose her position but we have a board of education whose duty it is to select these presidents and their judgment should be

Since Marland had two more years in office, many were surprised that he did not react more vigorously. In truth, the opposition was too potent and plentiful. Governor Marland knew that several prominent Durant political and business leaders were totally against Zaneis' administration; the most vocal and persistent was C. C. Hatchett. In a public statement, Hatchett, a former president of the Board of Regents for the University of Oklahoma, said that he was "only one of hundreds of southeastern Oklahoma citizens who asked the state board of education to replace the woman college president." Also, the prominent Durant lawyer remarked, "We feel her appointment here was a serious mistake. We have no real prejudice against Mrs. Zaneis, but we want a real school man to head our college."

Whether Hatchett's biased remark was directed against Zaneis or women in general, several of the president's actions in the last months of her administration caused many to believe that she acted too often on a whim. The administrator's fascination with Eleanor Roosevelt's security guards prompted her to require male faculty members to serve as campus security patrolmen. These additional duties, especially following salary reductions, were particularly aggravating. Furthermore, the president's requirement that all faculty members submit official correspondence to her office for approval prior to mailing was viewed with a great deal of resentment. In reviewing the people Zaneis had hired and fired, apparently some Baptists came to believe that the president had demonstrated prejudice against their denomination. The sagging morale of those faculty members who considered themselves underpaid was diminished further by the preferential treatment in salary and authority given Dr. Fixley. This touchy situation was exacerbated by the pressure Fixley applied in arranging the anniversary celebration for the president.<sup>81</sup>

In early May, Fixley and H. S. Bates, the chairman of the anniversary committee, wrote a letter to leaders of campus organizations, the faculty members, and many alumni, asking that they draft sketches of "what seems to you to be the outstanding accomplishments of her administration both for the college in general and for your organization in particular." Fixley also put out a similar memo to the general student body; ostensibly, the purpose

was to include the testimonials "in a bound volume of appreciation to Mrs. Zaneis." The resulting work, entitled "Heart Throbs," was presented to the president at a dinner in her honor on the night of May 20; over three hundred people attended the event, and many gave short speeches lauding aspects of Zaneis' tenure at STC. But, C. C. Hatchett and others in the community and on the campus had conflicting sentiments. In a letter to Crable, Hatchett deplored the "high pressure tactics" used to obtain the testimonials; more important, Hatchett charged that the letters were "to be used for a political purpose" unknown to those writing the missives—the continuation of Zaneis as president at STC. When the Board met to consider her reappointment, Hatchett asked Crable to "make proper allowance and give due consideration to the circumstances under which they [the testimonials] were written."<sup>82</sup>

Finally, the personality of Kate Galt Zaneis was at the center of the controversy. In a male-dominated society, such a forceful woman was abhorrent to many who felt, as Linda Beech has stated, that the woman president was "too authoritative, too bossy, and lacking in diplomacy." Her high standard of living outraged some depression-era individuals who valued campus maintenance and faculty salaries above presidential comforts. Thus, major expenditures on the president's residence seemed unnecessary and deplorable. And, many of her actions were indeed outrageous. Undoubtedly, the worst was her habit of watching the football games from her car; every time the ball moved up and down the field, so did the car, bearing the regally dressed chief executive. In essence, Zaneis was an imperious woman, and this trait alone caused her great difficulties. Excessive vanity, an overpowering ego, and total self-assuredness in one's convictions are unattractive traits in any person. Zaneis struck many as possessing such a personality.<sup>83</sup>

Zaneis' successor was a man, and no woman has served as the chief executive at any state college in Oklahoma since then. It must be said, in conclusion, that Zaneis served the institution energetically and with a degree of effectiveness. In many respects she left Southeastern better than she found it. And, eventually, most of her dreams for the college were realized. Of paramount importance, the outcry and controversy over her firing helped speed a "soul searching" review of Oklahoma's system of higher education. The negative publicity Southeastern received at the time was balanced by the growing awareness of the need for reform in Oklahoma's educational standards, policies, and the relationships between "Gown and Politics."

### Politics, War, and Stability at Last: The Administrations of William Brown Morrison, Hugh Vance Posey, and T. T. Montgomery, 1937-1952

Turmoil reigned at Southeastern in the latter part of May 1937. Stories concerning Zaneis' dismissal were on the front pages of many newspapers in the state and the nation. STC loyalists must have wondered just who was really responsible for the terrible state of affairs at their institution. Charges and countercharges among state political and education leaders further fired the controversy. State Senator John A. MacDonald, who had sponsored the Southeastern dormitory bill, accused Dr. Henry Bennett, the president of Oklahoma A&M, of causing the entire furor. In a public press release MacDonald said, "An educational clique dominated by Dr. Henry G. Bennett is responsible for the removal. . . . Three presidents have been removed at Southeastern in the last four years. No school can stand that sort of treatment." In reply to the accusations, Bennett avowed to the press that he "had studiously avoided interference" in Southeastern's affairs since he resigned the presidency at STC. It was Bennett's opinion that C. C. Hatchett, a prominent Durant lawyer, was the person most responsible for the firing; for his part, Hatchett fully admitted he had urged A. L. Crable, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, to remove Zaneis.'

Interestingly, within three days after the public learned that Zaneis was leaving STC, the press also reported several rumors concerning her replacement. Several papers published articles asserting that John S. Vaughan, the immediate past State Superintendent of Public Instruction who had resigned to become the president of Northeastern State Teachers College, would be the next chief administrator in Durant. Other reports hinted that because Vaughan was a close friend of Henry Bennett, a neutral candidate would be selected to stop the threatened development of factional strife in Durant. But many papers surmised that the new president would be Professor Hugh Vance Posey, "a Bennett protégé."<sup>82</sup>



On the morning of May 26, the faculty and students learned that Dr. W. B. Morrison, the former president of Oklahoma Presbyterian College who had become a professor in the STC history department, would be the acting president. In a statement to the faculty and students printed in the *Southeastern* that day, acting President Morrison tried to soothe the division which had struck the campus. Morrison said, "Tobe named Acting President. . . even for the briefest period is an honor of which any man or woman may well be proud." Morrison also stated that he appreciated the responsibility involved. And, there was a need for such leadership. Students at STC were threatening to strike in protest of not only the departure of President Zaneis but also the resignations of popular faculty members. The most prominent person who left STC in protest was, the public realized, Dr. Fixley, the dean of the college. In his letter of resignation to the Board, Fixley undoubtedly helped stir the controversial situation at Durant by declaring, "I have watched with growing disgust the activities of the political-educational ring which has long sought to control the administration of higher education in this state." Furthermore, Fixley said, "I do not want to serve under a board who dismissed Mrs. Kate Galt Zaneis." Actually, although the campus and community did not know it, Fixley already had been fired in a telephone conversation with Superintendent Crable before the dean's letter reached Oklahoma City or became public?

Dr. Morrison's tenure as president lasted only one month; near the end of June, the State Board of Education announced that Hugh Vance Posey would take control of the institution effective July 1. Posey, the man called "Bennett's protégé" by many state newspapers, was born in 1889 on a farm near Sheridan in Grant County, Arkansas. After attending the public schools of Arkadelphia and Hot Springs, Arkansas, he entered Henderson-Brown College. Upon receiving his B.A. degree in 1914, Posey accepted a position as a coach and ward school principal in Hugo, Oklahoma. The new president of STC remained at Hugo until the United States entered World War I. Following service to his country as an officer in the army, Posey became the superintendent of schools at Soper, Oklahoma, in 1919; in 1921 he returned to Hugo as a teacher and coach. Then, from 1927 to 1930 he served as superintendent of the Hugo system. Shortly after Henry Bennett became the president of Oklahoma A&M in 1929, he hired his long-time friend as a professor of history and athletic manager for the Stillwater institution. From 1935-1937, Bennett granted

Posey a sabbatical leave to work on his doctorate at George Peabody College for Teachers; Posey was still on the Nashville, Tennessee, campus when his election as president of Southeastern was confirmed. At the time of his selection, Posey was a Ph.D. candidate with two M.A. degrees, one awarded by Oklahoma A&M in 1932 and the other by Peabody in 1935. The new president was married to the former Anna Bell Cooper of Hugo, and the couple had two children, a daughter, Mary, and a son, Hugh.<sup>4</sup>

At the time Southeastern opened for the 1937 fall term, there was ample evidence that the shock the faculty and students had been subjected to for the past several months had produced a sense of futility, anger, bewilderment, and psychological depression on the STC campus. In an article entitled "Passing of School Pep," the *Southeastern* remarked, "If our teams win or lose, it's all the same—there's no clannishness—no do or die spirit left at the school of the rising sun. Meanwhile other teachers' colleges thrive and prosper in continued school patriotism. Tis sad." The college paper bemoaned the fact, for example, that "other colleges start the school year off with enthusiastic talk of revival or continuance of school annuals. At STC, however, all is quiet, and only a few pathetic leather bound volumes dated in the late teens . . . bear mute testimony that Southeastern once published a yearbook."<sup>5</sup>

In another article entitled "Let's Consider Our Plight," the campus paper said, "We, the 800-odd students of Southeastern have just cause to envy certain other state normal schools." After visiting one of the other state campuses, the paper's editor lamented, "Your editor Friday wandered back to Durant, wondering why some institutions have so much, others so little. Aren't all. . . colleges state institutions, subject to the just and equitable treatment of our great commonwealth?" The answer, according to the opinions of the editor, was apparently no. Speaking of the treatment accorded a group of STC students at another state institution, the *Southeastern* related, "The 'topranking' college was very hospitable. It bedded us down in a comfortable dormitory, erected in 1936, containing rooms superior in furnishing, convenience, and accessibility to anything Durant has to offer at any price." Furthermore, the paper reminded its readers that "we ruefully recalled that Southeastern is the lone state teachers college operating without dormitories, and remembered that mad scramble for rooms that always presages opening of the school year."<sup>6</sup>

The visiting STC students also marveled at a more elaborate dorm where they had their meals, a print shop with two job presses,

a linotype machine, and two spacious auditoriums with proper sound systems unlike "Southeastern's chamber of acoustic horrors in the administration building." The host college also had a stadium of steel construction and a cinder track — very dissimilar to STC's "frame stands and a dirt oval overgrown with weeds." In conclusion, the *Southeastern* editor related his embarrassment when one of the other school's students admitted, "the trouble with this school is — it's run by politics." According to the STC editor, he replied to his host that "as a Southeasterner and therefore a scarred red veteran of political wars, we smiled tolerantly and said that at least it was being 'run' rather efficiently." In a third editorial entitled "Puzzled," the *Southeastern* stated that it was extremely interesting and confusing "to note that while the state of Oklahoma has turned a deaf ear to Southeastern's crying needs for dormitories and other buildings," since 1928, the commonwealth had spent thousands for new prisons. When one compared the rationale why penal institutions needed funds to enlarge with STC's reasons for the needed dorms and other buildings, it left a person "just a little bewildered" concerning the state legislature's sense of priorities.<sup>7</sup>

Actually, the real situation on campus was not as bad as the paper indicated and many people assumed. As the fall semester of 1937 neared an end, the calm manner in which Posey had taken charge and the passage of time had brought a new awareness of the many good qualities and traditions that characterized the Southeastern campus. As the furor died, STC loyalists realized that Southeastern was not unique in the fact that state politics often affected the school; other state colleges also had their share of political intrigue and upheavals. STC's were merely much better publicized. By late fall, a sense of school spirit had made a dramatic reappearance. In an article entitled "This Thing Called Pep," the Boule society, a secret honorary organization dedicated to progress at STC, urged the student body to remember the many good aspects of the school. The Boule society asked the students to remember that a college was not merely buildings; thus, the society observed, "If we believe in ourselves, we believe in our college, for we are the college." After reviewing the reasons to be optimistic about STC, the Boule article correctly predicted, "When we all learn to feel these things, Southeastern's campus will ring with enthusiasm and others will learn to love it as we do."<sup>8</sup>

Responding to the Boule's article, the school paper published an editorial entitled "Southeastern's Superiority." The purpose of the editor's statements was to give the student body tangible

examples of STC's leadership in many areas of campus life compared with other state and regional institutions. According to the *Southeastern*, despite being ignored in state building programs and racked by intense political problems, the School of the Rising Sun has nevertheless established extracurricular activities, traditions, and spirit "to such an extent that students of better equipped institutions sometimes throw up their hands in self-confessed envy." For example, the paper pointed out that STC held annual Student Council elections "with hilarity and spirit, little realizing that certain other state normal schools maintain only a shadowy pretense of student government." The *Southeastern* was entirely accurate in this regard; at East Central, for instance, President Adolph Linscheid refused to allow such a governing body to exist in any form. The administrations through the years at STC had understood the value of fraternities and sororities to campus social life; but, certain other state colleges actually continued to "forbid the formation of such organizations." Students at Durant enjoyed a well-developed intramural sports program, "an element non-existent on the campus of other, more favored, teachers colleges." In conclusion, the editor proclaimed, "Southeastern has deeply rooted traditions, equalled by no other college of the state." Other schools might have dorms and other buildings, "but in student body organization, spirit, and tradition, Southeastern is firmly established in first place, the press said."

There was a great deal of truth in the *Southeastern's* editorial; there was much to evoke pride on the part of the STC students, faculty, alumni, and loyalists. And, the school soon experienced a revival in spirit. In an editorial entitled "Resurrection of Pep," the school paper rejoiced, "pronounced stone dead by doleful, but well-meaning observers, pep staged a resurrection at STC last Friday night, climbed out of a mouldy grave, and scared the day-lights out of swollen-eyed die-hards, weeping its demise." The *Southeastern's* reason for making such a proclamation was the sight of the Savages "playing wild on the gridiron" against Oklahoma Baptist while fans who "leaped from several years lethargy . . . nearly tore down the stands in enthusiasm."<sup>10</sup>

Besides the play of the Savages before over one hundred fathers on Dads Day at STC, the many causes for students to feel their school possessed great dignity during the Posey years (1937-1939) included the appearance of a marching band in beautiful new uniforms; the emulating by other institutions of the STC Student Council's constitution and installation ceremonies; and a

library housing over thirty thousand volumes and designated an official government depository for documents. Furthermore, the administration supported a lyceum program which brought famous personalities like Will Rogers and Carl Sandburg and international entertainers such as the Sittig Trio, the Russian Singers, and the Brahms Quartet to Durant. Campus life also featured the permitting of campus and off-campus parties and dances, a student newspaper which usually won first or second place in the collegiate competition of the Oklahoma Press Association, a placement bureau that successfully secured jobs for 99 percent of the school's graduates, and many festive events like "Indian Folk Festival Day." (See chapter VI.)

Southeastern's students took great satisfaction in the fact that many former graduates and instructors had made "history." Among this group of auspicious people, who in the *Southeastern's* opinion constituted a "Who's Who in Oklahoma" roll, were:

H. G. Bennett, president of A&M College; A. Linscheid, president of East Central Teachers College; John Mosely, president of Central Teachers College; H. V. Posey, president of Southeastern Teachers College; Eugene Briggs, president of Phillips University; John Vaughan, president of Northeastern Teachers College; M. A. Nash, president of Oklahoma College for Women; C. C. Dunlap, president of Eastern Oklahoma College; Walter E. Downs, president of Oklahoma Military Academy; C. M. Conwell, president of Cameron State School of Agriculture; E. L. Smith, president of Northeastern Oklahoma Junior College; Miss Ela Hockaday, head of the Hockaday School for Girls at Dallas; Ralph Shaw, assistant professor of the University of Southern California; A. L. Crable, state superintendent of public instruction; J. T. Reed, assistant supervisor of vocational rehabilitation; Frank Fuller, state high school inspector; M. G. Orr, assistant state superintendent of public instruction; J. T. Riling, chief rural supervisor; Julia Stout, dean of women, Oklahoma A&M College; Joe Scott, president of state board of agriculture; Pearl Lewis, dietician at Mayo Clinic; Ira Eaker, U. S. Ace; Phil Burns, position with *Pictorial Review*; Houston Wright, state NYA supervisor; Forrest McIntire, sub-district NYA supervisor; Bryan Nolen, architect, WPA

armory program; Carl McIntire, pastor of Atlantic City New Jersey church; and Dr. Bailey W. Diffie, a published scholar and authority on Colonial Latin American history."

New optimism continued to grow in 1938-1939 as additional developments during Posey's tenure created a livelier atmosphere on STC's campus. The A Cappella Choir became a much larger vocal group and often was asked to perform on Dallas radio stations and in cities as far away as San Antonio and Kansas City. Southeastern's debaters brought fame to the school. The outstanding record compiled by the Savage orators actually started in the last year of Zaneis' presidency, when Billie Greene and Frank Gibbard won the eighth Savage Forensic Tournament and the Mid-South Tournament at Conway, Arkansas; women debaters, Rudene Nixon and Clairene Ramsey, won second place in the Savage Forensics and in the Abilene Christian Debate Tournament. During Posey's stay at Southeastern, Joe Bob Lucas, Paul Harkey, Doris Denson, and Ramsey continued to excel under the leadership of Professor Thomas A. Houston. In the 1937-1938 season, the debaters received a "superior ranking" at the national Pi Kappa Delta Tournament, the highest honor bestowed in the competition."

The annual forensic debate tournament held every year in Durant grew enormously in numbers and prestige. Over four hundred contestants from forty-four colleges and universities located in eight different states attended the 1938-1939 oratorical gathering. That same year, the annual Senior Day drew approximately two thousand high school seniors to the campus. Serving as host for this and other events, the 1937-1939 Student Council maintained a standard of excellence in governing student life at Southeastern. An added attraction for the 1939 event held on March 24 was the crowning of a carnival king and queen. The coronation ceremony took place in the gymnasium at nine o'clock that night. After Mattie Sue Roling and Marvin Tabor were announced as the winners of the campus contest and received their crowns, the gym was cleared of its regal props, and a dance was held for the visiting high school and college students. Part of the building was set aside for booths housing fortune telling, baseball throwing, ping-pong, bingo, fishing, air rifle shooting, and picture drawing games."

Certainly not everything that happened in Posey's administration brought happiness and renewed enthusiasm. One particularly sad event was the death of the loved and respected Professor

Paul E. Laird. The last original faculty member still at STC and known affectionately as "The Grand Old Man of Southeastern," Laird became ill in the summer of 1938. After three major operations at the Mayo Clinic, the veteran coach and teacher quietly succumbed to his illness on January 7, 1939. Funeral services were held in the college gymnasium, where over one thousand people heard President Posey eulogize the man whose "loss," he said, "will not be felt by Southeastern alone, but by all of Oklahoma." Prior to the service, Laird's body rested in state in the gym, "watched by an honor guard of Southeastern basketball players wearing 'S' jackets."<sup>14</sup>

In an editorial, the *Southeastern* praised the love Laird had shown for the institution throughout his life, even "possibly at the expense of his health and well-being." Laird had, the paper explained, returned from the Mayo Clinic in time to watch from the sideline, while laying on a stretcher, as the Savages played their homecoming game on November 28. The demise of the "greatest living link between a glorious past and a glorious present" could best be expressed, the paper declared, by remembering that "during one of those Southeastern shake-ups—when the school was jolted to the bedrock of its battered foundations—someone coined the phrase—'Presidents may come, Presidents may go, but Paul Laird and Southeastern go on forever.'" In March, President Posey, the faculty, and the student body named the athletic field in Laird's honor. Paul Laird Field remains a memorial to the life of "The Grand Old Man."<sup>15</sup>

A major disappointment for President Posey was his failure to obtain funds to construct the dorms Southeastern needed so badly. Early in the fall semester, 1938, it appeared that Posey had successfully managed to acquire the monies for the domiciles. He was informed that the federal Reconstruction Finance Corporation had approved the purchase of Oklahoma bonds totaling \$350,000, approximately 55 percent of the amount needed. To provide the other 45 percent or \$245,054, Posey secured a promise from the Public Works Administration. Plans Posey had drawn for the brick complex project included not only rooms for 200 female and 150 male students but also a dining room, a kitchen, pantries, and storerooms. Unfortunately, in late November the government changed its mind; STC's loan requests were suddenly and permanently blocked for nearly another decade. But Posey and Southeastern were not at fault for the collapse of the negotiations and the plans. Rather, the failure of Southwestern State and Central State teachers colleges to meet their bonded indebtedness had

stilled STC's hopes. Although Posey reduced his request to \$150,000 and argued with PWA officials that the schools who had loans on the east side of the state had not defaulted, the federal agency refused to take any further chances and let existing plans stand until the next session of Congress. By the following year when Congress convened, the issue was no longer an important concern in Washington.

Despite the obvious chagrin the government's decision caused Posey, the 1938-1939 academic year had many other bright moments. Most important, the institution's enrollment continued to grow upward; from a low 875 in the fall of 1937, the student population had rebounded to 1,094 by Posey's second year. Appropriations for STC also began to rise steadily. For the 1938 and 1939 fiscal years, Southeastern received \$160,325 annually—an increase of nearly \$25,000 from the 1936-1937 appropriation; of this amount, \$10,950 went for salaries and the remaining \$13,325 was earmarked for repairs, maintenance, and new equipment. Furthermore, the fiscal appropriation included an additional one-time allocation of \$9,000 for a new manual arts workshop. The provision for the new one-story, four-room structure caused an instantaneous reaction on the campus. Headlines and editorials in the *Southeastern* hailed the success of President Posey in obtaining the legislature's permission to dig "a spade full of dirt" celebrating the erection of STC's first new building in nine years. With the maintenance and repair monies he had, Posey rewired and decorated the Russell Training School building, installed lamp posts in front of the library and the gym, renovated the music building, repainted the interior of the science and library edifices, and built new shower facilities in the gym.<sup>17</sup>

Posey also insured a revitalization of athletics, his first love, at STC when he hired Bloomer Sullivan as the school's new athletic director. Concentrating his energy on the basketball program, Sullivan had prompted Posey to hire Duane Fisher as the new Savage football coach. Both the football and basketball programs showed immediate improvement in the first year Sullivan served as athletic director. In fact, the results of the 1938-1939 academic year warned Savage opponents that a new golden era of sports had dawned at Southeastern. Fisher's 1938 squad won seven contests and finished in third place in the conference. Sullivan's 1938-1939 blue and gold clad basketball team lost only two games and ended the conference race in second place. Making their first appearance in several years in the National Amateur Athletic

Union Tournament (AAU), the Savages lost in the first round. In tennis, Coach John Patterson's netters had a good campaign, which ended with the Savage team losing in the conference finals to Central State. Although no conference titles were won, STC fans were correct in their belief that the future would see many trophies won by Savage teams in the next decade.<sup>18</sup>

As President Posey, the faculty, and the graduating class of 1939 enjoyed the commencement week activities in May, there was no reason to believe that an administrative "shake-up" was about to take place at STC. Although there had been many rumors at the end of the 1938 academic year that Posey might be transferred to Oklahoma A&M and that John S. Vaughan would become STC's twelfth president, the change, of course, had not taken place. At the conclusion of Posey's second year, the *Southeastern* and other newspapers throughout Southeastern Oklahoma had rejoiced about the progress the school was again making. For instance, one paper said, "The more we observe the work of Dr. Vance Posey . . . the more we like him." Concerning Posey's character and personality, the paper related, "We have found him to be a man of few words, but his position on any question concerning school matters is pretty well defined. . . . People like the man who hues to the line and marches right down the middle of the road. The man who says 'Yes' and means it . . . and when he says 'No' means just that, rates highly with his fellowman." Hugh Vance Posey was, the paper reported, such a man.<sup>19</sup>

Despite the fact that Posey's presidency had been well accepted, the State Board of Education announced on July 13 that Southeastern would have a new president effective August 1. His dismissal provoked surprise and anger on the campus and throughout the state. When the students at STC learned the reason the Board had fired the well-liked administrator, they threatened, as in the Zaneis controversy, a campus strike. Many papers charged that, on a split vote of 4-3, the Board had unnecessarily bowed to the personal wishes of Governor Leon "Red" Phillips that two of his supporters be given the presidencies at Southeastern and at Southwestern state colleges. Other press reports indicated that Phillips was upset over Posey's failure to renew the contracts of several of the state chief executive's friends. When Posey refused to change his decision after a telephone call from the governor, Phillips instantly sought his removal.<sup>20</sup>

In his defense, Posey released a press statement in which he thanked his supporters, reviewed his administration's accomplishments, and declared that he had refused to renew the contracts

because of pressing financial reasons. He had no choice but to release several of the faculty, Posey said, to meet a recent directive to cut down administrative expenses before it became necessary to reduce faculty salaries. The retrenchment program would have permitted him, he explained to the press, "to stay within a much reduced appropriation without seriously impairing the program and services of the college." As proof that he had always believed "in economy and efficiency" and would practice it wherever he worked, Posey said that when he arrived at STC the college had \$3,000 in debts, and he was leaving with "these paid and \$8,500 cash on hand." Despite his firing, Posey asserted that he did not want his dismissal to cause the school any harm. Therefore, he asked his supporters and the student body to accept the situation and continue to work "for a better Southeastern." Posey said, in conclusion, "All of my efforts have been in that direction. The college is maintained for the benefit of the students; in fact, if it were not for the students, we would not need a college." Accordingly, rather than create more problems in a politically explosive situation that had already brought renewed bad publicity to STC, Posey quietly stepped aside.<sup>21</sup>

During the summer term of 1939, the State Board of Education named T. T. Montgomery as Southeastern's twelfth chief executive. The appointment came as no great surprise; on the same day in July that Posey's removal had been reported, many state papers predicted that Montgomery, a close personal friend and staunch political ally of Governor Phillips, would get the position. Montgomery, a keenly intelligent and organized individual, had been the superintendent of the Chickasha, Oklahoma, school system for twenty years. Author of two elementary textbooks on Oklahoma history and government which were used widely in the "Sooner" state, Montgomery had been a member of the State Board of Education and was the immediate past president of the Oklahoma Education Association. Born in Greenfield, Missouri, on October 9, 1882, to Philip Reynolds and Sallie Tucker Montgomery, the new president attended the public schools of his native state. After serving in various rural schools in Missouri, Montgomery accepted the superintendency of the Madill, Oklahoma, public school system in 1919. A widower at the time he became president of STC, Montgomery had been married to the former Blanche Corbin; before Mrs. Montgomery died the marriage was blessed with the birth of three children, Phil, George, and Jo Anne. While

serving as the superintendent of the Chickasha system, the Missouri native received his M.S. degree from the University of Oklahoma.<sup>22</sup>

Montgomery's appointment was quickly accepted on the Durant campus. In an article entitled "We're For You," the *Southeastern* declared that the faculty, the students, and the community welcomed the arrival of President Montgomery, although "we, the student body, make no attempt to deny the fact we were behind Dr. Posey almost one hundred percent." Consequently, the campus paper said, "We were praying and hoping. . . he would be allowed to remain in his capacity as President of Southeastern State College." Nevertheless, when the decision became final, the STC student body decided to make its "declarations at that time, to offer our full support and cooperation to the next prexy, whoever he might be." There were, however, several good reasons the *Southeastern* found to be glad Montgomery had been given the position. As noted, the new president was very prominent in Oklahoma educational circles and was considered a "state leader." More important, the *Southeastern* realized that "unless there is a spirit of cooperation between administrative officials and students, Southeastern can never become a great institution." And, the paper acknowledged that in the few days Montgomery had been on campus the students had discovered that they "liked and admired" the man himself. Furthermore, the press related, "those who have heard him speak on occasion express admiration of his attitude and ability."<sup>23</sup>

To explain his position and attitude, the new president published a letter in the *Southeastern* on September 27, at the start of the 1939-1940 academic year. A man of few words regarding public statements, Montgomery simply but warmly said, "We wish to assure every one of the eleven hundred college students and two hundred and forty-nine students in Russell Training School that they are very welcome on the campus of Southeastern State College. The faculty of the college and the citizens of Durant will be ready to serve you in every way possible to the end that your stay here may be both profitable and pleasant." The new president had several important matters facing him in his first months in office. One area of immediate concern for President Montgomery was expanding course offerings, for, by the time he became president, the institution was no longer Southeastern State Teachers College. Late in the legislative session in 1939, the solons had approved name changes for the six regional colleges; henceforth, they would be referred to as state colleges, not state teachers

colleges. Thus, STC became SSC (Southeastern State College), which represented an alteration in function as well as nomenclature. The legislature, as former President Kate Galt Zaneis had urged, decided that the six area colleges should become liberal arts institutions. For the first time, the institution would offer five different degrees, two with and three without the education emphasis.<sup>24</sup>

There is one very interesting portion of the new president's message to the student body which necessitates further explanation. His remarks began with the word "we." President Montgomery may have meant—we the faculty and residents of Durant—or, the "we" may have referred to himself and Dean of the College Allen E. Shearer. It is entirely possible that the two men, Montgomery and Shearer, may already have become "the closely working combination" that characterized their relationship for the thirteen years the president guided the institution. As Virginia Fisher, secretary to three presidents, related to the author, "Yes, in fact, they did form a real team complementing each other so well in their respective strengths." Montgomery's contributions to the team were his administrative ability and his powerful political connections with prominent state government, judicial, civic, business, and education leaders. It must be restated that he received his appointment solely because of his great friendship with Governor Phillips. Since the chief executive's term started in 1939, this meant that Montgomery could expect to continue as president of SSC for at least four years.<sup>25</sup>

But Montgomery had political pull in addition to his close association with the governor. Montgomery was also one of the original founders of the Red Red Rose and a very close friend of Henry Bennett, the president of Oklahoma A&M and the most powerful education leader in the state in the thirties and forties; both of these factors gave Montgomery additional political leverage and security that other past presidents of SSC had not possessed. Furthermore, Montgomery was a very close friend with the already politically powerful Robert S. Kerr, the man who would succeed Phillips in office and then become a United States Senator. Because of his administrative ability and his relationship with these politicians, prominent state educators, and others too numerous to mention, Southeastern finally, after ten years of on-again-off-again turmoil, had a very influential person at the

administrative helm—a situation which finally stabilized the institution's life and permitted its future growth and development.<sup>26</sup>

The other member of the administrative tandem, Dr. Allen E. Shearer, the dean of the college, was actually brought to Southeastern by President Vance Posey. Shearer, a native of Alabama, had met Posey while both were working on their doctorates at Peabody College for Teachers, and the two dedicated educators formed a lasting friendship. Posey learned of his appointment to the presidential post while both were still in Nashville and persuaded the Alabama native to come to the "Sooner" state and serve as his dean. Although clearly warned by his major professor at Peabody that he should stay as far away from the politically "topsy-turvy" state as possible, he came to look things over and decided to take a chance. An academician of the highest quality, Shearer believed he had found a place where he could use his talents and training. For Shearer it was good that he was as capable as he thought. Shortly before he died, Shearer laughingly told the author, "The first time I met President Montgomery I did not know what to expect. I could have been easily fired upon the spot." Nevertheless, the two men instantly liked and respected each other.<sup>27</sup>

The trust immediately established between the two men is exemplified in the following story. A few days after he became president in July, Montgomery called Shearer in and told him, "I have decided you can stay dean as long as I am president of Southeastern." Following his surprise declaration, the new president asked the young dean how things were at the school and did he have problems. Shearer hesitantly answered, "Things are fine I guess and, yes, I have plenty of problems." The new president replied, "Well, if things are running fine, just keep doing what you're doing." Then, to Shearer's total shock, Montgomery informed him that he and several important state leaders would be gone for a few weeks after school opened for a vacation and hunting trip in Canada. Shearer's astonishment at being responsible for opening the school year was intensified when Montgomery handed him the keys to the president's car. Shearer declined with thanks, saying, "Man, I wouldn't touch that car. I have problems enough with the faculty accepting me now." The only thing President Montgomery said to the thirty-seven year-old dean that alarmed him was when he stated, "I want Southeastern to be reaccredited with the North Central Association. If you can't do it, I'll get me another dean." Regarding this conversation, Shearer recalled, "I thought he was joking, but I did not intend to find out. I

immediately continued and hastened my efforts already begun in that regard." Considering that all Oklahoma colleges and universities had lost accreditation in the early thirties because of political interference in academics and inadequate funding, this was no small order. Nevertheless, Montgomery eventually got his wish and Southeastern forever benefited.<sup>28</sup>

The first two and one-half years of Montgomery's tenure at SSC were ones of quiet, calm transition and sustained growth. The fact that the institution could grow at all was no small achievement with "Red" Phillips in office. The governor had been elected on a platform calling for economy; and, like "Alfalfa Bill," he meant what he promised. To reduce a state debt totaling nearly \$26,000,000, Phillips drastically cut institutional and educational appropriations 20 percent. In addition to raising taxes, Phillips submitted to the voters a budget-balancing amendment to the constitution, which overwhelmingly passed 168,886 to 85,752. Designed to prevent state deficit spending forever, the amendment remains a part of the Oklahoma Constitution to the present day. For Southeastern, the fund-slashing meant Montgomery had approximately \$28,000 less than Posey had received in what was considered tight economic times; funds for salaries declined \$12,750 or approximately the equivalent of six teaching positions. Despite his personal relationship with the governor, Montgomery was not, in the foreseeable future, going to be able to secure the large appropriations needed to construct dorms or other costly buildings or initiate expensive repair programs."

Yet, progress was made during the period 1939-1942. By 1942, Southeastern's faculty totaled fifty-three, second highest among the six regional Oklahoma colleges; the average faculty salary was \$2,080, also the second highest among the state area colleges. But in terms of tenure, as could be expected given the school's earlier upheavals, the average number of years for tenured faculty at SSC was 10.32—making the institution rank fourth in comparison with her sister institutions. Yet, even in that area SSC was not far from the top; East Central State, the leader in the category of years of service by tenured faculty, averaged only 13.76. In the area of faculty holding terminal or master's degrees, Southeastern also showed steady progress. By 1942, SSC had six Ph.D.s on its staff, third in number to Central State and Northeastern State, who had eleven each. Yet, SSC had forty-three with M.A. degrees, by far the most of the other state regional colleges. Furthermore, Montgomery and Shearer made sure that the people who were hired were

quality teachers. According to Shearer, he and the new president agreed that any additions to the instructional staff would hold degrees from academically strong institutions. "President Montgomery wanted people," Shearer explained to the author, "who had been through a process that required hard work, study, and a series of examinations that indicated they possessed the intelligence and academic background to receive a doctor's degree." Also, the Montgomery-Shearer team tried to find people "who were of good character and would fit in well with the faculty and the community." By the time Montgomery's presidency ended in 1952, considerable headway had been made in keeping with these guidelines.<sup>30</sup>

Under Montgomery's leadership, the institution made a rapid adjustment to its new, expanded academic role. And, again the president's decision to retain Shearer proved to be a wise one, since the dean of the college had written his dissertation in the area of curriculum development. Consequently, although some feared that if Southeastern changed its role from the training of teachers to a wider program the institution would suffer, Montgomery asked Shearer to begin a study and make recommendations to speed SSC's development in its new role. The task was no easy assignment in 1939, according to Shearer, because "Southeastern was almost 100 percent devoted to teacher training and very few of the faculty thought we should try something different." Nevertheless, a reading of the college catalogs from 1940-1942 demonstrates that SSC reorganized its curriculum to fit its expanded educational purpose. By 1942, the catalog resolutely stated, "While Southeastern State College is primarily concerned with the training of teachers, those who desire other pre-professional training may profitably attend the college." The specific areas in which SSC offered strong pre-professional training included, for example, business administration, engineering, dentistry, law, pharmacy, and medicine.<sup>31</sup>

Meanwhile, Montgomery ordered Shearer and the faculty to reorganize the courses in teacher education because he felt that many of the courses that had been required for two decades had become antiquated. The concept Montgomery wanted to implement emphasized developing teacher education courses, especially for those training to become grade school teachers, which "would be more oriented to the type of subject matter an elementary teacher would need." For example, Dr. Shearer told the author, "We started to develop courses in elementary and secondary music and math for teachers, rather than attempting to make music or math majors out of them." Furthermore, "We started to reorganize

the education courses to concentrate on giving future teachers training in the best available knowledge concerning methods and materials." Additionally, SSC began to create a program whereby its students in education could go out into the public schools of southeastern Oklahoma for a period of training under the supervision of established teachers. Although Russell Training School would remain a part of the campus for several more years, Montgomery and the faculty surmised that contact with the "real world" of teaching would be a valuable experience in preparing students for their future educational careers. The program, eventually known as "practice teaching," would also give the faculty "a better chance to evaluate the capability and suitability of the teacher-candidate."<sup>32</sup>

While President Montgomery and the faculty struggled with the problems of adjusting to SSC's establishment as a liberal arts college, they were aware of a massive, dark cloud on the horizon. By the fall of 1939, many people were worried about America's ability to stay out of the war which erupted in Europe on September 1, with Germany's invasion of Poland. When President Roosevelt quickly declared the United States would be neutral in the conflict, most Americans seemed to relax and believe that the country could avoid sending its youth into the bloody conflict. At Southeastern, however, the administration, faculty, and many students felt differently. President Montgomery and others realized that "war for the United States was inevitable and sooner or later we would become involved in it," Shearer recalled. "Around Southeastern there was, during 1939-1941, a strong feeling of national defense and many of our faculty and students enlisted in the reserves to prepare for the time America would have to fight," he remembered. As President Roosevelt steadily drew the United States closer to the allied effort, SSC had one particular program designed to train students in an area that would be immediately helpful to any war effort by the United States.<sup>33</sup>

In September of 1939, President Montgomery reached an agreement with the Civil Aeronautical Administration (CAA), a federal agency dedicated to increasing the number of qualified pilots in the country. Although they undoubtedly knew that the flight training was part of Roosevelt's plan to prepare the country in case war came by having a ready supply of trained pilots, many students nationwide rushed to take part in the new program. When Southeastern's CAA course began in the fall, twenty-two applied for entrance. The cost of the program was deliberately kept



low; a laboratory fee of \$20 per semester was the total charge assessed students to prepare themselves in what many considered to be an exciting new career field. For the \$40 fee for two semesters of training, a student not only received ground and flight instruction but also was given two medical examinations by a CAA flight surgeon, a \$3,000 accidental death and dismemberment insurance policy, and \$500 worth of medical coverage. As noted, the CAA course was divided into two semesters. The first term the students took ground classes like the history of aviation, navigation, meteorology, parachutes, engines, instruments, and radio uses; the second semester, the student pilots actually began flying in the school's sixty-five horsepower Aeronica Chief plane. The first SSC students who qualified to wear the corps coveted uniform of white coveralls decorated with a golden wings pin and were allowed to train under Professor Ollie James, Jr., were Clayton Arnold, Dale Cleghorn, Guy Cooke, Leo Shull, James C. Stewart, J. L. Wheeler, Raymond McKinney, Dale Taylor, Charles F. Moore, and Walter Skipworth. By 1941, the institution expanded the program by buying several additional planes. And, for the first time, two coeds joined the smartly dressed flying Savages; the female aviatrixes were Mary Cravens and Lois Emory.<sup>34</sup>

By November of 1940, Southeastern students had another opportunity to join a flight program. However, this training was clearly not designed to produce civilian pilots who could become military aviators if necessary; this time the sponsor of the flying offer was the United States Army Air Corps. The reason the army felt Southeastern students might be interested in the thirty-week course conducted at Tulsa had an ominous overtone. According to Lieutenant M. C. Whitehead, who came to Durant to explain the program, the filing period to enter the course vitally concerned male students at Southeastern since it was open to scholars who were already eligible for the draft. As the lieutenant had expected, SSC students already knew that the possibility of war had grown far greater. In response to the worsening relations between the United States and the Axis Powers, Congress had passed in September 1940, the Burke-Wadsworth Bill which had instituted the first peacetime draft in the nation's history.

By the time the army air corps recruiters visited the Southeastern campus, the United States already had a standing army of 1,600,000. On October 29, young men holding draft number 158 were called into active service; on the Southeastern campus, the number meant that Ralph L. Morris, a senior, had become the first

SSC man to be required to answer his nation's call to arms. By December 1940, President Montgomery had to call an assembly of all male students to hear an address from C. B. Sampson, the state educational coordinator for selective service. Even before Sampson spoke to the college men about what would happen to them if they were called into service, many graduates of the CAA course had already entered the military. Flying for the army and navy air corps by late 1940 were Guy Cooke, Gerald Nelson, Hugh Hall, and James Ed Douglass. Two former CAA cadets, Moran Morris and Dale Taylor, had even participated in the war effort against the Axis Nations by flying for the Royal Canadian Air Force.<sup>35</sup>

The Southeastern aviators and reservists were not the only students already active in efforts that reminded the campus that a war was raging in Europe and elsewhere over the globe. By 1941, coeds were taking an active role in ways to help the Allied Powers. On Armistice Day, 1941, sorority girls from the Alpha Sigma Tau and Pi Kappa Sigma chapters started "Southeastern Night," an evening set aside every month to work for the Red Cross at the Durant National Guard Armory. To show their support of the nations fighting Hitler and to participate in efforts for national "defense," the SSC coeds spent the night cutting bandages, basting dresses and shirts, and "doing anything that the Red Cross" had "for them to do."<sup>36</sup>

Yet, despite all the obvious military and war awareness on campus during 1939-1941, many SSC students and faculty did not think war was imminent in the late fall semester of 1941. Hitler had invaded Russia; England seemed to be holding its own; and on the other side of the world in the Pacific Ocean area, the United States and Japan were discussing their differences diplomatically. For a while in the latter months of 1941, it seemed that America might be forced to fight Japan to stop that nation's ambitions, but the Japanese had agreed to seek a peaceable solution to the volatile situation. As the *Southeastern* reported on November 12, 1941, in its article entitled "I Am An American," most SSC students and faculty wanted to remain free from the global conflict. According to the campus paper, "In these troubled times when all Europe is engaged in war, there are no sweeter words to speak than. . . I am an American. . . My homeland is at peace with the world for the present and will remain so unless we Americans think it is necessary to declare war to protect our freedom." In the opinion of the student press, the United States remaining outside the actual

fighting constituted "the only hope that civilization will not perish." As the students were dismissed for the 1941 Thanksgiving holidays, war was the last thing on their minds as they anticipated their days of freedom from academics. In an article entitled "Students Say Main Activity Will Be Eating," the campus paper related that a poll taken "forecasts a wonderful Thanksgiving for all." Most students intended to spend their time eating, resting, hunting, and visiting the "bright lights" of cities like Fort Worth, Dallas, and Oklahoma City.<sup>37</sup>

When classes resumed following the break, the faculty and students looked forward to the start of the basketball season. Although the football team under new head coach Dave Stevens had disappointed the blue and gold fans by winning only one game, Coach Bloomer Sullivan's roundballers were expected to bring excitement and another conference championship to Durant. Fans remembering the exciting exploits of the 1939-41 cage squads led by Austin Earnest and Carl Roblyer filled the STC gymnasium to see if the Savages would take another crown. The expectation did come true. The Savages, ignited by the play of All Americans Otho Curtis and L. T. "Cotton" Patton and All Conference performers Jason Frizzell, Cecil Hankins, and Otis Goodrich, defeated the Central State Broncos in the conference title game in March. The team, one of the finest in the school's history, ended as a runner-up in the national amateur tournament. But many of the males who were present on the campus in the fall were no longer there to celebrate the Savages' third consecutive basketball championship. As all Americans learned with shock, horror, and dismay, on December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor without warning. Because of the vast time change differences, President Montgomery, the faculty, and the student body went to church and had their usual good Sunday lunches. They were quite unprepared for John Daley's famous 3:00 P.M. broadcast on CBS radio of the disaster which had struck the Hawaiian Islands. Later broadcasts spelled out in great detail the devastation the unexpected attack had wrought; especially tear some on that day of American tragedy was the fact that one of the many front-line capital ships hit and sunk by the sneak Japanese attack was the *USS Oklahoma*. On Monday, December 8, President Montgomery canceled classes so that the campus community could hear Roosevelt's famous "Day Which Will Live in Infamy" speech asking for a declaration of war against Japan; Congress acted that afternoon.<sup>38</sup>

And, almost as quickly, the faculty and students of SSC reacted to the commander-in-chiefs call to arms. By Christmas

Day, 1941, many of the male students were preparing to answer their draft board's summons or had enlisted in the armed forces of the United States. Before the terrible conflict called World War II ended with the defeat of the Axis Powers, the war claimed thousands of American lives. As the male and female population responded to the war, the Student Council, led by President Charles Engles, immediately instigated an effort to keep track of the departing SSC soldiers, sailors, and flyers by starting an "Honor Roll" of those in service to the flag. Eventually, 1,159 names appeared on the Honor Roll. President Montgomery estimated that another 800 to 900 additional names were never reported in time to be published on the list. Among the first Savages to win medals for bravery were Captain Charley Bull and Chief Petty Officer Jack Byrom; their example would be followed hundreds of times by other SSC combatants. From time to time, the Honor Roll also sadly contained the names of Savages who would never return to the campus.<sup>39</sup>

Among those who paid the supreme sacrifice were Warren G. Collins, J. W. Dodson, Charles Franklin, Charles Locke, Moran Morris, Richard Moore, L. B. Pool, Leon Pollard, Bruce O. Gooding, John R. Steel, John & Montgomery, James White, Wesley Carter, Noble Flynn, Floyd F. Grant, Jack T. Parker, and Hugh Hall. The fate of the thirty-one other students listed as missing in action as the war concluded, regrettably, could not be ascertained by the author in sources used for this study. It should be noted, however, considering the confusion of the era, it is remarkable that the editors of the *Southeastern* reported the names of as many as they did. Finally, it must be emphasized that students were not the only Savages to serve their country in the military. Faculty members who joined the national colors were William Edwards, Jack N. Green, H. S. Bates, Haskell G. Clark, Leslie A. Dwight, John W. Morris, Eugene E. Slaughter, Allen E. Shearer, and Mildred Riling; football coach Dave Stevens, rejected for active military service, joined the CAA as an instructor and later enlisted in the Merchant Marine. (Names found - see footnote).<sup>40</sup>

Other faculty members and students served in helpful ways. In an article entitled "Faculty Women Do War Work," the *Southeastern* observed that many female professors were actively making clothes; teaching first aid, knitting, and physical fitness classes; baking cookies for GI's; taking courses like navigation, meteorology, civil air regulations, and first aid; collecting books to be sent to service clubs in the states and overseas; and tutoring boys in the navy reserve classes. Professor Sallie Leonard was kept very busy by her habit of writing hundreds of letters to her former

students in the war effort. Before he left for active service, Dean Shearer became the chairman for the southeastern Oklahoma district war stamp and bond sales. Members of the SSC faculty responded by pledging not less than 5 percent of their salaries in the money drives. SSC professors also took action by offering new courses aimed at helping the country's defense preparedness and military might. A few of the new courses offered at SSC included radio, physics, home nursing, auto mechanics, mechanical drawing, metal work and foundry, wood turning and patterning, civil defense, and a special intensive commercial course for secretaries, bookkeepers, and clerks. The faculty's greatest war contribution was, however, providing the main service for which the institution had been founded. During the conflict, Southeastern adopted "an accelerated teacher training program."<sup>41</sup>

The swift exodus, mostly males, to the military had an immediate and drastic effect on the number of students enrolled at SSC. The campus enrollment was further affected by many coeds who left to accept clerical and secretarial positions which opened by the thousands in Washington and elsewhere as the country went into full war production. In the fall of 1940, there were 1,081 students taking classes on the campus; by the fall of 1941, the partial mobilization had dropped the number to 854. By the fall of 1942, there were only 472 on campus; the lowest point came with the beginning of the 1944 academic year when 278 showed up for classes. At that point, SSC had approximately forty male students, comprised mostly of seventeen-year-olds and a few who had failed their physicals?<sup>42</sup>

But the coed-dominated student body kept their departed fellows informed that the institution continued to function in many normal ways. In an editorial entitled "There Will Always Be A Southeastern!," the school paper reported that many anxious alumni in the service had asked "about how the old school was carrying on." In answer the *Southeastern* replied, "Dear Yank: You don't have anything to worry about. You'd be proud if you were here to know how our school is carrying on." After stating how hard the dedicated faculty members were working, how fast teachers were being prepared in "a streamlined semester" plan, how many were taking physical fitness programs, and how well the college CAA and navy flight schools were turning out pilots at Eaker Field, the *Southeastern* stated, "In other words, your alma mater has gone to war . . . against Mr. Shicklegroober and one Hirohito." So, the paper remarked, "Don't worry Yank, Southeastern will be here when you come marching home."<sup>43</sup>

The editorial was entirely accurate and correct. The CAA and the navy flight reserve programs produced over two hundred pilots. The coed-led student body continued many campus traditions and organizations. During 1943-1946, Betty Scott Ramazetti, Dorothy Hammond Williams, and Ruth Crowley Williams respectively served as presidents of the student body in admirable fashion. Social events also continued; of course, most dances were "manless tag" affairs. The coeds started an annual "Stamp the Axis Week" in March of 1942. The week featured a "General MacArthur Dance"; the buying of victory stamps and bonds was encouraged; and patriotic assemblies were held. Meanwhile, many campus organizations like Boule held special events to raise money to purchase stamps and bonds, to collect books and magazines to be sent overseas, and to secure used clothing for shipment to devastated areas of Europe.<sup>44</sup>

Yet, some regular activities could not take place. Early in 1942, President Montgomery announced that the annual high school meet would not be held. After the fall of 1942, intercollegiate athletic squads were discontinued for the remainder of the war. In non-athletic areas, however, victories were recorded by SSC squads during the war years. Exhibiting "Savage Pride," Southeastern coeds continued the winning tradition in debate. Responding to an editorial entitled "Say, Sister:," in which the *Southeastern* asked the coeds to "keep our school on the map while the men are away," the girls of SSC proved that they were up to the challenge. During 1943-1945, Juadina Brock, Dorothy Bess Mullens, and Nell Ruth Crowley won many state and regional contests, including the lower Mississippi Province Championship of the Pi Kappa Delta debate fraternity. The female orators also won their divisions of the Savage Forensics during both debate

Shouts of joy, the ringing of church bells, and the blowing of car and factory horns could be heard by those attending SSC on September 2, 1945, as the Japanese signed the documents of surrender ending the world conflict; victory had come in Europe already on May 7. The "Yanks" would be coming home. At first, the president authorized the demobilization of two million servicemen; suddenly, the figure changed to thirteen million. Almost before they knew it, SSC and other colleges were faced with hundreds of male and female veterans wanting to go to college. Although President Montgomery and the faculty had made plans

for an increase in students as it became apparent the allies would win, the sudden collapse of the Japanese after the dropping of the atom bombs and the quick return of thousands of GI's could not have been anticipated by anyone. SSC was not ready for the sudden arrivals and neither was any other college or university. Furthermore, the new students were very different from the average males who had attended SSC before December of 1941. They were wiser, more mature in their outlook, more independent, older, and in a big hurry to get an education. Many of them had wives and children, or would soon have, and lots of children at that. In an editorial entitled "GI's Swell SSC Enrollment," the *Southeastern* reported that over one hundred had already arrived and were registered, "many choosing science, arts, and trade courses." President Montgomery and the faculty could expect many more to be on campus by the fall term of 1946.<sup>46</sup>

For once in the institution's history, a president could devote his attention to campus problems like the veterans presented and not have to worry about his job. The end of Oklahoma's stormy political-educational relationship had finally come during the war. Despite his insistence on legislative economy which had caused many administrators to cut back their budgets and programs, and his own political meddling in the internal affairs of several institutions, Governor Phillips, ironically, had led the way toward truly reforming the state's higher education system. After considering a recommendation from the State Coordinating Board in 1940 asking for the submission to the people of a constitutional amendment "to establish a coordinated system of higher education in Oklahoma," Phillips agreed; at a special election on March 11, 1941, the voters approved the amendment. On May 9, 1941, the governor signed House Bill No. 419 which "vitalized the constitutional amendment." In part the bill read:

Section 1. All institutions of higher education supported wholly or in part by direct legislative appropriations shall be integral parts of a unified system to be known as "The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education." . . .

Section 2. There is hereby established the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, consisting of nine (9) members.

The members of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall be citizens of the State, not less

than thirty-five years of age, and not employees or members of the staff or governing board of any constituent institution of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, nor shall any official or employee of the State of Oklahoma be eligible for such service while holding such other office or employment. . . .

The members shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate from the various sections of the State, and shall be removable only for cause, as provided by law for the removal of officers not subject to impeachment. . . .

Succinctly, the new amendment and bill meant that no other president of SSC or elsewhere depended upon his job because of political connections; reversely, a president could not lose his position because he did *not* have a governor's blessing.<sup>47</sup>

The state's first nine Regents took their job seriously and performed their assigned constitutional tasks admirably. For example, the Regents fully realized the problems the veterans presented for President Montgomery and all other state college presidents. The *Third Biennial Report of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education* published in June 1946, declared

Oklahoma colleges and universities today face the greatest opportunity in their history. Thousands of qualified young men and women for the first time have been provided the means to pursue higher studies by the GI Bill. It is estimated that as many as 75 to 80 percent of the young men who graduated from the nation's high schools during the last four years and who are qualified to attend college now have the financial means to do so; in contrast to less than 50 percent in prewar years. Mature and serious, many of them are seeking to make the most of their new opportunities.

Conversely, this opportunity has precipitated a serious emergency on college and university campuses. This *new demand* and the four-year backlog created by the war, in turn, are superimposed on a rising demand for higher education by high school graduates. Part of this increase is of long-term origin.<sup>48</sup>

By the time the report was published, President Montgomery could already see the Regents were correct in their assessment of the immediate future. In the spring of 1946 the enrollment grew to 1,156—by 1949 the campus cumulative population was 1,893. The most immediate problem the administration faced was where to put all these students. In 1945-1946, SSC remained the only one of six regional colleges that did not have dormitories. (See chapter VI.) Nevertheless, Southeastern's time had come. President Montgomery, a friend of Governor Robert S. Kerr and other influential politicians—one must remember the legislature still appropriated monies to the Regents—finally got the chance to exert his own powers of persuasion. From the time the war ended to his retirement in 1952, Montgomery spent much of his time in securing funds to upgrade the physical plant at SSC. And, his efforts were quickly rewarded. In 1946, the total book value of SSC's physical plant was \$784,358.55; when Montgomery retired in 1952, the value had increased to \$2,159,933.27.<sup>49</sup>

The need for housing for the married veterans was solved by the creation of what came to be called affectionately, and sometimes not so affectionately, "Vet Village." On March 6, 1946, a headline of the campus paper announced "GI Units Due At SSC Soon." As the article stated, the twenty units were to be utilized by the veterans and were allocated to Southeastern by the Federal Public Housing Authority. Built in sections at a war project factory at Bauxite, Arkansas, the one-story buildings could be hastily assembled, the paper reported, and were to be located north and to the west of the library. Twelve of the apartment-like structures had one bedroom, two had two bedrooms, and six had three bedrooms; all of them were fully furnished and would utilize gas, water, and electricity, which the college had promised to make available by the time the units arrived. Eventually, SSC had ninety-five such veteran apartments on the campus. Before they were torn down in the late seventies, hundreds of families and single students would call "Vet Village" their home.<sup>50</sup>

For its non-veteran students, the administration moved almost as quickly. In the next six years, major capital structures on the "Campus of a Thousand Magnolias" included a student union-women's dormitory complex at a cost of \$725,000; a home economics building at a cost of \$140,000; and an industrial arts building at a cost of \$185,200. Because the funds for a boys' dorm did not receive approval until 1953, Montgomery bought several of the

government's pre-fabricated units to serve temporarily for men's domiciles. Other campus improvements made by 1950 included:

Window sashes, equipment, acoustical tile, repairs and labor on Music Building, \$14,143; window sashes, light fixtures, materials and labor on Science Building, \$5,272; window sashes, asphalt tile, blackboard, weather strips, building materials and labor on Education Building, \$3,739; window sashes, roofing, ceramic tile, marble thresholds, materials and labor on Administration Building, \$10,531; window sashes, materials and labor on Library Building, \$1,339; furnishing and installing furniture and equipment in Home Economics-Biology Building, \$37,001; labor on repairing Men's Gymnasium, \$141; additions and repairs for Heating Plant, \$18,289; sidewalks on campus, \$540; other repairs and modernization in plans incomplete as of June 30, 1950, \$59,005.<sup>51</sup>

In his annual report to the Regents in 1952, President Montgomery said, "We are pleased to report on the use of State Bond issue funds in the amount of \$444,907. This fund was greatly needed and was a lifesaver to the college. As a result, all buildings are now in a good state of repair." The bond issue the president referred to was passed by a vote of the people of Oklahoma on September 27, 1949, to provide funds for capital improvements at all state institutions of higher learning. And, considering that funds had been needed desperately at SSC for nearly two decades, they were "a lifesaver." Among the improvements were:

Addition to Administration Building—\$296,139.62; addition to Industrial Arts Building—\$31,566.63; addition to Physical Education Building—\$906.41. Total for construction of buildings, \$328,612.66.

For repairs and modernization: Heating Plant—\$27,831.87; asphalt tile in Education and Administration Building—\$5,844.00; acoustical tile in Music Building—\$1,470.00; ceramic tile in Administration Building—\$7,932.00; recovering roof of Administration Building—\$1,430.00; window sashes, cords, screen repairs and weather stripping—\$973.29; marble

thresholds in Administration Building—\$384.00; replacing steps, running concrete floors and sidewalks—\$848.03; furnishing and installing electrical fixtures in Home Economics Building and Biology Department— \$7,383.34; blackboards—\$881.55; plumbing alterations—\$216.64; repair and alterations of President's Garage—\$618.53; water coolers—\$306.74; stoves for Home Economics—\$1,035.28; furniture and equipment for Home Economics and Biology—\$33,715.00; pianos—\$9,986.57; drapery material for Home Economics Building—\$93.65; remodeling china cabinet in Home Economics Building—\$120.00; materials used in repair and modernization of the Music Building, Science Building, Education Building, Library Building, and Administration Building—\$2,618.36; use of tuxpointing equipment—\$890.00; payrolls—brickmasons, tuxpointers, painters, carpenters, and other skilled workmen—\$11,415.49; architect's fee for repair and modernization program—\$300.00. Total for repair and modernization, \$116,294.34. Total from bond issue, \$444,907.00.<sup>52</sup>

Additionally, as the years went by, President Montgomery had more state funds for salaries and other institutional needs. This situation too was a "lifesaver." While President Montgomery paid attention to the physical needs of the campus, Dean Shearer worked to upgrade the faculty, the academic programs, and the library in order that Southeastern might be reaccredited with the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities—a necessary step if the institution's degrees were to be recognized on a par with thousands of other institutions throughout the nation. Increased appropriations were a crucial factor in the evaluation process. For the 1945-1946 fiscal year, Southeastern received \$154,300.62 in state funds for its operational budget—which included salaries, wages, maintenance, communications, travel, heat-light power, water, repairs to equipment, and repairs to buildings; in fiscal year 1947-1948 the Regents allocated \$192,406.00. BY 1951-1952 the SSC allotment for its operations budget from House Bill No. 33 had risen to \$310,500.00.<sup>53</sup>

Supplemental funds that SSC utilized came from the Veteran's Administration; for example, the amount appropriated to SSC in 1947-1948 was \$164,402.21 for educational and general college

purposes for the 519 veterans on campus. A portion of the funds went to pay the costs of maintaining a campus veterans' bureau. To provide the space needed by John C. Glenn, the director of the veterans guidance center, and his staff, President Montgomery had to have several classrooms on the first floor of the administration building converted into office space. A few of the many services provided for the veterans included vocational guidance, placement counseling, educational advisement, and personal adjustment counseling.<sup>54</sup>

With the increase in revenues, President Montgomery and Dean Shearer were able to attract new faculty with higher academic qualifications. In 1945 as the war ended, there were only three who held a Ph.D. degree on campus; by the time the president retired in 1952, the number had increased to ten. Furthermore, the additional monies had permitted the administration to again pursue the policy of sabbatical leave for those faculty members who wished to do graduate work on a terminal degree. As a result, by 1952 there were several of SSC's faculty who were nearing completion of their doctoral programs. With the increased funds, the vast improvement in teaching credentials of the faculty, and an excellent library, Dean Shearer informed the president in early 1948 that SSC was prepared to meet all the requirements for admittance into the North Central Association. A review team soon proved the dean of the college was right. A banner headline of the *Southeastern* on April 6, 1949, proclaimed, "SSC Becomes NCA Member: Dr. Shearer, Dr. Montgomery, Attend North Central Meeting." As the paper reported, the benefit for the students attending SSC, gained by the institution's successful bid for entrance into the North Central, was tremendous.<sup>55</sup>

Elated, Dr. Shearer explained that henceforth Southeastern students will be accepted nationwide without condition in any professional school or other institution of higher learning, that SSC graduates could teach in any school recognized by the association, that Southeastern organizations will again be able to affiliate with national organizations, and "Southeastern will have more prestige." Henceforth, students who excelled in the classroom and in campus activities would be able to take their rightful places among the "Who's Who In American Colleges and Universities." Also elated, Dr. Montgomery, who had gone to Chicago to accept the association's offer of admittance, declared to the student body and faculty, "The acceptance is one of the finest things that has

ever happened to Southeastern in the history of the college." Of course, SSC's affiliation made it easier for Dr. Montgomery and Dean Shearer to attract quality faculty members; SSC needed more faculty. In 1945 the institution could barely justify the employment of fifty faculty members. By 1952 the number of permanent professors numbered over seventy.<sup>56</sup>

As alluded to previously, the second world war had inflicted a non-physical casualty on the Durant campus. The college catalog for 1945-1946 pictured a beautiful Magnolia blossom with the slogan "The Campus of a Thousand Magnolias." The reason for the change in its institutional motto was directly related to America's entrance into the second world war. Unfortunately for SSC, the national symbol of Japan was the rising sun. As SSC students fought and died in the terrible conflict, it seemed totally inappropriate to many at that time for the college to be referred to as "The School of the Rising Sun." Although the administration did not ban the name and editorials in the paper continued to occasionally use the motto, the slogan quietly faded from use. Since the 1946-1947 academic year was the beginning of a new postwar era, the decision was made to choose a new campus motto. And, since one of the most unique and beautiful aspects of the campus was the hundreds of Magnolia trees that had been originally transported from the state of Mississippi and later grown from seed by Professor E. B. Robbins, it was quite natural and fitting that the school should hereafter be called "The Campus of a Thousand Magnolias."<sup>57</sup>

There can be no doubt that the postwar period was not only a time of physical, numerical, and academic growth but also a period when it was exciting and fun to attend college throughout the nation. As the *Southeastern* stated in early 1946 in an editorial entitled "Everything's Buzzing," the return of a full schedule of classes and activities for students already had started; a major difference which "the shift to peacetime" brought to SSC was noticed in the library where "the place was full and running over with men, women, men, faculty members, and men!" Furthermore, the paper bemoaned the fact that "we couldn't rush through enrollment lines because they were so long." As the aforementioned attendance figures indicate, the long lines would be a permanent fact of life on the campus — and they would only get longer until the 1952 academic year when President Montgomery retired. The January 1946 editorial also remarked that it was apparent "the new spirit in business at the college cafeteria . . . the traffic

walking in the halls. . . the earnest work of the Student Council in preparing an activity program, the opening of the basketball season, and that little matter of classwork, meant we have really been putting on the steam to get the semester running right." Once begun, the years 1945-1952 became especially an event-filled, halcyon time to attend SSC.<sup>58</sup>

There can be no doubt, moreover, that the returning male population's presence was fully appreciated. An editorial entitled "Men Are Welcome," proclaimed, "It is a man's world again at Southeastern. It was fun for a while with women having the entire running of the student government. . . they were super. But it is a good feeling having the men back helping to run things." Nevertheless, the paper did warn "just don't forget, guys, that women still have a pretty big finger in the official pie." Despite the warning, SSC returned to its tradition of males sitting in the president's chair of the Student Council with the election of David L. Williams for the 1946-1947 academic year—a tradition which has not yet been broken. The plethora of activities sponsored by the student government and other organizations was unprecedented. Joining established clubs like Boule, the Latin Society, Blue Key and Cardinal Key, the College Players, and the Los Pan Americanos (the Spanish Club), were such new groups as the Veterans Club, the Art Club, the Agriculture Club, the Hell Hounds, the Presidents' Club, the Lettermen's Club, the Tribes Council, the Inter-Fraternity Council, the International Relations Club, the Inter-collegiate Rodeo Club, the Disc Jockey Club, the Women's Athletic Club (WAA), and Acacia.<sup>59</sup>

Although many of the purposes of the new organization were self-evident, perhaps six should be explained. The Presidents' Club was composed of the leaders of all recognized campus charter groups. The group met once a month with President Montgomery to plan such important events as the Beaux Arts Ball, Cardinal Key's Arbor Day, the Friendship Fire, and the Homecoming Parade. The Inter-Fraternity Council served as "a campus go-between or governor," of the campus Greek societies, Sigma Tau Gamma, Pi Kappa Sigma, Phi Sigma Epsilon, and Alpha Sigma Tau. The Tribes Council organized to promote the interest of the students and faculty of Indian descent by fostering fellowship "and preserving those pertinent facts concerning the well-being of the Indian past, present and future." The Acacia was an association of Masons who desired to remain active in spite of being away from their home lodges. The Disc Jockey Club was dedicated to "all for

fun—fun for all.” In pursuit of their ideals of “music, rhythm, and leadership,” the Disc Jockey Club showed the campus how to “swing and sway and do the jitterbug.” The club also demanded that a juke box be a permanent fixture somewhere on campus. The Hell Hounds’ reason for existence was mainly to promote “PEP” at Savage athletic events. Wearing black and orange jackets with “Hell Hounds” across the back and often carrying paddles to use on their “unruly pledges,” the Hell Hounds, *The Savage* (annual) said, “brought with their creation all the fight and spirit of Joe College.” Besides their spirited antics at athletic events and pep rallies, the Hell Hounds fostered “Savage pride” by holding rush parties, constructing homecoming floats, and holding banquets, picnics, dances, and Lake Texoma fishing parties; the pledges of the spirit club were required to help keep the campus beautiful by picking up all cigarette butts they found on the grounds.<sup>60</sup>

Fraternal societies enjoyed a rebirth following the war’s end. Soon, hundreds of students went to rush parties hoping to impress the membership into offering them a bid. The males who pledged could look forward to carrying paddles and pledge books at all times on campus; the coeds who joined the sororities could expect to carry wooden anchors or other identifying symbols and wear one ribbon garter in the respective society’s colors on the lower calf. In the postwar period, the fraternal groups sponsored many formal and informal dances, banquets, and occasions. The party goers dressed in tuxedos or beautiful evening gowns, and the ballrooms were elaborately decorated with flowers, ribbons, balloons, and festive art work. Other campus organizations often sponsored similar events.<sup>61</sup>

Among the most attended campus-wide social occasions during the 1945-1952 years were Monday night Disc Jockey dances, the Beaux Arts Costume Ball, the Homecoming parade and dance, and Sadie Hawkins Week. The Beaux Arts Costume Ball climaxed a week of frenzied activity in the gym in which different organizations constructed booths, designed costumes, prepared skits, and sponsored the painting of murals—the entire ball revolved around a central theme. For example, the 1947 ball had as its emphasis the United Nations. For the gala night, thirteen different sections of the gym were decorated in scenes from different countries; among the entrants depicted were a Swiss country home, a French sidewalk cafe, an Arabian market and tent, and an Armenian village. A floor show presented by the music and drama departments, refreshments endemic to the various countries, a costume contest,

the crowning of a Beaux Arts queen and king, and the judging of the best mural completed the evening many would remember as the most exciting night of their stay on campus.<sup>62</sup>

Sadie Hawkins Week, “originating from the occasion which occurs annually in Dogpatch, Kentucky, on November 4, through the medium of Al Capp’s comic strip of Li’l Abner,” was actually started in 1940 prior to the war. The postwar students brought it back in full force at SSC. According to the *Southeastern*, “the period has become a boon to bashful males and lonely coeds in colleges the nation over.” For the entire week, usually celebrated at Southeastern in January, “the girl takes the initiative in making dates, calling for the shy Li’l Abners, buying the show tickets and refreshments, and seeing them home safely.” The week-long celebration started with a Sadie Hawkins race with all contestants wearing appropriate “Dogpatch” attire. The week of turn-about concluded with an “Overall and Apron Frolic Dance.” Other activities of Sadie Hawkins Week usually included a lyceum program night, and the playing of a male or female high school basketball tournament.<sup>63</sup>

The biggest and most permanent social change that occurred on campus during the 1945-1952 years, and the one that affected the college forever afterwards, was the formal dedication of the women’s dormitory-student union complex on September 5, 1949, at the beginning of what the *Southeastern* called “a glorious year.” Present at the dedication ceremony for the \$725,000 edifice were honored guests Governor Roy J. Turner, Regent Rector H. Swearingin of Durant, other members of the Regents, area solons, and Durant business and civic leaders. There can be no adequate description of the joy and sense of accomplishment President Montgomery, the faculty, the student body, and all SSC loyalists felt on that day; Southeastern had waited over ten years longer than any other state college, through no real fault of its own, for the opening of the first permanent dormitory on the campus. After Governor Turner cut the ribbon, visitors toured the dorm which could house 330 coeds.<sup>64</sup>

The combined cost of room and board per student to stay in the building, which the *Southeastern* compared to the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, varied between \$34 and \$48 per month, depending upon whether the student chose to stay in a one, two, or three person room, a four to six person lounge room, or the thirty-four person club room. Residents could also save \$2 a month if they did not eat in the cafeteria on weekends. But there was much more to the



complex than the colorful and well-furnished dorm rooms. The remainder of the building featured a dining hall for the entire campus; a ballroom complete with stage, fluorescent lighting, and loud speakers; a college bookstore; and a coffee shop. Soon after the fall term began, the coffee shop became known as "The Brown Jug." And, one of the first and few things the students found to complain about was that the shop did not have a juke box. In response to the demands voiced late in December before the Christmas vacation, the students returned to the campus in January to find that President Montgomery had the desired machine already in place. The elation felt by the opening of the women's dorm (to be named later in honor of Professor Hallie McKinney), was further enhanced later in the **1949-1950** academic year with the opening of SSC's new home economics building. The two-story structure had rooms designed for studying and working with textiles, foods, nursing, sewing, clothing, and home management. Features of the building, called "Professor Lucy Leonard's dream," included floors of quarry tile and terrazzo.<sup>65</sup>

While the opening of the new dorms and buildings created a vibrant, expansive mood on the "Campus of a Thousand Magnolias," they also caused additional problems for President Montgomery when it came time to prepare his annual budget for the Regents. Under the Enabling Act, which vitalized the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in **1941**, the Regents were given power to allocate all funds to the various institutions. Consequently, the Regents immediately began to require that all college presidents submit a proposed operating budget annually. During the war years, the vastly reduced enrollments kept the budget fairly simple to calculate. Southeastern's funds came mainly from legislative appropriations and the few fees charged. However, after the war, the budget became increasingly complex, and the president's duties in financial affairs became more intricate. Also, in **1948**, supervision and justification for revenues and expenditures came under closer scrutiny than in the past. In that year, the voters of Oklahoma adopted another constitutional amendment creating a separate governing entity called the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges. As the *Fourth Biennial Report of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education* stated, "It is now apparent that they [Oklahomans] want their educational institutions removed as far as possible from political interference as is evidenced by the adoption of three constitutional amendments since **1944** providing for long-term, continuing, constitutional

boards of regents over all but three colleges." Southeastern's supervision was administered by the new Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges. According to their constitutional mandate, the new Board met monthly, usually on the campus of one of the six regional institutions.<sup>66</sup>

In the beginning, the new Board faced a wealth of problems. First, despite the creation of the State Regents in **1941**, at times politics still clouded many issues in higher education. In essence, in the early days of the new Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, state politicians still presumed they could exert political influence on the decisions of the members. But from the start, this Board, mainly non-political, hard-nosed business people, refused to be swayed from their constitutional duty. One of the very responsible new Board members was Durant's own Rector Swearingin. The critical test for the new Board came when the presidency at Central State became vacant. The state press openly predicted the appointment of a person who had wealth and political influence on his side. Taking their oaths seriously, the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges surprised everyone, including the state's major newspapers; the presidency went to Max Chambers, a qualified and non-political candidate. With this decision, state politicians learned a new day had finally dawned in higher education in Oklahoma.<sup>67</sup>

For President Montgomery and all the other regional presidents, this meant they had two different constitutional authorities to watch their handling of administrative affairs. Specifically, the **1948** Board's powers over SSC were "to establish administration policies, to provide general supervision and control of the institution, and to approve financial and personnel matters of the institution upon the recommendation of the . . . president." For any college president among the six area institutions, the Board's powers also meant the end of selecting faculty on the basis of political patronage. Although certainly the system of politics which had dominated education in Oklahoma since statehood could not be immediately overcome, the reform had been set in motion.<sup>68</sup>

President Montgomery's financial responsibilities became more burdensome as a result of the Twenty-First Oklahoma Legislature passing a law establishing a general student fee system for state higher education. Henceforth, Montgomery and the other area college presidents had to keep very careful and detailed information regarding enrollment at their institutions. This was extremely important because the Regents for Higher Education

took into consideration the estimated enrollment, and, therefore, the fees the school should collect internally, in its revenue allocations for the following fiscal year. Furthermore, the amount of state appropriations allocated to an institution depended upon the number of students enrolled.<sup>69</sup>

President Montgomery and the remainder of the college presidents were literally placed in a race for students—quantity, not quality, was the criteria chosen for state revenue appropriations. In defense of this system it must be said, however, that there was really no impartial way to determine the merit of a school's needs. And, certainly it was a better way to appropriate money than one based on personalities and/or politics the dominant factors in the pre-constitutional Board years. Also, the Board did take other factors into consideration when judging institutional requests. For example, the Board granted SSC several new buildings in swift fashion after the war because the school clearly needed the facilities compared with the other five regional colleges. SSC's sister institutions undoubtedly had good reasons for additional buildings, but Southeastern's requests deserved priority treatment. As discussed previously, the institution had waited many years longer for basic housing units and other campus structures than the other schools. If SSC was to survive and compete, the Board recognized that the college must have its immediate attention.<sup>70</sup>

The new dorm, cafeteria, coffee shop, and ballroom further complicated Montgomery's financial management of Southeastern. The new facilities came under the heading of auxiliary enterprises. Thus, the liquidation of debts regarding such buildings was strictly an internal campus concern; they were to be self-liquidating through the collection of room and board fees and other charges in connection with the use of the structures. For the president, the badly needed facilities certainly added additional worries. Therefore, if the dorms did not fill as everyone expected, the debt could not be met or satisfied. And, if Southeastern did not meet its obligations, the institution's default would fall squarely on Montgomery's shoulders.<sup>71</sup>

Old-timers who remembered the great expansion program completed by President Bennett in the twenties were fond of saying, "Dr. Bennett always said, 'Let's build it and worry how to pay for it later.'" But, that day was gone forever by 1948; President Montgomery had to worry about "how to pay for it before he built it." If a school did not collect the anticipated revenues from student fees, the funds available for that fiscal year simply fell short. What

to do about the shortfall was the president's decision. The amount charged for student fees in 1947-1948 was \$3 per semester hour for residents and \$8 for nonresidents. Additionally, President Montgomery knew that "in self-liquidating projects financed by revenue bonds, rather than state appropriations" there existed "a practical limit to this type of construction which, in the last analysis, is really paid for by students attending college." The Regents also realized that "the state cannot continue very much longer to avoid its responsibility to provide classrooms, laboratory and other facilities which cannot be financed with revenue bonds."<sup>72</sup>

Although SSC needed the housing facility, there was reason for Dr. Montgomery to be concerned. There was still much resistance in the community to the dorms; some felt that spending money for a new cafeteria and student union complete with ballroom was a big and silly waste of money. Realizing this, the college Board set aside a contingency fund of \$80,000 which SSC could use if the dorms did not fill. But, to Montgomery's relief, the people who believed the structure was not needed were very wrong. From the start, the dorms were packed to capacity, the cafeteria became a profitable success, and the ballroom was booked solid for many meetings, large banquets, and parties.<sup>73</sup>

There were many reasons, besides the capital improvements, for Southeastern loyalists to be exuberant in the late forties. Savage athletic teams won several championships and finished other seasons high in the conference standings. Under Coach Dave Stevens' guidance, the 1946 football team won the conference crown for the first time in twenty-one years. The feat was made all the more exhilarating by the fact that the squad had to defeat East Central on Thanksgiving Day at Ada to clinch the title. According to the *Southeastern*, "a crowd of SSC fans, looking almost like Durant en masse," jammed Ada's Norris Field to watch "a first-rate, nail-chewing" ballgame that was "nip and tuck all the way." Southeastern fans did not have to wait two decades for another championship; the 1947 squad won seven games, tied one, and lost only to Hardin College of Wichita Falls, Texas, en route to another conference title. The successful season was climaxed by James D. "Peep" Harris being named to the first-team small college All-American squad—"the highest honor ever bestowed on a Southeastern football athlete." Although the 1948 team had to settle for a co-championship, the Savages were selected to play in the Texoma Bowl at Denison, Texas. The appearance, against Ouachita

College of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, was the first time a Southeastern football team had played in a post-season bowl game. In the contest held on December 10, the Savages lost by one point. During the years 1949-1952, the **1949** and **1950** teams produced the best records, finishing second in the conference race both years.<sup>74</sup>

Southeastern cagers often duplicated the championship efforts of the football players. When Coach Bloomer Sullivan's **1945-1946** roundballers won the conference title for the fourth consecutive time under his direction, they received an invitation to play in the National Intercollegiate Tournament at Kansas City. After defeating Penn State Teachers College of Nebraska, the Savages were sent home by Eastern Washington College in the second round. The following season Savage fans packed the "Snake Pit" to watch Troy Webb and Gene Jones lead the **1946-1947** team to a fifth straight championship; that year, the Savages made it to the quarterfinals at Kansas City. But, the string of titles finally stopped in **1947-1948** when East Central won the laurels. Still, "Southeastern's surprising Savages" came back to win the post-season state AAU tournament and take another trip to Denver; again, the Durant team stopped their season one game short of the national finals. In the next four years, **1948-1952**, the Savage basketball squads featured several fine performers such as Troy Webb, Kirby Minter, and Joe Hemphill, and won a vast majority of their games. However, only one other championship trophy was added to the "Snake Pit's" glass awards cases. Featuring the play of **L. D. Mahoney** and Earl Curtis, the 1951-52 squad ended the four-year drought of non-title seasons. But just playing for the Savages and their respected coach was enough to make any young man proud. Commenting on this fact to the author, Dr. Don Parham, the captain of the championship squad and Southeastern's present Athletic Director, said:

Playing basketball under Bloomer Sullivan was a unique experience. Most of us were from Southeastern Oklahoma high schools and we were thrilled to get to come here. What we found was a coach who was tougher than nails, but was a great basketball teacher and a stern disciplinarian. He worked our tails off, fed us sack lunches, and we loved it. We thought we could beat anyone and we were darn near right. He taught us to win on and off the court. We learned valuable lessons about the importance of hard work to success in life. There will never be another one like the "coach."<sup>75</sup>

In the minor team sports, Southeastern had several excellent squads in the late forties and early fifties. Coach Clarence Dyer's tennis teams began to win conference championships—a feat which SSC fans would come to expect with regularity for the next twenty plus years. As the **1948-1949** campus paper declared, "Southeastern received much more than an able industrial arts instructor when it procured Clarence Dyer in the summer of **1946**." The **1946-1947** Savages, led by Warren Womble, who won the singles title, and R. L. Johnson, captured Southeastern's third conference crown that spectacular year for athletics. Dyer's men repeated their winning performance several times from **1947-1952**. Other outstanding tennis athletes of the **1946-1952** era included Rick Green, Bruce Balek, Harlowe Binning, Ken Lewis, Max Prewitt, and Cecil Duncan. SSC track squads also produced fine records during that era. The **1946-1947** and **1947-1948** cindermen finished second in the conference race; Arthur "Skinny" Stewart, John Green, Merle Harrel, Don Nolan, Lee Allen, Moon Stinson, Dick Allen, James Byers, and W. O. Hawkins sparked the efforts of Coach Dave Stevens' teams in those years.<sup>76</sup>

In addition to athletics, Southeastern fans watched SSC students win other important contests in the postwar years. The greatest single moment for Savage pride came when Gerald Sanders and Scotty Nobles won the United States National Debate Championship Meet held at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. In honor of their achievement, one of Southeastern's most famous alumni and a former champion debater, General Ira C. Eaker, came from Washington to preside over a campus victory celebration. Furthermore, Eaker presented Sanders and Nobles the Adolph Linscheid Forensic Trophy for their accomplishment. The trophy, awarded annually to the most outstanding SSC debaters, had been established the previous year by General Eaker in honor of Linscheid, his great oratorical coach. Nobles and Sanders also received the Carl Albert Award, a cash scholarship given annually to an SSC student debater by the United States congressman from McAlester. Other students who won many honors in the annual Savage Forensics and Intercollegiate meets during the postwar period, under the direction of Coach T. A. "Uncle Tom" Houston, included Nell Ruth Crowley, Juidina Stallings, Jo Anderson, Lou Ellen May, Jack Carter, Gorman Smith, Frank Pounders, Joyce Hagen, and Collin Bowen.<sup>77</sup>

Meanwhile, SSC's campus life literally blossomed with renewed activities and exciting changes. For the first time in two decades, the 1946-1947 students published an annual. The new volume entitled *The Savage* was produced by a staff led by editor John Clark. The college went on the airwaves of radio station KSEO for the first time in a program called "Southeastern Speaks." Traditional events like Senior Day, which brought over fifteen hundred high school pupils to the campus, and the High School Track and Curriculum Contest, which had hundreds of participants, became annual occurrences again.<sup>78</sup>

The 1947-1948 Southeastern band appeared at parades and ballgames dressed in snappy new gold and blue uniforms, complete with plumes, white gloves, and gold braids. Also, the band grew larger and more proficient every year. By 1952 Durant citizens and SSC students and faculty enjoyed concerts played in Southeastern's beautifully landscaped Greek amphitheater. Several days were set aside each year for the observation of special new events. For example, in the 1946-1947 academic year, the annual celebration of Arbor Day was begun; on that day, Cardinal Key and Blue Key scholastic fraternities led students in planting trees on the campus. Audiences at Southeastern were treated to the ever-expanding program presented by the music and drama departments. The 1948-1949 academic year, for instance, was the first time the Southeastern Ballet Dancers appeared on stage in the classical program "Ballet in Vert." Plays such as *The Fortune Teller* and *Night Must Fall* delighted many spectators in the school's auditorium. When the music, art, and speech departments were not preparing their own productions, the faculty held band and choral festivals attended by thousands of public school pupils on the campus during the postwar era. The author would like to note, at this point, that a more vivid description of campus life and happenings for the years 1950-52 was impossible to present to the reader. This situation resulted, unfortunately, from the fact that no *Southeasterns* are extant for those years. Thankfully, this three-year gap is the only missing period in the campus newspaper's existence.<sup>79</sup>

But not everything that happened at SSC brought joy and excitement to the campus. One specific occasion must have made everyone on the campus shudder and feel apprehensive. In December of 1949, President Montgomery welcomed the arrival of Dr. No-Yong Park, "a noted writer, lecturer, and outstanding authority on Asiatic problems," to the campus for a special evening

address to the students, the faculty, and the Durant community. Park's speech entitled "Red Shadow Across Asia," warned those present that America could expect problems in that troubled part of the world. At the time Park gave his lecture, SSC had only sixty-four veterans enrolled in classes; and, most of those last remaining students who had taken their places in their nation's service in war were scheduled to graduate that year."

The future would see the number of veterans at Southeastern increased once more. But first, the institution experienced declining enrollments in the period 1951-1954. Tragically, Park's December lecture in 1949 proved to be all too true. In June 1950, North Korea crossed the thirty-eighth parallel into South Korea, an American protectorate. Once again, President Montgomery and the faculty watched "the flower of American youth go to war, even though it was called a police action. In the middle of the Korean War, at the age of seventy, President Montgomery stepped down as SSC's chief executive after thirteen years of capable and efficient management. The progress Southeastern had made under his tenure would continue. Montgomery had guided the institution safely through a dangerous political situation in 1939-1941; he had kept the school functioning and responding admirably through the second world war; and, he had used his influence and intelligence to bring rapid progress to the campus after the war's conclusion. Without his presence, it is doubtful that SSC would have survived its plight in the decade of the thirties. Although he had been a political appointee, he was, as many said, "a wise old owl." He only used politics to further his most cherished goals, the physical salvation of Southeastern State College and the education of its students. Southeastern's last politically-active president, ironically, had been one of its finest.

**The Years of Change, 1952 - 1967:  
President Allen E. Shearer**

The Sixth Biennial Report of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for the period ending June 30, 1952, had a new name on its list of presidents for the state regional colleges; effective July 1, 1952, Dr. Allen E. Shearer became Southeastern State College's thirteenth chief executive officer. Shearer was certainly no stranger to the "Campus of a Thousand Magnolias" having first arrived in Durant in 1938 at the age of thirty-six as the new dean of the college. For the next fourteen years he continuously served under two presidents in that capacity, except for the three years he spent on active duty as a naval officer during World War II. His appointment as SSC's chief executive surprised few people; it seemed quite natural that the Dean should be the person chosen. And, although he came to SSC with "no thought of ever being president," he welcomed the opportunity the Regents offered him.<sup>1</sup>

While the Regents reportedly considered other candidates, the Dean's selection was virtually preordained. For one thing, the Alabama native was academically highly qualified. In a period when many institutional executives did not possess advanced degrees, Shearer had been a Ph.D. for fifteen years. He was also a recognized specialist in college curriculum and faculty development. As a result of his long tenure at Durant, no one knew better the problems confronting the school and southeastern Oklahoma. Personally, he was well liked on the campus and in the community, having been a leader in the Methodist Church, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Lions Club for many years. Under his guidance as dean, the college had made substantial progress in its scholastic programs and in the professional qualifications of its faculty. When not working to upgrade the faculty and the academic accreditation of the institution, Shearer had found time to give advice and encouragement to many students and campus organizations. In fact, the one public remark Shearer made when he learned about his appointment as Southeastern's new president was, "My one regret is that I will not be working as closely with students." Actually, as the future proved, despite the great demands of his new office, Shearer still gladly and willingly attended many student functions. Perhaps most important, in the three or

four years prior to President Montgomery's retirement, Shearer had in many ways functioned as the school's chief executive. When the Regents held their monthly meetings or when the legislature required the presence of the state's college presidents, Montgomery often sent Shearer to represent Southeastern's interests. Consequently, on many occasions Shearer had conducted himself admirably while performing tasks of a presidential nature.<sup>2</sup>

Born in Gaylesville, Alabama, on June 24, 1902, to A. V. and Eva Carter Shearer, the new president spent almost his entire childhood in the state of Georgia. Accordingly, throughout his life he always referred to himself as a Georgia native. While his family "struggled with the hard economic times in rural Georgia," Shearer began his formal education at Gaylesville Baptist Academy. Concerning his early schooling, Shearer once remarked, "It always seemed extremely paradoxical to me that I attended a private church school in the primary grades and at the freshman college level, when my entire adult career has been in public institutions." About the time Shearer was ready to enter high school, his family moved to Lyerly, Georgia. Here, SSC's future president attended his first public school, Lyerly High. By the year he graduated, Shearer had already determined what lifelong occupation he wished to pursue. "The choice came naturally," the new president once said, "both my grandfathers and my mother had attended college and then entered the teaching profession. As I progressed in school and became an honor student, I realized that my educational endeavors were the most exciting thing in my life, and I should follow their examples."<sup>3</sup>

In quest of a career in education, Shearer first entered Young-Harris College. At the small, private institution located in Georgia, the young scholar found "the classes were small, the teachers exceptionally dedicated, the academic curriculum very demanding, and the standards extremely high for that time." For his experiences at the Methodist church college, Shearer was ever grateful. "The professors there taught me how to study," Shearer told the author, "and instilled within me the philosophy that if one survived the training he would do well in society. Certainly, it was one of the finest things that ever happened to me that I went to that institution." After receiving his life certificate at the end of his second year—a nationally accepted standard during the 1920s—financial considerations made it necessary that he accept a teaching position rather than enter graduate school full time. Yet, while

serving as principal of Rockville Academy, an accredited and consolidated rural school in Eaton, Georgia, Shearer began commuting to classes at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee. In 1924 he finished his B.A. degree at Lincoln Memorial and accepted the superintendency of a small, rural school in South Carolina. The following year, at the age of twenty-three, he became the superintendent of schools in Butler, Georgia. Simultaneously, Shearer began work toward and eventually acquired a master's degree in education by attending summer sessions at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. In the summer of 1929, he moved to Florida to become the supervising principal of a consolidated school system. For professional reasons, Shearer preferred never to name the town when he discussed this particular part of his life.<sup>4</sup>

After a short while on the job during the late summer of 1929, the young administrator suddenly resigned prior to the start of the new school year because of a conflict between principles and expediency. Hired to be the person in the superintendent's office in charge of employing personnel, the young administrator told the board at the time of his employment that he could not tolerate outside influence if the system was to excel. To his dismay, nevertheless, when Shearer recommended the employment of two new teachers at his first formal meeting with the board, several members informed him that privately they had promised the positions to two local people; when the board remained adamant, Shearer tendered his resignation effective immediately. Even though the board quickly acquiesced and promised no further interference, the young educator had already found another job as superintendent of the Carrabelle, Florida, school system. His new employers fully understood Shearer's determination not to allow them or any board to force him to follow any policies he believed were wrong or unproductive. Further, he would hire only the best people he could find regardless of their background or influence. Having made this personal commitment, Shearer followed his beliefs throughout his professional life.

After six happy and productive years at Carrabelle, in 1935 Shearer became the assistant Superintendent of the Tallahassee school district. Upon the completion of a one-year internship, he was elevated to the superintendency of the Tallahassee schools; however, he never actually took office. Instead, he accepted an offer to become the director of the curriculum laboratory and an instructor of education at George Peabody College for Teachers in

Nashville, Tennessee. Because he had already begun work toward his Ph.D. at Peabody during summer breaks, the young administrator jumped at the chance to join the faculty of the Nashville school. Although he hated to give up his position as chief executive of the large Tallahassee school system, the offer from Peabody would allow him to be paid while meeting the one-year-campus-residency requirement for a doctorate—an opportunity too rare to be rejected.

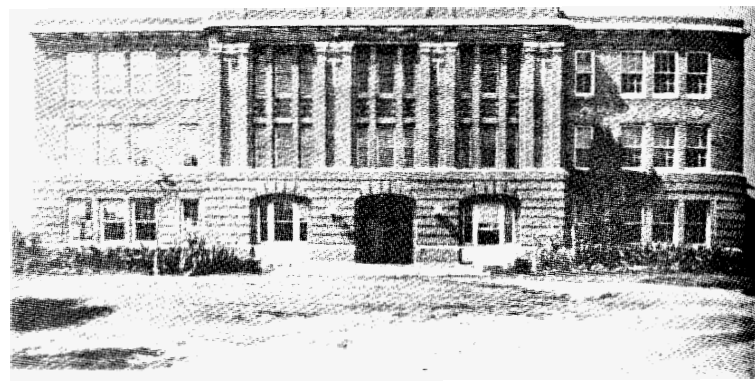
Upon completion of his terminal degree, Shearer became a professor of education, specializing in teacher qualification and curriculum development, at Georgia State Teachers College in Statesboro, Georgia. Happy and secure in his new position, Shearer had no thoughts of ever leaving Georgia. But, someone he had met in graduate school would soon change his mind and convince him to move west. Hugh Vance Posey, of Hugo, Oklahoma, and the Georgia educator had become fast friends at Peabody. In the summer of 1937 while still a graduate student in Nashville, Posey was elected as president of Southeastern State College. Posey instantly began to apply pressure on his friend to accompany him to Oklahoma and use his academic specialities to help him run the institution. Posey meant what he said—Shearer's title would be dean of the college, Posey informed his friend. Being warned by his associates and professors at Peabody about Oklahoma's nationwide reputation for gubernatorial and legislative meddling in the academic affairs of the state's institutions of higher learning, Shearer reluctantly refused Posey's offer. But SSC's new president ignored the rejection and continued to write and call Shearer during the 1937 academic year. Finally, the Alabama native acquiesced to Posey's pleas and agreed to come and visit the institution at Durant.<sup>5</sup>

Remembering his impressions about his visit to Oklahoma, Shearer recalled, "I instantly liked the city and the region. I could see that if I accepted the job it would be quite a challenge for me to use my training and what God-given talents I possessed to assist Vance Posey in bringing a better quality of life and academic excellence to Southeastern State College." Therefore, Shearer left Georgia for good in 1938 and started on the road which eventually led him to the presidency of SSC. It should be noted that he did not make the journey alone. Enthusiastically following him every step of the way, as she had done since their marriage in 1926, was Shearer's wife, Mildred. The new dean of Southeastern had first

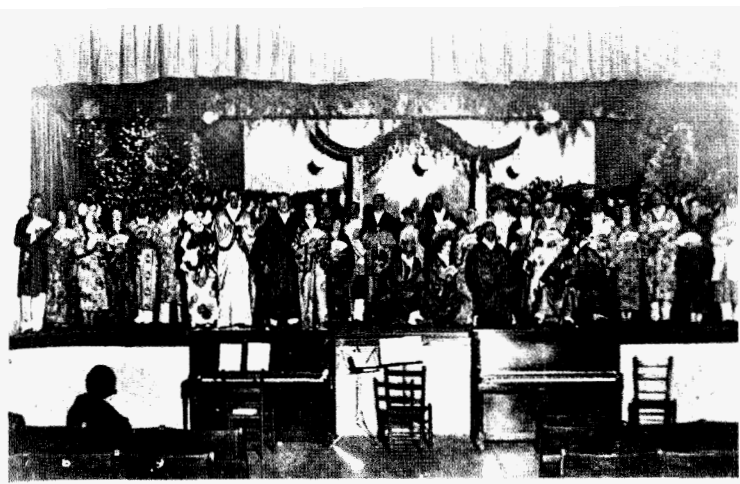
met his spouse while they were college classmates at Young-Harris. Remembering their college days together in his memoirs, Shearer mused, "You know it was funny. We were in a school play and at other functions together and her brother became a close friend of mine, but Mildred and I remained just friends of a casual nature." But after employing Mildred as a teacher while he was superintendent at Butler, Shearer soon discovered that he felt differently about the former "friend." To Shearer's enduring joy, Mildred developed corresponding sentiments, and the young educators were soon married. Mildred Shearer, who lovingly accompanied her husband to Florida and then to Oklahoma, would remain Allen Shearer's closest advisor and friend throughout his life.<sup>6</sup>

The new president took office quietly and firmly at a critical time in Southeastern's history. For two years the United States had been heavily involved in the United Nations' "Police Action" in Korea. The conflict had an immediate and adverse impact on SSC; one of the first military groups activated in 1950 was the 45th Army Infantry Division, called the Thunderbirds, which was comprised of units of the Oklahoma National Guard. Many of Southeastern's male students were members of the mobilized division. Enrollment figures at the institution quickly reflected the drastic effect the Korean War had on the campus—SSC's fall enrollment in 1949 was 1,893; by 1953 it had dropped to 1,004. The huge decline in headcount was not attributable merely to departing soldiers; many potential students took jobs which opened in industry as a result of the war effort. Naturally, the falling number of students on campus necessitated fewer faculty on the payroll. In 1949, there were eighty professors on SSC's instructional staff; by 1952 the number declined to below seventy. Revenues for the college fell accordingly; fiscal year 1951-1952 showed a decline of \$66,022.84 in the current income of the college compared to the 1949-1950 budget period. By the time Shearer entered the presidency, the total annual income of the college had fallen from \$805,845.26 to \$630,876.63.<sup>7</sup>

Like all Americans, the new president was glad when the Korean War ended in a truce soon after he took control at Durant. Nevertheless, initially the atmosphere at SSC and throughout the country did not relax as much as Shearer would have liked. McCarthyism and its engendered fear of communist espionage within the country had escalated the terrors of the Cold War and the Korean War for many Americans. As a result, just



The Science Building Soon After Completion: Circa 1924



The Cast of Mikado: Circa 1930



The Elegant Henry Garland Bennett Memorial Library. Circa 1960s



The A Cappella Choir: Circa 1940s



Left to right front row: Jean Mills, Bernice Child, Gerda J. Johnson, Betty Bob Stewart, Mildred Whinnon, Betty Moran, Ward Skovdahl, Miss Isabel Work, Betty S. Ginn, Joan Gentry, Hazel Morgan, Lois Hobbs, Mildred Rap, Dorothy Gay, The Lyons, Miss Sally Leonard, Miss Ethel Montgomery, Evelyn M. Wood, Geraldine Sharp, Wella, Jess Evans, Director John E. May, Louise Whitfield, Pat Bolinger, Lawrence.

\*Not pictured are: Patricia Ann Clark, Fay, Bern, Edna, Taylor, Mary, Kathie, Martha, Trudy, LaVerne O'Rear, Mrs. Phil Parkinson, Miss Elizabeth McKinney.



Cardinal Key: Circa 1940s



Boule Society: Circa 1940s

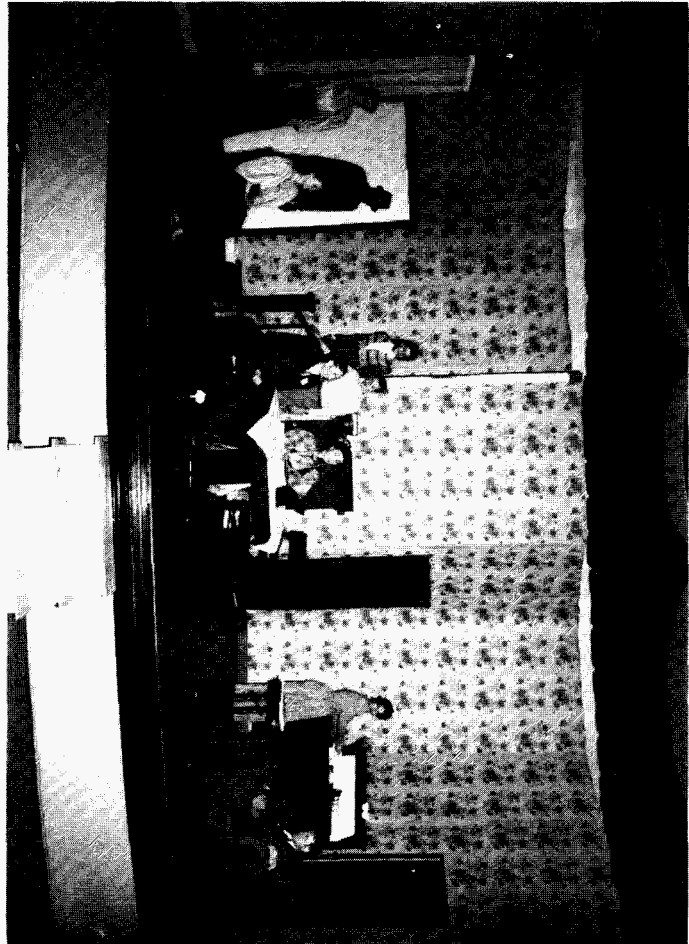


Blue Key: Circa 1940s



Graduation with President Briggs: Circa 1931

Drama, A Proud Tradition at Southeastern



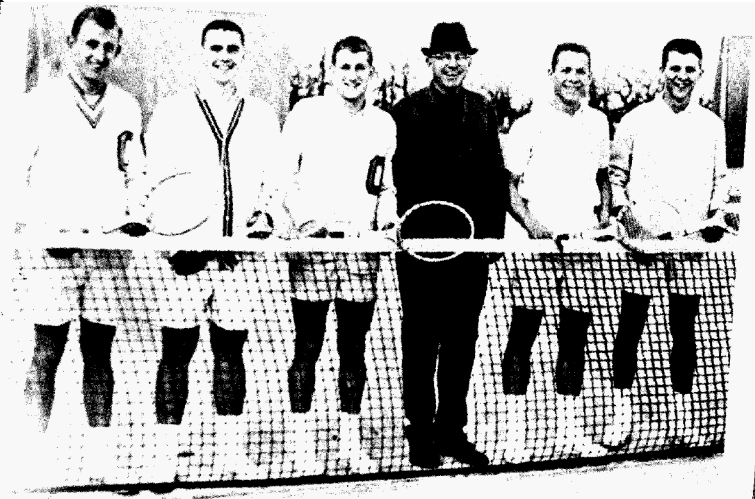
Cast of a Play: Circa 1950s



Veterans Club: Circa 1948



Pledges in Formal Attire



Coach Dyer Teaches Champions

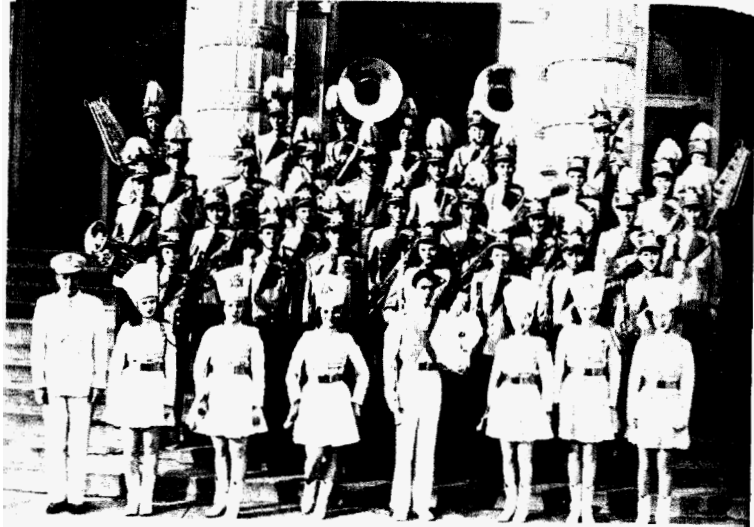


The Big "O" 1948



and More Champions

A



The 1948 Marching Savages



An Honorary English Fraternity: Circa 1957



The 1954 Marching Savages

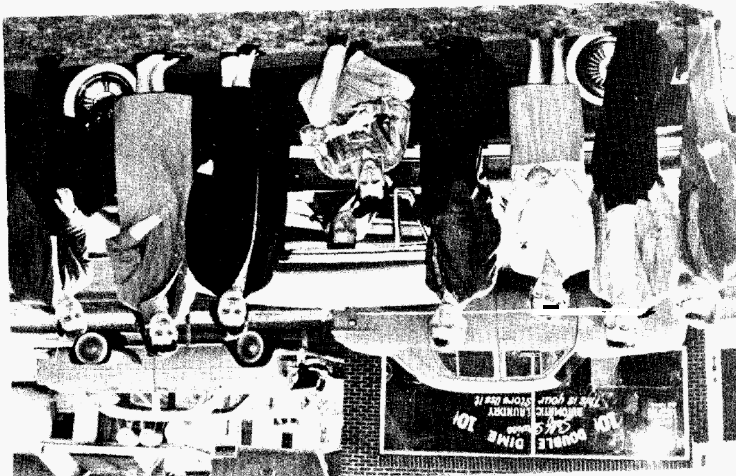


Kappa Delta Pi: Circa 1956

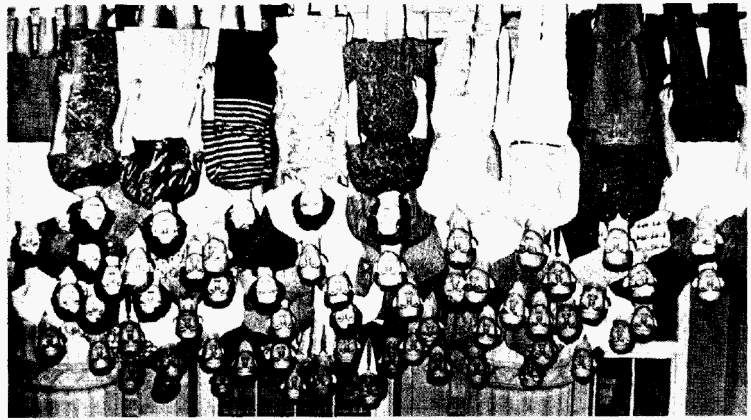
Boule Society: Circa 1959



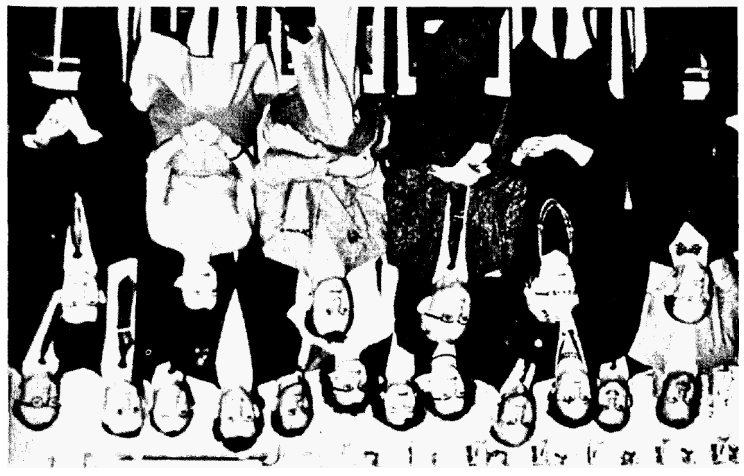
SSC Debaters: Circa 1958



Magic Pentagon Math Society: Circa 1963

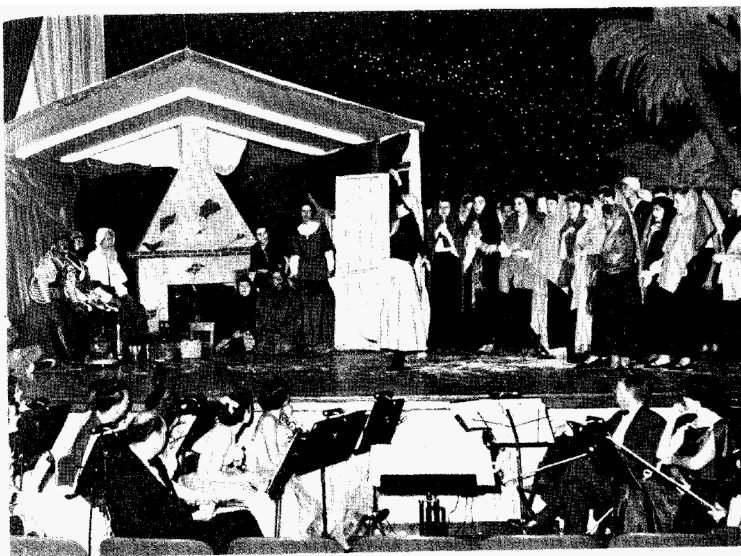


Phi Alpha Theta History Fraternity: Circa 1956





College Players Drama Society: Circa 1948



A Tradition of Joy Performed by Many Casts



An Honorary Education Fraternity Dinner: Circa 1950s



Candlelighting: Circa 1950s

OLD FOLKS AT HOME



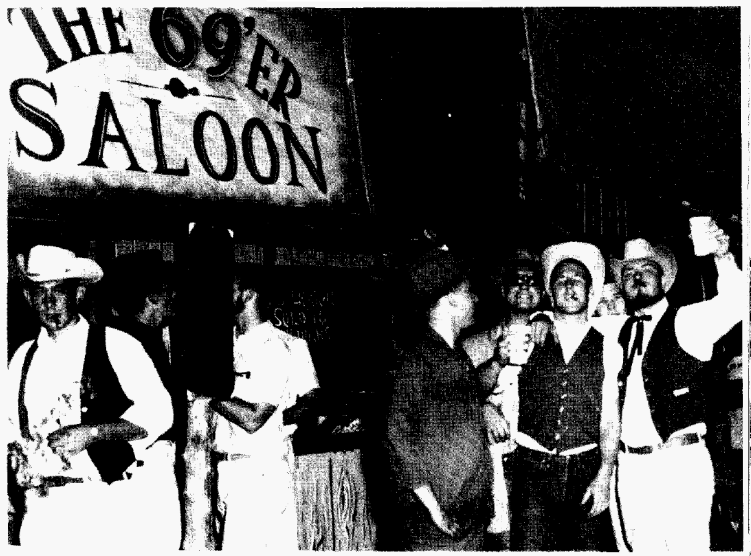
Many of the students at S.S.C. are married and reside in Vet Village and other apartment and housing residences all over the city. These students are an active part of Southeastern life, and are oftentimes among the most outstanding students on the campus.



Scenes of Vet Village: Circa 1950s



Western Dancing and



Saloons Characterized the Frontier Dances



Rock "n" Rolling at Disk Jockey: Circa 1950s



Sadie Hawkins: Circa 1950s



Formals: Another Campus Tradition



We Tried Hard to be Hillbillies





Rush Parties: Circa 1950s



Royalty at the Beaux Arts Ball



Food, Fun. and Fraternity Talk



A Representative Mural



Skits and



More Skits at the **Beaux Arts** Balls



Dancing and



Mixing at the **Bowery** Ball



Bowery Babes



Some Who Cheered



and Their Beaus: Circa 1950s



Savagettes Through the Years



A Lowly Freshman Can Hope



The Coffee Shop: Circa 1950s



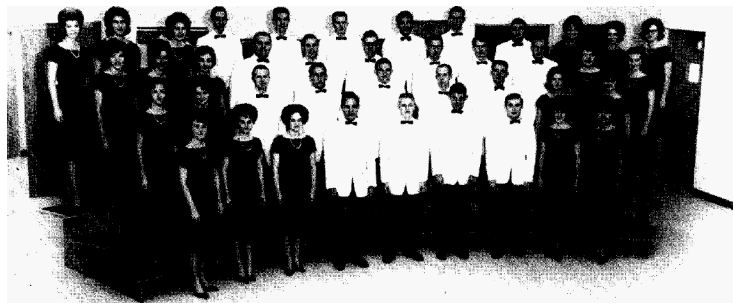
He Becomes a BMOC



Coke, Gossip, and the Juke Box



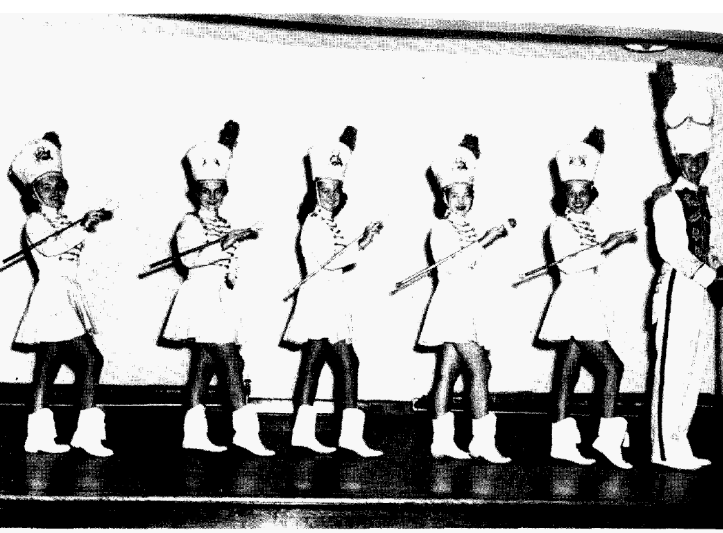
Scenes of Past Homecomings: Circa 1950s



Representing the Hundreds at Southeastern



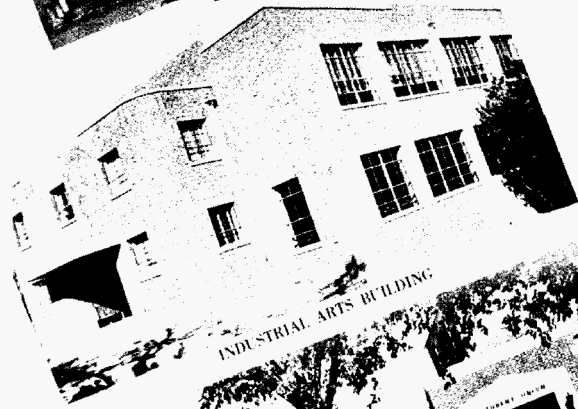
Who Sang **Their** Hearts Out



Some Who Have Majored

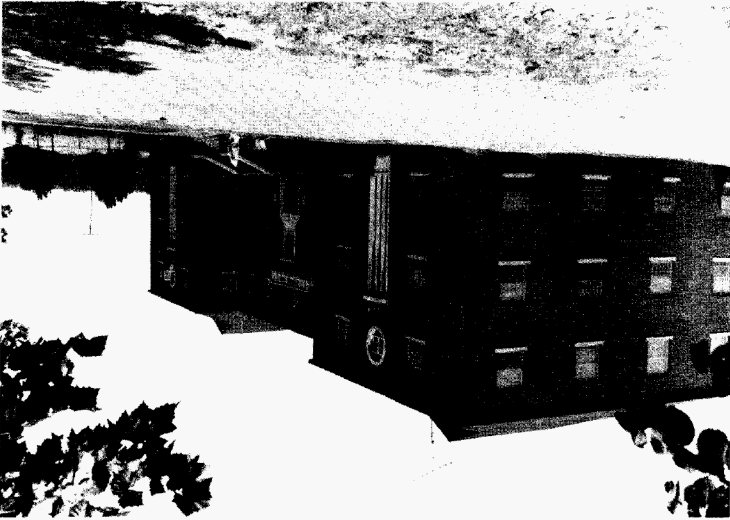


and Twirled

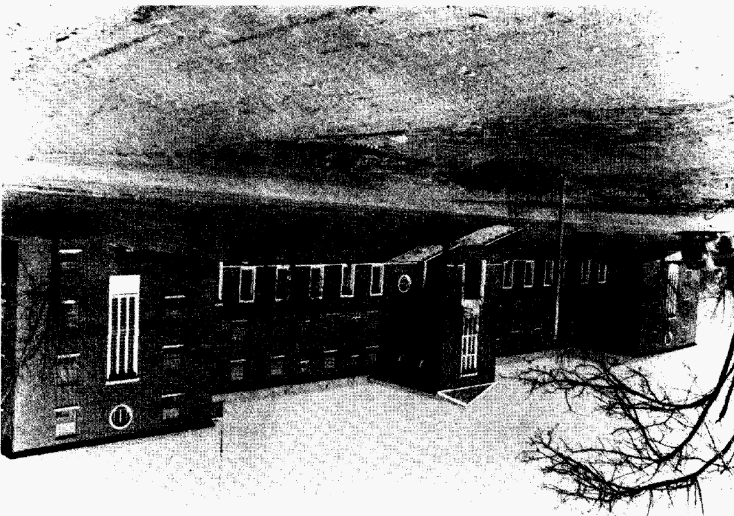


Views of the Campus: Circa 1950s

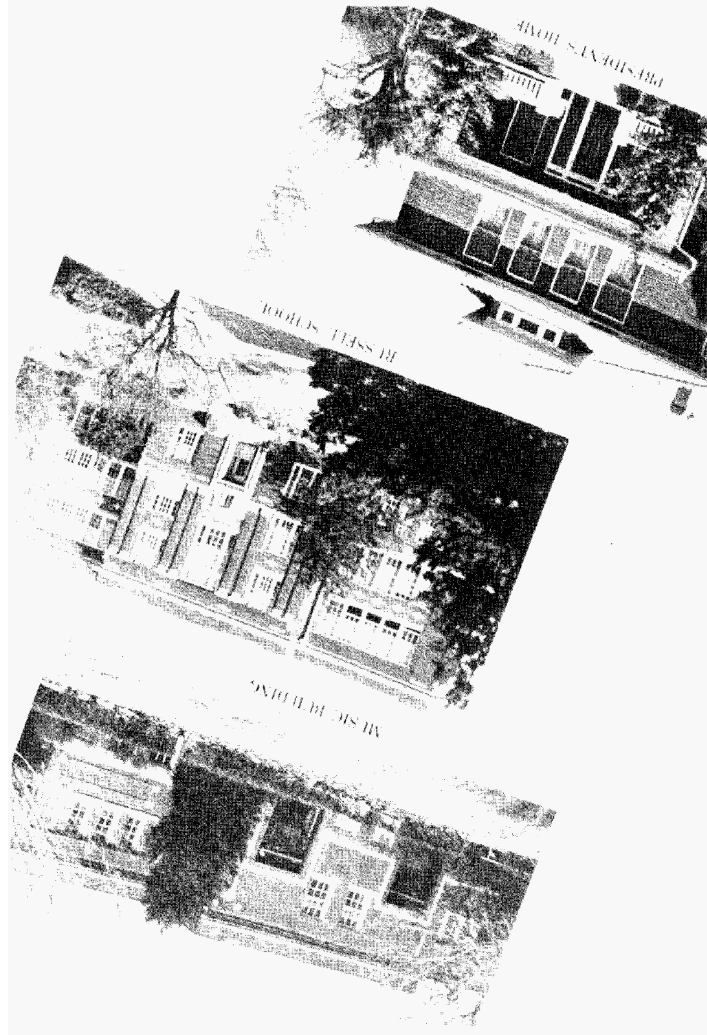
Shearer Hall Brought Party to the Campus



Halle McKinney Hall Soon After Completion



Campus Buildings: Circa 1950s



# GIRLS' DORM



Some people have a hard time making



4 out of 10 my house



This is your last chance!



Just wanted to get the fair name



Just pulled a string



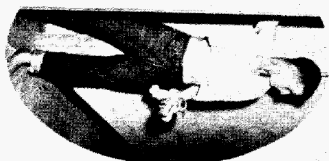
Just a few kids left back girls



The evening can wait



There's a crowd



Any dolls around?



But it was my first date



There's a crowd



See her or not?



Under the weather

Dorm Life in Shearer Hall: Circa 1950s



before Shearer became president at SSC, the Oklahoma legislature passed a law requiring all state officers and employees to sign a loyalty oath to the United States and the state of Oklahoma; over twenty thousand public employees ranging from the governor to those at the county, city, and school district level had to take the pledge. Many professors at SSC and elsewhere objected to this affront to their character and loyalty to the country and the state. Despite their indignation against the new oath, the Southeastern faculty and administration agreed to affix their signatures to the disagreeable document. State-wide, however, the controversy continued to develop. Eventually, the Oklahoma legislature passed a less stringent oath in 1953 and, thereafter, the issue which had so upset the SSC faculty and many others virtually disappeared. Moreover, by 1954 Senator Joe McCarthy's clearly irrational behavior in his televised "Witch Hunts" had disgusted and dismayed most thinking Oklahomans and other Americans.<sup>8</sup>

The national election results of November 1952 had already dramatically demonstrated that the country's voters were tired of the excesses and turmoil of the post World War II years. The nation really wanted a chance to relax, breathe freely, and live in an atmosphere of peaceful coexistence. Dwight David Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander in World War II who was born just nineteen miles south of Southeastern State College across the Red River in Denison, Texas, was the man many Oklahomans and other Americans chose to lead them into such an era. A non-politician, Eisenhower was enormously popular and a man of principle and common sense. Even though SSC was located in a normally heavily democratic region, President Shearer and the faculty hoped that Southeastern would benefit from Eisenhower's election. The new president of the tree-lined campus, was particularly worried about the future financial situation at the college. While most of the country enjoyed an economic postwar boom by 1952, the heavily agricultural area of southeastern Oklahoma did not share in the bounty. In reality, the one particular segment of the national economy in deep trouble was agriculture—certainly, this detrimentally affected the enrollment at Durant because many people left the area in search of a better life. The vexing problem affecting the nation's farmers was low prices for their products—a situation created not by drought or disease, but by overproduction. While government price supports partially supplemented farmers' income, agricultural states like Oklahoma continued to suffer. Hopefully, Eisenhower's campaign pledge to

find a solution to the farmers' plight would be accomplished, and Southeastern State College and all of Oklahoma would benefit.'

For the short run, Shearer knew in 1952 that he could not expect much in the way of increased state funds for SSC. Johnston Murray, the son of "Alfalfa Bill," who had been elected to live in the state's executive mansion, had run for office on a platform of strict economy and absolutely no tax increases. Thusly, President Shearer dedicated his attention to preserving and enhancing the academic and physical status of the college with the meager funds that were available. To the president's relief, returning Korean veterans helped to slow down declining enrollments at the Durant institution. In the fall of 1953, 210 ex-servicemen enrolled under a new GI Bill—a development which prevented the campus population from dropping to a total matriculation of 915, the exact number of students the college enrolled in 1936. The stabilization of the campus population was further aided by a program Shearer wisely initiated. Taking advantage of close "Town and Gown" relations, Shearer convinced Durant civic and business leaders and clubs to contribute monies to fund over one hundred scholastic scholarships to deserving new students."

Reminiscing about the scholastic crusade, Shearer said, "I will never forget the important result effected by the generosity of the Durant community at this crucial time in Southeastern's existence." By the fall semester of 1954, a slow upward growth began, and the campus population grew to 1,317. The numbers continued to spiral higher the next year. In an article regarding the opening of the 1955-1956 academic year, the *Southeastern* ran a headline entitled "College Enrollment Soars With 1500 Mark In Sight." When the final figures were tallied, Registrar Sam Pool smilingly reported that the "watershed" mark not only had been attained but also surpassed when 1,551 students showed up for classes. The upward increase was even more dramatic the following year. On September 12, 1956, the school paper ran a picture of the crowded lines trying to enroll in the library with the caption "Students, Students, Everywhere." Final figures released revealed that the resident enrollment had grown to 1,810. "Thankfully," the paper said, "the processing of the largest number of students to show up at SSC since the 1949-1950 academic year was greatly speeded up by Pool's new multi-graph duplicating machine."

While he was "tickled to death" to see the institution grow, the large enrollments created one of Shearer's first major headaches as

president. In an article entitled "Watch Your Parking," the *Southeastern* declared that the traffic situation had become "the most pressing and exasperating problem facing Southeastern students and faculty alike." Admitting that the situation arose from the happy fact "SSC students are prosperous enough to own a goodly number of said vehicles," the student press asked that all drivers please stop "claiming squatter's right" on the Magnolia Circle. Besides the anger caused when commuters could not leave the campus for hours because of the "tangle of cars parked at crazy angles," there was a much more dangerous situation to worry about, the *Southeastern* decreed. "Because of our souped up routines," the paper said, "most of us scurry about to make the class deadline--this results in streams of last-minute traffic and speeding about the circle." That situation must be stopped, the paper warned, and a solution found because "the lives of students crossing the driveways are endangered." The paper's words got immediate results. President Shearer, in cooperation with the Student Senate, put many areas of Magnolia Drive off limits to parking, and campus security officers began to issue tickets to speeders and those parked illegally. The true solution to the problem the president could not readily provide. Funds for such improvements as parking lots were not allocated every year or even every few years. Furthermore, the cost would be quite high because additional acreage would have to be bought. In the early 1950s President Shearer knew that the college needed the parking spaces, but it needed buildings and other improvements even more. He would have to wait and hope the students would respond good-naturedly to the enforcement program to help alleviate the dangerous and annoying aspects of the existing circumstances. The students at SSC did exactly as their president expected, the school paper later told its readers."

Campus developments which pleased Dr. Shearer in the first few years of his administration included small but steadily increased appropriations, capital improvements, and the beginning of new academic programs. For the 1953-1954 fiscal period, SSC's current income was \$875,780.04; within two years Shearer's annual budget went to \$1,043,322.68. Meanwhile, the president took great pleasure in the fact that the book value of the 59.6 acre campus expanded tremendously. In 1952 the value of all buildings and equipment was placed at \$1,144,874.45; by 1956, the start of Shearer's fifth year, the value of the SSC capital plant and equipment was \$2,564,674.18—a difference of \$1,419,799.73.<sup>13</sup>

One special moment for the president in the area of capital improvements came with the formal opening in 1954 of the first men's dormitory on the SSC campus. Actually completed and opened in 1953, the formal dedication ceremonies for the \$268,455 building—named Shearer Hall in honor of the chief executive's sixteen years of dedicated service to the college—did not take place until the 1954 Homecoming celebration. Dignitaries taking part in the joyous occasion for which SSC had waited for almost two decades longer than the other five regional colleges included: Chancellor M. A. Nash; James Logan, who represented the faculty; Dr. Max Chambers of Central State College; Dr. Harrell Garrison of Northeastern State College; Rector Swearingin and other members of the Regents for Higher Education and the Regents of Oklahoma Colleges; Bob Trent, State Senator, and Doyle Bostic, president of the Southeastern student body. The brick dorm, which could accommodate 115 male students, was located next to Hallie McKinney Hall for women; the architecture and decoration of Shearer Hall had been designed so the two domiciles almost matched perfectly in their outward appearance.\*

Another ceremony marking an enhancement in the capital fixtures occurred in June of 1953, when Dr. Shearer welcomed former President Montgomery back to the campus to celebrate the dedication of SSC's newly rebuilt auditorium in his honor. The new auditorium, which was widely expanded, featured a new architectural design, new padded chairs, a larger stage, and, most importantly, a sound system. It was extremely fortuitous that Shearer did not wait very long to decide to name the auditorium in Montgomery's honor; in less than a year on March 24, 1954, the headlines of the *Southeastern* read, "Impressive Tribute Is Paid to Distinguished SSC leader." President Montgomery, the man who had long dreamed of a new auditorium and had actually secured the funds for its creation before he retired, had died after a brief illness. The Montgomery children and President Shearer thought it only fitting that the funeral services should take place in the auditorium named for the former president. On March 22 at 10:00 A.M., classes at Southeastern were dismissed so that the student body, the faculty, and hundreds of dignitaries and friends could attend the memorial service conducted by the Reverend John Mueller, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. Interestingly, the hall was empty of flowers except for a spray of red roses on Montgomery's casket. Virginia Fisher, Montgomery's executive secretary, explained the reason to the author. "Dr. Montgomery

had always allowed only red roses to be placed in his office." Since no other color or type of flower was permitted inside his office, it was certainly appropriate that red roses be the only floral decorations at his final tribute. Called a "deeply religious man with quiet dignity and humility," Montgomery was praised at the memorial service for "his innate kindness, his deep devotion to youth, and the widening of the horizons of Southeastern's influence."<sup>15</sup>

Several capital expenditures on the campus brought joy to "Blue and Gold" sports enthusiasts. All Savage fans were indeed glad to read a headline in the June 16, 1954, *Southeastern* proclaiming "New Stadium Will Be Built." On that day President Shearer announced that the existing wooden stadium—which the state had actually condemned in the late 1930s—was to be replaced with a four-thousand-seat facility. The new stadium, costing \$53,865, featured concrete and steel supports and wolmanized pine planking; the building of dressing rooms and other conveniences brought the total cost of the improvements to the athletic field to \$75,000. Also, President Shearer revealed that he had secured approval for the installation of an excellent cinder track around the playing field.<sup>16</sup>

Another major campus capital improvement project occurring in 1954 involved the library. By the summer term of 1954, SSC students could enjoy their reading while seated in comfortable new furniture beneath a modern indirect lighting system, browsing in current periodicals in the new magazine room, or, best of all, just cooling off for a while in the lower temperatures made possible by the newly installed "refrigerated air-conditioning units." President Shearer, always the academician, was even more gratified about a different type of progress made in the library. On April 6, 1955, Librarian Raymond Piller announced to the student press, "The library has just acquired its 50,000th book." To reach the historic landmark in its literary holdings, the library staff decided to purchase a work entitled *Oklahoma, A History of the Sooner State* by E. C. McReynolds. While fifty thousand volumes was an impressive number for any small state college library, Piller and the other SSC librarians were even more thrilled about another service the staff "had accentuated since President Shearer took office." By the spring semester of 1955, SSC students started to benefit from the library's joining the Library of Congress interloan services. After that semester, whenever a Southeastern scholar needed a book that was not available in the stacks, he could

simply ask the library to request the needed volume from another institution or from Washington.<sup>17</sup>

The crowning construction achievement for Shearer's administration in the fifties came with the 1957 ribbon-cutting ceremonies for SSC's new Gymnasium and Physical Education building (later named in honor of Bloomer Sullivan). Without question, the new facility was sorely needed on the campus. Although the existing gym, built in the 1920s and known as the Snake Pit, had been extensively remodeled after a costly fire in 1948, the facility was simply too small to accommodate the fans who wished to watch the Savage basketball games and was inadequate for other physical education purposes. Constructed at a cost of \$550,000, the new edifice was the finest basketball arena and P.E. building among the six regional colleges at the time. Honored guests who took part in the festivities on Sunday afternoon, November 24, 1957, were Dr. Oliver Hodge, member of the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges and president of the State Board of Education; Dr. J. T. Colwick, Jr., a newly appointed Regent whose home was Durant; and Garry Landreth, president of the SSC student body. As the *Southeastern* reported, the hundreds of guests who toured the building that afternoon marveled at the vastness of the gym that could seat twenty-five hundred people when completely "packed to the walls," the health suite, the large classrooms, the two game and dance activity rooms, the blue tiled 75 by 28 ft. indoor swimming pool, the modern concession stands, and the comfortable offices for the coaching staff and physical education professors."

Of all the campus changes Shearer witnessed in the first years of his tenure, the most personally satisfying achievement for the president came when he gained approval for SSC to offer a Fifth-Year Program. Before he became president, Shearer faithfully had laid the groundwork as dean of the college for justifying Southeastern's ability to offer a master's degree. After becoming SSC's chief executive, the president pushed even harder. In an effort to insure that the college had an academically qualified faculty for post-bachelor work, he concentrated on hiring new faculty who held a doctorate or who at least were doctoral candidates. In his attempt to upgrade the faculty, Shearer encouraged those members already on the teaching roster who did not possess a terminal degree to finish their programs. For these individuals, the president approved summer or yearly academic leaves to acquire their doctorates; the last year Shearer was dean, nineteen professors were granted sabbaticals upon his recommendation. During the years of his presidential administration the numbers grew,

and many finished their degree programs and returned to the campus proudly answering to their new title "Doctor."<sup>19</sup>

In his campaign to improve the institution's faculty, Shearer openly and continuously opposed what he called "extensive political inbreeding"—the practice of an institution employing its own graduates because they were personally liked or because they were the relative or friend of a powerful local or state personality. "As Dean and President I fought this type of pressure, which was constant from the 1930s to the 1950s," Shearer wrote in his memoirs. On the other hand, when a student came along who showed excellent character, initiative, superior intellect, and an expressed desire to become a college professor, the president never hesitated to tell such a capable and remarkable young scholar that if he did receive an advanced degree, he would be welcomed back at SSC. Several of Southeastern's finest faculty members, some who are still currently teaching, began work on their post-masters programs knowing that when they had completed their degrees a position awaited them in Durant. Many times the president personally became involved in helping a student select the best possible graduate school which specialized in the young scholar's area of interest.<sup>20</sup>

As he worked to enhance the physical plant and the academic life at SSC, President Shearer also urged the faculty to take an active part in developing a congenial social atmosphere on campus by sponsoring clubs and programs for students. One look at any annual for the period will reveal that the SSC faculty responded to his wishes; numerous professors served as sponsors for dozens of organizations. On the whole, campus life during the first years of Shearer's administration in the 1950s reflected the students' desire to forget the horror of war and the excessiveness of the McCarthy era and enjoy life. One finds little mention of politics and the world's problems in the pages of the *Southeastern*. For many people, the explosion of the first hydrogen bomb in the fall of 1952 created a possibility simply too terrible and confusing to contemplate; mankind had developed a device capable of destroying property and bringing death to thousands of square miles. When the Soviet Union detonated a similar bomb the following year, the students at SSC fully recognized that they lived in an age when a war fought with such explosive weapons could literally bring an end to civilization.<sup>21</sup>

In spite of this terrible reality, the average student at Southeastern still found reasons to be optimistic and jovial about the

future. In part, this attitude resulted from the deep religious conviction held in the Bible Belt that God would not allow the unthinkable to happen. National and international developments soon helped momentarily to reduce the tension existing in the world. Like most Americans, Southeastern's students had confidence in President Eisenhower, the great harmonizer, who promised to lead the country toward world peace. The death of Joseph Stalin in 1953 and the willingness of the new Russian leaders to attend a Geneva Summit Conference to discuss ways to avoid nuclear war aided this optimism. Therefore, most of the campus population concentrated on studying, having fun, and believing that the future would bring solutions to the perplexities facing the world.

In many aspects, life at Southeastern in the early fifties was virtually identical to that prevailing on the campus before the Korean War shattered the illusion that a new generation of Americans would never have to go to war. Perhaps the main campus event which symbolized the wish to return to a happier day was the revival of the annual friendship fire. President Shearer publicly applauded the decision of the 1953-1954 Student Senate, led by President David Emerson, to rekindle the spirit of togetherness at SSC by renewing the revered tradition which had been discontinued during the war years. Overall, for most of the first half of the decade, SSC remained basically a small, quiet, and tradition-oriented institution. Unlike the situation following the Second World War, the campus was not jolted by a sudden influx of hundreds of older and much more mature students. While nearly four hundred veterans did eventually enroll, the attendance figures at Durant did not exceed fifteen hundred until the 1955 academic year—a figure still far below the 1,893 who had attended in the fall of 1949. Many students preferred that the campus remain small and relatively unchanged. Expressing this attitude in an editorial published in July of 1954, Esther Goin said, "I am glad that Southeastern is small enough that each person may learn to know nearly everyone on the campus." The writer believed that while "a larger institution might have its advantages . . . it would be so impersonal." And, "the warmth and the friendly atmosphere of Southeastern are wonderful," she declared. Most graduates of SSC in the fifties would have agreed with Goin's assessment of the cordial and intimate feeling of togetherness felt by those attending classes on the campus."

Despite the continuation of many traditions, the 1950s, nevertheless, became a time of change and excitement in the country and on the campus of SSC. Actually, the 1950s would become so special a time in American history that young and old would demand its renaissance in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The nostalgic love of what has best been called "An Ambivalent Age" continues even as this volume is written. The students who attended Southeastern in the 1950s probably were not cognizant that their era was so dramatically filled that historians cannot even agree on a title for the period—just a few of the names used to describe the 1950s include: "The Days of White Sport Coats and Pink Carnations"; "The Age of Elvis and Rock and Roll"; "The Era of Cold War and Stability"; "The Time of Witch Hunts and the Red Scare"; "The Eisenhower Years"; and "American Apathy Shaken—An Era of Educational Reform and the Civil Rights Struggle." But, even though it is true that most of the dramatic events which gave the decade its varied personality did not occur until the middle of the period, students at Southeastern experienced changes which directly affected their lives on campus even earlier.<sup>23</sup>

As President Shearer and the faculty labored to improve the physical plant and the educational offerings at SSC, the students were learning to adjust to one far-reaching change on the campus coed dorm life! With the opening of Shearer Hall in the fall of 1953, Southeastern entered a new period in its existence as a college. When President Shearer cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony for the new men's domicile, SSC had finally achieved parity with the other Oklahoma regional colleges. As noted, because of the Second World War and the financial problems of some of its sister schools, the institution had been forced to wait for over a decade for the construction of residence halls—a situation which had a decidedly negative effect on the growth of the college. Many potential students outside the city of Durant chose to attend other institutions where they could live on campus and avoid commuting to classes. With the dedication of Hallie McKinney Hall in 1949, Shearer Hall in 1953, and the building of additional dorms later in the decade, SSC finally began to attract an ever expanding number of students.<sup>24</sup>

Life in the new dorms was a wonderful and memorable experience for the students of the 1950s. Forced to accept new circumstances away from their families, students met and learned to live among hundreds of new friends. The excitement and joy brought

by dorm life is evident in all the *Savage* issues of the era. Editors of the annual like Max McClendon, Ann Cotton, and Winnie Jones devoted pages in the yearbooks to pictorial evidence of the parties, rap sessions, eating binges, and other fun events experienced by those who lived in the dormitories. Occasionally, one can even read in the *Southeastern's* pages the rumor that the wildest of all social episodes panty raids—would soon happen on the campus. When asked by the author whether such "dire" raids occurred on the SSC campus, Helen Owens, a former dean of women who lived in the girls dorm, laughingly replied, "I don't remember any real panty raids, but I sure lost more than one hour of sleep trying to make sure some enterprising coed did not sneak out of the girls dorm via the tunnel-like fire escapes. Sometimes I was not successful." The former dean further remembered, "But if I didn't catch them on the way out, I usually did on the way in—the noise they made trying to crawl back up the fire escape would wake the dead." The popular women's dean also fondly recalled how she managed to surprise and apprehend many adventuresome males who tried to sneak in the wrong door or window.<sup>25</sup>

Leaders of campus organizations surely benefited from the completion of the residence halls. With students living on campus, presidents of the Student Senate in the early 1950s, such as Buddy Spencer, David Emerson, and Billy Mills, found it much easier to maintain an atmosphere of school pep and pride. Anyone who peruses the annuals for the 1950s can easily see that the energy expended by the Senate presidents to create a spirited campus attitude was highly successful. The *Savage* editions also demonstrate that the student body presidents had a lot of help in their endeavors. At a time when some of the state colleges could barely field a musical organization, the Southeastern band usually featured forty to fifty "Marching Savages." Under the direction of Dr. Howard Rye and student officers like Frank Pickard, Farrell Hatch, and Ruel Blagg, led by drum majors such as Don Carpenter and Guy Pierce, and featuring pretty and high-stepping majorettes like Phyllis Stafford, Shirley Geter, Marcheta Sutton, Virginia Haile, and Lou Castleberry, the SSC band entertained many spectators and promoted "Savage Pride" at well-staged half-time shows at Savage football games and various parades. At other times, the SSC band members musically inspired audiences at their indoor and outdoor concerts.<sup>26</sup>

Other campus organizations dedicated to promoting college spirit were active during the fifties—one of the most visible clubs

was the Hellhounds. Created to “bring the spirit of Joe College to the campus,” this enthusiastic group, led by presidents such as Bill Cox and Dan Nutter, could be easily seen roaming the SSC campus wearing their blue and gold jackets with Hellhounds spelled out on the back. Besides their antics at athletic contests, the Hellhounds sponsored additional school activities like dances, smokers, pep rallies, pie-eating contests, and the annual crowning of a Hellhound sweetheart at one of the football games. Among the pretty coeds so honored by the Hellhounds were Peggy Stratton Fryer and Susan Van Dyke.<sup>27</sup>

Another group which tried to engender attendance at Southeastern athletic events and other school happenings was the Big O Club. Comprised of SSC lettermen, the Big O members specialized in seeing that SSC freshmen students joined in the support of Savage pride. Harry “Bill” Johnson, Leon “Snag” Kennedy, and other Big O officers made sure their members watched vigilantly to apprehend any first-year student who forgot to wear the required beanie. Such offending students were quickly and unceremoniously subjected to the horrors of “mock” paddlings or having their faces painted with SSC letters. Many times the Hellhounds and the Big O members found flimsy excuses to paint freshmen faces even when beanies were in place. But in the early and mid-fifties, such conduct was expected and even welcomed by the “lowly freshmen” — it was all part of belonging to the SSC family. More often than not, that reviled, yet treasured, item of headwear was the one souvenir most students retained as a reminder of their years at Southeastern.

Not to be outdone by their male counterparts, the coeds of SSC decided in the early fifties to form their own spirit society. After an organizational meeting in the summer of 1952, the “Savagettes” made their presence known in the fall of 1953. Original members of the Savagettes, who helped promote pep by wearing blue and gold attire, wrapping the goal posts in Southeastern colors, painting signs, and sponsoring skits at bonfires, included JoAnn Kenner, Fran Apel, Mary Nell Robinson, Marilyn Fleak, Dana Dunagan, Sylviagene Schilz, Annie Jo Hollers, Fran Hartness, and Darlene Gordon. The ones most responsible for creating school spirit throughout the year were, of course, the Southeastern varsity cheerleaders. Representative of the many young men and women who practiced their routines for long hours so they could lead the crowds who attended the Southeastern games in cheering the Savages onto victory in the Shearer years were Phil McKinzie,

Beth Foster, Madge Fort, Bascom Melson, Pauline Williams, Suzanne Heard, Jo Bowlin, Marylyn Taylor, and Darrell Goode.<sup>28</sup>

As Buddy Spencer, an SOSU Distinguished Alumnus and prominent Durant businessman, related to the author, “The efforts of the Student Senate and the many pep organizations were especially active around Homecoming—the major event of any academic year. In my year as president of the student body, one of my concerns was to see that the students took a responsible part in helping the administration prepare a festive occasion so that everyone, especially the alumni, could enjoy their return for the annual celebration.” Because of the elaborate planning of student leaders, the faculty, and the administration, the days before Homecomings in the fifties were spent in making frames, stringing chicken wire, and stuffing painted tissues to build the floats that hundreds of Durant and Southeastern residents lined the streets to see on parade day. Homecomings also brought the annual excitement of wondering who would win the best float prize and which coed would be chosen as queen to reign during the Homecoming contest and the post-game dance. At the first Homecoming of Shearer’s administration in 1952-1953, Dana Dunagan was the pretty winner of the queen’s contest and the Sigma Tau fraternity — perhaps too cheerfully — toasted their victory in the float-building competition.<sup>29</sup>

Savage athletes responded to the tremendous energy and dedication expended on their behalf by the student body. Although no conference championships were won in football in the 1950s, the Savages played well enough to be serious contenders for the conference title. The closest a Southeastern team came to claiming the crown was during the 1953 grid season. The Savages needed only to win their final conference battle against East Central to tie Northeastern for the championship. Unfortunately, five SSC offensive drives stalled within the Tigers’ twenty yard line and East Central beat the Savages 7-0; the disappointing Homecoming loss was only the second time the Ada team had managed to defeat SSC in a decade.

Exhilarating moments for Savage football fans came against opponents other than the contests played in the Oklahoma Collegiate Conference. Every academic year started with the exciting question of whether or not SSC would win the Texoma Bowl Classic and keep possession of the Katy Bell. Taken from a Katy Railroad steam locomotive, the old bell was awarded each year to the victor of the Southeastern-Austin College game. The 1952

Savages, led by Captain Buddy Tomme, rewarded their blue and gold fans by winning the coveted symbol in a close 7-6 struggle. For the next three years, however, Savage fans watched in dismay as the campus lost the right to possess the Katy Bell. The 1956 Savage squad finally brought revenge when they ended the supremacy of Austin College in the annual clash; for the remainder of the 1950s, subsequent SSC teams kept the Katy Bell at Southeastern.<sup>30</sup>

In addition to winning the Texoma Bowl, the 1956 football campaign was different from previous seasons for another important reason—the Savages had a new coach. After the 1955 season, Coach Dave Stevens retired after an impressive ten-year coaching career in which his teams won the conference title three times and finished second on four occasions. Hired to replace the popular football mentor was Coach Melvin Brown, who had earned all Big-Seven Conference and All-America honors under the famed Bud Wilkinson at the University of Oklahoma. Commenting to the press on Brown's appointment, Dr. Shearer said, "We believe we have selected an outstanding young man who will develop an excellent football program at Southeastern." Unfortunately for SSC loyalists, Brown's appointment did not produce the predicted conference-winning teams. For the late 1950s, the Brown-coached Savages amassed a rather dismal record of eleven wins, twenty-one losses, and one tie.<sup>31</sup>

While Southeastern students could not revel in the glory of gridiron championships, they could reminisce in the years to come about great individual performances by Savage players. The most outstanding award given to any SSC player in the decade came when Bud Bahner, the captain of the 1955 team, was named to the Helms Foundation All-America team. Bahner thrilled SSC fans when he went on to play professional football for the Saskatchewan Roughriders of the Canadian Football League. Ferdie Burket, a three-time all-conference selection and the 1957 small college punting leader, further enhanced Southeastern's athletic reputation when he was drafted by the 1958 Baltimore Colts, the champions of professional football. Additional players who were selected to first and second-team all-conference honors in the 1950s included Paul Brown, Tommy Langham, Leonard Korenek, Don Townsend, Loyd Ernst, Harry Dodd, David Emerson, Bill McClain, Marty Bacon, Ronnie Gandy, John Harbour, Steve Pasorz, Morris Reavis, Tommy Weast, and Ronnie Hendricks.<sup>32</sup>

Although titles eluded their gridiron players, Southeastern fans were destined in the 1950s to cheer the play of champions. Under the leadership of the legendary Bloomer Sullivan, Savage cagers won or shared the Oklahoma collegiate crown five times from 1952-1959. Usually known as the "James Spivey and Jerry Shipp Era," the Savages simply dominated their opponents for most of the decade. To recount a description of the jubilation and the drama that the play of the Savage roundballers created for thousands of fans in the old and then the new "Snake Pit" would truly be impossible in the space allotted in this volume. The sports pages of the *Southeastern* and other state newspapers for the 1950s were literally filled with the exploits of Sullivan's teams.<sup>33</sup>

Besides winning conference laurels, Savage basketballers brought national attention to Southeastern by virtue of their many appearances in the national NAIA tournaments. Twice, in the 1955 and in the 1957 tournaments, the blue-and-gold-clad cagers ended their campaign in Kansas City as the nation's second best small college team. Naturally, such great squads featured the play of many excellent athletes, but two had truly incredible talents. As a reward for personal achievement in the 1954-1955 season, James Spivey was named to the NAIA All-America team. The big SSC center was only a sophomore and would be selected to the dream squad two more times. A second remarkable player for SSC during the decade was Jerry Shipp. Never named to the All-America team to the disbelief of Savage loyalists, Shipp was recognized as the best player in Oklahoma for most of his career, setting an all-time scoring record of fifty-four points in one game. Shipp eventually added to his fame by being the captain and star of the 1964 United States gold medal winning Olympic team. Joining Shipp and Spivey as all-conference selections in the fifties were Kirby Minter, L. D. Mahoney, Earl Curtis, Jerry Hall, Paul Davis, Leon Kennedy, Bill Johnson, and Max Yarbrough.

In the minor sports, SSC did not fare as well in the early Shearer years. The only conference tennis titles won by Clarence Dyer's netmen came in 1953 when Ken Lewis won the singles crown and Max Prewitt and Cecil Duncan swept the doubles. In baseball, track, and golf, Southeastern only managed to field competitive squads at irregular times. The best record of any SSC diamond team came in 1958 when the pitching performances of John Kinyo led the Savages to a second place finish.<sup>34</sup>

Attending athletic contests was only a minor part of the social scene at Southeastern. Much of the campus life at SSC in the 1950s

revolved around the activities of scholastic and honorary groups like Blue Key, Cardinal Key, Boule, and many similar organizations or of the social fraternities and sororities. In their love of fashion and fads, the students at Southeastern in the early fifties were like those on campuses across the nation. Exactly as the popular television show "Happy Days" depicts, SSC male students sported crew cuts, flat tops, loafers, white and argyle socks, rolled-up blue jeans, and white and blue-suede shoes. The Southeastern coeds wore full skirts at mid-calf length, sweaters, and styled their hair in pony tails and Mamie Eisenhower bangs. As the decade opened, SSC students could be seen doing the two-step, jitterbugging, and slow dancing to the songs of the Platters, Perry Como, and Eddie Fisher at the All-School dances or the Monday night Disc Jockey gigs. Recalling the Monday night affairs, Buddy Spencer fondly related to the author, "Those were the real big social occasions. Many an old country boy from southeastern Oklahoma who was too embarrassed to attend Professor Bertha Mae Treadaway's social dance classes in full daylight went to the DJ hoping some girl would teach him how to do a few steps."<sup>35</sup>

As Spencer thoughtfully remembered, many an embarrassed and shy male really did overcome his hesitancy and learn to enjoy college life more fully by virtue of the weekly campus socials. So did many timid coeds. In addition to their love of dancing, the students of the fifties could be found working on their hot-rod cars, playing cards, listening to the juke box, drinking cokes, and talking for hours in the coffee shop and at popular off campus "hang-outs" such as the Eat-N-Ease, George's, or Sherrer's Restaurant. Many SSC students also spent a great deal of their time at their respective religious societies. The Newman Club, the Wesley Foundation, the Westminster Fellowship, and the Baptist Student Union provided entertainment and religious guidance for hundreds at SSC. During the decade, the Methodist and Baptist students also celebrated the openings of their own student centers on the campus. Those who attended Southeastern thoroughly enjoyed something the annuals called "Beachology." Lake Texoma, one of the world's largest man-made lakes built during the latter part of the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration, provided a beautiful recreation area only a short distance west of Durant. As all editions of the *Savage* show, over the years thousands of SSC students often took "time from the books" to swim, sunbathe, fish, or enjoy a cruise on the *Zde Time*, a party boat operated by the Coast Guard for tours of the lake. The many gravel roads around

Texoma were unusually convenient places for SSC males to announce to their dates that they had somehow "run out of gas" and they would just have to wait under the stars for help to come. Whether the "trick" worked or not, many reportedly gave it "the old college try!"<sup>36</sup>

The early years of President Shearer's tenure were good ones for the professors at Southeastern. The faculty worked closely with the new president in his continuing desire to better the academic level at SSC. Of course, the faculty supported the president in his arduous campaign to acquire the approval of a Fifth Year Program leading to the degree of Master of Teaching. The Southeastern faculty appreciated the long, hard fight Dr. Shearer and the other regional presidents had waged against the powerful opposition of the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University. As President Shearer recalled in his memoirs, "I was very proud of and grateful for the way our faculty responded to the opportunity we achieved when the degree was finally approved on a temporary five-year basis." Under the guiding leadership of Dr. Marion K. Fort, "Fifth-Year Director," Southeastern's faculty eagerly and willingly embraced the additional workload required to design the courses in a scholarly fashion so that the resulting degree would be one of which both teachers and students could be proud and assured that it would be respected by the educational community. Commenting on the quality of the institution's first master's class in an editorial on July 27, 1955, entitled "Red Letter Day," the *Southeastern* decreed, "Thursday, July 28, 1955, is to become a red-letter day in everybody's book. Tomorrow's sunrise marks the start of a new day that will influence . . . the educational realm of the entire nation." Explaining its statement, the campus paper said that the graduation of the first sixty-four "Master Teachers," who had taken over one hundred different courses from fifty-six different professors representing fourteen college departments, "means a cause for rejoicing for the entire educational world as SSC presents for their use . . . well prepared teachers so drastically needed in America's schoolrooms."<sup>37</sup>

There were further justifications for Shearer to brag about his faculty. The institution's teachers constantly turned out excellent young scholars by any standards. A small but representative list of achievements by SSC students during the mid-1950s included the acceptance of Bob Crowe and Jim Shaver into medical school; the awarding of graduate assistantships in business and teacher-education by Vanderbilt University and Oklahoma A & M respectively to Charles Brown and Calvin Kennedy; the employment of



Joy Childers, a 1951 graduate, as an English instructor at Oklahoma State; and the graduation from the University of Oklahoma of new Ph.D. Ernest Sturch and new M.D. Jim Hampton. The Southeastern faculty, as always, had those who wrote and published scholarly articles and volumes; a partial list of SSC authors include: L. Marshall Nagle, John Willingham, Marion K. Fort, Anne Semple, Ernest Trumble, Wayne H. Silver, James Morrison, Eugene Slaughter, Dorothy Leake, and John Hunziker. SSC professors continuously tried to improve educational standards by offering conferences and workshops intended to advance the quality of teachers already in the field; most prominent of these special, yearly programs were the annual Reading Conference directed by Dr. C. B. Trammell and the annual Creative Writing Conference chaired by Professor Floy Perkinson Gates. Professors Gates and Trammell skillfully managed to attract renowned, nationally-recognized personnel such as: Dr. Ullin Leavell, a University of Virginia reading specialist; Mariel Wright, a prose writer and editor; and Goldie Capers Smith, a much published poet.<sup>38</sup>

Yet, while the social and academic life on the Southeastern campus was active and pleasant during the early and middle 1950s, it still remained rather orthodox and predictable. Even though the numbers in attendance were slowly growing, the college was still relatively small. Arriving freshmen in 1955 could expect to find much the same sort of educational and societal environment as that of their counterparts in 1945. Relations between "Town and Gown" were, as always, firm and friendly. Life in Durant in the mid-1950s was essentially like that of the previous decade; in reality, the city had changed very little since statehood. Composed of approximately ten thousand "completely white citizens," Durant had very little industry to supplement its rural-oriented economy. But, as the famous adage surmises, "Time does not stand still." The second half of the fifties was a time of sudden, surprising, shocking, and, at times, fearful change in America and the world. Southeastern and Durant were both affected by the consequences of that reality.

One dramatic event which brought a drastic alteration in the appearance of parts of the city and campus was totally unexpected. Ironically, one of the favorite popular songs at SSC in the fifties proclaimed, "Oh the wayward wind - is a restless wind - a restless wind - that yearns to wander." The lyrics of that tune had a special meaning for the campus and town after the night of April 2, 1957. Shortly after 6:00 P.M. the most deadly form of a wayward, restless

wind—a tornado—struck the area. Within minutes the storm was over, but it left two residents of the town dead, several injured, and widespread property damage. Before lifting back into the clouds, the funnel descended on the college uprooting trees, severely damaging the roof of the administration building, blowing out windows in the Russell Training School, and unroofing several houses in Vet Village. The time the tornado hit undoubtedly saved many students from injury or death. Warned while having their evening meal in the dining hall, the SSC students sought safety in the basement of the female dormitory. One light-hearted tale proved that not everyone was scared by the fury of the violent wind. According to the *Southeastern*, Charlie Hammack, a student at the time and currently a professor, calmly watched the storm as it approached Hallie McKinney Hall. But as the newspaper reported, when the winds picked up, Hammack "grabbed the porch column and hung on. He noticed a cat being blown off the porch, so he stepped on the cat, therefore saving it. Our Hero!"<sup>39</sup>

There were other wayward, restless winds that greatly influenced the campus in the second half of the 1950s and the early 1960s. After 1955 the musical and social scene would never again be the same; that year a group called Bill Haley and the Comets recorded a song which soon blared from every juke box in the country the following lyrics: "One, two, three o'clock, four o'clock ROCK . . . We're gonna rock around the clock tonight!!!" The birth of Rock and Roll—a term probably derived from the lyrics of "There's Good Rockin' Tonight," a Black blues song of the early 1950s—had an immediate impact on American youth. Other musical bands like Buddy Holly and the Crickets soon added to the legions of rock and rollers at Southeastern and across the country. Despite the dearest prayers of many adults, the music and physical antics of one particular twenty year-old during 1955 made certain that the sound many considered to be too loud, too harsh, and even too lewd, was there to stay. Combining Black blues, country and western, and gospel music, a strong beat, electric guitars, drums, and special electronic audio effects in his performances, Elvis Presley burst onto the American scene with unparalleled intensity. Soon SSC students, to the chagrin of many faculty members and citizens of the town, were wearing "Ducktails" and rocking and rolling to the sounds of not only Presley, Holly, Haley, Jerry Lee Lewis, and other white performers but also Black stars like Little Richard, Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, and Fats Domino.<sup>40</sup>

Many parents and school officials in Durant as well as other parts of the country believed that Elvis' below-the-hips-shaking and music has started a social movement which dangerously threatened the sexual mores of proper society. Even more tragically, some joined their racial prejudice with their dislike and fear of rock and roll. At SSC, President Shearer recognized "that the sound did not really produce such ridiculous results"; thusly, he wisely chose to let Southeastern students rock and roll at Monday night discjockey and other campus social dances. The only impact the music created at SSC was to enhance the gaiety students were having and to make their lives more exciting and innovative. The same could not be said for students at many campuses in Oklahoma and across the nation. For a long time, especially in the Bible Belt, conservative officials tried in vain to stem the musical and social tide brought on by rock and roll.<sup>41</sup>

As revealed in the editorial pages of the *Southeastern*, there also were restless winds of an academic and social nature blowing at Southeastern in the mid-1950s. In 1954 in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, segregation in public schools in America was declared unconstitutional. Then, in 1957 the first civil rights act since Reconstruction was passed to insure that Blacks would be accorded their equal place in society. At the time of the Brown case, SSC was totally segregated and so was the Durant community. But many students, faculty members, and progressive citizens agreed with the editor of the *Southeastern* that the constitutional rights of Blacks to live and attend school where they desired must be respected. In one editorial published in that era entitled "Favor Integration," the campus paper reported that seventy-three percent of college students supported the end of segregation. While the article made clear that desegregation would take time, many felt that force should not be used to achieve equality between the races. Needless to say, it took a great deal of courage to voice such an opinion in southeastern Oklahoma—better known as "Little Dixie." Reflecting on this situation, Dr. Shearer once remarked, "By permitting such articles to be placed in the paper, I fully intended for those on the campus and in the city to know that if Blacks wanted to enter SSC I would do everything in my power to uphold the law of the land." Fortunately, Shearer's fear that integration might create an ugly scene on the campus never occurred. Following the 1954 court case, a few Blacks quietly began to attend classes at Durant; nevertheless, the city's long-term reputation against integration kept the numbers small for a considerable

time. When reluctant landlords threatened not to rent to Blacks who wanted to attend SSC, Shearer and Dr. John Krattiger, the dean of students, let it be known that such an action would result in their property being removed from the approved housing list. Faced with such determination, resistance to integration on campus and in the town began slowly to decline. Still, it would take time for many Blacks to believe that they were welcome and should choose to come to SSC.<sup>42</sup>

Concern over civil rights was only one controversial issue the editors of the school paper and many faculty members were worried about in the mid 1950s; several articles in the *Southeastern* expressed alarm about the state of academic life on the campus and across the nation. In two articles entitled "Indifference," and "Why Study History," the *Southeastern* tried to convince its college readers to take courses which would allow a person to understand and function as a valuable member of society. In the paper's opinion, "Apathy and indifference on the part of most Americans were more dangerous foes than communism." Reacting to campus remarks often overheard that required courses like history, political science, and English were "too hard, unnecessary, and a drag on the schedule," the paper admitted that at first it found itself in agreement. Then, after listening to another conversation about the possibility of a third world war, the editorial observed, "It struck us. All the conversation was in the present tense. Russia isn't only present. It's past too." In general, the article argued that to understand present Russia, one had to comprehend the Soviet past; not to have such knowledge might be fatal. In conclusion, the *Southeastern* remarked, "Perhaps if we don't learn our lesson now our next mistake may be our last. Perhaps this is the reason we have to take history . . . if it isn't the reason maybe it should be."<sup>43</sup>

Professor Floy Perkinson Gates and her English department colleagues, among them Dr. Eugene Slaughter, had been troubled for a long time by similar fears about the average person's inability to read, write, and think in the English language. Furthermore, the SSC professors were very aware that many of the nation's English teachers in the public schools were apparently poorly prepared. Acting on this knowledge, Slaughter determined that he would try to ascertain the problems in his chosen field—both in Oklahoma and throughout the nation. Slaughter came to believe that the best method for alleviating this crisis was to study existing programs and make recommendations for the better preparation and certification of college and public school English instructors. Acting on this concept while a member of both the

Oklahoma and the National Councils of English Teachers, Slaughter agreed to serve as chairman of a select state committee charged with making an exhaustive study of requirements for college students training to become public school English teachers in Oklahoma and in many other states. The SSC English professor's committee also examined the problem of why so many language instructors were "leaving the profession or transferring to different teaching fields." Slaughter's pioneering effort and his leadership on the committee resulted in national recognition for the SSC professor and the school he represented at a meeting of the National Council of Teachers at St. Louis, Missouri, in November of 1956.<sup>44</sup>

At the meeting of the sixty-thousand-member organization, Slaughter explained how the study by his state committee and its recommendations had already led to policies designed to improve the competence of Oklahoma English teachers. In commenting on Slaughter's achievement, Donald R. Tuttle, the chairman of the national committee on standards and certification said, "What he and his colleagues did is astounding; they brought about a substantial improvement in certification requirements. . . ." In the next few years, the SSC English professor continued to exercise his powerful influence on teacher preparation and certification at SSC and across the country as a prominent member of Tuttle's select national committee on standards. His influence grew even more when he succeeded Professor Tuttle as chairman of the national committee. Yet, as Slaughter and his colleagues at SSC and elsewhere understood, the campaign to establish uniformly higher standards would have to be a long and sustained one.<sup>45</sup>

While Slaughter and other English teachers expressed anxieties concerning the English language, many others worried about student apathy in other academic areas. In another series of editorials and articles in the mid-fifties, the *Southeastern* voiced these fears. In a tone very similar to its editorials on the need to be more aware about the world, the school paper deplored the lack of training most students received in math and science. In one editorial entitled "More Science Controversy," the *Southeastern* ridiculed such statements as "science is too dull" and "you don't need math to get by. You don't make any more money." In the paper's view, this seemingly nationwide attitude was damaging both to high school students and college scholars. "Today in college, we compete with foreign students. . . who are required to pass science courses in high school which many of us can not master in college,"

the paper lamented. Furthermore, the *Southeastern* predicted, "If this issue should be thoroughly explored in today's colleges, we would surely learn that one who excels in science, excels in many fields."<sup>46</sup>

Professors at SSC agreed with the campus paper's ideas. In an article on March 27, 1957, Professor Clifford Broughton expressed his anxiety that Americans were fooling themselves that "the quality of the American school is higher than the quality of the Russian school." While admitting this might be true in "some subjects," Broughton said that it was "the contention among most scientists and engineers that the training in science and math in Russian schools is at least equal and possibly superior to the same training in American schools." To prove his point, the SSC physical science instructor told the school press that "an ordinary school boy in Russia negotiates a rigid curriculum which includes five years of biology, four years of chemistry, and ten years of math." Conversely, in the United States "less than ten percent of American high school graduates have taken as much as a year of physics and chemistry and often no advanced math," declared Broughton. Finally, the article argued that it seemed to be a trend in Russia to emphasize these complex subject areas "and it is the trends one must watch." Obviously, the inference of the editorial was that American college professors had to spend too much time teaching basic and fundamental materials to their ill-prepared students; thus, many valuable and necessary advanced educational concepts had to be given less attention. The SSC faculty felt that although many American college students might possess a quick intelligence, they were graduating without a comparable period of in-depth training their contemporaries obtained in Russia and elsewhere.<sup>47</sup>

The concern on the part of SSC professors, the *Southeastern*, and educators across the nation proved to be all too prophetic — on October 4, 1957, the government and people of the United States were shocked to hear that a Russian satellite called Sputnik had been launched from a base in Star City, Russia. Word soon spread that a Soviet spaceman, called a cosmonaut, would quickly follow Sputnik into space. For the first time since World War II, Americans had to face the truth that they were no longer the world's leader in science and other educational fields. Reacting to this dangerous situation, Americans instantly demanded that the government and the educational system take corrective measures. In an expression of this view, Senator, and future president of the

United States, Lyndon B. Johnson reportedly said, "If for one do not intend to go to sleep by the light of a communist moon." The answer to the Russian threat lay, most Americans felt, in the need to turn out better and more highly trained students from the nation's graduate programs, colleges, and high schools.<sup>48</sup>

At Southeastern, Dr. Shearer and the faculty heartily concurred. In remembering the time of Sputnik, Shearer told the author, "We fully intended to take our place in producing more qualified students and teachers in all areas of academics." But the SSC president knew that the process should start at the public school level. Shearer recalled, "We realized that while Southeastern could help make an immediate impact in not only training its own students more productively by tightening the school's academic requirements, we could instantly help to improve the quality of high school teachers—but this would take money." The president of SSC immediately turned his attention to obtaining the needed funds from the federal government. Because he knew that President Eisenhower, despite the trauma of Sputnik, was still adamantly opposed to a massive expansion of federal aid to schools while the country continued in its recessionary trend, SSC's chief executive hurriedly moved to acquire Southeastern's share of whatever supplemental funds would be made available by congress to strengthen the country's school systems. "Actually we had already tried several times to seek federal funding for programs in the past. Dr. Dorothy Leake, Dr. Leslie Dwight, and others had made several unsuccessful attempts. This time, however, I meant for their requests to be approved, if at all humanly possible," Shearer related in his memoirs.<sup>49</sup>

Astutely, Dr. Shearer sought the advice of a powerful friend and ally of Southeastern—Congressman Carl Albert, "The Little Giant from Little Dixie." To assist SSC's requests for funds, Shearer made a trip to Washington to see Congressman Albert. "I told the Congressman I wanted to make it clear to him that I was not asking him to personally intervene for SSC. I only wished that he ascertain who the best people were to talk to in the capitol about why our requests had not been approved in the past, and what did we need to do to correct this so our next proposals would be sanctioned," Shearer said. Relating Albert's response to his visit, Shearer recalled, "I found Congressman Albert to be the fine, warm and responsive person I had always known—and a true believer in the worth of SSC." After a few quick phone calls, the president left with the names he needed and appointments already

made with "those in the know in Washington." The president's trip had a more profound effect than he had ever dreamed. Southeastern soon became an institutional leader in the state, the region, and even the nation for programs designed to strengthen the educational expertise of its academic clientele.<sup>50</sup>

On May 14, 1958, the *Southeastern* elatedly proclaimed, "An important new step in Southeastern State College's expanding teacher-education program has been announced by President A. E. Shearer." As the paper explained, the institution had finally been selected to receive a grant from the National Science Foundation to establish an in-service institute under the direction of Dr. Dorothy Leake for the advanced training of high school science teachers in the field of biology. At the time the new program was approved for the Durant campus, the only other state institutions which had won similar grants were the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University. As President Shearer had assured federal officials, Southeastern had the skilled professors and necessary technology needed to make the institute a success. As results would prove, Shearer had even understated SSC's case.<sup>51</sup>

At the end of the first semester of the program in December 1958, the campus paper ran an article entitled "Science Teachers Praise SSC's Inservice Institute." In its interviews with the twenty-five high school teachers selected to participate in the weekly seminars in Durant, the paper found the high school participants "enthusiastic about the achievements of the new program." Besides their acquiring more "subject matter," the teacher-students were "particularly gratified in being able to see and use college demonstration materials and laboratory equipment"; they also discovered and learned "more effective methods and media of instruction." Most important, all those involved with the SSC institute agreed that "the results are having a direct and immediate effect on their high school teaching," the paper decreed.<sup>52</sup>

To the exultation of Dr. Shearer and the faculty, on March 18, 1959, the National Science Foundation rewarded SSC with a second grant—which expanded the program to include physical science and mathematics. Dr. Ernest Sturch was named to succeed Dr. Leake, who had decided to retire, as director of the newly-funded second institute. The excitement generated among the faculty and students at SSC concerning the announcement of the prestigious award had barely time to abate, when Shearer informed the press that a third grant, to be directed by Dr. Howard

McCarley, had been approved for a four-year study of different species of wild mice. While the campus was still buzzing about the newest program, Shearer advised the media that Southeastern had been selected as one of the twelve regional centers for a national math study. The SSC unit of the federally financed program directed from Yale University would be headed by Dr. Leslie Dwight, the chairman of the SSC mathematics department.<sup>53</sup>

Unlike the first two grants, the mathematics study eventually involved not only teachers but also high school students; the basic aim, Dr. Dwight explained to the press, was to acquaint the participants "with the drastic changes occurring in mathematics which make college radically different in many aspects. . . ." Interestingly, the teachers and students would learn "a far greater change in study-approach," especially in the theory behind mathematics, declared the SSC professor. In essence, what Dr. Dwight had described for the press was the beginnings of "New Math — an area in which he would become a nationally known figure. Teachers and students from the public schools in Denison, Sherman, Hugo, Ardmore, and Durant were selected to attend the Southeastern accelerated study center. Then, near the end of the 1958 academic term, the faculty and students at SSC were amazed to learn that a fifth grant had been sanctioned for the college. Instead of teacher training, however, the newest program was oriented toward the promotion of undergraduate research; under the supervision of Dr. Earl Kilpatrick, ten superior students would be selected to take part in the study concerning fish and water conditions in Lake Texoma.<sup>54</sup>

There were several other local and national developments and events which combined to make the late 1950s and early 1960s an exciting and challenging time to have attended the Magnolia campus. President Shearer, the faculty, and the student body awaited the beginning of the 1959 academic year for a very special reason. Southeastern would celebrate its golden anniversary as an institution of higher learning. It was readily apparent as preparations for the new fall term began that the year would be a remarkable one. First, President Shearer, the faculty, and the students were cheered by the further physical expansion of the campus. Of the two projects in progress, the one most exciting to students was an enlargement project; at a cost of \$128,000, the old and cramped student union was enlarged to include a new coffee shop (the campus' main hang-out), an expanded book exchange, a student lounge, and a faculty lounge. The other capital improvement was

an \$80,000 sheet metal and welding shop—a much needed facility for the expanding programs offered by Professor Alvin White and his staff in the industrial arts department. Secondly, to keep up with the soaring enrollment, Shearer had to hire an unusually large number of additional faculty members and a new dean of women. Joining the SSC academic family were James Latham, Arnold Walker, Claud Welborn, Howard McCarley, Wade Baskin, Lewis Barker, Edwin Boynton, Bill Grimes, Lother Hornuff, John Branson, Melbern Nixon, Don Parham, and, as dean, Katie Frank Slack.<sup>55</sup>

The 50th anniversary year was truly regarded by the SSC faculty as an academic watershed. Early in the fall President Shearer announced that he was exceedingly grateful to be able to tell the public that "Southeastern had met its chief responsibility—to furnish an excellent academic program for its students." In a letter he received from the national headquarters of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, President Shearer and the faculty were informed that the institution had completed its five-year probationary period and had been given an "A" accreditation status for its new graduate degree; the undergraduate program likewise earned an "A" status. Even more rewarding, Shearer happily revealed in the fall of 1960 that SSC had been reaccredited to membership by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).<sup>56</sup>

Dr. Shearer also took satisfaction in fall 1969 in announcing that members of the SSC faculty continued to finish their terminal degrees. The front pages of the first fall issue of the *Southeastern* featured, for example, a picture with the legend "It's Doctor Johnson Now." In an accompanying story, the campus paper congratulated Professor Louis G. Johnson on finishing his Ph.D. requirements and his graduation from the University of Missouri. As everyone who has been through a doctoral program knows, it is virtually impossible to explain to those who have never experienced "the grind" the physical and emotional strain such an endeavor takes. But Bernice Johnson, Louis' wife, who had to keep house and watch over three growing sons, Bruce, Randy, and Steve, and type manuscripts as well, would have undoubtedly agreed with the following remarks made by Ann Kilpatrick when her husband Earl completed his doctorate a few months before the end of the Johnson family's academic ordeal. According to the *Southeastern*, when asked about how she felt about her husband finishing, Ann Kilpatrick remarked good-humoredly, "I've

almost had to be introduced to the man sitting across the table from me. And it's a relief to have someone to help answer the children's questions (the couple had six). Now I can stop saying "Don't bother Daddy!"<sup>57</sup>

Naturally, President Shearer wanted all the festivities commemorating the golden anniversary to be memorable ones. To assist him in arranging the particulars of the landmark milestone, Shearer appointed Dr. James Morrison, the Dean of Instruction, as chairman of the "Golden Anniversary Committee." In planning for the main birthday celebration to be held at Homecoming, the president had to have the help and cooperation of the student leadership at SSC; in this regard, Shearer was indeed fortunate. John Massey, the president of the Southeastern student body that particular year, was one of the most active and diligent officers ever to serve in that capacity on the campus. Born to be a politician, Massey, who would become a state senator and a distinguished alumnus award winner, had been named the most valuable representative in the student governing board in the two years prior to his election as president. Moreover, he had received state-wide recognition as a responsible student leader by being elected as president of the OISA, the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Student Association.<sup>58</sup>

From the very start of the fall semester, the schedule of activities made it evident that Massey already had plans in motion to aid President Shearer in making Southeastern's fiftieth year a fun-filled happening. Massey was able to accomplish much because he could rely on an extremely capable and responsive Senate led by junior representative, Pat Phelps, another dynamic young man who would succeed him in the presidency the following year. The SSC student body president had help from another important source in his endeavors on behalf of Dr. Morrison's committee. As Massey would later state on the occasion of his acceptance speech as a distinguished SSC alumnus in 1984, he owed much of what he accomplished that year, throughout his college career, and in his later life to the guidance given him by Dr. John Krattiger, Southeastern's beloved dean of students in 1959 and later the Vice-President for Student Services. Literally hundreds of students have had their lives greatly influenced by Dr. Krattiger in the same manner as Massey.

As the term commenced, the Student Senate set the stage in the weeks prior to the golden anniversary by sponsoring pep rallies, bonfires, spirit contests, and such weekend dances as the

All-School Halloween Costume Party. All the energy and planning expended by the faculty and students proved to be worth the effort. The Fiftieth Homecoming was surely a gala affair with hundreds in attendance at the various events. In an editorial about the celebration on November 18, the campus paper stated, "Southeastern State College rolled back the curtain 50 years to 1909 Saturday to stage its most colorful homecoming marred only by a chill wind which did nothing to reduce the enthusiasm and enjoyment of those who did return to the campus." The paper saluted "the imagination and resourcefulness which went into the preparation of the floats." In the college organization category of the float competition, the Southeastern Art Club won with its Magnolia entry representing the "Flowering of Education." The Tot-N-Teens midget car won the city prize, and Durant Junior High won the "other-schools" division. One special event of the activities was a noon barbeque which featured an address by the Honorable Robert S. Kerr, United States Senator, and the presentation of special awards.<sup>60</sup>

Among those winning prizes were Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Ernest. Actually, the Ernests were double winners—by being the parents with the most children who had attended-or-graduated from SSC; of the eight offspring the couple had sent to the college, six had finished their degrees. Three alumni, Robert Davis, Dick Allen, and Dale Leman, won awards for traveling more than one thousand miles to attend the festivities; the oldest-graduate-in-attendance award went to Mr. L. B. Norman. C. B. French was recognized as the alumnus with the most teaching experience—forty-three years. Finally, Senator Kerr and State Senator Bob Trent, president of the SSC Alumni Association, presented special gifts to the most honored guests of the day—the graduates of the first "Life Certificate" class of 1910 and the graduates of the first "College Class" of 1921. This very unique group of alumni included Mrs. W. F. Semple, Mrs. Mabel E. Smith, Mrs. Edna Neeley, Mrs. P. Y. Jolly, Mrs. Harry Aker, Mrs. R. E. Crump, and James R. Sprague. Breakfasts given by different organizations to welcome back former members, a Faculty Dames reception after the game, an exhibit of books, pictures, and other historical items of SSC's past on display in the administration building lobby, and a dance with music provided by the "Cell Block 7" were further highlights of the "Golden Anniversary" day.<sup>61</sup>

The 1959-1960 academic year was exciting for still another reason. Like all Americans, students at SSC found themselves

increasingly interested in politics—specifically, the race for the presidency of the country. As the combatants for the Democratic party nomination embarked on their quest for the right to run against Richard Nixon, many on the SSC campus realized that Massachusetts Senator John F. Kennedy would win the nomination. When the charismatic politician won the nomination and the subsequent election in November 1960, nevertheless, SSC students like millions throughout the nation were still not sure about how they felt concerning his election. Southeastern students were fully aware of the often heard speculation that Kennedy's father had bought the election and would actually tell his son how to run the country. SSC students were also cognizant of the charge that because of his Roman Catholicism, Kennedy would allow the Pope and The Church to interfere in his decisions. They quickly forgot their apprehensions, however, because of the electrifying affect of the inaugural speech—in which he proclaimed the start of "The New Frontier." Like their fellow Americans throughout the country, the Durant campus was tired of the passivity of the Eisenhower administration and "hungered for bright, decisive, bold leadership in Washington." The Southeastern faculty and student body found that hope and inspiration in Kennedy's declaration: "Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch has been passed to a new generation of Americans. . . ." <sup>62</sup>

The various winds of change that brought rock and roll, the launching of Sputnik, and Kennedy's election had a startling and dramatic impact on the campus. In an editorial entitled "Education too Easy," the *Southeastern* acknowledged soon after Sputnik that "the American system of education is presently under close scrutiny by not only leading educators but the general public as well." The *Southeastern* further deplored the lack of qualified teachers at all levels and the lack of appreciation for intellectuals in American society. After noting that there seemed to be "deterioration of standards in colleges," the school paper warned, "The attitude that needs to be changed in college is—I hope classes do not interfere with my college education." <sup>63</sup>

The higher academic standards the paper called for were almost immediately implemented at SSC. Academically, students responded to the increased awareness for higher standards of scholarship brought on by the "Race in Space." According to Paul Wiley, a student at the time of Sputnik and currently an SSC professor, "There is no question that following the advent of the

space race, students became more serious and classes became tougher and more competitive." Articles in the *Southeastern* concurred with Wiley's contention; in reviewing the second semester activities of the 1957-1958 year, the paper said, "Sputnik really had its effect. Just about every student who could add the proverbial two and two or light a bunsen burner enrolled in math and science courses." Enrollment statistics for the 1958 spring term revealed that 391 had taken math courses—a tremendous increase over the number who normally enrolled in such classes. Professor R. W. Harkey was delighted with the new attitude. "Present day students have progressively shown greater effort to master mathematics. It is apparent that many are burning the midnight oil," the math professor told the *Southeastern*. <sup>64</sup>

The numbers choosing such subjects continuously grew in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Chemistry professors, like John L. Props and Dr. Ernest Sturch, witnessed not only larger classes but also an increased interest in activities like science fairs which were held on the campus and in organizations like the Southeastern Science Club and the Frontiers of Science Society. SSC math and science professors took heart in much more than just seeing the growth of the numbers of students taking their subject areas; several young SSC scholars exemplified remarkable talent for math and science—students who would end their stay at SSC by being accepted into medical or doctoral programs. Numbered among these outstanding graduates were such excellent students as Mark Tong, Wade Norman, Sam L. Pool, Eugene "Gene" Slaughter, Jr., David Faulkenberry, Phyllis Pyrum, Charles Folsom, Tom Garrett, Don Whitfill, Jack Robinson, and Fred Stroup, Jr. <sup>65</sup>

While some chose to apply their talents in math, chemistry, and science, other SSC students continued to excel in different, but just as challenging, academic areas during the late 1950s and early 1960s. In debate, SSC annually held the Savage Forensic—the oldest and one of the largest attended college debating tournaments in the entire nation. In the thirty-fifth Savage Forensic held in February of 1963, for instance, twenty-seven schools from across the nation sent representatives trying to win titles in the junior and senior college men and women divisions for original oratory, extemporaneous speaking, after dinner speaking, poetry, interpretation, and story tellings; the most coveted award was the T. A. Houston Oratory Award, given to the most outstanding orator and named in honor of SSC's beloved long-time debate coach. For the

1963 contest, the chairman of the speech department, Dorothy Higgenbotham, happily told the press that "some three-hundred people, many from the Durant community, helped the SSC faculty serve as judges and timekeepers." As always in the past, SSC students often won debating awards in tournaments held elsewhere in the country; in January, 1958, Dan Batchelor and Sam Pool defeated their opponents from Notre Dame, the University of Houston, and the University of Oklahoma to win the Amarillo Golden Spread Tournament. Over the years, SSC individual and team debaters won an extensive number of trophies. Among those who competed for SSC and won awards at tournaments held in such prestigious places as Harvard, Tulane, Baylor, and West Point in the late 1950s and early 1960s were Eugene "Gene" Slaughter, Jr., Gail Sammons, Chuck Choate, Dale Wood, Jeanne Brady, Te Loa Holder, Leon Hill, Carl Armstrong, George Morrow, Johnnie Gilpin, Charlotte Williams, Jerry Simmons, and Jim Spangler.<sup>66</sup>

On another front, audiences marveled at the showmanship exhibited at the many plays presented on the campus during the era of Sputnik and the New Frontier. Included in the fine, full-length performances which delighted the residents of Durant and southeastern Oklahoma were *The Cane Mutiny*, *John Loves Mary*, *Sabrina*, *All My Sons*, *Hang On To Loue*, *Janus*, *The Accusers*, *The Thread that Runs So True*, *On The Third Day*, *Death of A Salesman*, *The Matchmaker*, *The Madwoman of Chaillot*, *Blithe Spirit*, and *A Hatful of Rain*. Representative of the hundreds of student actors who worked hard to bring theatrical comedy and drama to the thousands who watched their acting in Montgomery Auditorium were Bill Riddle, Edward Gordon, Barbara Leonard, Dean Holford, Jan Kennamer, Lavon Lewis, Oscar Wilkie, Kenneth Heath, Jack Watts, Katy Leach, David Henderson, Tom Burroughs, Sandra Holder, George Wood, Mary Nichols, Larry Rape, John McCain, Carl Armstrong, Mike Rose, Lucretia May, Jim Barnes, Jim Turnbull, John Thomas, Jeanne Brady, Tom Corbitt, Norvin Allen, Jane New, Pete McGee, Mary Walters, Sandra Miller, and Tommy Thomas.<sup>67</sup>

One event in the fall semester of 1962 was very exhilarating for the people who watched or participated in the dramatic productions at SSC. On November 22, 1962, the *Southeastern* printed a picture showing a smiling President Shearer holding a shovel in his hands. In an accompanying article, the paper informed its

readers about the pleasantries marking the groundbreaking ceremonies for SSC's new Fine Arts Building. Concerning the new \$475,000 structure, Shearer correctly said, "It will be one of the finest buildings of its kind in the country." Faculty and students just as thrilled about the celebration were those on campus who took part in band, music, and choral activities. In fact, it can be said that the campus experienced a virtual musical "Renaissance" during the era. SSC's marching band kept adding to its ranks and meliorating its appearances. The Homecoming festivities of 1960 found the "Pride of Savageland," led by drum major Tommy Tucker, crisply strutting across the football field in their "sleek new uniforms." The new band attire featured an overlay jacket of blue and white with gold trim, solid white plumes for the similarly colored hats, and a West Point style belt and buckle of blue and gold. By Homecoming 1962, the number of Marching Savages had grown to nearly fifty—a very sizeable band for a small college. That year the band led by Howard Penn featured a shorter, snappier marching step of only twenty-two and a half inches and the twirling of high-stepping majorettes, Pat Hutton and Joy Lane.<sup>68</sup>

Southeastern's excellent concert band, instructed by Mel Nixon in the late 1950s and Lloyd Cook in the early 1960s, also received resplendent new midnight-blue tuxedo-style uniforms, accentuated by gold arm braids and sashes and the school initials emblazoned across the front in gold block letters. Several times during each academic year, SSC's concert band gave many pleasurable performances in Montgomery Auditorium, the outdoor amphitheatre, and in various communities throughout Oklahoma and north Texas. A few of the many talented musicians who gave fine solo renditions were Billy Nettles, Stanley Rains, Ronnie Wright, Don Jones, Kathleen Davis, Linda Hutton, Max Green, Jay Williams, Betty Stoddard, and Jim Gabbard. Members of both Southeastern bands always cheerfully pitched in to help out in SSC's annual high school Band Festival Day; and their assistance was greatly needed. Organized by Professor Cook, the event was truly a big day on campus as over one thousand high school students annually descended on Durant to compete for awards in twirling, sight-reading, solo playing, and ensemble performance.<sup>69</sup>

Southeastern students further enraptured audiences with their vocal talents. The regionally renowned SSC A Cappella Choir, the oldest musical group on the campus, remained a tradi-



tional and favorite organization for students. As in the past, the A Cappella Choir sang at concerts not only at SSC but also in numerous cities in southern Oklahoma. Several specialized vocal groups, drawn from the large membership of the choir, captivated listeners with their melodic offerings. In the 1958 academic year, the SSC Madrigal Singers made their appearance for the first time under the direction of Dr. K. W. Baumgardner. Designed to be more secular in nature and less formal than bigger choirs, the SSC Madrigal Singers, like their historic antecedents, appeared "around a candle-lit table in an informal atmosphere." Besides singing traditional English, German, and Italian works, the Southeastern Madrigals sang modern American spiritual ballads as well. Other featured choral groups during the era were known as the SSC Men's Quartet, the SSC Women's Trio, the Southeastern Trio, the Accidentals, and the Braves. Whether appearing in complements of three or four, the harmonic talents of these elite vocal musicians charmed hundreds with their performances before civic clubs, other similar organizations, and in concerts on campus. A few of the SSC singers chosen to be members of the select vocal groups were Loy Beal, Aaron Townsend, Don Martin, Terry Taylor, Tommy Tucker, Joe Leland Gary, Tom Blair, Jerry McCain, Te Loa Holder, Norman Kay Ford, Bernita Brumley, Polly Sanguin, Phil Dunham, Charles Gardener, Jim Green, Quentin Thomas, Linda Hutton, Beverly Barbee, and Marilyn Holden.<sup>70</sup>

With the hiring of Professor George Smith to succeed Baumgardner in the fall of 1961, the choral traditions at SSC began a metamorphosis. Smith renamed the choir the Southeastern State College Chorale, reduced the size of the membership by careful auditioning, and adopted new attire for public concerts. Henceforth, instead of wearing robes, except for formal occasions like the annual candlelighting, the male members of the chorale dressed for ensemble performances in white sport coats, black pants, and bow ties, while the females wore fashionable black dresses accented with white pearl necklaces. As Smith hoped, the fame of the SSC chorale soon spread; as a result, the 1962 choir got a very distinctive invitation. On April 16, 1963, the chorale appeared at the state capitol before a joint session of the Oklahoma Legislature, where it "brought down the house" with a rousing rendition of the song "Oklahoma." Later in the day the chorale sang for a memorial service held for recently deceased members of the legislature. Before long, the chorale's reputation for excellence would

be known both nationally and internationally. One annual occasion at SSC which was eagerly anticipated by all who enjoyed choral activities was the Southeastern High School Choral Festival. Usually held in the spring, the yearly festivity brought eight hundred to a thousand secondary students to the campus to compete for awards and to perform a vesper concert under the direction of a famous conductor.<sup>71</sup>

SSC students in the late 1950s and early 1960s also demonstrated their musical, dancing, vocal, dramatic, and comic talents in one rather extraordinary way. The only time when all these various abilities were showcased occurred at the annual "Savage Scandals"—a variety type show which made its debut at SSC in 1957. Called by many students "one of the best things that ever happened at Southeastern," the idea for Savage Scandals resulted from an appearance before the Student Senate by Captain F. N. Satterlee, an officer in charge of public relations for the Ardmore Air Force Base, and a commuting student at SSC. Responding energetically to Satterlee's proposal, President Garry Landreth and the Student Senate formed a committee to help the officer plan the talent presentation. Students serving on the committee were Jan Kennamer, Charlotte Newman, Chuck Choate, and Buddy Whiteman. After weeks of preparation, the first edition of Savage Scandals debuted on the night of November 19 before a packed crowd in Montgomery Auditorium. In an editorial reviewing the show, the *Southeastern* decreed, "A Tradition Is Born." Bragging that "it was so good we don't know where to start," the school paper stated that the Scandals had surprised everyone by not being "just another talent show with no spark, no interest, and consequently not much applause"; rather, the show had left "the crowd hanging over their seats and clapping their hands raw for an encore. What

And, in reality, the *Southeastern* was correct—a new tradition had been born at SSC. Throughout the 1950s, 1960s, and into the 1970s, Savage Scandals remained one of the most eagerly awaited nights of any school year on the campus. Starring in the original performance which featured bands (like the Kampus Kats), solos, duets, tap and other dance routines, fraternity and sorority skits, and "a wide range of talent, . . . from organ music to an Elvis Presley imitation," were Larry Ferguson, Bill Crowder, Marge Harris, Nan Webster, Nan Bliss, Buddy Whiteman, Freddy Rainwater, Henry McKenzie, Charlotte Newman, Tommy Tucker, Terry Taylor, Tom Blair, Charles Potts, and Parkie Johnston. Just a few

of the hundreds of the performers who worked to delight audiences later in the era were Sandra Sample, Jimmy Cox, Jimmy Burket, "Bulldog" Henry, Dwayne "Blackie" Bracken, Jack Erwin, Mike Sweeney, Sandra Smith, Mary Baler, Tom Burroughs, Pat Phelps, Polly Sanguin, Dick Presley, Laurabelle Sandefur, Katy Leach, Joe Taylor, Tommy Thomas, Nita Reavis, Margaret Byers, John McCreary, Tim Danielson, L. A. Hudson, Dale Wood, "Boo" Beaton, Ronnie Wright, Phyllis Byers, Sandra Baker, Sandra Bailey, and Sally Murray. At times, even faculty members, like Charles Gardner and Charles Andrews, joined in the show and drew riotous applause for their numbers.<sup>73</sup>

Students of the late 1950s and early 1960s were especially socially gregarious. On college campuses across the nation, fraternities and sororities enjoyed a "heyday" of growth during those years. Many students at SSC joined the long established social societies, Alpha Sigma Tau, Phi Sigma Epsilon, Pi Kappa Sigma, and Sigma Tau Gamma; others opted to join new fraternal orders founded in the late 1950s and early 1960s at SSC like Tau Kappa Epsilon, Delta Zeta, and Sigma Kappa. Detailed descriptions of the social activities of the Greeks carried in the *Southeastern* vividly reveal that the members of these social organizations attended many fun affairs. Two of the most elaborately planned parties were the Bowery Ball and the Frontier Dance. Party-goers for the Bowery Ball could look forward to dancing in costumes designed to imitate the "seedy" life found in that infamous northeast section of New York City. Sailor suits, wino-attire, skirts split high on the thigh, low-cut blouses, dark hose, and sunglasses were the order of the night. For the Frontier Dance, the gym was transformed into a western-looking town of the old frontier, that the *Southeastern* declared "would rival any TV or movie set." Naturally, each Sig Tau and his date tried to outdress the others present in gun-fighter and saloon-girl costumes. Not to be outdone, the new Greek societies added their own costume-theme dances to the social scene—such as the Tau Kappa Epsilon Mount Olympus, Beatnik, Friday the Thirteenth, Toga Twirl, and Red Carnation dances.<sup>74</sup>

Rushees could look forward to elaborate rush parties held by the Greeks to persuade them to join their organizations. These socials were not only enjoyable for the potential pledges but also for the members themselves; rushees were treated to such exotic parties as the Candlelight Steak Dinner, the Champagne Stork Club Dinner, the Southern Plantation Garden Party, the Alice in

Sorority Land Costume Dinner, the Party at the Parthenon Supper and Festival, the Satellite and Rocket for Outer Space Banquet, the Cowboy Ranch Feast, and the Bowling Alley Feed. Once they had become pledges, the new Greeks were allowed to attend the beautifully decorated formal dances held every year by the fraternities and sororities. Thousands of students who attended SSC in the era of the Space Race and the New Frontier can look back with nostalgic fondness to their days on the campus by merely looking at their pictures taken at the Tau Kappa Epsilon Red Carnation Ball, the Alpha Sigma Tau Spring Formal, the Sigma Kappa Pearl Ball, the Delta Zeta Kilarney Rose Ball, and the Sigma Tau White Rose Ball.<sup>75</sup>

Students who chose to become affiliated with the Greek societies attended other joyous socials besides the formal dances and the many dinners. Alumni parties, teas, barbecues, picnics, beach outings, pledge "sneaks," founders' days, pep rallies, float building, and attending the national conventions usually held in places like New Orleans, San Francisco, and New York were just part of Greek life at SSC. One of the biggest honors a student could achieve socially on campus was to be named a "Beau" or "Belle" for one of the fraternal chapters. Not everyone, it should be said, felt that the Greek societies were beneficial to life at SSC. Occasionally, the *Southeastern* would print letters from "independent" students who denounced the power the groups had in school affairs, especially the student elections. On the whole, however, during the late 1950s and early 1960s the campus relationship between Greeks and independents was amicable. Certainly, as the *Southeastern* stated in an editorial on October 8, 1958, the fraternal organizations at SSC encouraged good scholarship among their members, provided college leaders from their ranks, and worked hard in campus and civic endeavors. According to the paper, "Whether it's spirit, school and community projects (by the way homecoming floats are coming up), cooperating with faculty and administration, or helping the leading of organizations, the Greeks of SSC are always there."<sup>76</sup>

While students became Greeks in increasing numbers in the late 1950s and early 1960s, they joined many other types of groups as well. Few, if any, small colleges in the country offered more opportunities for its students to participate in social and academic clubs and organizations than Southeastern. Various national honorary and professional societies afforded the students a chance to

pursue their special academic interests. Remarkably for the size of the student population, there were at least twenty honor societies at SSC. Moreover, the campus had forty local clubs and departmental organizations which met regularly for the pleasure and enrichment of Southeastern students.<sup>77</sup>

There were many other facets of campus life at SSC which offered entertainment. Traditional observances like the Friendship Fire and the Christmas Candlelighting service continued to be memorable moments for those on the campus. At the 1959 yuletide celebration, for example, Norman Vincent Peale's "The Coming of the King" was the featured presentation. Students who sang solos or acted in parts of the musical drama were Loy Beal, Tom Burroughs, Te Loa Holder, Madge Maddox, Sarah Blackwood, and Ray Noel. As a picture of Sandra Holder capturing Jerry Marsh in the February 24, 1960, issue of the *Southeastern* depicted, the celebration known as Sadie Hawking Week grew in popularity during the period of the Space Race and the New Frontier; sponsored by the Hell Hounds and Savagettes, the five-day "Dogpatch" festival found SSC students playing turnabout on coke dates, at disc jockey, and at the movies.<sup>78</sup>

Historically, the week ended with an all-school costume dance in the gym; taking the prizes at the 1960 dance were Barbara Beeton as Daisy Mae and Tommy Choate as Lil' Abner. Music for the dance was played by SSC's own dance band, "The Debonairs." Musicians in the group, who were constantly in demand for campus and off-campus appearances, were Charles Allen, Jesse Riddle, Carl Armstrong, Madge Maddox, and Harold Harmon. Choosing the ten prettiest SSC beauties at a special assembly and attending the dance where the Annual Yearbook Queen was announced were favorite campus events. Representatives of the dozens of lovely coeds who entered the beauty pageants, which included a fashion show, were Judy Burke, Sandra Glaze Wood, Camilla Campbell, Sally Murray, Zelma Bowman, Pat Hutton, Sharin Nix, Beverly May, Sandra Bailey, and Judy Wood. At the All-School Annual Dance, Sandra Wood was named the 1963 *Savage* Queen from this bevy of pretty coeds.<sup>79</sup>

The frequent scheduling of famous personalities on campus enhanced the reputation of SSC as a rewarding place to attend college. International artists like the pianist Van Cliburn, jazz musician Woody Herman, and the Dublin Players Repertory Troup played concert dates at the School of the Rising Sun. Additionally, several campus attractions brought SSC students directly in contact with the culture of foreign lands and peoples and

highlighted each school year in the post-Sputnik era. Oklahoma Presbyterian College sponsored two events—"Around the World Night" and the "Intercultural Fair"—which featured "greetings from widely separated parts of the world and a program of songs and dances by foreign and American Indian students." Because most SSC students and many of Durant's residents went to the popular presentations, international and intercultural understanding had to be advanced, observed the *Southeastern*.

President Shearer concurred with the campus paper's assessment of the value that Southeastern students, the faculty, and the town gained from the activities at OPC—SSC's sister institution in the city. Shearer felt, and often publicly said, that "The Presbyterian school was responsible for Southeastern being here today." As the SSC executive frequently explained to audiences on OPC Around the World Nights, "the State School (SSC) was located here in 1909 because OPC—established over seventy years ago as Calvin Institute—had made people of the area believe in higher education." And, by the time Shearer became president of Southeastern, the two schools' destinies had totally intertwined. As best explained by Professor Anne Semple in her book about OPC called *Ties that Bind: The Story of Oklahoma Presbyterian College*, the denominational institution began its existence in Durant in 1894 during the days of Indian Territory. Called Calvin Institute originally, the coed Presbyterian school's name was eventually changed to Durant Presbyterian College. After its creation the school functioned as a coeducational institution until 1910, when the church Home Missions Board converted the school into a college for women and renamed the institution Oklahoma Presbyterian College for Girls.<sup>81</sup>

In 1952, the school again became coeducational; yet, by that time changes had taken place which had worked to solidify the destinies of the two institutions of higher learning—OPC and SSC. The Missions Board, always struggling to find ways to support the private college, voted in 1920 to convert OPC into a junior college. During the Depression, the Board of Trustees ultimately ascertained that the only logical way to keep the school open was to join its purpose with that of Southeastern's. Thus, an agreement was completed in 1935 whereby OPC's students thereafter would continue to live in the dormitories on the denominational campus and there attend classes in Bible, religious education, leadership training, and music; the remainder of their academic schedule would be taken at Southeastern. As noted, in 1952 the school began again

admitting young men to its ranks. As a result, the new arrangement called for the dropping "for Girls" from the title of the school—it again became known as Oklahoma Presbyterian College—a church Home Missions project designed primarily for Indian education, but open to young scholars of other races as well.<sup>82</sup>

In Dr. Semple's opinion, the agreement with SSC allowed OPC to maintain its existence and to participate in an educational program "which achieved both a desirable separation of aims and a profitable combination of functions." In accordance with Dr. Semple's remarks, Professor Jorge Morales, a current Southeastern faculty member and a former international student from Mexico in the early 1960s, told the author, "Living at Oklahoma Presbyterian College and attending classes and functions at both institutions was truly a unique and fulfilling experience. The students who were fortunate enough to receive Presbyterian Church sponsorship to come to Durant had the best of both educational worlds." "Living at OPC," Morales commented, "was like belonging to one big family—Indian students from across the United States and others like me from foreign countries joined in to help cook, clean the building, wash dishes, and do other dormitory chores in a happy and loving atmosphere." "At Southeastern," Morales explained, "we were accepted and encouraged to take part in all aspects of campus academics and life."<sup>83</sup>

Dr. Shearer echoed Morales' and Dr. Semple's sentiments. In May of 1962, the president remarked, "It would be hard to overestimate the value of OPC's service in this day when the need of international understanding is so vital." And, increased international awareness had to be a logical consequence of the activities given by OPC-SSC students at festivities like the 1962 cultural fair. That year young people "representing thirteen different Indian tribes and nations ranging from Guatemala to British Hong Kong, from Mexico to Japan, Taiwan, and India," appeared before Durant audiences wearing colorful native costumes to present music and dancing, and to discuss with the crowd their various cultural and historical backgrounds.<sup>84</sup>

The academic contract signed between OPC and SSC allowed President Shearer to support a second cooperative venture by the two schools and the Durant Chamber of Commerce—the SSC-OPC Foreign Language Institute. Begun as the brainchild of Dr. Wade Baskin, chairman of SSC's foreign language department, the institute was designed to take advantage, the *Southeastern* reported,

"of the current knowledge explosion, which has placed unprecedented demands on the teaching of the language arts." In the campus paper reported numerous articles in the early 1960s, the "knowledge explosion" had created thousands of openings for students equipped with a second or third language skill in overseas government positions as interpreters, as translators, and as embassy and other agency officials. The *Southeastern* explained, perhaps even more importantly, that the institute's basic service, the training of language instructors, would help to fill the ever-growing demand across the country for teachers in that critical discipline.<sup>85</sup>

According to the accord between Dr. Shearer, President Amy Robinson of OPC, and the Durant Chamber of Commerce, the institute was originally located on the Presbyterian campus, was staffed by SSC's language professors, and was largely equipped with money raised by the Durant business association. As the President Shearer had hoped, the institute was a boon for the college. Enrollment in the language courses soon jumped over 60 percent and continued to grow. "Much of the success," Dr. Shearer often acknowledged, "was due to the tremendous efforts of work and love given to the project by its director, Dr. Wade Baskin. We were especially blessed to have a man of his capabilities at Southeastern." The president could not have been more accurate in this thinking—SSC was indeed fortunate to have a scholar of Dr. Baskin's expertise. Educated in the United States, Baskin had studied abroad at the University of Mexico and at the Sorbonne in France. Furthermore, Baskin already had a national reputation as a translator and editor of French, German, and Italian scholarly and technical works. Of the forty books he published before his untimely death, Baskin's most enduring work was the *Southeastern* acknowledged, "his translation of Ferdinand de Saussure's *General Science of Language*," the cornerstone of the modern *al Linguistics*, the corner stone of the modern One speciality of Southeastern's institute that few colleges in the country could match was the teaching of Russian. This very unusual offering was made possible because Vlasta "Pat" Baskin, the wife of Dr. Baskin and a native of Czechoslovakia, was fluent in the Slavic-based Russian language; with his wife joining the staff as a part-time instructor, the Baskin-led institute soon graduated students who could teach Latin, German, French, Spanish, and Russian. The tremendous strides made by the institute led, of course, to a new Romance Language Arts major being offered on the campus.<sup>86</sup>

President Shearer had more altruistic and patriotic reasons for supporting the Foreign Language Institute than the addition of another major for the campus. The president firmly thought that better relations between countries was vital if the world was to survive. He agreed with Abdol Hossain Zahedani, an SSC student from Iran, who told the Rotary Club of Whitewright, Texas, in March of 1961, "Education is the strongest defense against our enemies." To Shearer, SSC was offering far more than an academic service by its emphasis on language education—the institution was helping to produce scholars who could possibly help make a stronger country and a friendlier world. Abdol's appearance before the Rotarians was only one example of many lectures given before civic and business clubs by students in the Language Institute. "Our many talks to such clubs had to help better relations," commented Professor Morales. "We were always accompanying Dr. Shearer or Dr. Baskin to tell about our customs, beliefs, and heritages to audiences throughout Southeastern Oklahoma and North Texas in the early 1960s; our speeches were always well received and we were politely treated by those we tried to inform," observed Morales.<sup>87</sup>

In the late 1950s and the first years of the 1960s, there were multiple reasons why the students and faculty at Durant worried about the need for countries to respect and understand each other. Although the years of Elvis, Sputnik, and the New Frontier were exciting times in Durant—they were also fearful years. The breathing spell brought about at the end of the Korean War and the death of Stalin was short-lived. For a time following the Geneva Conference held in July of 1955, the American people and President Eisenhower believed that tensions between Russia and the United States had been eased. That hope was damaged in late 1956 and early 1957 by the Suez Crisis and other Soviet menaces in the Middle East. Meanwhile, following the launching of the Soviet satellite in October of 1957, which proved that the Russians were clearly superior in the intercontinental ballistic race, Nikita Khrushchev, head of the U.S.S.R., made a series of strong statements intended to shake the western NATO alliance and impress neutral nations. Soon after the "Sputnik Diplomacy" started, the Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy announced that Russia had developed the capacity in missiles and "dirty bombs" to kill fifty million Americans.<sup>88</sup>

With this frightening admission, plus the knowledge that American military experts admitted that the United States could

not destroy all the sites that held Russian missiles, the fear of a nuclear war grew in November 1958, when Khrushchev precipitated the Berlin Crisis. The situation worsened after the Soviet Union shot down a U-2 spy plane in May of 1960, causing the collapse of a summit conference called to discuss the dangerous Berlin matter. It was, as noted, at this point of escalating "War Hysteria" that President John F. Kennedy assumed the presidency and Americans everywhere, including those at SSC, took heart in his inaugural address; but Kennedy's promise to "pay any price and meet any foe" quickly came into acute focus. Shortly before Kennedy took office, Americans became further alarmed when Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution in Cuba turned increasingly to the left, a situation which resulted in the United States severing diplomatic relations with that country. Then, the unexpected and abortive Bay of Pigs Revolt worsened the tensions between the two super powers. In June of 1961 the Soviet premier set a deadline for settling "the Berlin issue." When the East German government closed the border between East and West Berlin and began to construct the "Wall" in August 1961, the fear of thermonuclear war became so rampant in the world that millions of Americans began to make plans for fallout shelters. The mounting terror was shared by the students and faculty on the Durant campus. In many articles like the ones entitled, "Bomb Shelter-itis," "United States Policy Toward Communism," and "Vital Instruction: Russian," the *Southeastern* reflected the anxieties of the age by editorializing on "this matter of survival" in a world seemingly gone mad.<sup>89</sup>

The worries at Southeastern and throughout the nation intensified over the next year when Russia exploded a series of fifty bombs, one a sixty-five megaton blast with over three thousand times the power of the Hiroshima explosion. Suddenly, in October 1962, a confrontation erupted that immediately threatened the precipitation of the "Final Conflict." The horribly terrifying tensions of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis are still too vivid for most adult Americans to need retelling here; it is reasonable to say that the world has, in truth, never actually come closer to a devastating holocaust. And, like Americans across the country, the students and faculty at Southeastern rejoiced when the two nations backed away from the "brink of extinction" during the latter part of 1962 and the first months of 1963. Generally speaking, the national sentiment was one of profound relief, and Kennedy's popularity grew. By the summer of 1963, the Soviet Union agreed to discuss arms reduction and the prospect of "detente" brightened. Again,

articles in the *Southeastern* reveal that the faculty and students at the college were completely in tune with these international developments.”

Of the varied stories that student journalists on the Durant campus wrote concerning the happier developments for peaceful co-existence, the one which most singularly demonstrated the greatly relaxed atmosphere at Southeastern appeared appropriately on July 4, 1963. Entitled “SSC Profs Blast JFK For Raid On Champion Softball Talent,” the humorous piece reflected the tongue-in-cheek anger that Dr. Ernest Sturch and Dr. Don Parham, co-managers of the faculty softball team, held against Dr. Leslie Dwight for his alleged manipulations aimed at destroying their chances of winning the league championship. The terrible rift, which “unleashed a vicious attack on the Kennedy administration and Washington politics,” centered around the loss of Dr. Earl Kilpatrick, the star first baseman of the faculty team, to army reserve training. Claiming he had been building for a league title for four years, Parham told the press, “Here we are in first place. . . and have to give up a key player for something as foolish as army reserve training. This latest Kennedy caper will haunt him more than the Cuban deal.”<sup>91</sup>

Sturch, “obviously bitter,” the paper decreed, “commented that the whole thing smells of Washington politics and Dr. Leslie Dwight had connections back there. I wish he would start selecting people for the math institutes on the basis of their math ability rather than their softball skill.” Sturch, lamenting the money Dwight had available from his government Science Foundation grants, sorrowfully charged, “He pays his players over \$100 a week. We just can’t match that. All we can do is give high grades to those who help us and flunk those who don’t.” Joining the outcry, Dr. John Krattiger, the fiery faculty second baseman, remarked to the *Southeastern*, “This is a most flagrant attack on higher education and it came at a most critical time. I feel the New Frontier must make a choice between the army program and what Dr. Parham and Sturch are trying to do here at Southeastern. This is necessary if we are to move forward in the 1960s.” To the disappointment of the faculty, the school paper later informed its readers that Dwight’s political power had prevailed and Kilpatrick had been forced to surrender his baseball uniform for army khaki.<sup>92</sup>

The lighthearted mood of relief felt at the School of the Rising Sun continued into the fall of 1963. The theme chosen for

Homecoming that year accented a former period of peace and good times on the campus and the nation—the “Roaring Twenties.” Excitement accompanied the preparations for the autumn celebration, proposed as a theme by Dr. James Morrison, SSC’s Dean of Instruction, and Dr. Dillard Eubank, a noted Kansas City physician, both of whom were prominent students of that jovial era. The well-planned celebration held in the middle of October included: a parade with dozens of floats, clowns, the Marching Savages, visiting high school bands composed of more than six hundred young musicians, several horse-mounted patrols, and numerous brightly decorated cars; a barbecue for all alumni, visitors, faculty, and students; an appearance and speech by southeastern Oklahoma’s “Little Giant from Little Dixie,” Congressman Carl Albert; and a dance featuring the music of Conway Twitty, one of the country’s most popular entertainers.<sup>93</sup>

Among the distinguished alumni attending the Homecoming were: Dr. Bailey W. Diffie, a renowned Latin American scholar and author; Harry Kimbriel, the prominent president of the National Wholesale Druggists Association; Vernon Snell, the widely-read Outdoor Editor of the *Oklahoman-Times*; and Requa Bell, the beloved former Savage coach. For President Shearer’s part, he took special pleasure in conducting inaugural tours of SSC’s two newest structures, the Administration and Fine Arts buildings. Built at a cost of \$538,500, the administration edifice contained: offices for the president, the deans, and business services, and a large conference room on the second floor; classrooms, offices, and labs for the language and social science departments on the third floor; an auditorium with a seating capacity for two hundred, and the offices and classrooms for the math department on the first floor. The construction of SSC’s one-half million dollar Fine Arts Center was, the *Southeastern* noted, “impressive evidence of the school’s progressive spirit.” For SSC students and faculty members involved in music and drama, the event signaled the end of “increasing frustration since the twenties,” the paper observed; the *Southeastern* was referring, of course, to the fact that the music department had been located since that early day in the cramped quarters of the school’s original boiler plant.<sup>94</sup>

Perhaps only Dr. Morrison could express nostalgic regret that the construction of the new structure had necessitated the destruction of the old powerhouse—a campus landmark “long on damp basement space and split-levels and short on offices, studios, and classrooms.” While Dr. Ernest Trumble and other music professors

"almost jumped for joy" at the opening, Dr. Morrison told the paper he could fondly remember his grade school days spent in the classrooms on the second floor in the old power-center, the second building ever erected on the Durant campus. The fine arts building would also be the new home of the art and speech departments—both then inadequately housed in the basement of the Morrison building. The new two-story building, beautifully designed in red brick and native stone, contained: large band and choral practice rooms; two music libraries; vast equipment storage centers; practice rooms; studios and listening booths; display spaces; film rooms; painting, clay, and craft classrooms; dressing and make-up rooms; directors' offices; general classrooms; and offices for the music, art, and choral professors. The one most spectacular facet of the innovative art center was the semi-circular "Little Theater." Presenting a mosaic multi-hued aggregate concrete facade, the new theater would allow drama and concert goers to enjoy faculty and student productions in a mom possessing superb accoustical qualities.<sup>95</sup>

The exultant atmosphere on the campus heightened in the fall of 1963 following the memorable Homecoming as SSC students and faculty awaited the appearance of the Marching Savages on national television. The opportunity to play before thousands of spectators and millions of home television viewers came when Dr. Shearer and SSC's band director, Lloyd Cook, accepted an invitation from the Dallas Cowboys organization to be the featured entertainment at the half time show of their November 17 game against the Philadelphia Eagles which was televised by CBS. When the day to perform arrived, the marching Savages "delighted the Cotton Bowl crowd," the *Southeastern* said. Commenting on the playing and precision marching of the young musicians, Dr. Shearer summed up the attitude of all SSC loyalists when he said, "They were wonderful. It proves that Oklahoma is a state of many talented young musicians." The show climaxed with an inspiring combination of the SSC band playing "Climb Every Mountain," accompanied by the singing of a one-hundred and fifty-voice choir, and the appearance on the field of a two hundred member flag corps representing the United Nations and the states of the Union. Speaking for the "Pride of Savageland," Tom Rhea, a trombonist, said, "We worked like dogs, but it was really worth it."<sup>96</sup>

The high-spirited tone on campus spotlighted by the Homecoming and the bands Dallas show lasted only one week before the elation of the students and faculty was suddenly shattered. Like all citizens of the nation, those on the Durant campus learned all too well the terrible lesson of the famous quote, "There is no armor against fate." Headlines of the *Southeastern* on November 28, 1963, tragically declared "President Kennedy's Death Shocks and Saddens Southeastern." In covering the assassination of the young president, who had come to symbolize a renewed sense of greatness and potential in America, the campus paper related that because the chief executive was speaking in Dallas, only ninety miles to the south of Durant, several SSC students were actually in that city to watch the presidential parade and experienced the shock surrounding the tragedy firsthand.<sup>97</sup>

Most Southeastern students, of course, heard the news from their professors. In detail, the paper reported how Dr. Donald Brown, a paraplegic who was a much respected and admired professor of history, "entered his classroom in his wheelchair with a radio in his lap" and spoke distinctly, "President Kennedy has just been shot, and possibly killed by a sniper in Dallas." Like other SSC professors, Brown dismissed his classes urging them to go to a radio or television to keep abreast of the latest reports. Commenting on the stunning effect of the news, Dr. James Milligan, a student at the time and now the chairman of the social science department at SSC, said, "Certainly I can remember the horrible emotional impact the news report had. Like most people who lived through this unbelievable event, I can recall exactly the moment I heard the news, I was attending an economics class under Professor Elaine Schuster. When the story broke most of us did rush to televisions as our professors recommended. It was just so hard to accept or comprehend." Many students gathered at the set in the lobby of Hallie McKinney Hall, the *Southeastern* observed, where "some openly wept, while others silently watched hour after hour the news coverage." "Scores of students actually piled into cars, heading for Dallas. The reason we were going there was not immediately clear. Some of us wanted to more clearly understand the madness that had captured our emotions and minds," the *Southeastern* article concluded.<sup>98</sup>

Despite the numbing shock accompanying the assassination and burial of the fallen leader, President Shearer, the faculty, and the students at Southeastern took heart, nevertheless, in the words, "Let us continue," which President Lyndon B. Johnson

spoke to a session of congress a few days after he had been sworn into office aboard *Air Force One*. As thousands of subsequent articles in the *Southeastern* show, those on the campus did continue with pride, optimism, and a renewed sense of dedication. Hence, the years **1963-1967**, the last four of Shearer's long administration, saw many noteworthy happenings. For one thing, the school continued to grow in its physical plant, financial resources, and student population. During the **1964-1966** biennium, **8,163** students were enrolled at SSC; in the **1966-1967** year, Shearer's final, resident enrollment stood at **2,449**, another **1,318** attended summer school, **71** took extension classes, and **58** did correspondence work. The monetary worth of the college grew to a total book value of **\$5,434,733.59**, an increase of over three million dollars in the years Shearer held the helm at SSC. Additions to the physical plant completed during **1963-1967** were: the converting of the old gym into an electronics laboratory, classrooms, and a general shop for metals; a new dormitory with quarters for **106** women, known as North Hall; the expanding of the Student Union building by the addition of a two-story annex providing a new bookstore, game room, and post office facilities; remodeling and increasing the dining space in the ballroom to a capacity of four hundred; restructuring of the first floor of Morrison Hall, formerly the Administration building, to provide east and west ground-level entrances and modern centrally air-conditioned offices and classrooms; new laboratories and equipment for audio-visual education, photography, driver education, and printing in Morrison Hall; and the paving of much needed parking lots north of the Science building and west of the new Administration building. At the time he left office, Shearer had also signed contracts for the remodeling and enlargement of the Library and Science buildings."

Shearer was especially proud of the establishment of the Technology Use Studies Center (TUSC). The news that SSC would have the TUSC center was first made public by Congressman Carl Albert in his Homecoming speech in October of **1963**. Beginning its operations on campus in February **1964**, the center was supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and designed to provide "detailed profiles of the existing business, industrial, and natural resources of Southeastern Oklahoma and to match these profiles with those parts of NASA technology which can be adapted for use in the region and in similar regions." The first such program located in a rural area of the nation, the SSC center was intended to share its resources and information

through seminars, workshops, field trips, publications, and other means to help improve the economic activity of the southeast section of the Sooner state. The prestigious project which "married technology and education" soon proved to be a valuable contribution to the campus. A few months after its inception, Shearer announced to the public that the TUSC program had accumulated and published a seventeen volume set of the human and material resources of the region—the first systematic and accurate assessment ever made of the vast potential of southeastern Oklahoma.<sup>100</sup>

In recalling Albert's pronouncement, President Shearer stated in his memoirs, "I was pleased of course. I knew Southeastern would receive national recognition from its creation. But, TUSC was not actually what I had in mind for SSC when I approached Congressman Albert for his assistance in securing a project program at Durant. Really, I had something more in mind like the federal water research center situated in Ada." Once again, Dr. Shearer's close personal contact with Congressman Albert brought results. After prolonged negotiations with the Department of Agriculture, other federal officials, and representatives of the Durant Chamber of Commerce, Shearer informed the Regents of Oklahoma Colleges in his final report filed on June **30, 1967**, "Approval for an Agriculture Water Management Laboratory to be established at Durant, adjacent to the campus of Southeastern State College, was given during **1966**." Although he left office before the laboratory was actually built and put into operation, Shearer was certain that his dream of a second prestigious research-educational facility would become a reality. As he often said before and after leaving the presidency, "I already knew that I could die happy when my time came. I could retire in full confidence that anything I have to leave unfinished would be accomplished for the good of Southeastern. My successor had already been named and he possessed all the qualities I thought a president ought to have." As time would prove, President Shearer's opinion of his successor could not have been more appropriate considering the future of SSC and, in particular for him at the time, the water research lab."

Another program started during the last years of Shearer's administration and designed to elevate the scholastic level at the institution was the Honors Program. Initiated in **1965** to attract bright young scholars to Durant, the program was described by the catalogue and campus press releases thusly:



The honors program has been designed by the faculty of Southeastern State College to promote excellence in students and to cultivate the intellectual atmosphere of the campus. It provides the means for individuals to develop their potentialities by association with one another, and by participation in courses which have richness and depth appropriate to students of honor capability. In addition, it provides the opportunity for students to accelerate their learning by means of advanced standing examinations and by increasing their academic load.

The first young scholars chosen for the program were Reggie Bradford, Mike Hendrix, Bruce Johnson, Cheryl Kilpatrick, James Dobbins, Diane Crowover, Winona Hambrick, Mike McGowen, Darryel Reigh, Gary Youree, Lou Ann Williams, Linda Gordon, Janis Wallbaum, Barbara Henthorn, Sharon Williams, Carol Holstine, Cathryn Kovaciny, Ronald Gene Long, Wayne Gustin, Arlis Melson, Cheryl Yost, and Phyllis Rand.<sup>102</sup>

Southeastern's president and faculty had other justification to feel enthusiastic about the academic environment on the campus during the mid-1960s; two majors were offered for the first time. Beginning in 1965, the curriculum was expanded to include a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology. In adding this major, Southeastern reflected one of the prevailing educational trends during the years of President Johnson's "Great Society," when many students took advantage of newly created jobs in applied, clinical, educational, and counseling psychology. While Southeastern reflected a trend in its psychology major, it helped initiate a national standard in its second new academic area.<sup>103</sup>

In the spring of 1966 the Regents also approved a Bachelor of Science Degree in Professional Aviation. Using the expertise of the TUSC Center, President Shearer and Professor Alvin White convinced the Regents that their request "was based on an extensive study which confirmed a critical need for college trained people in that field and the desire of students to combine aviation training with study toward a college degree." At the time SSC was granted the aviation major, only one other institution in the country, Purdue University, was offering such a program. As might be expected, because of its uniqueness the new degree created national and even international attention for the still relatively small

and rurally located college. Visitors from many states and foreign nations came to the campus to observe and evaluate the new academic area. When asked by the campus paper at the end of the 1966 academic year to discuss the popularity of the unusual campus major and its prospects for the future, Professor White said, "I've answered more than 1700 queries since fall." While admitting he did not have any idea how many would really enroll, he expected the number to top fifty; the prediction happily came true.<sup>104</sup>

As President Shearer took pride in the enlargement of SSC's academic programs, he also found great satisfaction from the many accomplishments of individual Southeastern professors. In its offering of campus institutes, workshops, and other special programs dedicated to increasing professional qualifications, the faculty at Durant was clearly a leader in the state and even the southwest. To emphasize just a few, during the years 1963-1967, SSC professors Eugene Slaughter, Leslie Dwight, Louis Johnson, John Hunziker, M. K. Fort, C. B. Trammell, Bernice Crockett, K. W. Baumgardner, Anne Semple, Floy Perkinson Gates, Lee Zink, Wade Baskin, and Jack Green wrote proposals, secured funds, and directed innovative educational gatherings at SSC. Among the varied offerings were Reading, Driver Education, School Health, Social Studies, Music, *Parlons Francais*, Exceptional Children, and Economic Education workshops.<sup>105</sup>

In three special areas, Southeastern was actually a leader in the entire country. These include: Guidance Institutes for Indian Institutional Personnel; National Defense Education Act Institutes for "Advanced Study" in the English Language; and Math Institutes. The consequences these SSC programs had can easily be understood if one considers that it was publicly estimated that one single Indian Guidance Institute alone would directly benefit over eight thousand Indian children around the nation. In English and math, SSC's nationwide recognition was simply tremendous. In an article written in the early part of the fall term of 1966 entitled "This Is Southeastern," the campus paper welcomed all new students to Durant and informed them about the institution's growing academic reputation in various learned areas. Concerning the math department, the *Southeastern* remarked that professors from around the nation "were high in their praise of Southeastern's math graduates, and no other state or regional teachers college could match the number and scope of SSC's math institutes." Generally, the article explained how Dr. Dwight, SSC's

...nationally known leader in new mathematics, and his department had "strengthened the mathematics background of thousands of elementary teachers" by their institutes and ninety-lesson television series.<sup>106</sup>

The television lessons, which could be taken for four hours of graduate credit, were filmed in cooperation with Professor Clyde Jackson of the SSC audio-visual department. Originally televised by **KXII** of Denison, Texas, the instructive talents of Dwight were eventually seen by thousands of teachers in Kansas, Missouri, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma. Typical of the many letters Dr. Shearer received regarding the vital math educational series was one written by Superintendent M. B. Nelson of Bonham, Texas, in which the public school educator said, "The study has almost worked miracles for our teachers"; another, from Eugene Luse of Meade, Kansas, related, "the program affords a splendid background for both teachers and parents and has nearly eliminated community dissatisfaction with modern mathematics."<sup>107</sup>

Dr. Shearer often acknowledged the similar praise he read concerning the work of Dr. Slaughter and the Southeastern English staff. By 1965, Dr. Slaughter and other leading national English educators managed to convince the federal government of the need to expand the National Defense Education Act to include their subject area. As a consequence of Slaughter's involvement at the national level, Southeastern became one of the few colleges in the nation chosen to offer federally funded institutes designed to improve the quality of the country's English professors and teachers. Regarding the SSC English professor's achievements, Dr. Shearer wrote in his memoirs, "I cannot over emphasize how Dr. Slaughter's NDEA institutes helped improve the scholastic atmosphere on campus and, at the same time, greatly expanded the name and influence of Southeastern far beyond the area of Southeastern Oklahoma."<sup>108</sup>

On an individual basis, the faculty excelled in many endeavors in addition to the plethora of workshops and institutes taking place in mid-1960s. A representative sampling of the time and energy spent by the faculty in pursuit of their educational and professional careers easily shows the devoted and scholarly work being accomplished at SSC during the latter part of Shearer's administration. Such a listing might emphasize the following: the publication of books and articles by Eugene Slaughter, Mildred Riling, Anne Semple, James Morrison, Leslie Dwight, Wade Bas-kin, Donald Brown, and Ernest Trumble; the acquisition of many

scholarly document collections like *The Cherokee* (1960s); the early nineteenth century Cherokee Nation newspaper, by John Dickson; taking advanced course work to increase the counseling professionalism and capabilities of SSC's testing center by Pat Powers; the sponsorship of new national educational fraternities and organizations by Jack Dye, Linnie Ruth Hall, and Lois Crow; the presentation of programs and discussions on "SSC Speaks," a regular television show about the campus, by Charles Andrews; the leadership in acquiring and renovating local historical sites like Fort Washita and Carriage Point by James Morrison; the lending of their expertise and insight in planning and leading many "trips of a lifetime" to places across the nation and the world by Rade Radasinovich, Louis Johnson, and C. C. Carney; helping their students enjoy the electronic space age by contributing their time to build a satellite tracking station and other industrial projects by Harold Lynn, Troyce McGovern, and Alvin White; encouraging the literary talents of students by helping sponsor and acquire funds for a campus booklet called *Insights* by Raymond Piller and Eugene Slaughter; the collection of rare, original artifacts, animals, plants, and insects for Southeastern's science museums by John Taylor and Earl Kilpatrick; attending National Science Foundation seminars and conventions to promote SSC's chances of continued success in acquiring programs and grants by Arnold Walker and Lewis Barker, and the acceptance of competitive Ph.D. fellowships to promote their teaching expertise by Bill Grimes and Doyle Bostic.<sup>109</sup>

While excelling in particular areas, many Southeastern faculty members used their talents in multiple ways to advance the scholarly reputation of the college. As an illustration, one could simply consider the career of SSC's Dr. Ernest Sturch, Jr. Educated at the undergraduate level at Southeastern, Sturch received an academic scholarship to enter a Ph.D. program at the University of Oklahoma. Upon graduation, the young Ph.D., who today serves as the Provost of Southeastern Oklahoma State University, went to work as a senior research chemist at Oak Ridge National Laboratories. Sturch, however, wanted at heart to teach—and to teach at his alma mater. Refusing more lucrative offers to keep him at Oak Ridge, Sturch accepted a professorship offered him by Dr. Shearer in 1959. Regarding Sturch, Dr. Shearer once remarked, "With his superior knowledge, credentials, and enthusiasm, I knew Ernest would become a master teacher. I was just so thankful and proud he wanted to return home."

While Sturch certainly became a "master" professor, he also used his energy and talent to write erudite proposals that led to SSC obtaining federal monies for the science department. With new equipment like a multi-channel analyzer, Sturch's students could better study subjects like atomic radiation. Besides securing funds and equipment, the young chemistry professor had to find time to attend conferences across the nation regarding NSF's program and policies. Remarkably, Sturch also managed to publish articles in his area of expertise. Adding further to his prestige, at the invitation of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, Sturch agreed in the summer of 1961 to serve as an adviser to the Oak Ridge National Laboratories in the area of "reactor fuel element reprocessing." Despite the advanced level of his scholarship, the SSC chemistry professor willingly agreed on at least one occasion to explain atomic energy to a classroom full of Durant fourth graders — where the *Southeastern* said he delighted the young students. As he pursued his teaching career, Sturch also became prominent in Kiwanis International, a major service organization in the nation.<sup>110</sup>

While Southeastern loyalists applauded the efforts made by the faculty and administration to make SSC truly the School of the Rising Sun in educational matters, they also cheered the exploits of Savage athletes in the 1960s. Although they did not dominate the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Conference (OIC) every year, Savage basketballers won or shared the title three times, in 1960, 1961, and 1965. Yet, to the disappointment of their fans, the 1960 and 1965 squads lost the state post-season National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) tournament — which prevented their playing in the nationals in Kansas City. But the 1961 roundballers did make the coveted trip and finished their season as the third best team in America. Individual star performances in the 1960-1967 era were paced by third team All-Americans Max Yarbrough and Connie McGuire. Other players receiving honorable mention to the national dream team were Richard Muldrew and Wayne Cobb. Additional SSC stars were named All-OIC, including Marvin Adams, Gene Wilmoth, and Bob Parkhill (2nd team).<sup>111</sup>

Savage footballers did not share the accolades won by the basketball squads. While SSC fans, led by the Savagettes, loyally supported the blue and gold teams in the 1960s, no conference titles were won. Worse, no Savage eleven even had a winning season, despite the urgings of Coach Brown and his successor, Robert Thomas. Following Brown's resignation in 1962, Thomas

came to direct the Savages after producing championship teams at Vinita, Okmulgee, and Elk City high schools. A former standout for the Tulsa Hurricane, Thomas faced a difficult task. Reporting his appointment, the *Southeastern* said, "With the other teams in the conference building stronger programs, it will certainly be a challenge as Thomas takes the reins." Actually, the mild mannered but tough-minded coach had chosen to take direction of a football program mired with problems that would not be solved by strategy and dedication alone.<sup>112</sup>

What the paper did not say was why his task would be so great a challenge. There were, in reality, two major reasons. First, because of demographic changes in Oklahoma, several other OIC schools were far larger than SSC by the mid-1960s and, therefore, had more talent available. The most important element missing at Southeastern, unfortunately, had nothing to do with size. By 1962 the school still had a very small percentage of Black students a situation which made the recruitment of Black athletes almost impossible. Until SSC could effectively break the color barrier on campus, Southeastern's football teams, and eventually its basketball and track squads, would simply not be able to compete with schools like East Central and Central State which had successfully attracted large numbers of Black athletes and students to their campuses. Consequently, the best record made by a Thomas-coached Savage team from 1962-1967 was the five-five season turned in by the 1966 squad. Nevertheless, Savage fans did enjoy competitive games during the 1960s, and several players thrilled the spectators with their play. Among the Savages named All-Conference were Blake Smiley, Jackie Hunt, Jerry Bailey, Bob Wilmoth, Pat Smiley, Clyde Smith, Jerry Jones, Butch Arnett, Raymond Cotton, and Richard Rutherford. Second team honors went to Norman West, Monte Hendricks, Walter Depew, and Charles Barnhart.<sup>113</sup>

In the so-called "Spring" sports, SSC enthusiasts found reasons to brag and expect excellence in the future. In tennis, Savage netters listened to their mentor, Clarence Dyer, and established a dynasty that would last over two decades. Starting in 1960, Southeastern tennis players won titles for the remainder of President Shearer's tenure at SSC. Four times the SSC netters ended their seasons in Kansas City as the second or third best squad in the nation. Players who dominated the OIC conference and regularly beat teams from such major colleges as OU, OSU, SMU, Southern Illinois, Minnesota, and Houston included All-Americans Curtis

Richmond and Jay Lysaught, and All-Conference stars, Gerry Chaney, Mack Dyer, Ike Groce, Steve Roemer, and Bill Shields.”<sup>114</sup>

In track and field, Savage athletes failed to bring home a conference trophy; yet, several SSC cindermen did establish conference records on an individual or team basis. Among the record setters were Butch Thomason, pole vault; Jerry Dean, javelin toss; Tommy McVay, 440 yard dash; Joe Christie, pole vault; and Larry Stinson, Gary Jones, Ray Crowell, and Tommy McVay, mile relay. Other all-conference members were Tony West, Darryl Roberts, and Archie Van Sickle. In golf, Southeastern only periodically fielded a squad; but the play of the 1966-1967 golfers gave lovers of the game a reason to be optimistic. Under the tutelage of first year coach and history professor, Dr. Edward Byrd, the Savage linksman “finished out of the cellar for the first time,” announced the *Southeastern*.<sup>115</sup>

Hopeful aspirations would be an apt phrase regarding the sentiments of those who loved the national pastime on the Durant campus. Like track and field and golf, until 1964 baseball had been an “also-ran” sport at SSC. That season things started to change drastically for the diamond squads. The 1964-1965 team had a new field to play on and a new coach. Taking over the management of the baseball team from Bloomer Sullivan, his own revered college coach, Don Parham began to plan for greatness by SSC diamond athletes. After finishing the 1964-1965 schedule with a 17-10 record, the best ever at SSC, Parham predicted, “This effort should give our team the momentum on which to build a solid record as a winner.” As time would tell, Parham vastly understated the future. Baseball would become another sport that boasted teams with a national reputation. Led by the play of Jim Holderfield and Dennis Trahan, who respectively made the honorable mention and second team All-American squads in 1964 and 1965, Savage diamond crews from 1964-1967 also featured All-Conference players Richard Rountree, Jearld Price, Mike Martin, and Trent Baulch. Pre-1965 standouts in the decade were Pat Phelps, Ty Comstock, Duke Christian, Branson Metcalf, and Clyde Smith.”<sup>116</sup>

In non-athletic endeavors, SSC students continued to excel while having fun in the mid-1960s. For instance, the Southeastern chorale’s fame grew as a result of their appearances in New York, Washington, D.C., Mexico City, Mexico, and with the Oklahoma City Symphony. Debaters, Paul Westbrook, C. W. Mangrum, Billy

Hamilton, Charlotte Williams, Jeanne Burger, and Patricia Kelley took many first place trophies in such prestigious national contests as the Piney Woods Debate Tournament held in Nacogdoches, Texas. W. B. Daughtery and other writers and editors of the SSC student press produced editions which won accolades like the Charles L. Allen Accuracy Award given by the Oklahoma Collegiate Press Association. Scholastically, Dr. Shearer and the faculty watched with pride as students like Allan Barker, T. J. Kurian, and Sue Ann Hastings accepted scholarships and fellowships for graduate study. Shearer and the faculty further rejoiced when former undergraduate scholars, Garry Landreth, William Walker Smith, Donald Lee Whitfill, and Jack Robinson finished their doctoral programs.<sup>117</sup>

Socially the campus provided, as always, vibrant opportunities. Besides offering a good time for SSC students, many of the occasions also gave the participants a chance to learn the value of charitable experiences and humanitarianism. Staged by the Greek social societies, the annual Charity Football Bowl found fraternity members playing on the gridiron to raise donations for organizations like the March of Dimes and Oklahoma Child Welfare. One new fund-raising event featured in the mid-1960s was the Powder Puff Bowl. Sponsored by Alpha Sigma Tau, the Powder Puff game was a hilarious exhibition which included female players and outrageously attired male cheerleaders and queen contestants. The outlook of students who took part in these social activities was different, however, than their counterparts of the late 1950s and early 1960s. Socially and academically the winds of change were again blowing. The new currents swept away the music of Elvis and his contemporaries. Instead, SSC students learned strange sounding dances called the Hully-Gully and the Twist. And, they attended strange sounding concerts known as Hootenannies. Then, as other young people around the world, Southeastern students became enthralled with “Beatle Mania.” Further, they listened to, enjoyed, and identified with the music of Peter, Paul, and Mary; Bob Dylan; and Joan Baez. Academically, students of the mid-1960s started to shy away from math and physical sciences and enroll in subjects like psychology, sociology, and other humanity-related fields.<sup>118</sup>

Always a student of the contemporary scene, Dr. Shearer clearly understood that students on the Durant campus were being

molded by the new winds of change. Most important, Southeastern's long-term president wisely recognized that the administration and faculty at Southeastern must respond to the dramatic new forces affecting Durant and the world. But Shearer would not be the person to lead Southeastern through the new era. For him and others on the staff in Durant, the winds of change were blowing on a personal level. In March of 1966, the announcement was made that Oklahoma Presbyterian College would not reopen its doors again. By 1966 it was revealed that Russell Training School, which had long since ceased to function as a twelve-year public facility, would soon no longer educate grade schoolers. Consequently, the nucleus around which Southeastern had built its reputation since its creation as a valuable educational institution would pass forever from existence on the campus.<sup>119</sup>

For Dr. Shearer, the winds of change brought retirement following the 1966-1967 academic year. Nevertheless, as he revealed in his memoirs, Shearer did not resent nor fear this change in his life. Wisely, Shearer wrote, "I was well aware that my time had come to step aside. I had always believed in the adage, The King is Dead, Long Live the King." What Shearer really meant and truly believed was that, although physically he could have continued to serve, the campus needed a new leader for several important reasons. Basically, he felt that a younger man might respond and perhaps relate more readily to the perplexing problems and anxieties facing Americans in the mid-1960s. Shearer had listened to the music of American youth which questioned the rights of minorities, the need for educational and social reform, and America's participation in the ever widening war in Southeast Asia. As he wrote in his memoirs, "I knew that the next president would face more complex situations on the campus than I had ever encountered. Vietnam was only the most visible of many important issues that would affect the campus in the immediate coming years." As noted previously, when the selection of his successor was made public, Shearer responded enthusiastically, "I knew the Regents had chosen the right person to guide the destinies of Southeastern in the stormy days ahead."<sup>120</sup>

On the night of April 21, 1967, a banquet was held at Lake Texoma Lodge for the retiring president. "Over five hundred friends," the *Southeastern* said, "let him know what his twenty-nine years at the college have meant to Durant, the district, and the state." Highlights of the evening, directed by Rector Swearingin, the Master of Ceremonies, included: the unveiling of a portrait

of Shearer painted by Dallas artist Uorothy Breckenridge; the presentation of two thousand dollars in travel tickets; the reading of honorific plaques from many campus and city organizations; the awarding of a Colonel's Commission from Oklahoma Governor Dewey Bartlett; and many testimonials by such dignitaries as Regent's Chancellor E. T. Dunlap.<sup>121</sup>

A true summation about Shearer's contributions to the college and city is impossible to write in a few paragraphs or even pages. The accomplishments of the Alabama-born native are contained throughout this chapter. Nevertheless, a few should be reiterated. Shearer fought for and won the awarding of contracts to build additional dorms on the campus. This reality allowed Southeastern to compete with other colleges in enrollment. Without the dorms and additional capital improvements, SSC could have withered and died on the vine of Oklahoma academics. The approval and, more importantly, the accreditation of a Master's Program further enhanced the prestige of the Magnolia-lined campus. But, perhaps Dr. Allen E. Shearer's greatest contribution and legacy to Southeastern was best explained in an article in the school paper entitled, "Yes, It's Tougher." According to the *Southeastern*, the paper's writers often overheard such remarks from students and alumni as, "Man the old school is sure getting tough." In the paper's opinion, this observation by undergraduates and alumni, who had returned to take graduate courses, was "factual." Dr. Shearer received great pleasure, the press observed, from the fact that many people recognized that "academically the Campus of a Thousand Magnolias is a good deal tougher than it was five or ten years ago."<sup>122</sup>

In essence, Allen E. Shearer had led the college back to the point where students and alumni believed it was appropriate to once again refer to the institution as not only the "Campus of a Thousand Magnolias" but also "The Campus of the Rising Sun." As related in a previous chapter, this motto, which fell into oblivion during World War II, was intended to identify Southeastern with the concept of rebirth — that the dawning of each new day brings a fresh chance for all humans to learn and grow. By the time Shearer retired, he was personally grateful that students, faculty, and alumni once again wanted and demanded that the motto appear on campus stationary, on its publications, and on its blue and gold flag. In his role as dean and president, Shearer had contributed more than any other one single individual to the realization that SSC was and would remain truly "The School of the Rising Sun."

Shearer lived many years following his retirement and made frequent visits to the campus. As he related to the author shortly before his death in 1983, "I was just so grateful that God let me live to see my successor, Dr. Leon Hibbs, build on my foundation and take Southeastern to heights I had only been able to dream about."<sup>123</sup>

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## CHAPTER IX

### A College Becomes A University: The Leon Hibbs Era

On July 1, 1967, Dr. Leon Hibbs, a thirty-six year old, five foot 7 inch, crew cut, cigar-smoking, administrator and scholar assumed the presidency of Southeastern Oklahoma State College. The Beaver, Oklahoma, native was the first president to be selected on a merit basis of competitive interviews, studied evaluation of credentials, and investigative reports by the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges. Hibbs, ofcourse, continues to lead the destiny of the institution today. Because he has served Southeastern for over one quarter of its existence, it was determined long ago by the author that it would be impossible in this volume to cover his administration in depth. Instead, a second book will follow this edition—a volume which hopefully will adequately cover the important developments at Southeastern in the last twenty event-filled years. However, the author believes it is proper and necessary to introduce President Hibbs and give a brief review of his administration. For this, the author has chosen to use previously published articles.

Reviewing Hibbs' life before he arrived in Durant in an article entitled "From Gas Station Attendant to President," the 1972 *Savage* reported the following:

It's less than 400 miles from Beaver to Durant, but it's a long way from pumping gas and checking oil to presiding as college president. Dr. Leon Hibbs, a man of varied talents, made it in 19 years.

Born October 15, 1930, son of P.O. and Louella Hibbs, Leon was an only child until the day of his high school graduation in 1948 when a sister was born.

Beaver, located in the sparsely populated, rugged Oklahoma panhandle, is in principally cattle and wheat country. The Hibbs family lived on a farm during the childhood of the future college president, and as young farm boys often do, he came naturally to hunting and horses.

After high school graduation, Hibbs bought a gas station in Beaver which he operated during the first year he spent studying at Northwestern State.

In 1950 he married Maxine Parker, also from Beaver, and the new Hibbs family moved to Alva, the first of a series of moves which would eventually bring them to Southeastern. Hibbs worked as an electrician during his last two years as a math major at Northwestern.

Upon completion of his B.S. Degree in 1952, the two moved to Greenough, Oklahoma, where Hibbs was not only principal but teacher, basketball coach, janitor, and bus driver. Everything but the kitchen sink? That too! Mrs. Hibbs completed the team by working in the school cafeteria.

The Hibbs stayed in Greenough for four years where the family grew from two to three with the addition of their first child, Max, in 1953.

In 1956 the family moved again, this time to Norman where Hibbs received a Masters Degree in Education Administration from the University of Oklahoma.

The job of moving his family was becoming tougher each time because by now the family had grown to four with the birth of their first daughter, Gaye, but they did it again, and made a new home in Stillwater. In the spring of 1957, Hibbs was granted another degree—the Masters of Science from Oklahoma State University.

Another move? Yes, back to Norman. While Hibbs was employed by the State Department of Education, he completed his Doctorate from Oklahoma State University.

After 21 years of school, a diploma and four degrees, Dr. Hibbs and his family moved to Lafayette, Indiana, where he was director of the Midwest Airborne Television Instruction Division at Purdue University.

After two years at Purdue and another son, Craig, the family packed up and came back to Oklahoma where, in 1962, Dr. Hibbs assumed the position of Dean of Education at Oklahoma City University, a position which he held for five years.

In 1967, Dr. Hibbs accepted the presidency at Southeastern and the young man from Beaver brought his family to the white brick house at the corner of 6th and College. A second daughter, LeAnn, was born in 1968.

Like most college presidents, Dr. Hibbs is a busy man with a busy schedule. But that's where the comparison ends. SSC's president is on the campus—not just in an office behind a desk. He meets regularly with students at the college dining hall one week out of each month. He manages to spend at least one afternoon each week around the student union—answering questions, giving advice (when it's asked for) and just getting to know students.

He smiles—he says hello—he knows the names of most SSC students. And at a time when new enrollment records are being set almost every semester, that's not an easy trick.

Southeastern has grown and prospered under the direction of Dr. Hibbs. His success is partly due to a pretty simple philosophy - take time to listen to what the people are saying.

Asked to write a short history of Southeastern for a work entitled *HISTORY OF BRYAN COUNTY*, newspaper editor and publisher Robert H. "Bob" Peterson has written:

If Shearer got the school off the ground during his 15 years as president, his successor made it fly.

Oklahoma-born (in Beaver County) and educated (at Northwestern State, Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma), Leon Hibbs won appointment as Southeastern's 14th president in 1967.

As of the 1982-83 term, he has served 16 years—longer than any other person and for nearly a quarter of Southeastern's existence.

Trained as a mathematician but management-oriented, he guided further development of Southeastern into the status of a regional university with addition of both undergraduate programs and graduate degrees at the master's level.

Hibbs hit the ground running, pushing through plans already started by Shearer and developing ideas of his own. In a period of student unrest on many campuses, he declared doors of the president's office open, took time to visit with students in their coffee shop, and



restructured campus committees by adding student members to gain their viewpoints.

For these and many other reasons, enrollment has doubled during his tenure, from 2,200 to 4,400.

This growth was spurred in 1968 when Regents for Higher Education designated Southeastern as an Area Community College. This allowed expansion far beyond its original mission of teacher training.

Although teacher education remains a major function, new student-attraction programs were added in areas such as business, technology, aviation, conservation, and equestrian studies, among others.

One further step came in 1974 when the name was changed from Southeastern State College to Southeastern Oklahoma State University, allowing even further diversification.

In contrast to the original two-year certificate of 1909-10, the University now grants four undergraduate and two graduate degrees in a wide variety of fields. . . .

Expansion of physical facilities also has continued under Hibbs. They include the seven-story Chickasaw and Choctaw tower dormitories for women and men, the first high-rise structures on the campus.

Helping ease the need for teaching space, three separate buildings to house the rapidly expanding Industrial Education and Technology were added over a four-year period beginning in 1976, at a cost of over \$3 million.

The year 1968 saw the library space doubled, and the Science building gutted and rebuilt, along with an addition that also doubled its space.

There also has been considerable modernization of older buildings, with renovation to Home Economics (1975), Morrison Hall (1970 and 1975), construction of a Student Activities Center (1973), a Student Union addition (1979), and construction of a Physical Plant building to house new boilers for steam heating (1972).

The most recent addition (1982), 20 acres of land and a number of buildings to house the University's Equestrian Center, came as a gift from the Joe F. Gary family.

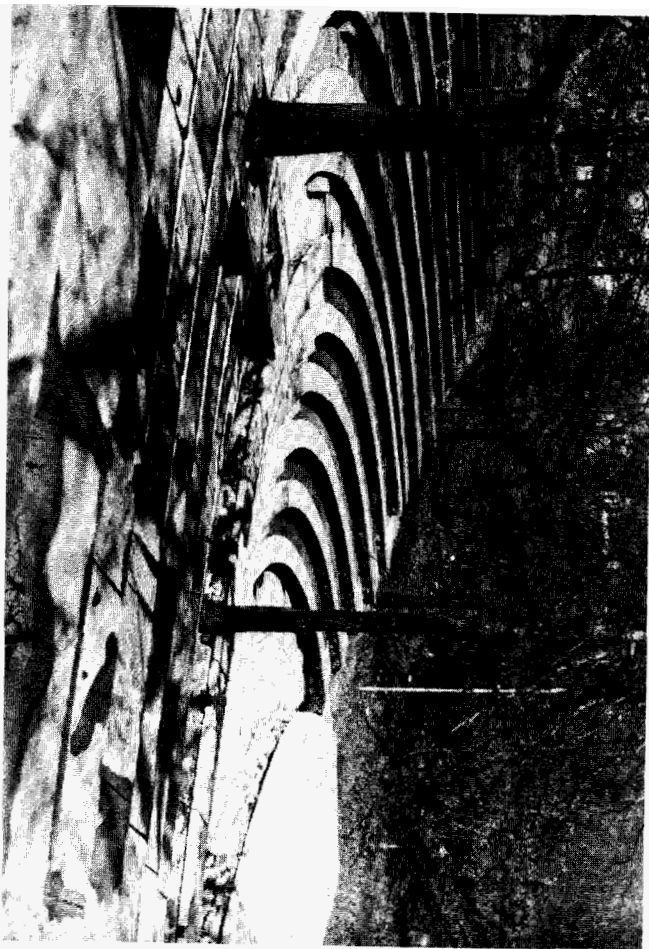
In the years since 1909, Southeastern has grown from a two-year school with limited goals to a University that reaches past its present degree-granting programs with effort to draw students beyond those of traditional college age for both part and full-time studies.

Its original 20 acres of bare ground have expanded to approximately 150 acres with more than 25 buildings. The 39 faculty members who taught the initial group of 324 students have increased to over 150 faculty members and 4,400 students. The purposes and functions have changed from exclusively teacher training to mission-oriented higher education seeking to serve its multi-county and state community and its students.

*Finis*, Volume I  
L.D.N.

Durant, Oklahoma  
April 24, 1986

The Southeastern Amphitheater



Tornado Damage to "Old Main"

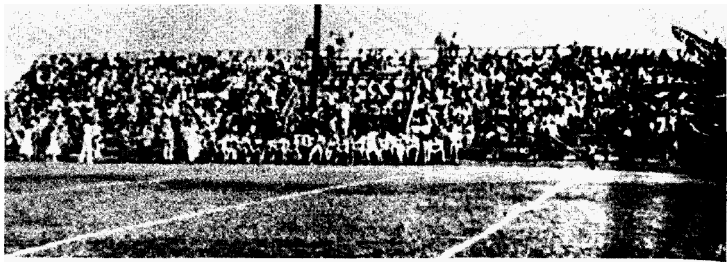


## Highlights

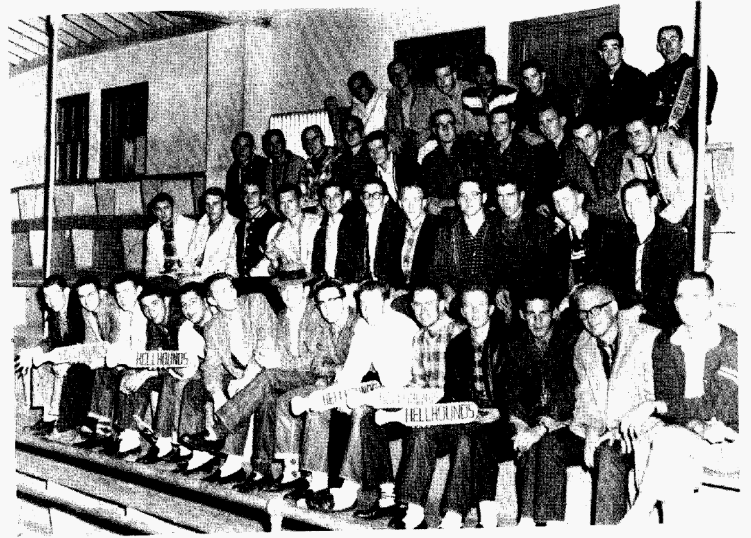
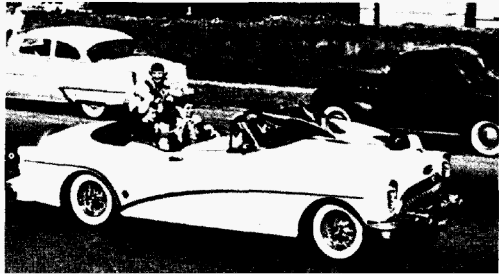
Savage Spirit Salute



1948 National Debate Champions,  
Gerald Sanders and Scotty Nobles



**HOMECOMING**



**Hell Hounds**



**Scenes of Past Reunions**



**Pledges Always Dress for an Occasion at Southeastern**



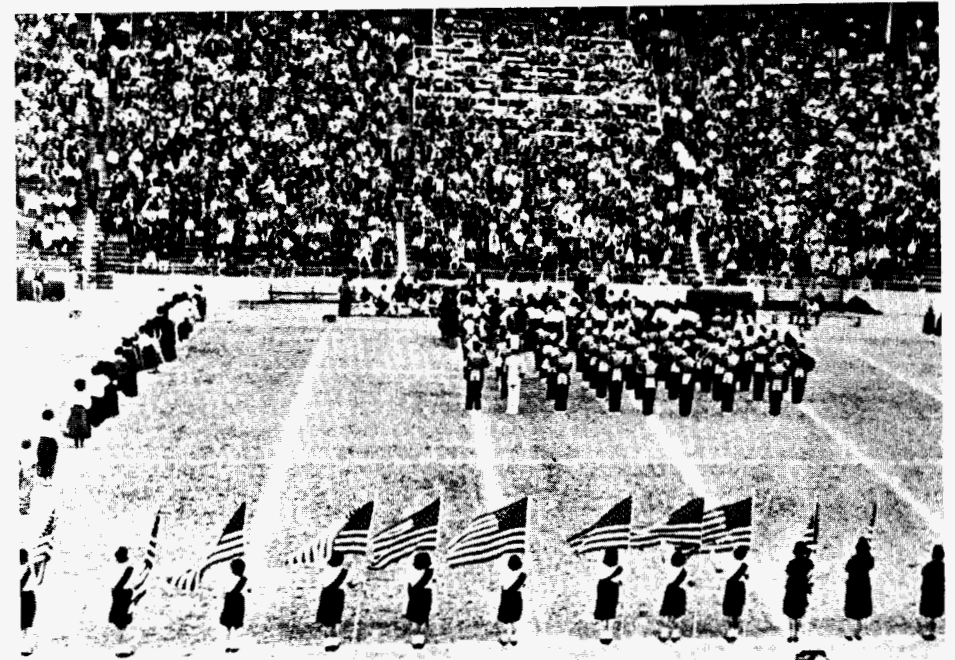
Members of Who's Who:



The 1954 Marching Savages



a Few of Those Who Have Excelled



Playing in the Cotton Bowl on National TV

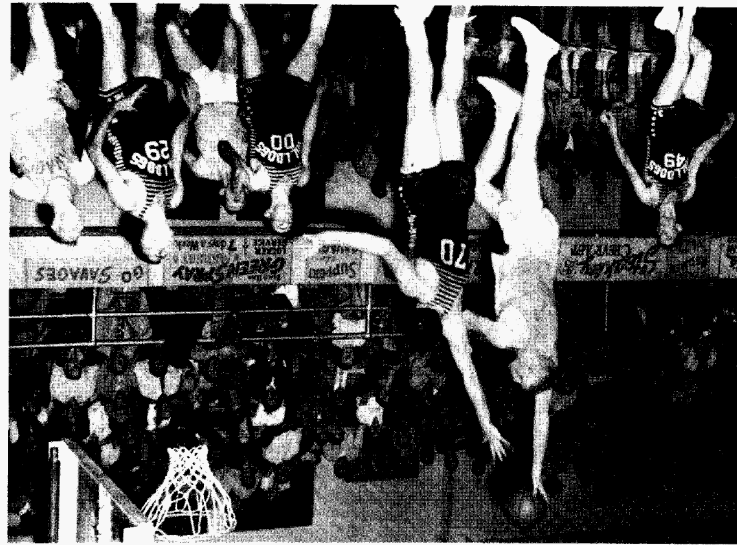
Rides on Lake Texoma: Circa 1950s



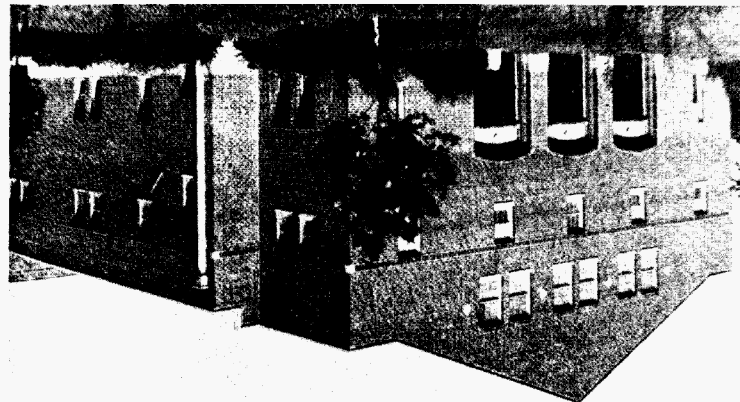
Watermelon Feasts and



Spivey Shoots Inside the "Pit"



The "Snake Pit"

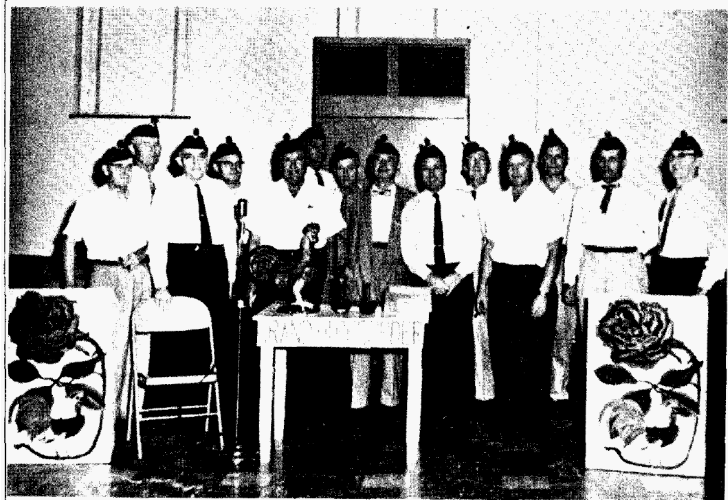




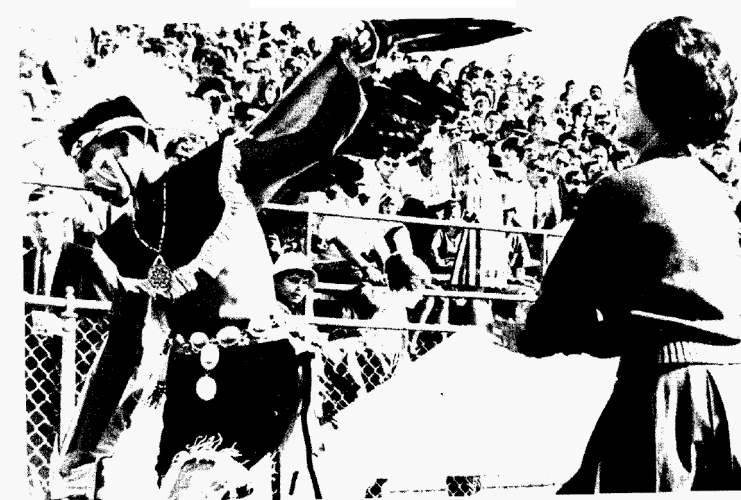
Louis and Bernice Johnson are Welcomed to SSC: Circa 1955



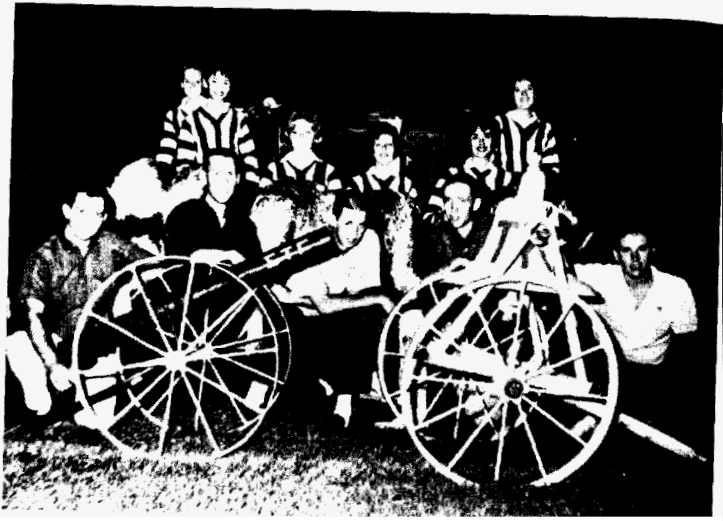
The Indian Heritage Lives



Members of The Red Red Rose: Circa 1960



and Lives at Southeastern



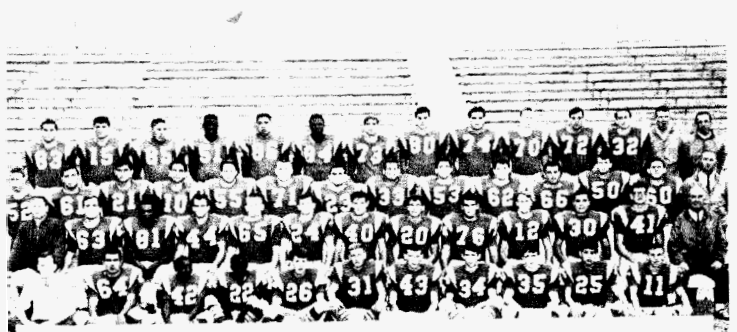
Symbols of Savage Spirit: Cannons, Bells,



Champions From The Twenties

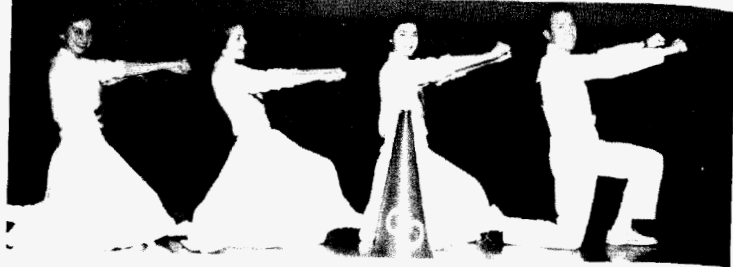


Teepees, and Drums Through the Night



Faded text block, likely a list of names or statistics related to the basketball team.

And, the 1960s



A Few Who Have Spirit



GLIMPSES

and Led



and Led



and Led



and Led



and Led





Queens Who Have Reigned



Queens Who Have Reigned



and Reigned



and Reigned



and Reigned



and Reigned



A Few of the Gracious Beauties



Who Have Graced the Campus

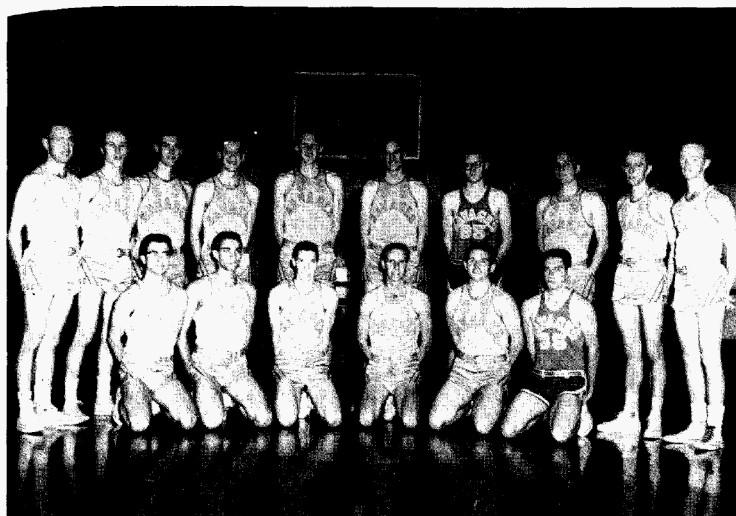


Southern Belles

1940 OKLAHOMA COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONS



Savage Champions: Circa 1940



Champions From the 1950s



Savage Champions: Circa 1948



1968 Oklahoma Collegiate Conference Champions: Back row from left: Dr. Roy Parham (Coach), Danny Hubbell, Rick Couse, Trent Baugh, Dennis Holland, Jim Godsey, Robert Drew, Ish Kaniastobe and Mickey Perberton. Front row: Larry Mills, Phil Mora, Gary Clements, Gann Burns, Mike Metheny, Donny David, Van Jennings, and Tommy Pratt. (not pictured is Jerry Hulse)

Southeastern's First Baseball Champions



Players, left to right: Duh Woolbright, Don Parham, Stacey Parker, Kenneth Drummond, I. D. Mahoney, John Gecks, Kirby Minter, George Trisdale, J. C. Curtis, Earl Curtis, Boyd Converse, Buddy Spencer, Denis Willard, Pudge Bowers.

The 1951 Basketball Squad



One of SSC's Finest Track Teams



President Shearer Begins a Friendship Fire



The Ring of Friendship



Lighting of the Symbolic Blaze



Hootenannies



Pep Rallies: Circa 1960s



Savage Scandals



A Chorus of Beauties Perform



The End of a Landmark



A Student Senate: Circa 1960

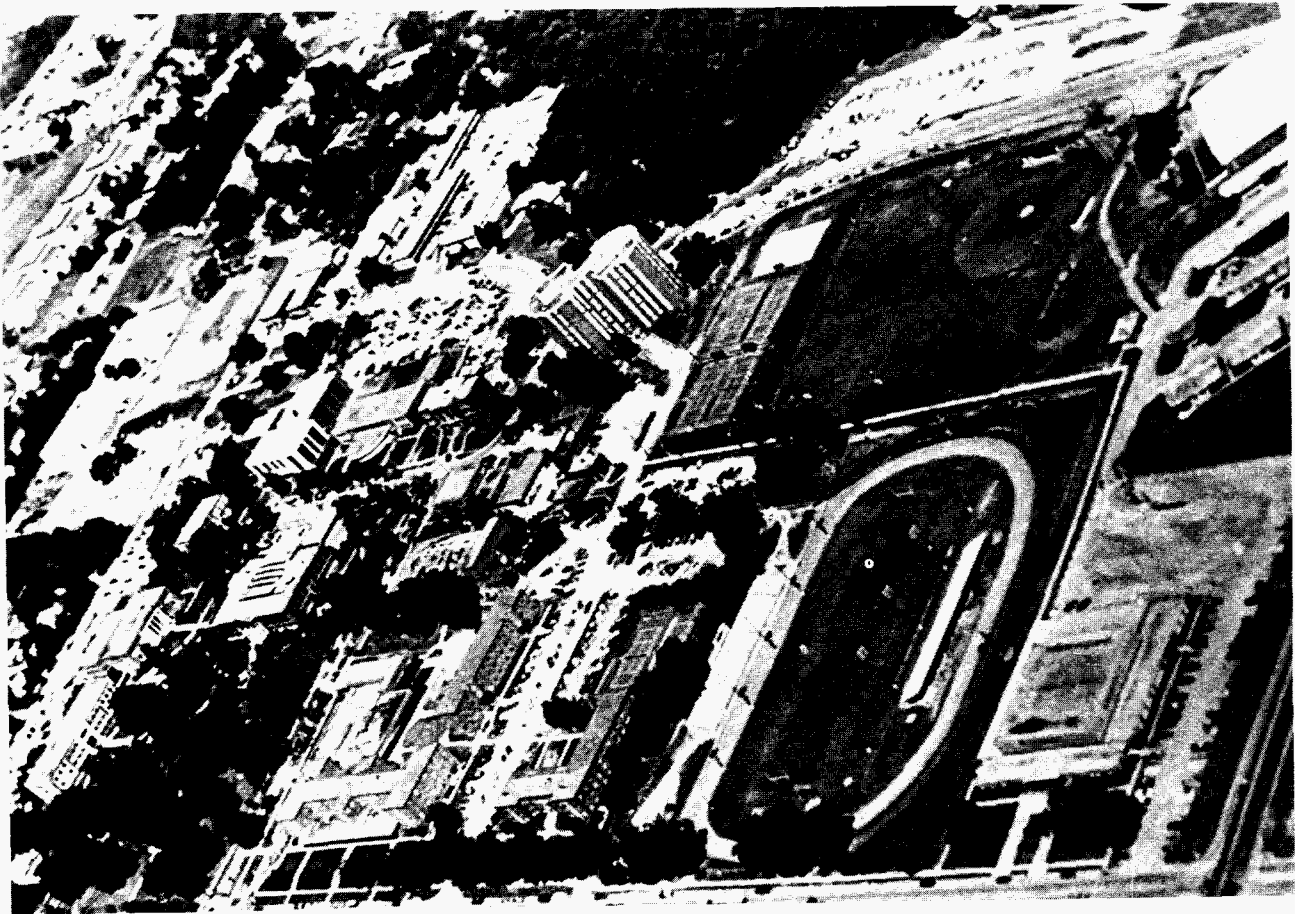
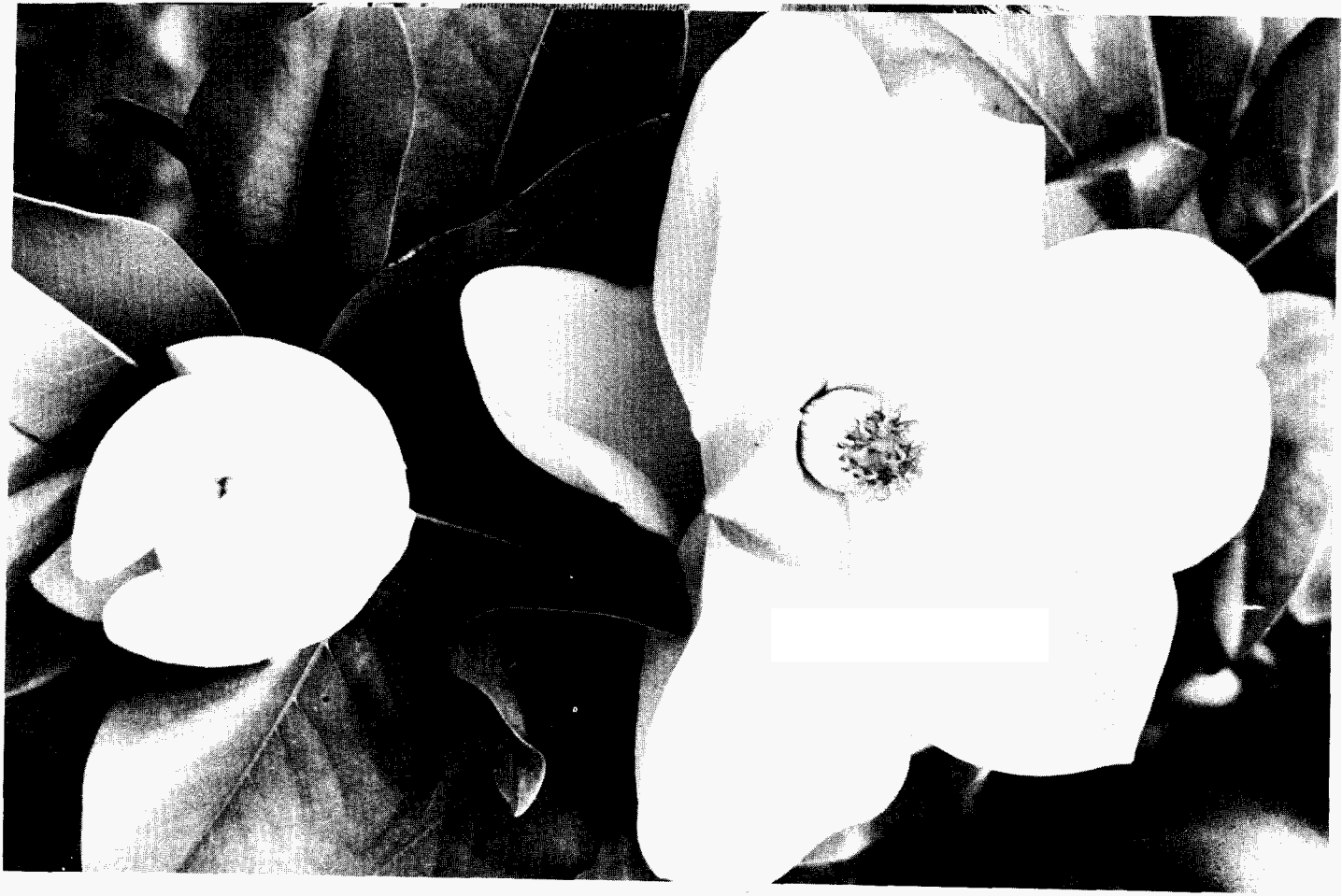


President Shearer Celebrates Campus Expansion



The Presidents' Club: Circa 1966

Symbol of a Campus



Aerial View: Circa 1970s

*APPENDIX A*

**PRESIDENTS OF SOUTHEASTERN**

<b>NAMES</b>	<b>YEARS OF SERVICE</b>
Marcus E. Moore	1909-1911
Edmund Dandridge Murdaugh	1911-1914
William C. Canterbury	1914-1915
Andrew S. Faulkner	1915-1916
T. D. Brooks, Ph.D.	1916-1919
Henry Garland Bennett, Ph.D.	1919-1928
Eugene S. Briggs, Ph.D.	1928-1933
Wade H. Shumate	1933-1935
Kate Galt Zaneis	1935-1937
W. B. Morrison	Summer 1937
H. Vance Posey	1937-1939
T. T. Montgomery	1939-1952
Allen E. Shearer, Ph.D.	1952-1967
Leon Hibbs, Ed.D.	1967-



VICE-PRESIDENTS

NAME

Elihu B. Hinshaw  
George B. Morris  
Ernest Sturch, Jr.  
John T. Krattiger  
\* M. G. Smith  
Ernest E. Ayres  
\* C. David Parker  
\* Mary A. Castleberry

\*Currently Serving

DEAN OF COLLEGE/DEAN OF INSTRUCTION

John S. Vaughan  
Paul E. Laird  
Leonard L. Clifton  
Everett Hayes Fixley  
Allen E. Shearer  
Guy A. Curry, Jr.  
James F. Rogers  
James D. Morrison  
Ernest Sturch, Jr.

REGISTRAR

Reuben D. Hardy  
T. A. Galloway  
Bruce W. Knight  
William T. Dodson  
John S. Vaughan  
Marvin G. Orr  
Edward H. McCune  
R. L. McPheron  
Sam O. Pool  
Leroy McClendon  
\*Mary A. Castleberry

\*Currently Serving

DEAN OF STUDENTS

John T. Krattiger  
\* G. Pat Powers

\*Currently Serving

DEAN OF WOMEN

Hallie McKinney  
Hettie H. McIntire  
Marie Taylor  
Kathleen Isabel Gillard  
Effie Montgomery  
Helen Owens  
\* Katie Frank Slack

\*Currently Serving

**DEAN OF MEN**

Fred B. Dixon  
Charles F. Daily  
J. L. Props  
Robert D. Thomas

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY/  
BUSINESS MANAGER/BURSAR**

Myrtle B. Masters  
R. W. Smith  
Joseph C. Scott  
John W. Patterson  
James W. Logan  
Carl McCoy  
Ernest E. Ayres  
\*Mellodean Morton

\*Currently Serving

**LIBRARIAN**

Ella Greenwood  
Haydee Ritchey  
Mary Ritchey  
Hettie H. McIntire  
Paul B. Cullen  
Henry Clay Cox  
Maude Cowan  
Lee Nix  
John Robert Willingham  
Raymond Piller  
\*Kay Parham

\*Currently Serving

**APPENDIX B**

**PERMANENT FACULTY OF  
SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
(By Decades Of First Employment.)

**1910s**

Adams, Mrs. Joe Lou  
Atkinson, Ruth V.  
Baker, Ghaska D.J.  
Ballew, Maud  
Battenberg, James P.  
Beavert, Julia  
Bennett, Henry G.  
Berger, Allen  
Bosworth, Sarah C.  
Boyd, Isabelle  
Brady, Nelle  
Braly, W. C.  
Brooks, T. D.  
Brown, Harry  
Brown, Isabelle M.  
Cain, Ira L.  
Cameron, Evan Dhu  
Canterbury, W.C.  
Carleton, Bernice  
Carroll, Hugh A.  
Causey, O. S.  
Collins, Lydia  
Colvin, Alice  
Cox, Zora E.  
Davis, E. M.  
Decker, Edith Mae  
Demand, L. Stanley  
Dodson, William T.  
Eastwood, Anna  
Echols, W. H.  
Faulkner, Andrew S.  
Fink, Lou Esther  
Fitzgerald, Josephine  
Fitzgerald, Virginia  
Forbes, Ola  
Fowler, Elsie

French, William C.  
Gabriel, Edith  
Galloway, T.A.  
Gates, Floy Perkinson  
George, Edna  
German, J. L.  
Gilbert, Katherine  
Gilliland, A. W.  
Greenwood, Ella  
Hamilton, A.V.  
Hammond, M.P.  
Hampton, Mrs. L. C.  
Hardy, Reuben D.  
Herod, Miriam  
Hinshaw, Elihu B.  
Hockaday, Ela  
Hunt, Gertrude  
Hunt, Norine  
Isaacks, J. D.  
Jennings, Bess C.  
Jennings, R. V.  
Johnson, J. H.  
Kaufman, Kenneth C.  
Keller, Bessie L.  
King, H. C.  
Knight, Bruce W.  
Krumtum, J.C.M.  
Laird, Paul E.  
Lamar, Ursula  
Laws, Sillas  
Lewis, Winnie  
Liner, T.B.  
Linscheid, Adolph  
Luck, Willie V.  
Mahoney, James R.  
Markle, Jane

McHendry, Mabel  
McIntire, Hettie  
McIntosh, Grace K.  
McKinney, Alice  
McKinney, Hallie  
Miller, Joe J.  
Moore, Marcus Egbert  
Morgan, Eliza  
Morris, George B.  
Murdaugh, Edmund Dandridge  
Nolen, Bess  
Odam, George  
Oversmith, C. Louise  
Parsons, Andrew Clarkson  
Pearson, Annie  
Pickens, Louise  
Proffitt, Edward F.  
Rainey, Hattie  
Ritchey, Haydee  
Robbins, E. B.  
Rorie, George C.  
Ryle, Jesse A.  
Sanders, Mary B.  
Stout, Julia E.  
Tompkins, R.R.  
Trent, Bessie  
Tudor, H. O.  
Turner, Clara  
Vaughan, John S.  
Wheeler, J. L.  
Wickham, M.M.  
Williams, Myra  
Winters, N. E.  
Work, Isabel

#### 1920s

Andrews, Helen  
Apple, Joe Alton  
Bahner, Ralph Waldo  
Barrow, Bess  
Bartlett, Lillian

Barton, W. A., Jr.  
Batchelor, Virginia Harral  
Bayne, Robert E.  
Beck, Irma  
Bell, Bernice Pendleton  
Bell, Martha Frost  
Bell, Mrs. Requa W.  
Bell, Requa W.  
Blackwell, Bonnie  
Blain, Walter L.  
Blanchard, Bertha F.  
Bouie, Fannie  
Briggs, Eugene S.  
Bryant, William Cullen  
Byrns, Bertha  
Chambers, F. L.  
Chamblee, Celeste L.  
Clark, Fred R.  
Clark, Grace M.  
Clayton, Joseph Buren  
Conger, N.  
Cowan, Maude  
Cox, Henry Clay  
Criswell, C. L.  
Crump, Mrs. Robert E.  
Crump, Robert Edward  
Cullen, Paul B.  
Cunningham, J. Lee  
DeMaine, Maud C.  
Dickerson, Lenora Kemp  
Dixon, Fred B.  
Dunlap, Claude C.  
Eastham, Luther B.  
Eubank, Dillard M.  
Fixley, Everett Hayes  
Freeman, Wyatt C.  
French, C. B.  
Godfrey, P. D.  
Graham, W. B.  
Granahan, Mrs.  
Gregory, Sandy W.  
Haggard, E. Martin

Hagood, Floyd G.  
Hagood, G. F.  
Hammond, Rosa Lee  
Hantula, A. W.  
Hatley, George B.  
Head, Rena  
Hill, Laura May  
Hinshaw, Irvin S.  
Houston, Thomas Allen  
Hunter, Harold E.  
Ireland, Joseph C.  
Jones, W. A.  
Kelley, Eva  
Lambert, Walter E.  
Leaman, Olga  
Lee, Mamie Josephine  
Leek, Raymond Wilbur  
Leonard, Lena Noll  
Leonard, Lucy  
Leonard, Sallie  
Long, F. E.  
Luttrell, Pearl  
Lyday, Florice  
Marlin, Annie  
Martin, Mamie Howard  
Masters, Myrtle B.  
McAninch, Lola T.  
McClain, Annie  
Mchaffey, M. H.  
McKinney, Elizabeth  
McKinney, Virginia  
McLaughlin, Lula E.  
McPheron, R.L.  
Morgan, Clara Bell  
Morrison, William Brown  
Morton, Mrs. Ohland  
Muerman, J. C.  
Munson, Julia  
Murry, Emma M.  
Neely, Virginia Mackey  
Neighbors, Kittie  
Nolen, Irene Pendleton

**Orr**, Marvin G.  
Ownby, Fannie Gardner  
Palmer, George M.  
Paul, Mrs. Roy  
Pender, J. W.  
Pierce, Floyd  
Porterfield, Austin L.  
Price, Lena Wooten  
Props, John L.  
Ramsey, Olin L.  
Reynolds, Stella  
Riling, Mildred  
Saffold, Effie  
Sanders, Oscie  
Schoonover, Mrs. Charles M.  
Scrivener, Irene  
Scroggs, Mrs. Schiller  
Scroggs, Schiller  
Searcy, Kathleen  
Severance, Marion  
Smith, Arty B.  
Smith, C. Aubrey  
Tansil, Blanche Allen  
Tatman, Clarice  
Thoma, Irene  
Warinner, Agnes  
Wilcox, Louise  
Witt, Brennon  
Wolverton, Itea  
Wood, Mary Agnes  
Wooten, Annie S.  
Zant, James H.

#### 1930s

Adcock, Truman W.  
Adkisson, R. W.  
Armstrong, Louis  
Babb, S. F.  
Baker, Minnie Mitchell  
Bates, H. S.  
Beaty, Layne R.

Blomfield, Carl J.  
Bourne, Otis T.  
Bridges, Olin R.  
Cameron, Anne E.  
Chambers, Maude  
Chamblee, Mary  
Clark, Haskell Gordon  
Clifton, Leonard L.  
Croft, Pauline Flynt  
Culberson, James M.  
Culbertson, James Edwin  
Dailey, Charles F.  
Dean, Lena Annesley  
Dragoo, Raymond C.  
Dwight, Leslie A.  
Edwards, Helen Kerr  
England, Elizabeth Petty  
Fischer, Carl H.  
Fisher, Duane  
Fort, Marion K.  
Fowler, Anna Fay  
Fox, J. K.  
Frazier, R. W.  
Glen, Patricia  
Goodman, Evelyn Norman  
Green, Vesta  
Haden, Mary Jane  
Hale, Octavia  
Hall, Thomas A.  
Hardy, Ruth  
Harral, Stewart  
Harris, Hubert A.  
Hewett, Charles A.  
James, Ollie  
Jorgensen, Hans P.  
Kohler, Helen  
Leake, Dorothy Van Dyke  
Ledgerwood, Richard C.  
Lewis, H. Michael  
Long, Kathryn M.  
Loveless, James C.  
May, Eula

McBride, L. E.  
McCracken, Mildred L.  
McCune, Edward H.  
McElhannon, J. C.  
Merrill, P. K.  
Montgomery, Effie  
Montgomery, T. T.  
Morris, John W.  
Nix, Lee  
Overstreet, Margaret  
Patterson, John W.  
Pitts, Pauline  
Posey, H. Vance  
Puffinbarger, J. P.  
Riddle, Cecil C.  
Roach, John  
Robbins, Emma E.  
Scott, Joseph C.  
Semple, Anne R.  
Shaw, Ralph J.  
Shearer, Allen E.  
Shumate, Wade H.  
Slaughter, Eugene E.  
Smith, R. W.  
Smith, Tom W.  
Stuart, Streeter  
Sullivan, Bloomer  
Sumter, Robert Osborne  
Taylor, M. E.  
Taylor, Marie  
Thomason, Myrtle  
Totten, George F.  
Underwood, W. H.  
Vincent, Hazel  
Washburn, May  
Wells, Minnie E.  
White, Henry F.  
Williams, Mildred Leecraft  
Zaneis, Kate Galt

### 1940s

Anderson, Rachel  
Ausley, Robert L.  
Bass, Vivia Locke  
Carson, Pryor  
Clark, Dorothy  
Craighead, E. M.  
Crockett, Bernice Norman  
Crudup, R. E.  
Demand, Miles  
Douglas, Jack E.  
Downing, William B.  
Downs, Vivian  
Drake, Lloyd B.  
Dyer, Clarence  
Edwards, William L.  
Enderby, David R.  
Engles, Charles  
Ferguson, Maxine  
Fisher, Virginia Tyus  
Fleak, R. W.  
Frye, Mary  
Galloway, Olive  
Gillard, Kathleen Isabel  
Glenn, Mary Louise  
Green, Jack N.  
Grunder, Garel A.  
Hall, Linnie Ruth  
Harkey, R. W.  
Hatchett, Ruth  
Haynie, W. Keiller  
Hershey, W. C.  
Holland, Jennie Sue  
Hunziker, John  
Jackson, Clyde W.  
Keel, Robert Lee  
Kilpatrick, Earl B.  
King, C. B.  
Knight, Mrs. Robert  
Krattiger, John T.  
Locke, Charles

### 1950s

Logan, James W.  
Long, Virginia Baker  
Lowe, Hugh W.  
Mealer, Margaret L.  
Moore, A. Tuell  
Morrison, James Davidson  
Moseley, Virginia Douglas  
Palmer, H. L.  
Pool, Arch Lee  
Pool, Sam O.  
Rice, Newcomb  
Schilz, Gordon B.  
Silver, Wayne H.  
Spalding, Dan Wesley  
Spradlin, Simon B.  
Steger, Ruth Ludlow  
Stephany, Elizabeth  
Sterling, Clarence  
Stevens, Dave  
Stevens, Madeline W.  
Sullivan, Grace  
Sullivan, John L.  
Swearengen, Flavia D.  
Thomas, Paul D.  
Thorne, Merlin  
Trammell, C. B.  
Treadaway, Bertha Mae  
Valla, Roy K.  
Vaughan, T. D.  
Weaver, Helen Sue  
Weaver, James M.  
Weissinger, William Roy  
Welch, Nolabelle Sullivan  
West, Ruth  
Wester, Truman E.  
Wright, Bob  
Young, George

Baskin, Wade  
Baumgardner, Kenneth W.  
Bowers, James L.  
Boynton, Edwin C.  
Branson, John LeGrand  
Broughton, Clifford W.  
Brown, Donald N.  
Brown, Melvin  
Carney, Champ Clark  
Carter, Orris E., Jr.  
collier, Donald D.  
Crockett, Ruth  
Curry, Guy A., Jr.  
Dixon, Max  
Eubank, Sever L.  
Grimes, Bill R.  
Halley, Patrick L.  
Harmon, William S.  
Harris, Mamie E.  
Hornuff, Lothar E., Jr.  
Johnson, Louis G.  
Latham, James H.  
Mayfield, Robert Charles  
Maynard, Judson D.  
McCarley, Wardlow Howard  
McCown, Warren Doyle  
McCoy, Carl  
McCoy, Jake  
McGovern, Troyce D.  
Merrill, Myrtle  
Moore, Mary Lee  
Nagle, L. Marshall  
Nixon, Melbern W.  
Oberlander, Oliver C.  
O'Riley, Margaret C.  
Owens, Helen Patterson  
Parham, Donald A.  
Pennington, Paul J.  
Piller, Raymond A.  
Powers, Grady Pat  
Revis, Frances Williamson  
Rogers, James F.

Rye, Howard H.  
Sanders, Paul  
Slack, Katie Frank  
Slawson, Mary Fay  
Steen, Lloyd  
Sturch, Ernest  
Trumble, Ernest L.  
Walker, Arnold D.  
Weder, John  
Welborn, Claud Alson  
White, Alvin M.  
Wier, John Rex, Jr.  
Wilcoxson, Eugene  
Willingham, John Robert  
Wilson, W. W.  
Wright, Cathryn

### 1960s

Adams, Claude R.  
Andrews, Charles R.  
Ashcraft, Marion G.  
Ashmore, Michael  
Aubrey, Robert H.  
Ayres, Ernest E.  
Baker, Curtiss  
Bale, John T., Jr.  
Ball, Lee Hampton, Jr.  
Barnette, James Y.  
Beaty, Robert A.  
Bennett, James G., Jr.  
Bhattacharya, Sauri Pada  
Bostic, Doyle L.  
Bowen, Collin W.  
Bowen, Ruby S.  
Brandes, James M.  
Bumgardner, Charles S.  
Byrd, Edward L., Jr.  
Carpenter, Don H.  
Castleberry, Mary A.  
Cazzelle, Jack G.

Chandler, Judith Ann  
Cherry, Ralph D.  
Choate, Charles T.  
Christian, Duke  
Clark, Lahoma E.  
Collins, Fred E.  
Conrey, George A.  
Cook, David B.  
Cook, Raymond Lloyd  
Cowser, Robert G.  
Craig, Mary Ann Thompson  
Crockett, John V.  
Crosswait, Albert Burton, Jr.  
Crow, Lois T.  
Daugherty, W. B.  
Dickson, John L.  
Duke, James Douglas  
Dye, Jack R.  
Engelman, Lyeva  
Engles, A. Jeanette Bear  
Eppley, Joretta Marie  
Fagan, Evelyn  
Faulk, Pearl H.  
Ferguson, Don Paul  
Fox, J. B., Jr.  
Franks, Gene H.  
Frey, Lois F.  
Gabbard, Bill R.  
Gaither, Billy D.  
Gardner, Charles  
Gecks, John Edward  
George, Flavil H.  
Gillham, Billy L.  
Gold, C. Henry  
Goss, Charles W.  
Gray, Clyde C.  
Greene, Laura Linda  
Haddock, Dolphus  
Hafner, Lawrence Erhardt  
Hall, Richard Lee  
Hammack, Charles R.  
Harmon, Bilye Sue  
Harmon, James S.  
Harvey, Norma Ruth  
Harvill, Daisy Lee  
Hazell, Don B.  
Hibbs, Leon  
Higginbotham, Dorothy Christine  
Hill, Elbert Ray  
Hill, Marion  
Hoke, Montee  
Hopkins, Sharon  
Houston, Dora O. Grace  
Hull, Luther  
Ison, David Leslie  
James, Pat V.  
Jamison, Blanche N. Fern  
Jenkins, Sidney L.  
Johnston, James A., Jr.  
Jones, Janie L.  
Landua, Paul Dwight  
Laughlin, Harold E.  
Lavender, Harvel W.  
Layman, Marvin I., Jr.  
Lever, Michael E.  
Lewis, Leslie  
Lindsay, Linda Lou Rainier  
Littlejohn, Joseph E.  
Lowrie, Bonita Ann  
Lynn, Harold B.  
Mack, Alva Jean  
Mansur, Paul M.  
Mathieu, Leo George  
McClendon, Leroy  
McClendon, Max J.  
McCoy-Fox, Edwardine  
McCraw, Melrose Hale  
McGovern, Betty L.  
Meadows, Kathleen  
Milligan, James Clark  
Mitchell, James W.  
Moore, A. M.

Morales, Jorge  
Nichols, Kenneth L.  
Noble, Jack L.  
Norris, L. David  
O'Steen, Jimmie D.  
Owens, Tolbert E.  
Parker, Charles David  
Penn, Howard  
Perry, Billy Lee  
Peters, Kenneth V.  
Peterson, William A.  
Phillips, J. B.  
Platter, Allen A.  
Platter, Paula P.  
Poe, Robert L.  
Polson, William Jerry  
Pugh, Neva  
Quaid, Thomas Lee  
Radasinovich, Rade  
Ray, Bobby  
Ribera, Vernon R.  
Rich, David A.  
Riffe, Dean W., Jr.  
Robinson, Jack L.  
Rucker, Lura  
Schuster, E. Elaine  
Scott, Leon  
Scroggins, Helen P.  
Simpson, Doris Burkett  
Singleton, J. Allen  
Smallwood, Elizabeth Ruth  
Smallwood, James M.  
Smith, Clyde I.  
Smith, George F.  
Smith, M. G.  
Starks, Howard Vernon  
Stroup, Fred, Jr.  
Stubbs, Grady C.  
Stuteville, Claude E.  
Sullivan, Mary Ellen  
Taylor, Raymond John  
Taylor, Virena

Thomas, Robert D.  
Thorne, Carolyn P.  
Thorne, John M.  
Troutt, Roy  
Trumble, Margaret  
Wade, W. Frank  
Warren, Harold  
Warren, Lewis  
Watson, W. Leroy  
Welch, Homer E.  
Whitely, Francis J.  
Zink, Lee B.

### 1970s

Abitz, John W.  
Allen, Sue Brown  
Andrews, Doris M.  
Ashton, Bruce Kirk  
Bigham, Sam R.  
Boatner, Winona  
Bohanan, Lyndon E.  
Brandt, Joseph M.  
Branton, Robert Allen, Jr.  
Breedon, George, Jr.  
Britt, Walter C.  
Cacho, Benedicto  
Campbell, L. Bracey  
Carroll, Johnny G.  
Chappell, Ben A.  
Collier, George A., Jr.  
Constande, George J.  
Cooper, Walter  
Coston, F. Wayne  
Crouch, Judith Ann  
Cummings, Charlotte A.  
Cunningham, James E.  
Cuthbertson, Karen Sue  
Davis, Frank H.  
Dilbeck, Beverly A.  
Dodd, William G.

Dunham, Phil R.  
DuPont, Phil  
Edwards, Billy L.  
Eggleton, Gordon L.  
Elder, Kenneth B.  
Evelyn, George E., Jr.  
Findley, Benjamin F., Jr.  
Foley, Lawrence P.  
Fouillade, Claude J.  
Freed, Richard D.  
Gandy, Douglas  
Garner, Dale W.  
Gathron, Ernest  
Gathron, Marsha  
Goddard, Ronald H.  
Graham, Eunice F.  
Griffith, Henry V.  
Hamilton, Austin L.  
Hansford, James I., Jr.  
Harris, Charles W.  
Hartle, Joseph F.  
Hawkins, W. O.  
Hays, Dan E.  
Henderson, Robert A.  
Hercher, Gary W.  
Hudson, Vicki L. Cluck  
Hughes, James E.  
Hust, Carolyn  
Jacob, Ruth E. Goss  
Johnson, Bruce A.  
Johnson, Mary Lee  
Jones, Royce Dean  
Keyes, Christopher H.  
King, Elmer J.  
Kinzer, Joe M.  
Lacy, Nan  
Laird, Lynda J.  
Latham, Martha Ann  
Leavenworth, John B.  
Lester, James E.

Letts, Dennis  
Lott, Kenneth  
Mabry, Joseph G.  
Mangrum, Clifton W.  
Manley, Rudy Howard  
Marquis, Stewart A.  
Marrs, Lu Ann  
Martin, Michael  
Martin, Pierce J.  
May, Dennis Keith  
McElroy-Ashcraft, Merle  
McNulty, Lawrence Joseph  
McNulty, Lynda  
McRorey, Tom J.  
Metheny, Terry Mike  
Mickle, Frances J.  
Miles, Thurman G.  
Minks, Lawrence C.  
Mize, David G.  
Moody, Steven W.  
Murphy, Elizabeth S.  
Myers, Nancy B.  
Neeley, Dwight S.  
Nguyen, Dinh Tuyen  
Nichols, Michael G.  
Nolan, Larry R.  
Owsley, Robert M.  
Parham, Kay  
Patterson, Larry David  
Pedraza, Pablo F.  
Pratt, Bob G.  
Ratliff, Thomas C.  
Reneau, Val C.  
Resta, Peter P.  
Reynolds, Rennie C.  
Risso, Roberta A.  
Robbins, Gene  
Robbins, Patricia  
Rutherford, John M.  
Rutherford, Richard M.

Santamaria, Enrique  
 Santamaria, Lana Louise  
 Sills, Eloise M.  
 Silver, Dorothy S.  
 Smith, John T.  
 Taylor, Constance E.  
 Thompson, Robert J.  
 Turley, S. Kay  
 Turner, Gary W.  
 Varner, T. C.  
 Vickers, Thomas E.  
 Walker, Dovie M.  
 Walters, Elizabeth E.  
 Warthen, Charles  
 Washburn, Kenneth R.  
 Webb, Troy A.  
 Wescott, Roberta P.  
 West, Jay P.  
 White, Don  
 Wiley, Joe A.  
 Wiley, Paul  
 Williams, John Ray  
 Wintle, James R.  
 Wright, John R.

**1980s**

Adams, Benjamin Michael  
 Anderson, Susan K.  
 Baskin, Vlasta J.  
 Bostic, M. Louise  
 Boyette, Larry M.  
 Britton, James E.  
 Chinn, Kenneth  
 Culbert, James K.  
 Davis, Dorothy F.  
 Dilbeck, Clint  
 Dresser, Marilyn  
 Dunham, Patricia A.  
 Ellis, Michael  
 Ellis, Richard Barry

Garrison, G. David  
 Gold, Jacquelyn  
 Hedden, Jack E.  
 Hooten, Roy  
 Jensen, Peter L.  
 Jones, Edward D.  
 Jones, Syble  
 Kahrs, Catherine R.  
 Keenan, Douglas E.  
 Keith, Nick C.  
 Lambert, Joanne  
 Letts, Billie D.  
 Lounsbury, Daniel C.  
 Martin, Cleo A.  
 Martin, Jimmy H.  
 McDermott, Jerry Kevin  
 McFadden, Robert  
 McNeely, Bonnie  
 McWee, Wayne E.  
 Miller, Lloyd  
 Morris, Curtis Michael  
 Newell, Charles David  
 Newsome, Ronny J.  
 Noltner, Edward J.  
 Oliver, Robert E.  
 Olson, Robert L.  
 Parker, Mark E.  
 Rackley, Barbara G.  
 Reasor, Virginia  
 Reisman, Lon E.  
 Schneider, Harry J.  
 Shea, Michael W.  
 Slack, Harold W.  
 Stafford, Marvin Bink  
 Stege, Kenneth W.  
 Stubblefield, Patricia L.  
 Tomory, Zoltan M.  
 Varner, Gary Joe  
 Womack, Sid T.  
 Young, Dale T.  
 Zumwalt, Glenda

APPENDIX C

**MEMBERS OF THE STATE REGENTS  
 FOR HIGHER EDUCATION FROM DURANT**

NAME	YEAR APPOINTED
Joe F. Gary	1977

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS  
 OF OKLAHOMA COLLEGES FROM DURANT**

NAME	YEAR APPOINTED
Rector H. Swearingin	1947
Dr. J. T. Colwick, Jr.	1957
Dr. W. R. Bradford	1973
Don H. Carpenter	1984

**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI  
 (Recipients of the Southeastern Oklahoma  
 State University Distinguished Alumnus Award)**

NAME	YEAR SELECTED
Dr. E. T. Dunlap	1973
Joe F. Gary	1974
Dr. Leslie Fisher	1975
General Ira C. Eaker	1976
Dr. W. R. Bradford	1977
Miss Priscilla Utterback	1978
Rector Swearingin	1979
Dr. W. K. Haynie	1979
Dr. Earl Willhoite	1980
Dr. Lara Hoggard	1980
Mrs. Ruth G. Pendleton	1981
F. R. "Buddy" Spencer	1982
Dr. Earle Williams	1983
John L. Massey	1984

APPENDIX D

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENTS  
FALL AND SPRING SEMESTERS  
SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

NAME	YEAR
H Grady Eaker	1920-21
Bill Sexton	1921-22
Elmer Sprague	1922-23
James Wright	1923-24
Houston Wright	1924-25
Carl McIntire	1925-26
Charles Rowland	1926-27
Hicks Epton	1927-28
Bert Holt	1928-29
Haskell Clark	1929-30
William Carr	1930-31
Jack Jackson	1931-32
Robert T. "Bob" Davis	1932-33
George Sneed	1933-34
Rex Davis	1934-35
Allen Crutcher	1935-36
Glynn Price	1936-37
B A Willis	1937-38
R A. Clay	1938-39
Truman Wester	1939-40
Annibale Paolucci	1940-41
Charles Engles	1941-42
Earl Engles	1942-43
Betty (Scott) Ramazetti	1943-44
Dorothy (Hammond) Williams	1944-45
Nell Ruth (Crowley) Williams	1945-46
David L Williams	1946-47
Robert H LaGrone	1947-48
Bill Redman	1948-49
Robert E "Bob" Engles	1949-50
Frank Cornell	1950-51
Al Melson	1951-52
Frank R "Buddy" Spencer	1952-53

David Emerson	1953-54
Bill Mills	1954-55
Milam King	1955-56
Doyle Bostic	1956-57
Garry Landreth	1957-58
David Faulkenberry	1958-59
John Massey	1959-60
Pat Phelps	1960-61
Billy Joe Taylor	1961-62
John Hawkins	1962-63
Charles "Red" McLemore	1963-64
Clyde Smith	1964-65
Luther Teel	1965-66
Duane Blair	1966-67
George Hatfield	1967-68
Doug Walden	1968-69
Mike Graham	1969-70
Dwight Nuckolls	1970-71
Steve Barker	1971-72
Gary Kennedy	1972-73
Bill Sharp	1973-74
Leon Frederick "Fred" Collins	1974-75
Douglas "Doug" Stickney	1975-76
Mike McElroy (1st Semester)	1976-77
Eddie McCann (2nd Semester)	1977-78
Lon Seiger	1978-79
James Hornbeak	1979-80
Joe Townsend	1980-81
Dennis Gates	1981-82
Jim Gatliff	1982-83
Bert May Kendrick	1983-84
Michael Ross	1984-85
Greg Jenkins	



APPENDIX E

SOSU ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Bowden, Glen Julie — Football  
Carey, J. M. — Football  
Curtis, Otho — Basketball  
Dyer, Clarence — Tennis Coach  
Eubank, Dillard M. — Football  
Groce, Ike R. — Tennis  
Harris, James D. — Football  
Hunnicuttt, Richard Paul — Basketball - Football  
Jones, Gene — Basketball - Football  
Ketelsen, Kimm — Tennis  
Laird, Paul E. — Athletics Coach  
Olufs, Robert — Baseball  
Parham, Donald A. — Baseball Coach  
Patton, L. T. "Cotton" — Basketball  
Shipp, Jerry — Basketball  
Spivey, James W. — Basketball  
Stevens, David T. W. — Football Coach  
Stewart, Arthur "Skinney" — Football  
Sullivan, Bloomer — Basketball Coach  
Webb, Troy "Curly" — Basketball  
Witt, Brennon — Basketball - Football  
Womble, Warren — Basketball

ALL-AMERICANS  
SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

(First Team Selections Unless Otherwise Indicated)

BASEBALL

Dennis Trahan 1966 (2nd Team)  
Joe Shaddix 1973 (2nd Team)  
Tony Cazzelle 1974 (2nd Team)  
Bobby Schuman 1975 (2nd Team)  
Bob Olufs 1977, 1978  
Scott Loucks 1977  
Ronnie Gooch 1978 (2nd Team)  
Brett Butler 1978, 1979 (2nd Team)  
Billy Jack Bowen 1979  
Gary Benton 1979  
Alan Cartwright 1980 (2nd Team); 1981, 1982  
Greg Legg 1980 (2nd Team); 1982  
Gary Sharp 1981 (2nd Team)  
Ron Gilbreath 1981 (2nd Team)  
Lyndon Black 1982 (2nd Team)

BASKETBALL

Otho Curtis 1942  
L. T. "Cotton" Patton 1942  
James Spivey 1955, 1956, 1957  
Max Yarbrough 1961 (3rd Team)  
Connie McGuire 1962 (3rd Team)  
James Christanelli 1969 (3rd Team)  
Dennis "Worm" Rodman 1984

FOOTBALL

James Harris 1947  
Bud Bahner 1954  
Randall Burks 1975 (2nd Team)  
Eddie Scott 1976 (2nd Team)

## TENNIS

*(NAIA All-American Teams started in 1967)*

Curtis Richmond 1967  
Jay Lysaught 1967, 1968  
James Wadley 1968, 1969  
David Bryant 1969, 1970  
Kimm Ketelsen 1970, 1972  
Mark Milligan 1970, 1972  
Mike Albright 1976  
Terry Wood 1976

## TRACK

Charles Gulley 1973

## HONORABLE MENTION ALL-AMERICANS

### BASEBALL

Jim Holderfield 1965  
Trent Baulch 1968  
Danny Hubbell 1968  
David Ward 1970  
Timothy Hardesty 1970  
Gary Gray 1974  
Bert Weryavah 1975  
Scott Loucks 1976  
Jack Park 1977  
Darcy Jech 1979  
Ron Ridling 1980  
Larry Shuck 1980  
Brian Layton 1980  
David Brady 1982  
Ron Knotts 1983, 1984  
Tim Phelps 1984  
Scott Logsdon 1984

### BASKETBALL

Richard Muldrew 1962  
Wayne Cobb 1965  
Randell Hunt 1977  
Emery Aaron 1983

### FOOTBALL

David "Ish" Kaniatobe 1968  
Mike McVay 1977  
Nathan Wilson 1979  
John Connor 1980  
Jim Day 1980  
N. L. Edwards 1983

## FOOTBALL - ALL-CONFERENCE

1913 William A. "Spot" Durant, Jr. Byrd, Grady Wann, Walter Chitwood, Guy B. Dickerson, Alexander Bateman  
1914 Durant, Wortman (2nd)  
1915 Oscar Palmer, Fon Lee (2nd)  
1916 E. Thomas, Eddie Battaile, Lee (2nd)  
1922 Dillard Eubank (2nd), Brennon Witt (2nd)  
1923 Alvin Boyet, Eubank, Witt, Frank Farmer (2nd)  
1924 Witt, Boyet (2nd), Farmer (2nd)  
1925 Earnest McCarty (2nd), Walter Rappolee (2nd)  
1927 Calvin Beames (2nd)  
1929 James Dunlap, Julie Bowden, Carl Buck (2nd), Reese McCord (2nd), Bob Sumter (2nd), Howard McFarland (2nd)  
1930 Buster Lynn, Buck, Marvin Moore, Bowden, McCord (2nd)  
1931 Lynn, Bowden, Moore (2nd), Murray Fulsom (2nd)  
1932 Nat Timmons, Bowden, Paul Hunnicutt (2nd), Wiggins (2nd), Harley Kersey (2nd)  
1933 Raymond Martin, Hunnicutt (2nd), Kersey (2nd)  
1934 Fred Bement (2nd)  
1935 Raymond "Bull" Martin, Joe Lemmonds (2nd), George Holloway (2nd)  
1936 Leon Chessher, Lynn Martin (2nd)  
1938 Jack Small, T.C. Beare, Clarence Sterling (2nd), G.P. Gentry (2nd)  
1939 Lawton Carey, Small (2nd), Beare (2nd), Bill Rye (2nd), Gentry (2nd)  
1940 Beare, Carey, J.T. Boydston (2nd), Luther Hopkins (2nd)  
1942 Lloyd Skelton, Cecil Hankins, Bob Beare (2nd), James Taylor (2nd), Harold Jones (2nd)  
\*1946 Gene Jones, James Harris, Howard Guyer, Bill Caldwell (2nd), Lee Allen (2nd)  
\*1947 Caldwell, J.C. Dunn, Bert Lana, Guyer, Arthur Stewart, Aubrey Williamson (2nd), Allen (2nd)  
\*\*1948 J. C. Dunn, Williamson, James Harris, Arthur Stewart, J. Taylor (2nd), L. Allen (2nd)  
1949 Taylor, Harris, Allen, Williamson (2nd), Stewart (2nd)

1950 Paul Brown  
 1951 Tommy Langham, Leonard Korenek (2nd), Don Townsend (2nd)  
 1953 Lloyd Ernst, Harry Dodd, David Emerson (2nd)  
 1954 Bill McClain, Bud Bahner (2nd), Selvidge (2nd)  
 1955 Ronnie Gandy (2nd)  
 1956 John Harbour, Marty Bacon, Ferdie Burket, Steve Paskorz (2nd), Morris Reavis (2nd)  
 1957 Harbour, Tom Weast (2nd), Reavis (2nd), Bacon (2nd)  
 1958 Ferdie Burket  
 1959 Ronnie Hendricks (2nd)  
 1960 Blake Smiley, Norman West (2nd), Monte Hendricks (2nd)  
 1961 Jackie Hunt  
 1962 Jerry Bailey  
 1963 Bob Wilmouth  
 1964 Offense: Bob Wilmouth, Walter Depew (2nd), Charles Barnhart (2nd)  
 Defense: Pat Smiley, Clyde Smith, Jimmy Jones (2nd)  
 1965 Defense: Jones  
 1966 Offense: Butch Arnett  
 Defense: Raymond Cotton, Richard Rutherford  
 \* 1967 Offense: Jim Stewart, Arnett, Ish Kaniatobe, Larry Joe Braley (2nd), Tony West (2nd)  
 Defense: Raymond Cotton, Richard Rutherford, Willie Wofford (2nd), Jimmy Lane (2nd)  
 1968 Offense: Kaniatobe, Stewart (2nd), Arnett (2nd), Braley (2nd)  
 Defense: Wofford, Bill Eckart (2nd)  
 1969 Offense: Tom Ramey  
 Defense: Wofford  
 1970 Defense: Billy Holt (2nd), Clarence Hudson (2nd), Tommy Strode  
 1971 Offense: Mike Bundy  
 Defense: Holt (2nd), Hudson (2nd)  
 1972 Offense: Morris Sloan (2nd), Lavon Hicks (2nd)  
 Defense: David Dusty Martin, Freddie Adams (2nd), Robert Richie (2nd)  
 1973 Offense: Eddie Scott, David Waggoner (2nd)  
 Defense: Freddie Adams, Martin, John Taylor  
 1974 Offense: Ron Perry, Randall Burks, Taylor  
 Defense: James Reed, Vaughn Robertson

1975 Offense: Burks, Joe McCulley, Eddie Scott (2nd)  
 Defense: Jim Beall, Fred Boone  
 \* 1976 Offense: Mike Burris, Scott, Travis Vaughan (2nd), Jesse Morris (2nd)  
 Defense: Hawk Shaw, Fred Boone, Mike McVay, David Lawyer (2nd), Charles Watley (2nd)  
 1977 Offense: Walter Daniels, Mike McVay, Thomas White (2nd), Nate Wilson (2nd), Dennis Hemphill (2nd), Travis Vaughan (2nd), Steve Włodarczyk (2nd), Mike Polk (2nd)  
 Defense: Don Carlson (2nd), Reggie Alexander (2nd)  
 1978 Offense: David Wright, Henry Conkle, Thomas Wheeler (2nd), Rickey Parker (2nd), Neil Camp (2nd)  
 Defense: Don Carlson, Clayton Townsend (2nd), John Conner (2nd), N.L. Edwards (2nd)  
 1979 Offense: Nate Wilson, Henry Conkle (2nd), Walter Daniels (2nd), David Wright (2nd)  
 Defense: Jim Day, John Conner, N.L. Edwards, Richard Sanders (2nd), Ronny Carter (2nd)  
 1980 Offense: Chuck Minkley, Al Penn-White, Walter Daniels (2nd), Rod Wedgeworth (2nd), Robert Mohair (2nd)  
 Defense: Jim Day, John Conner, N.L. Edwards, Kevin Boyd (2nd), Ronny Carter (2nd), Fred Henderson (2nd)  
 1981 Offense: Darryl Coats, Steve Hodge, Tony Gresham, Hal Showalter, Robert Mohair (2nd), Kent Davis (2nd), Don Mullenix (2nd), Steve Erdman (2nd), Mike Kennedy (2nd), Bobby Ross (2nd)  
 Defense: Carter, Boyd (2nd), Wayne Scribner (2nd), Donny Coggsell (2nd)  
 1982 Offense: Don Mullenix, Hal Showalter, Kent Davis (2nd), Shan Kirtley (2nd)  
 Defense: Kevin Boyd, Donny Coggsell, Barry Herrera (2nd), Charles Johnson (2nd)  
 1983 Offense: Ricky Dismuke (2nd), Kent Davis (2nd)  
 Defense: Donny Coggsell, Efram Hamilton (2nd), Asa Chambless (2nd), Chris Thompson (2nd)

\* Championships  
 \*\*Co-championships

BASKETBALL • ALL CONFERENCE  
(First Team Unless Otherwise Specified)

\*1922-23 Harlan Fannin, Brennon Witt  
 \*\*1923-24 Fannin, Witt (2nd), Harry Pinkerton (2nd)  
 1924-24 Witt, Pinkerton, Johnny Bryce (2nd), Earl Cartwright (2nd)  
 1925-2ti Cartwright, Bryce (2nd)  
 1927-28 Dee Davis, Joe Laughlin (2nd)  
 1930-31 Julie Bowden (2nd), Boyce Ashford (2nd)  
 1931-32 Ashford, Bowden (2nd)  
 1932-33 Paul Hunnicutt, C.J. Tipton (2nd)  
 \*1933-34 Lee Lewis, Hunnicutt, Chick Childers (2nd)  
 1934-35 Childers, Tobe Stephenson, Lewis (2nd), Odell Floyd (2nd)  
 1937-38 Bob Brown (2nd)  
 1938-39 Joe Moody (2nd), Ray Kilman (2nd)  
 \*1939-40 Austin Earnest, Carl Roblyer  
 \*1940-41 Austin Earnest  
 \*1941-42 Jason Frizzell, Cecil Hankins (2nd), Otis Goodrich (2nd), Otho Curtis (2nd)  
 1945-46 Gene Jones, Curtis, Cotton Patton (2nd)  
 \*1946-47 Troy Webb, Gene Jones  
 1947-48 Troy Webb  
 1948-49 Kirby Minter, Troy Webb (2nd)  
 1949-50 Joe Hemphill (2nd)  
 1950-51 Kirby Minter  
 \*1951-52 L.D. Mahoney, Earl Curtis  
 \*\*1952-53 Jerry Hall (2nd)  
 1953-54 Paul Davis, Earl Curtis (2nd), Jerry Hall (2nd)  
 \*1954-55 Jim Spivey, Jerry Hall  
 \*\*1955-56 Jim Spivey, Leon Kennedy (2nd)  
 \*1956-57 Jim Spivey, Jerry Shipp, Bill Johnson (2nd)  
 1957-58 Jerry Shipp  
 \*1958-59 Jerry Shipp  
 1959-60 Max Yarbrough  
 \*1960-61 Max Yarbrough, Marvin Adams  
 \*1961-62 Connie McGuire, Marvin Adams, Richard Muldrew (2nd)  
 1962-63 Connie McGuire  
 1963-64 Wayne Cobb  
 1964-65 Wayne Cobb

\*\*1965-66 Gene Wilmouth, Bob Parkhill (2nd)  
 1967-68 Jim Christanelli  
 1968-69 Jim Christanelli  
 1970-71 Guy Berry (2nd)  
 1971-72 Willard Kendrick (2nd)  
 1972-73 Willard Kendrick (2nd)  
 1974-75 Larry Hutchinson  
 1975-76 Larry Hutchinson, Greg Soistman (2nd), Randell Hunt (2nd)  
 1976-77 Greg Soistman, Randell Hunt  
 1977-78 Greg Soistman, Dennis Cook  
 1978-79 Dennis Cook  
 \*\*1979-80 Bob Boley, Greg Jeter, Raymond Abercumbia  
 \*\*1980-81 Raymond Abercumbia, Emery Aaron (2nd), Lance Jagmin (2nd)  
 1981-82 Emery Aaron, Harry Spivey  
 1982-83 Harry Spivey, Emery Aaron  
 1983-84 Harry Spivey, Dennis Rodman

\* Team Championship  
 \*\* Co-Championship

**BASEBALL 1965 - ALL CONFERENCE**

1966	Richard Rountree, Dennis Trahan, Jearld Price, Mike Martin
1967	Trent Baulch, Dennis Trahan, Richard Rountree, Jearld Price
**1968	Danny Hubbell, Jim Godsby, Robert Drew, Jerry Hulme, Gary Clements, Trent Baulch
1969	Trent Baulch, Mike Metheny, Riggy Thomas, Tommy Pratt, Tim Hardesty
**1970	David Ward, Riggy Thomas, Larry Wills, Jerry Algeo, Tommy Pratt, Tim Hardesty
1971	David Ward, Larry Wills, Richard Payne, Danny Wright, Riggy Thomas
1972	Bobby Schuman, Keith Hardcastle, Gary Walden, Danny Wright, Carroll Scott
1973	Marvin Thouvenel, Ronnie Reagan, Larry Wade, Tony Cazzelle, Gary Walden, Joe Shaddix, Fred Rhoten, Wayne Sagely, Danny Neighbors
**1974	Joe Shaddix, Wayne Sagely, Bert Weryavah, Gary Gray, Tony Cazzelle
*1975	Bobby Schuman, Larry Ratcliffe, Randy Nagy, Jack Park, Jerry McVicker, Bert Weryavah, Joe Burgess
**1976	Scott Loucks, Steve Huntze, Steve Taylor, Bob Olufs, Brandt Glover
***1977	Scott Loucks, Bob Olufs, Ronnie Gooch, Jack Park, John Cartwright, John Hamilton
*1978	Brett Butler, Bob Olufs, Ronnie Gooch, Rick Moore
***1979	Brett Butler, Billy Jack Bowen, Darcy Jech, Gary Benton
***1980	Alan Cartwright, Greg Legg, Larry Shuck, Steve Smith, Brian Layton, Denny Crabaugh
***1981	Alan Cartwright, Tommy Block, Gary Sharp, Greg Legg, Ron Gilbreath, Larry Wyatt
***1982	Alan Cartwright, Greg Legg, Lyndon Black, David Brady, Dwayne Ward
1983	Clint Ramsey, Ron Knotts, Tagzmin Cudjoe, Martin Ueltschey
* 1984	Tim Phelps, Ron Knotts, Eddie Merklen

\* OIC Championship  
 \*\* OIC & District Championships  
 \*\*\* OIC. District & Area Championships

**TENNIS**

YEAR	CONFERENCE SINGLES CHAMP.	CONFERENCE DOUBLES CHAMP.
1923		Harlan Fannin/Dillard Eubank
*1934	<b>Fred</b> Reed	Reed/Maurice Plunkett
*1947	Warren Womble	
*1948	Warren Womble	Womble/R.L. Johnson
*1950	Rick Green	Green/Bruce Blake
*1951	Harlowe Binning	Binning/Rick Green
*1952	Ken Lewis	<b>Max</b> Prewitt/Cecil Duncan
*1961	<b>Gerry</b> Chaney	Chaney/Mack Dyer
*1962		Chaney/Dyer
*1963	Ike Groce	Dyer/Groce
*1964	Ike Groce	Steve Roemer/Groce
*1965	Ike Groce	Roemer/Bill Shields
*1966	Steve Roemer	Roemer/Curtis Richmond
*1967	Curtis Richmond	Jay Lysaught/Richmond
*1968	<b>Jay</b> Lysaught	James Wadley/Lysaught
*1969	Kimm Ketelsen	David Bryant/Wadley
*1970	Kimm Ketelsen	Bryant/Dwight Nuckolls
*1971	Kimm Ketelsen	Mark Milligan/Phil Carter
*1972	Kimm Ketelsen	Ketelsen/Milligan
*1973	Dean White	White/Steve McIntosh
*1974		Larry Horn/Rick Sasser
*1975	Mike Albright	Albright/Steve McIntosh
*1976	Mike Albright	Albright/Terry Wood
*1977	Lon Seiger	
*1978	Lon Seiger (All OIC - Seiger, Ben Dye, Carl Griffin)	
*1979	All OIC - Ben Dye, Robert Snodgres, Greg Faulkner	
*1980	All OIC - Ben Dye, Greg Faulkner, Scott Tipton	
1981	All OIC - Britt White	
*1982	All OIC - Britt White, Steve Dalton	
1984	All OIC - Sammy Rodriguez and Chris Holder	

GOLF - ALL CONFERENCE

1972 Kent Samuels  
1976 Jeff Brock  
1978 Rusty Kroll  
1979 Rusty Kroll  
\*1980 John Aycock, Gary Davis, Keith Schelb  
1982 H. K. Hatcher

\* Conference Champions

WOMEN'S ATHLETICS • BASKETBALL  
BEGINNING WITH 1980 NAIA AFFILIATION

1980-81 Kathy Cotton and Debra Thomas - NAIA ALL DISTRICT 9 TEAM  
1982-83 Debra Thomas - NAIA ALL DISTRICT 9 TEAM  
1983-84 Marla Smith and Kay Brown - NAIA ALL DISTRICT 9 TEAM

WOMEN'S ATHLETICS • VOLLEYBALL  
BEGINNING WITH 1980 NAIA AFFILIATION

1980-81 Kathy Cotton - NAIA ALL DISTRICT 9 TEAM

TRACK - ALL CONFERENCE

1978 Don Carlson (Shot Put Champion - OIC)  
1979 Don Carlson (Shot Put Champion - OIC)  
Mike Emberling (High Jump Champion - OIC)  
\*1980 Walter Daniels (100 & 200 Yd. Dash & 440 Yd. Relay)  
Stanley Earles (120 Yd. High Hurdles)  
Paige Burelsmith (440 Yd. High Hurdles)  
Danny L. Coats (440 Yd. Relay)  
James Robinson (440 Yd. Relay)  
Mickey Minnitt (440 Yd. Relay)  
Walter Daniels (440 Yd. Relay)  
Gary Haws (Discus)  
1981 Curtis Callaway (Discus-new record 142' 3 3/4")  
Danny Phipps (1600 meter run - 4 minutes, 34.04 seconds)  
1984 All OIC - Johnny Parker (One Mile Run — Two Mile Run)

\*Conference Champion

*APPENDIX F*  
**PARSONS SCHOLARS**

**1968**

Maggie Sue Anderson  
Douglas Bohanon  
Betty Colbert Keeton  
Rita Sue McIntosh  
Herbert Nelson  
Larry Parker  
Judy Spencer  
Ronald Twohatchet  
Barda Underwood  
Alexis Wabnum  
Frances Wade  
Jo Anna Wade Coser  
Wayne Ward  
Deatron Williams

**1969**

Deborah Quotone  
Keith Storey

**1970**

Jo Ann Wolfongue  
Delores Twohatchet

**1971**

Pete Coser

**1979**

Bruce Bell  
Ronald Denham  
Jim Gatliff  
Ricky Hacker  
Dana Harvey  
Clifton James  
Terri Jenkins  
Betty Colbert Keeton  
Beverly McFarland  
Chris Muzny  
Brad Pardue  
Robert Scivally  
Karen Wilson

**1980**

Clay B. Bartrug III  
Edward G. Behrens  
Daryl E. Buck  
William Tyler Cobb  
George A. Collier III  
Lecretia A. Franklin  
Sharla Jo Frost  
George Huebsch  
Rhonda G. Jackson  
Mari Denise Lovell  
Donna Lester  
Karen L. Pierce  
Steven D. Thomas  
Sandra D. Wild

**1981**

Terri L. Barton  
Kenneth L. Campbell  
Leston Stewart Jacks  
Karl D. James  
Sharon James  
Greggory S. Jenkins  
Leon S. Mayes, Jr.  
Mary K. McFatrige  
Cyd M. Metty  
Renna L. Priebe  
Michael S. Ross  
Garry W. Stubbs  
Carla D. Wharton

**1982**

Donna Bufkin  
Michael Combrink  
Laura Engles  
Simon Joe Harris  
Jay Harvey  
Richie Haynes  
Shelley Knott  
Cynthia Linton  
Lisa Martin  
Wesley Medlin  
Tony Mitchell  
Karen Six  
Mary Thompson  
Patrick Tray

**1983**

Angela Barton  
Terry Brown  
Jill Davis  
Becky Fodge  
Annette Heil  
Kenny Jones  
Shanna Poor  
Jerry Smith  
Renee Castro

**1984**

Twana Farley  
Stacey Hamilton  
Tracy Hood  
Kenneth Kerns  
Rebecca Levins  
Pamela Satterfield  
Sheila Stephens  
Jonathan Trent  
Steven VanWagoner  
Tim Young

**APPENDIX G**  
**EDITORS**  
**OF**  
**THE HOLISSO:THE SAVAGE**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>YEAR</b>
Verna Eddleman	1910-11
Edith McKean	1912-13
Bess Nolen	1913-14
Florence Baker	1914-15
Gladys Severance	1915-16
Kathleen Abbott	1916-17
Edna Lyday	1917-18
Sallie Leonard	1918-19
Theresa Pistocco	1919-20
Alyne Frost	1920-21
Eugenia Human	1921-22
Ruth Sexton	1922-23
Priscilla Utterback	1923-24
Nadine Neely	1927-28
John Clark	1946-47
Joe Montgomery	1947-48
Wayne Earnest	1948-49
Max McClendon	1950-52
Joe Duggan	1952-53
Ann Cotton	1953-54
Winnie Jones	1954-55
Dean Wayne LaFevers	1955-56
William Gibbins	1956-57
Buddy Bostic	1957-58
Marleen Page	1958-60
Peggy Holder	1960-61
Fred Fagan	1961-62
Sue Dyson	1962-63
Paula James	1963-64
Carol Cearley	1964-65
Linda Zavodny	1965-66
Kay Templeton	1966-67
Bobby Eichling	1967-69
Alene Chandler, Kay Self	1969-70
Linda Bell	1970-71
Marsha Regan	1971-72

Kathy Grego	1972-73
Lela Lyons	1973-74
Robert McGee	1974-75
Julia Daphne Davis	1975-77
Marla Maze	1977-78
Sandra Hicks McLemore	1978-79
Phyllis McCullough	1981-82
Rae Ann Jenkins	1982-83
Elizabeth Copeland	1983-84
Leslie Herring	1984-85



**APPENDIX H**  
**EDITORS**  
**OF**  
**THE SOUTHEASTERN**

NAME	YEAR
Arthur Campbell	1930-31
William Sholl	1931-32
Bill Loy	1932-33
Layne Beaty	1933-34
Edward Kelton	1934-35
Rudolph Folsom	1935-36
Lloyd Dodd	1936-37
J. Bob Lucas	1937-39
Bruce Carnett, Jr.	1939-40
Joan McCarty	1940-41
Ed Mackensen	1941-42
Carroll Fielden	1942-43
Lora Byrd Whiting	1943-45
Lou Ellen May	1945-47
Patty Gossett (1st Semester)	1947-48
Dick Lawhorn (2nd Semester)	
Dick Lawhorn	1948-49
James Hampton	1949-50
Joy Childers	1950-51
Nancy Frye	1951-52
Jo Ann Keener	1952-53
Jo Ann Howard (1st Semester)	1953-54
Gloria Shields (2nd Semester)	
Alice Bartee	1954-55
John Griffith	1955-56
Sandra Mobley	1956-57
Nancy Ratcliff	1957-58
Martha Haskett	1958-59
Annette Laitmer	1959-60
Chuck Choate	1960-61
George Morrow	1961-62
Fred Fagan	1962-63
Jim Barnes	1963-64
W. B. Daugherty	1964-65
Rita Griffin	1965-66
Ray Gaskin	1966-67

Kim Loftin and Kathryn Stevens	1967-68
Alene Chandler	1968-69
Judy Gray	1969-70
Lou Ellen Allen	1970-71
Jim McGowen	1971-72
Gwen Wilkett Overlease	1972-73
Shannon Whisenhunt	1973-74
Lela Lyons	1974-75
Gary Taylor	1975-76
Debbie Pinsker	1976-77
Kristie Trotter	1977-78
Debbie Kirkpatrick	1978-80
Lewis Lorenz	1980-82
Jim Gatliff	1982-83
Sharla Frost	1983-84
Leslie Herring	1984-85

APPENDIX I

FIRST ACADEMIC CURRICULUM AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS OF SOUTHEASTERN STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE, 1921

FRESHMAN YEAR

First Semester	Hours	Second Semester	Hours
Biology.....	2 or 4	Psychology .....	2
Chemistry.....	2 or 4	Major Subject Chosen .....	4
English.....	4	Electives .....	9
Foreign Languages.....	4	Physical Education.....	1
History.....	2 or 4	Total .....	16
Mathematics.....	2 or 4		
Geography.....	2 or 4		
Physical Education.....	1		
Total.....	16		

SOPHOMORE YEAR

First Semester	Hours	Second Semester	Hours
Elementary Education.....	2	Education .....	2
General Education .....	4	Major Subject Chosen .....	4
Major Subject Chosen .....	4	Physical Education.....	1
Physical Education.....	1	Electives .....	9
Electives .....	5	Total .....	16
Total.....	16		

JUNIOR YEAR

First Semester	Hours	Second Semester	Hours
Education .....	4	Education .....	2
Major Subject.....	4	Major Subject.....	4
Electives .....	7	Electives .....	8
Total.....	15	Physical Education.....	1
		Total.....	15

SENIOR YEAR

First Semester	Hours	Second Semester	Hours
Teaching .....	2½	Practice Teaching.....	2½
Education .....	2	Education .....	2
Major Subject.....	4	Major Subject.....	4
Electives .....	6½	Electives .....	6½
Total.....	15	Total .....	15

Description of the First Academic Degree Programs for Southeastern State College.

In order to receive a degree from Southeastern State Teachers College, a student must complete 120 semester hours of collegiate work and 4 hours of physical education. At least 30 of the 120 semester hours must be done in residence. The prescribed course for Bachelor of Arts Degree is: foreign language, 6 hours, in addition to the entrance requirement of 2 years, which may be made up after entrance by taking 10 hours additional work; Education, 21 hours; English, 8 hours; History, 6 hours; and Mathematics or Science, 6 hours. The prescribed course for Bachelor of Science Degree is: Education, 21 hours; English, 8 hours; History, 6 hours; Science, 6 hours; Mathematics, 6 hours. Students who take the primary course are exempt from the requirements in Mathematics.

Six hours of English, 6 hours of History, 15 hours of Education, and 2 hours of Physical Education are the same as the required work for the life certificate.

The elective courses leading to any degree must include a major group of 24 hours, and two minor groups of 12 hours each; at least 12 hours of the major and 6 hours of each of the minors must be done during the Junior and Senior years.

SOURCE: SOUTHEASTERN STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE. BULLETIN 1921-1922, page 34 and pages 20-21.

**APPENDIX J**  
**ACADEMIC OR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**  
**STANDARDS**  
**AFTER JANUARY, 1918**

The following is taken from the Bulletin of the State Board of Education on the issuance of teachers' certificates:

After January, 1918, no person shall receive a third grade certificate unless he shall have had academic training equivalent to one year in an approved high school of this state, or have had at least ~~ten~~ weeks professional training in one of the Oklahoma State Normal Schools, State University, or Agricultural and Mechanical College, or an institution in this state, or other states having equivalent teachers' professional course, and no person shall receive a second grade certificate unless he shall have had academic training equivalent to two years in an approved high school of this state or have had at least twenty weeks professional training in one of the Oklahoma State Normal schools, State University, or Agricultural and Mechanical College, or institution in this state or other state having equivalent teachers' professional course, and no person shall receive a first grade certificate unless he shall have had either academic training equivalent to three years in an approved high school of this state or have had at least thirty-six weeks professional training in one of the Oklahoma State Normal Schools, or State University, or Agricultural and Mechanical College, or an institution in this state or other state having equivalent teachers' professional course. This section shall never affect the right of renewal under section 230. (Sec. 1, B. 413, chap. 282,, L. 1915.)

At a meeting of the State Board of Education on July 1, 1915, the following resolution was adopted:

"Be It Resolved, By the State Board of Education, that it is the sense of the board that high school credits shall not be certified to any one by the Normal School presidents or their faculties;

"That we hold that the only credits which we can recognize, as authorized by law to be certified to county superintendents, are those actually made in the Normal School by bona fide students; and that we request all presidents and faculties to adhere strictly to this provision."

16. Two-Year **Certificate**. Resolution adopted by the State Board of Education in the summer of 1911:

"Teachers who have finished the first four years' work of the State Normal Schools of Oklahoma, and have had regular courses in School Management, and Psychology, may be granted a certificate by the State Board of Education, good for two years, upon equal standing with a first grade county certificate, after such certificate has been registered with the county superintendent in the county in which the teacher desires to teach. Such certificate shall not be subject to renewal, and the grades shall not be transferred to any other certificate." This certificate may be issued to high school students who meet the general requirements stated above, and who have done at least one year of residence work in the Normal School issuing the certificate.

"Having completed what is equivalent to a four years' high school course and having taken the required work in Psychology and Education, Penmanship and Agriculture, a student may receive ~~from~~ the State Board of Education a two years' state certificate of the rank of first grade. This certificate may be issued to a student after he has completed three terms in the normal, provided he had already had the equivalent of three years in an accredited high school."

17 One Year **Certificate** The State Board of Education has provided a one year renewable state certificate for normal school students by the adoption of the following regulation:

Students who have completed twenty-four normal preparatory units, including the English, Mathematics, History, Music, Drawing, and Penmanship required for the first two years, together with three units in General Science or in Physiology and Agriculture, and two units in Pedagogy, and have done not less than two terms of residence work in one of the State Normal Schools, may be granted a certificate by the State Board of Education, good for one year, upon equal standing with a third grade county certificate, but valid in any county of the state after registration with the county superintendent. Such certificate shall be renewable before expiration, for the period of its original validity, upon the endorsement of the county superintendent under whom the holder has taught that the teaching has been successful, and upon the further endorsement of the president of the Oklahoma State Normal School originally recommending the issuance of the certificate that the holder has done not less than nine weeks of residence work and has made not fewer than four units of additional credit in that normal school since the issuance of the certificate."

**FOOTNOTELEGEND**

<b>Athletic Records</b>	<b>AR</b>
<i>Biennial Reports of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education</i>	<b>BR</b>
<b>Durant Family Documents</b>	<b>DFD</b>
<b>File</b>	<b>fl.</b>
<b>No date</b>	<b>nd.</b>
<b>Number</b>	<b>no.</b>
<i>The Session Laws and Statutes of Oklahoma</i>	<b>SL</b>
<i>The Southeastern</i>	<b>SE</b>
<i>Southeastern Annual Bulletin</i>	<b>SAB</b>
<b>Southeastern Miscellaneous Document Collection</b>	<b>SMD</b>
<b>Southeastern Newspaper Clippings</b>	<b>SNC</b>
<i>Southeastern Student Handbooks</i>	<b>SSH</b>
<i>Southeastern Student Scrapbooks</i>	<b>SSS</b>

## FOOTNOTES

### Chapter I

<sup>1</sup>James David Momson and L. David Norris, "In the Beginning" unpublished research paper, Southeastern Oklahoma State Archives, Department of Social Sciences, Cabinet A, pp. 1-3; Earl Kortemeier, chairman, *Commemorative Historical Booklet 1873-1973* (Durant: Price Quality Printing, 1973), pp. 12-15.

<sup>2</sup>Morrison and Norris, pp. 2-3.

<sup>3</sup>Interview with James Milligan, 1984; *Commemorative Historical Booklet*, pp. 12-15.

<sup>4</sup>Randall Durant, *Footsteps of the Choctaws* (Durant: Randall Durant Private Printing, 1982), pp. 1-23; Interview with David Reece, 1983; Henry MacCreary, *A Story of Durant: Queen of Three Valleys* (Durant: The Democrat Printing Company, 1946), pp. 1-9. Dixon Durant moved later to several locations and finally died on the site of his father's home. See MacCreary for more information.

<sup>5</sup>*Commemorative Historical Booklet*, pp. 12-14; MacCreary, pp. 13-17; Milligan interview; Morrison and Norris, pp. 3-5.

<sup>6</sup>MacCreary, pp. 1-17; Reece interview; Morrison and Norris, pp. 4-6.

<sup>7</sup>Quote from *Commemorative Historical Booklet*, p. 13; MacCreary, p. 14; Milligan interview.

<sup>8</sup>*The Durant Daily Democrat*, August 16, 1913 (hereafter cited as *Democrat*, rl. no.); MacCreary, p. 39; Morrison and Norris, pp. 3-8.

The past issues of the *Democrat* are extant on microfilm. However, the reels are privately owned and special permission is required for their use. Consequently, many of the most important articles have been reproduced and are available to the researcher in the Southeastern Archives, Cabinet B. The articles that are available are cited as *Democrat*, SNC (Southeastern newspaper clippings), File No. For those not available, the citation indicates the reel number where the article can be found at the offices of *The Durant Daily Democrat*, Durant, Oklahoma.

<sup>9</sup>MacCreary, pp. 13-56; Quote from MacCreary, p. 41

<sup>10</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 21-27 and 88-90; *Commemorative Historical Booklet*, pp. 66-69; Morrison and Norris, pp. 1-7.

<sup>11</sup>Durant Family Documents, Southeastern Oklahoma State University Archives, Department of Social Sciences, Cabinet B (hereafter cited as DFD); *Commemorative Historical Booklet*, p. 24; Morrison and Norris, p. 8.

<sup>12</sup>*Commemorative Historical Booklet*, pp. 20-21; Interview with Priscilla Utterback, 1984; Morrison and Norris, pp. 10-11.

<sup>13</sup>Utterback interview; *Commemorative Historical Booklet*, pp. 22 and 88-89.

<sup>14</sup>*The Bryan County Democrat*, December 16, 1907, reel number 1 (hereafter cited as *County Democrat*, rl. no.); Morrison and Norris, pp. 10-12.

<sup>15</sup>Morrison and Norris, pp. 1 and 9; Quote from *County Democrat*, March 13, 1908, rl. 1.

<sup>16</sup>Quotes from *County Democrat*, April 10, 1908, rl. 1.

<sup>17</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup>Morrison and Norris, pp. 10-12; *Commemorative Historical Booklet*, pp. 21 and 87-88; Interview with Mary Jane Galloway, 1984.

<sup>19</sup>*Commemorative Historical Booklet*, pp. 20-21 and 64-65; MacCreary, p. 135; *County Democrat*, May 8, 1908, rl. 1.; Palmer Boeger, "The First Steps, 1907-19," in *The East Central Story*, ed. John A. Walker (Ada: East Central University Foundation, 1984), pp. 6-7 (hereafter cited as *East Central*); Morrison and Norris, pp. 8-9; Quotes from Boeger, *East Central*, p. 7.

<sup>20</sup>Clippings of various southeastern Oklahoma newspapers, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Department of Social Sciences, Cabinet B, file 1 (hereafter cited as various newspaper clippings, date or nd. if not known, SNC, fl. no.); Quotes from *County Democrat*, May 8, 1908, rl. 1. Many articles concerning the institution's earliest years are extant in the Archives. Unfortunately, the date and name of the paper was not recorded on many of the clipped articles. Hence, the necessity for the author to use the terms various and nd. (no date known).

<sup>21</sup>Various newspaper clippings, nd., SNC, fl. 1; *County Democrat*, August 21, 1908, rl. 1; Morrison and Norris, pp. 10-11.

<sup>22</sup>Southeastern Miscellaneous Document Collection, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Department of Social Sciences, Cabinet A, file 1 (hereafter cited as SMD, fl. no.); Quotes from *County Democrat*, November 20, 1908, rl. 1; Morrison and Norris, pp. 10-11.

<sup>23</sup>Quotes from *County Democrat*, November 20, 1908, rl. 1.

<sup>24</sup>Morrison and Norris, pp. 10-11; Caddo paper clipping, nd., SNC, fl. 1; Quotes from *County Democrat*, January 15, 1908, rl. 1.

<sup>25</sup>Quotes from *County Democrat*, February 5, 1909, rl. 1; Ardmore and Caddo

<sup>26</sup>Morrison and Norris, pp. 10-12; Quotes from *County Democrat*, February 16, 1909, rl. 1; Various newspaper clippings, nd., SNC, fl. 1.

<sup>27</sup>Quotes from *County Democrat*, February 19, 1909, rl. 1; Boeger, *East Central*, pp. 8-9; MacCreary, p. 100; Interview with James David Morrison, 1974.

<sup>28</sup>Morrison and Norris, pp. 10-11; Quote from Boeger, *East Central*, p. 8; Various newspaper clippings, nd., SNC, fl. 1.

<sup>29</sup>*County Democrat*, February 19, 1909, SNC, fl. 1.

<sup>30</sup>MacCreary, pp. 100-07; *Commemorative Historical Booklet*, pp. 69-70; Quotes from County Democrat, March 5, 1909, SNC, fl. 1. By this time other state leaders had joined Durant's campaign. The last line in the paragraph referring to official representatives is a thanks to these men from outside the local district.

<sup>31</sup>Oklahoma, *The Session Laws and Statutes of Oklahoma*, vol. 1909 (Guthrie and Oklahoma City: State Capital Printing Company, 1909), pp. 560-61 (hereafter referred to as *SL*, vol., p. no.). The act was formally approved on March 6. Instead of using Roman numerals, the author has chosen to use the year when referring to volumes.

"Morrison interview; Quotes from County Democrat, March 19, 1909, rl. 1; Various newspaper clippings, nd., SNC, fl. 1.

<sup>33</sup>Quotes from County Democrat, March 19 and 26, 1909, SNC, fl. 1

<sup>34</sup>*SL*, vol. 1909, pp. 87-88, MacCreary, pp. 100-01

<sup>36</sup>Quote from County Democrat, SNC, nd., fl. 1; MacCreary, pp. 101-02; Morrison, pp. 11-13.

<sup>36</sup>*Ibid.*; Quote from MacCreary, p. 101; County Democrat, May 14, 1909, SNC, fl. 1.

<sup>37</sup>Morrison interview; County Democrat, clipping, nd., SNC, fl. 1; MacCreary, p. 102; Morrison and Norris, pp. 12-13.

<sup>38</sup>MacCreary, pp. 101-02; County Democrat, June 4, 1909, SNC, fl. 1. There were several different petitions, and the chamber simply rejected them all at once.

<sup>38</sup>Morrison and Norris, pp. 12-13; MacCreary, pp. 94-99; *Commemorative Historical Booklet*, pp. 69-70. Oklahoma Presbyterian College, a denominational institution, began its existence in Durant in 1894 during the days of Indian Territory. Called Calvin Institute, the Presbyterian school was founded in the city primarily through the efforts of Reverend C. J. Ralston. The coeducational institution, named in honor of Ralston's young son, Calvin, who had drowned in a millpond on his father's Durant farm, provided scholarly services in its collegiate, academic, intermediate, and primary departments to white children in Durant and Bryan County; after a contract was signed with the Choctaw Nation in 1900, the institution also catered to the boys and girls of that tribe. Actually, the monetary gains from the long-term Indian contract allowed the further enhancement of the Presbyterian school. With future funds assured, the Board of Trustees of Calvin Institute and leading citizens of Durant and the Choctaw Nation met and agreed to cooperate in the building of a larger and grander facility than the original two-story frame structure — which was located at the present intersection of South Second and West Arkansas streets. The new edifice, situated on the present site of Washington Irving Elementary School, was "a two-story building of red brick, trimmed with white stone, and featured two arched entrances resting on marble columns, two wide halls, and an imposing stairway, . . . three large classrooms, an auditorium, an office, and a reception room." Renamed Durant Presbyterian College, the school continued to function as a coeducational institution until 1910, when the church Home Missions Board decided to convert the school into a college for girls and build a much larger facility in the Northwest part of the city. Subsequently, the Missions Board sold the old buildings to the Durant School Board, which made them available as the temporary location of Southeastern in its first two years of existence

(See Chapter I). From 1910 until 1951, Oklahoma Presbyterian College for Girls, as Dr. Semple has written, "continued to progress in the achievement of the aims set forth by the Board at the beginning of the work at Calvin Institute." In 1952, the school again became coeducational; however, by that time other changes had taken place, which worked to solidify the destinies of the two institutions of higher learning in the city, OPC and SSC. As a money saving move, in 1920 the Missions Board voted to convert OPC into a junior college. Finally, during the depression the Board of Trustees decided that the only logical way to keep the school open was to join its purpose with that of Southeastern's. The new arrangement called for the dropping "for Girls" from the title of the school and it became Oklahoma Presbyterian College — later the word center replaced college — the last title the illustrious institution would have in its history as a Home Missions project until it closed its doors in 1965. Today the building has been renovated and serves as the headquarters of the Choctaw Nation.

<sup>40</sup>President M. E. Moore File, SMD, Cabinet A; MacCreary, pp. 100-07; Various newspaper clippings, nd., SNC, fl. 1; County Democrat, April 9 and 16, 1909, SNC, fl. 1.

"County Democrat, April 16, 1909, SNC, fl. 1.

<sup>42</sup>*Ibid.*, September 23, 1909, rl. 1. Quote from April 30, 1909, SNC, fl. 1; Morrison and Norris, pp. 13 and 16.

<sup>43</sup>County Democrat, April 30, 1909, SNC, fl. 1.

<sup>44</sup>County Democrat, June 11, April 30, May 7, and June 18, 1909, SNC, fl. 1.

<sup>45</sup>*Southeastern Annual Bulletin*, vol. 1909-10 (Durant: various publishers, 1909-1984), copies in Southeastern Oklahoma State University Archives, Department of Social Sciences, pp. 10-11 (hereafter cited as *SAB*); Newspaper clipping, nd., SNC, fl. 1; Quote from County Democrat, May 7, 1909, rl. 1; Morrison and Noms, pp. 14-15

<sup>46</sup>Quote from County Democrat, June 18, 1909, SNC, fl. 1

<sup>47</sup>Morrison and Norris, p. 14, President Henry Garland Bennett File, SMD, Cabinet A, President William C. Canterbury File, SMD, Cabinet A

<sup>48</sup>County Democrat, June 18, 25, and July 30, 1909, SNC, fl. 1; Quote from July 30

<sup>49</sup>County Democrat, nd., SNC, fl. 1

<sup>50</sup>County Democrat, July 9, 1909, SNC, fl. 1

<sup>51</sup>First quote from *SAB*, vol. 1909-10, p. 9, Registrar's Records, SMD, Cabinet A, Second quote from Canterbury file, SMD, Cabinet A, Morrison and Norris, p. 14

<sup>52</sup>Quotes from County Democrat, June 25, 1909, SNC, fl. 1

<sup>53</sup>Quotes from County Democrat, June 25 and July 30, 1909, SNC, fl. 1, Registrar's Records, SMD, Cabinet A

<sup>54</sup>Quote from County Democrat, June 18, 1909, SNC, fl. 1

## Chapter II

- <sup>1</sup>*SAB*, vol. 1915-16 p. 4.
- <sup>2</sup>*County Democrat*, August 6, 1909, SNC, fl. 1; Morrison and Norris, p. 16; *SAB*, vol. 1909-10, pp. 5-8. Before school started, for some unexplained reason, the number was reduced to twenty-nine.
- <sup>3</sup>Daily Oklahoman quote in *County Democrat*, September 23, 1909, SNC, fl. 1.
- <sup>4</sup>Quotes from *County Democrat*, September 12, 1909, SNC, fl. 1.
- <sup>5</sup>*SAB*, vol. 1909-10 pp. 3 and 14; *County Democrat*, September 10 and August 13, 1909, SNC, fl. 1; Morrison interview.
- <sup>6</sup>*SAB*, vol. 1909-10, p. 13 and vol. 1910-11, pp. 10-11. Quote from vol. 1909-10.
- <sup>7</sup>Quote from *SAB*, vol. 1910-11, p. 10; *SAB*, vol. 1909-10 pp. 16-18.
- <sup>8</sup>Morrison and Norris, pp. 17-18.
- <sup>9</sup>*SAB*, vol. 1909-10, pp. 5-8.
- <sup>10</sup>James Morrison, "A Short History of Southeastern," in *Let's Orient Ourselves* (Durant: publisher unknown, 1948), pp. 1-8, SMD, Cabinet A; Newspaper clipping on Hockaday School, nd., SNC, fl. 1.
- <sup>11</sup>*SAB*, vol. 1909-10, pp. 16-19; Morrison interview.
- <sup>12</sup>*SAB*, vol. 1919-20, pp. 16-20; Morrison interview.
- <sup>13</sup>*SAB*, vol. 1909-10 p. 10; Quote from *SAB*, vol. 1915-16 p. 4.
- <sup>14</sup>Quotes from *SAB*, vol. 1915-16, pp. 9 and 11.
- <sup>15</sup>Various newspaper clippings, nd., SNC, fl. 1, 2, 3, and 4.
- <sup>16</sup>*Ibid.*; *Democrat*, February 8, 1911 and February 17, 1913, SNC, fl. 2 and 4.
- <sup>17</sup>Various newspaper clippings, nd., SNC, fl. 1; Quote from *Democrat* March 21, 1911, fl. 2.
- <sup>18</sup>*County Democrat*, December 2 and July 9, 1909, SNC, fl. 1; Morrison and Norris, p. 12.
- <sup>19</sup>Quote from *County Democrat*, December 2, 1909, SNC, fl. 1.
- <sup>20</sup>*Ibid.*
- <sup>21</sup>*County Democrat*, November 10, 1909, SNC, fl. 1; *SAB*, vol. 1909-10 p. 12; Copies of *Normalites* in SMD, Cabinet A; *SAB*, vol. 1910-11, p. 14.
- <sup>22</sup>*SAB*, vol. 1910-11, p. 14; See also *SAB*, vol. 1915-16 pp. 8-9.

<sup>23</sup>*Ibid.*; *County Democrat*, October 14, 1909, SNC, fl. 1; *The Savage Magazine*, vol. I, no. 4 (Durant publisher unknown, 1928), pp. 14-15, photocopy in SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>24</sup>*SAB*, vol. 1910-11, p. 14; Quote from *County Democrat*, February 10, 1910, SNC, fl. 1.

<sup>25</sup>Quote from *County Democrat*, April 14, 1910, SNC, fl. 1; See also *County Democrat*, April 28, 1910, SNC, fl. 1; *SAB*, vol. 1915-16 pp. 6-7.

<sup>26</sup>*SL*, vol. 1910 pp. 77 and 103; Quote from *County Democrat*, June 14, 1910, SNC, fl. 1; See also *County Democrat*, March 24, 1910, SNC, fl. 1. The legislature also transferred \$7,500 to the institution to cover existing financial needs on March 15, 1910.

<sup>27</sup>Quote from *County Democrat*, May 5, 1910, SNC, fl. 1; *The Holisso* (Durant: various publishers, 1911-1924), vol. 1914 p. 84; Newspaper clippings, nd., SNC, fl. 1.

<sup>28</sup>*County Democrat*, March 24, 1910, SNC, fl. 1

<sup>29</sup>Quote from *Democrat*, May 2, 1910, SNC, fl. 1; See also May 31, 1910; Registrar's *Records*, SMD, Cabinet A. Most of SEN's students in the early period were teachers already in the field. Hence, the term applied to them when they returned for additional classes is teacher-students.

<sup>30</sup>*Democrat*, September 12 and 15, 1910, SNC, fl. 2.

<sup>31</sup>Quote from *Democrat*, September 12, 1910, SNC, fl. 2.

<sup>32</sup>*Ibid.*, September 13, 14, and 15, 1910, SNC, fl. 2. The term "Patron Saint" was often applied to Durant by the local papers.

<sup>33</sup>*Democrat*, September 15 and 16, 1910, SNC, fl. 2.

<sup>34</sup>*Ibid.*, September 20, 1910, SNC, fl. 2. The rules were not actually publicized until a few days after the chapel meeting.

<sup>35</sup>*Ibid.*, September 26, 1910, SNC, fl. 2.

<sup>36</sup>Quote from *Democrat*, September 26, 1910, SNC, fl. 2; See also October 4, 10, and 11, 1910, SNC, fl. 2.

<sup>37</sup>Quotes from *Democrat*, October 10, 1910, SNC, fl. 2.

<sup>38</sup>*Democrat*, October 31 and November 2, 1910, SNC, fl. 2; Quote from November 2.

<sup>39</sup>*Ibid.*, November 3, 1910.

<sup>40</sup>*SAB*, vol. 1915-16, p. 8; *SAB*, vol. 1910-11, p. 14.

<sup>41</sup>Morrison interview; *Democrat*, November 16, 25, and 26, 1910, SNC, fl. 2; *Holisso*, vol. 1910-11, pp. 52-54.

<sup>42</sup>*Democrat*, December 3, 1910, and February 3 and 8, 1911, SNC, fl. 2; *Holisso*, vol. 1910-11, pp. 55-56. Unfortunately, because there were several young men who had the same last name in school, it was impossible from the athletic records to determine the firstnames of the players.

<sup>43</sup>Interview with Homer Reese, 1984; Quote from *Democrat*, January 2, 1911, SNC, fl. 2.

<sup>44</sup>Reese interview.

<sup>45</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>46</sup>*Democrat*, January 16, 1911, SNC, fl. 2.

<sup>47</sup>*Ibid.*, January 20, 1911; See also January 21 and 23, 1911, SNC, fl. 2.

<sup>48</sup>*Democrat*, February 8, March 23, January 25, and 26, 1911, SNC, fl. 1; Quote from January 26. The student press as late as the 1930s often reminded people that the school had once been little more than a high school.

<sup>49</sup>For a full description of the argument, see the *Democrat*, February 21, 1911, rl. 2. See also various newspaper clippings from numerous cities in Oklahoma, nd., SNC, fl. 2.

<sup>50</sup>*Democrat*, March 14, 24, and 28, 1911, SNC, fl. 2.

<sup>51</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1911; *Democrat*, March 16 and April 7, 1910, SNC, fl. 1; Morrison interview. Unfortunately, because there were several young men who had the same last name in school, it was impossible from the athletic records to determine the first names of the players.

<sup>52</sup>*Democrat*, April 17 and May 26, 1911, SNC, fl. 2; HoEisso, vol. 1910-11, p. 3.

<sup>53</sup>*Democrat*, May 29 and 30, 1911, SNC, fl. 2

<sup>54</sup>*Ibid.*, May 29 and August 15, 1911, SNC, fl. 2; Moore file, SMD, Cabinet A. President Moore went on to have an illustrious career as the Superintendent of the Beaumont, Texas, school system. And, he remained a beloved figure at Southeastern throughout his life and often returned to visit Durant and the institution.

### Chapter III

<sup>1</sup>President Edmund Dandridge Murdaugh File, SMD, Cabinet A; Quotes from *Democrat*, May 31, 1911, SNC, fl. 2; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>2</sup>Quotes from Philip Reed Rulon, *A History of Oklahoma State University Since 1890* (Stillwater: Oklahoma State University Press, 1975), p. 67.

<sup>3</sup>Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A; Quote from Rulon, p. 68.

<sup>4</sup>Quotes from Rulon, p. 70; Murdaugh file, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>5</sup>Quotes from Rulon, pp. 70-71; Reese interview; Murdaugh file, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>6</sup>Various newspaper clippings, nd., SNC, fl. 22, 25, and 26; *Democrat*, May 31, July 5, and 13, and August 22, 1911, SNC, fl. 3; Quote from July 5.

<sup>7</sup>Moore document, SMD, fl. 3, Cabinet A; *Democrat*, August 9, 17, and 22, 1911, SNC, fl. 3; Quote from August 22.

<sup>8</sup>Quotes from *Democrat*, June 6 and 13, 1911, SNC, fl. 3; See also *Democrat*, June 13, 23, and August 22, 1911, SNC, fl. 3; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>9</sup>*SAB*, vol. 1914-15, pp. 2 and 11; *Democrat*, September 6 and 11, 1911, SNC, fl. 3. Quotes from *Democrat*, September 11 and November 5, 1911, SNC, fl. 3 and 4.

<sup>10</sup>*Democrat*, September 11, 13, and 14, 1911, SNC, fl. 3.

<sup>11</sup>*Ibid.*, September 29, October 10, and 17, 1911, rl. 4; Quote from October 17.

<sup>12</sup>*Democrat*, September 28 and October 2, 1911, rl. 4; Quote from October 2, copy in SNC, fl. 3; SMD, Athletic Records, 1911-12, Cabinet A (hereafter cited as SMD, AR); See also *Democrat*, October 10, 18, and November 23, 1911, SNC, fl. 3.

<sup>13</sup>Quote from *Democrat*, October 18, 1911, rl. 4.

<sup>14</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1913, pp. 51 and 105; *Democrat*, October 24 and 28, 1911, rl. 4; SMD, AR, 1911-12, Cabinet A.

<sup>15</sup>*Democrat*, October 24, 25, 30, 31, and November 18, 1911, rl. 4; Quote from November 18, 1911, SNC, fl. 3.

<sup>16</sup>SMD, AR, 1911-12, Cabinet A; Clippings from *Democrat*, November 16 and 28, 1911, SNC, fl. 3; *Democrat*, October 10, 1911, and February 22, 1912, and November 23, 1911, rl. 4 and 5

<sup>17</sup>Quote from March 19, 1912, SNC, fl. 3; *Holisso*, vol. 1913, pp. 103 and 106.

<sup>18</sup>Various newspaper clippings, nd., SNC, fl. 3; HoEisso, vol. 1913, p. 103; *Democrat*, February 14, 1913, and March 27, 1912, rl. 5 and 7; Clipping from *Democrat*, May 3, 1912, SNC, fl. 3.

<sup>19</sup>*Democrat*, March 29, 30, May 9, 13, and 22, 1912, rl. 5.

<sup>20</sup>*Ibid.*, May 9, June 1, and 6, 1912, rl. 5 and 6; *SAB*, vol. 1914-15, pp. 12-13.

<sup>21</sup>*Democrat*, June 17, 6, 1, 14, and 20, 1912, SNC, fl. 4.

<sup>22</sup>*SAB*, vol. 1914-15, p. 3; *Democrat*, June 20 and 29, 1912, SNC, fl. 4.

<sup>23</sup>Murdaugh document, SMD, Cabinet A; *Democrat*, August 24, September 19, 25, and October 1, 1912, rl. 6; Quotes from October 1

<sup>24</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1913, pp. 45-69 and 91; *Democrat* clipping, SNC, fl. 4.

<sup>25</sup>Quotes from HoEisso, vol. 1913, pp. 49 and 50

<sup>26</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 54-57.

<sup>27</sup>*Democrat*, October 1, 1912, rl. 6; *Holisso*, vol. 1913, p. 58



<sup>28</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1913, pp. 62-65.

<sup>29</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 69; "Minutes of the Faculty," SMD, 1912-13, Cabinet A; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>30</sup>*Democrat*, October 14, 1912, rl. 6.

<sup>31</sup>Morrison interview; *Holisso*, vol. 1913, p. 78; See also *Democrat*, September 19, October 11, 14, and 21, 1912, rl. 6.

<sup>32</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1913, p. 91.

<sup>33</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 78; Quote from *Democrat*, November 27, 1912, SNC, fl. 4.

<sup>34</sup>*Democrat*, November 27, 29, and 30, 1912, rl. 6; Quotes from 27 and 30.

<sup>35</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1913, pp. 78 and 91; *Democrat*, November 29, 30, December 2, 10, and 11, 1912, SNC, fl. 4.

<sup>36</sup>*Democrat*, November 5, 1912, rl. 6.

<sup>37</sup>Quotes from *Democrat*, November 5, 1912, rl. 6; See also October 12, 1912, SNC, fl. 4.

<sup>38</sup>*Democrat*, November 28, 1912, rl. 6.

<sup>39</sup>*Ibid.*, December 11, 1912.

<sup>40</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>41</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1913, p. 102; *Democrat*, December 7, 1912, rl. 6.

<sup>42</sup>*Democrat*, December 11, 1912, SNC, fl. 4.

<sup>43</sup>*Ibid.*, November 28, 1912, and February 28, 1913, rl. 6 and 7.

<sup>44</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1913, pp. 92-93.

<sup>45</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 81 and 86; *Democrat*, March 5, 1912, rl. 7.

<sup>46</sup>Quotes from *Democrat*, March 29 and May 17, 1913, rl. 7; See also March 27 and 29, 1913, SNC, fl. 4; *Holisso*, vol. 1913, pp. 50, 51, and 105.

<sup>47</sup>*Democrat*, March 29 and May 17, 1913, rl. 7.

<sup>48</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1913, p. 83; *Democrat*, February 14, April 1, and 8, 1913, rl. 7.

<sup>49</sup>Quote from *Democrat*, April 16, 1913, SNC, fl. 4; See also April 1 and 8, 1913, rl. 7.

<sup>50</sup>*Democrat*, March 4, 1913, SNC, fl. 4. Without the help and guidance of the late Dr. James Morrison, the author would have had a much harder time understanding the actions in Oklahoma City. Dr. Morrison spent a lot of time graciously explaining to the author the intricacies of the legislative battle.

<sup>51</sup>*Ibid.*; Morrison interview.

A. <sup>52</sup>*Democrat*, March 6, 7, 8, and 10, 1913, rl. 7; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet

<sup>53</sup>Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A; *SL*, vol. 1913, pp. 308, 313-14, and 436-37; *Democrat*, March 8 and 21, 1913, rl. 7; Quote from March 21.

<sup>54</sup>For a full context of Durant's speech, see *Democrat*, March 21, 1913, SNC, fl. 4; Morrison interview.

<sup>55</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>56</sup>Quotes from *Democrat*, March 22 and 24, 1913, SNC, fl. 4.

\*\* Various newspaper clippings on the controversy, Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A; Quotes from *Democrat*, April 15 and 24, 1913, rl. 7; Morrison interview.

<sup>58</sup>Morrison interview; *Democrat*, April 25 and 26, 1913, rl. 7; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>59</sup>Quote from *Holisso*, vol. 1914, p. 10; Second quote from *Democrat*, May 29, 1913, rl. 7; See also *Democrat*, April 25, 26, May 12, and 29, 1913, rl. 7 and 8.

<sup>60</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1913, pp. 96-97; *Democrat*, May 16, 1913, SNC, fl. 4.

<sup>61</sup>*SAB*, vol. 1915-16, p. 18; *Democrat*, May 16, 20, and 26, 1913, rl. 7; Quote from May 20.

<sup>62</sup>*Democrat*, May 29, June 9, 25, 29, July 22, and August 27, 1913, rl. 8; Quotes from *Democrat*, September 11, 1913, SNC, fl. 4.

<sup>63</sup>Quotes from Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A, Registrar's Records, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>64</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1914, pp. 64-65, and 72-73.

<sup>65</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 70-71 and 107.

<sup>66</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 86-98; Quotes from *Democrat*, September 25, 1913, rl. 8.

<sup>67</sup>Quotes from *Holisso*, vol. 1913, pp. 95 and 125; See also *Democrat*, October 6, 13, and 17, 1913, SNC, fl. 5.

<sup>68</sup>*Democrat*, November 1, 14, 11, 22, and 28, 1913, rl. 8; *Holisso*, vol. 1914, pp. 95-98; Quote from November 28.

\*\* Quotes from *Democrat*, November 28, 1913, rl. 8.

<sup>70</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1914, p. 125; Quotes from *Democrat*, November 28 and December 1, 1913, SNC, fl. 5; See also *Democrat*, December 10, 1913, rl. 8.

\*\* *Holisso* vol. 1914, pp. 124-28 and 114-22; Quote from p. 126.

\*\* Quote from *Holisso*, vol. 1914, pp. 102; See also *Holisso*, pp. 80-81 and *Democrat*, January 19, 26, 27, February 6, and 14, 1914, rl. 8 and 9.

<sup>73</sup>Quote from Democrat, January 12, 1914, SNC, fl. 5; See also Holisso, vol. 1914, pp. 100-01 and Democrat, December 15, 1913, and January 12, 26, February 6, and 14, 1914, rl. 8 and 9.

<sup>74</sup>Democrat, March 28, 1914, SNC, fl. 5.

<sup>75</sup>Ibid., April 4, 1914.

<sup>76</sup>Ibid.

<sup>77</sup>Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A Democrat, May 18, 1914, rl. 9.

<sup>78</sup>Democrat, June 16, 17, and 19, 1914, SNC, fl. 5; Quotes from June 17.

<sup>79</sup>Morrison interview; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A; "A Defense of the Oklahoma Normal Schools by the Presidents," copy in SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>80</sup>Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A; Quote from Rulon, pp. 67-68. Since Murdaugh also served as president of Oklahoma A&M, documentation on his life exists in the library on that campus.

#### Chapter IV

<sup>1</sup>President W. C. Canterbury File, SMD, Cabinet A; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>2</sup>Quotes from Democrat, July 2 and 3, 1914, SNC, fl. 6; See also Democrat, June 29 and July 25, 1914, rl. 9.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., July 6, 1914; Morrison interview.

<sup>4</sup>SL, vol. 1913, pp. 308 and 314; SAB, vo. 1914-15, pp. 12-13; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>5</sup>Morrison interview; Canterbury file, SMD, Cabinet A; Democrat, July 21, 22, and 25, 1914, SNC, fl. 6; Quotes from July 22.

<sup>6</sup>The Democrat on August 13, 1914, had an exceptionally expansive issue on the war in Europe, SNC, fl. 6. Quotes from Democrat September 23 and 26, 1914, rl. 10; Holisso, vol. 1915, pp. 129-33.

<sup>7</sup>Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A; SMD, AR, 1914-15, Cabinet A; Democrat, September 23, 26, October 13, 21, 29, 30, November 9, 13, 16, and 27, 1914, rl. 10; Holisso, vol. 1915, pp. 129-33; Quote from Morrison Papers.

<sup>8</sup>Holisso, vol. 1915, pp. 124-28; See also Democrat, January 5, 9, 12, 14, 15, 16, 28, February 13, 16, and 17, 1915, rl. 10 and 11.

<sup>9</sup>Holisso, vol. 1914-15, pp. 101-07; Democrat, September 12, 1914, rl. 10; See also Democrat, January 30 and February 13, 1915, SNC, fl. 6; SAB, vol. 1915-16, pp. 12-14.

<sup>10</sup>Quote from Democrat, March 5, 1915, rl. 11; SL, vol. 1915, pp. 110, 128-29, and 171.

<sup>11</sup>Betty M. Sears, "General Ira C. Eaker," Thesis, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, 1979, pp. 2-4; Quote from Democrat, March 27, 1915, rl. 11; Holisso, vol. 1915, pp. 86-87 and 68.

<sup>12</sup>Quote from Democrat, April 28, 1915, rl. 11; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>13</sup>Holisso, vol. 1915; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A Democrat, February 13, May 5, 9, 21, 26, June 5, and 27, 1915, SNC, fl. 7; Quote from May 19.

<sup>14</sup>Democrat, May 5, 19, 22, 25, 26, 31, June 22, 26, August 4, and 13, 1915, rl. 11 and 12; Quotes from August 4.

<sup>15</sup>Democrat, August 4, 1915, SNC, fl. 7.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid.; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>17</sup>Quotes from Democrat, August 31 and September 1, 1915, rl. 12.

<sup>18</sup>President Andrew S. Faulkner File, SMD, Cabinet A; Quotes from Democrat, September 9, 1915, SNC, fl. 7.

<sup>19</sup>Quotes from Democrat, September 6, 1915, rl. 12; See also Democrat, August 21, September 7, 9, and 10, 1915, rl. 12.

<sup>20</sup>For the full text of Bennett's letter, see Democrat, September 14, 1915, SNC, fl. 7; See also Democrat, February 8 and April 4, 1916, rl. 13.

<sup>21</sup>Holisso, vol. 1916, pp. 88-94; SMD, AR, 1915-16, Cabinet A; See also Democrat, September 24, 25, October 5, 9, 16, 23, November 5, 8, 15, and 20, 1915, rl. 12.

<sup>22</sup>Holisso, vol. 1916, pp. 72-73 and 95; Quote from p. 95; See also Democrat, December 2, January 14, February 8, 11, and 24, 1916, rl. 13.

<sup>23</sup>Holisso, vol. 1916, pp. 104-05; Democrat, January 19, 22, and 25, 1916, SNC, fl. 7; Quote from Democrat, February 10, 1916, rl. 13.

<sup>24</sup>Democrat, March 1 and April 25, 1916, rl. 13.

<sup>25</sup>Ibid., March 4, 1916.

<sup>26</sup>Ibid., April 4, 1916.

<sup>27</sup>Ibid., March 7, 1916.

<sup>28</sup>President T. D. Brooks File, SMD, Cabinet A; Quote from Democrat, March 11, 1916, SNC, fl. 7.

<sup>29</sup>Ibid., April 13, 1916, rl. 13.

<sup>30</sup>Ibid.; See also Democrat, March 9 and 10, 1916, rl. 13.

<sup>31</sup>Ibid., March 11, 1916, SNC, fl. 7.

<sup>32</sup>Ibid.

<sup>33</sup>President Faulkner was given a raise and reinstated as head of the education department. He soon became the president of Northeastern State Normal; See also Democmt, March 7, 9, April 13, and 22, 1916, SNC, fl. 8. For a description of the usual spring events, see *the Democrat*, March 17, April 5, 8, and 13, rl. 13, 1916; Holisso, 1916, pp. 100-14; Quote from *Democrat*, April 5.

<sup>34</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1916, p. 99.

<sup>35</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 68-71; Quote on p. 6; *Democrat*, April 19 and 28, 1916, rl. 13.

<sup>36</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1916, p. 114; Quote from *Democrat*, May 17, 1916, rl. 13; Copy of Brooks' text in *SMD*, Cabinet A; See also Democmt, April 22 and May 16, 1916, SNC, fl. 7.

<sup>37</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1916, p. 114; *Democrat*, April 13, 22, May 16, 17, 18, June 3, 7, 8, 27, and August 30, 1916, rl. 13 and 14.

<sup>38</sup>*Democrat*, September 14, 1916, SNC, fl. 8.

<sup>39</sup>*Ibid.*, August 25, 1916; *SAB*, vol. 1916-17, pp. 4-5

<sup>40</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1917, pp. 109-20, 80-81, and 76-77; Quotes from *Democrat*, October 30, 1916, SNC, fl. 8, and *Holisso*, p. 84.

<sup>41</sup>*Democrat*, September 9, 1916, SNC, fl. 8; *Holisso*, vol. 1917, pp. 96-106; *SMD*, AR, 1916-17, Cabinet A; Quotes from *Democrat*, September 9, and *Holisso*, p. 104; Various newspaper clippings, nd., SNC, fl. 8.

<sup>42</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1917, pp. 87, 46-47, 4-5, and 120.

<sup>43</sup>*SL*, vol. 1917, pp. 110, 123-24, 126, and 130; *Democrat*, March 3 and 17, 1917, rl. 15; Morrison Papers, *SMD*, Cabinet A; Morrison interview.

<sup>44</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1917, pp. 68-73; Quote from p. 70; *Democrat*, April 16 and 28, 1917, rl. 15.

<sup>45</sup>*Democrat*, April 30, 1917, SNC, fl. 8; Quote from *Holisso*, vol. 1917, p. 103; See also *Holisso*, p. 108, and *Democrat*, April 15 and 19, 1917, rl. 15.

<sup>46</sup>Quotes from *Democrat*, April 13 and May 2, 1917, SNC, fl. 8.

<sup>47</sup>Various clippings on the war in *Democrat*, March 4, April 6, 7, 13, May 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, and 14, 1917, rl. 15; Quote from Democmt, May 14.

<sup>48</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1917, p. 134.

<sup>49</sup>*Democrat*, May 18, 23, 29, June 29, and August 15, 1917, rl. 15 and 16.

<sup>50</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1918, pp. 81-85 Quotes from p. 81.

<sup>51</sup>*Ibid.*, pp. 75 and 54; *Democrat*, September 23, 1917, and January 3, 31, April 17, and 24, 1918, rl. 16 and 17; Quote from *Democrat*, January 31; Interview with Priscilla Utterback, 1984. Miss Utterback informed the author that the coeds of SEN also practiced military drills and worked in the school's garden plots to help the war effort.

<sup>52</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1918, p. 96.

<sup>53</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 82; *SMD*, AR, 1917-18, Cabinet A. Quote from *Democrat*, November 8, 1917, rl. 16; *Holisso*, vol. 1918, p. 108.

<sup>54</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1918, pp. 111-12; *Democrat*, April 27 and May 14, 1918, rl. 17; *Holisso*, vol. 1918, pp. 99-101 and 112.

<sup>55</sup>Quotes from *Democrat*, May 9, 1918, SNC, fl. 9.

<sup>56</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1918, pp. 4-7.

<sup>57</sup>*Democrat*, May 18, 21, 23, and 25, 1918, SNC, fl. 9; Quote from May 25.

<sup>58</sup>*Ibid.*, August 17, 21, 27, 28, 29, and September 16, 1918, rl. 18; Quote from August 29.

<sup>59</sup>*Ibid.*, October 10 and 13, 1918, SNC, fl. 10; Quote from October 10.

<sup>60</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1918, pp. 60 and 110-12; Quote from p. 110; Morrison interview; *SAB*, vol. 1919-20, p. 6.

<sup>61</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1918, pp. 83-88; Quotes from pp. 83 and 84.

<sup>62</sup>*Democrat*, January 18, 24, 21, February 6, 14, 19, 21, 28, March 1, and 6, 1919, rl. 19; The *Daily Oklahoman* reports were reported in *the Democrat* on March 1 and 6; Quote from March 6.

<sup>63</sup>Quotes from *Holisso*, vol. 1919, pp. 5-6; *Democrat*, December 11, 1918, rl. 19.

<sup>64</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1919, pp. 56-57; Copies of the *Gazette* can be found in *SMD*, Cabinet A, See also *Holisso*, vol. 1919, pp. 86-87.

<sup>65</sup>*Democrat*, May 5 and 6, 1919, rl. 19; *Holisso*, vol. 1919, p. 105; Quote from Democmt, May 6.

<sup>66</sup>*Democrat*, March 25, 28, and 30, 1919, rl. 19; Quotes from March 28.

<sup>67</sup>Quotes from *Democrat*, March 28 and April 24, 1919, SNC, fl. 10.

<sup>68</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1919, p. 111; Various newspaper clippings, nd., SNC, fl. 10; Quotes from *Holisso*, pp. 111 and 17.

## Chapter V

'Quotes from *Democrat*, May 10, 1919, rl. 19, and President Henry Garland Bennett File, *SMD*, Cabinet A.

'Bennett file, *SMD*, Cabinet A. *Rulon*, p. 221; Bennett document, *SMD*, fl. 11, Cabinet A, Morrison Papers, *SMD*, Cabinet A.

<sup>3</sup>*Rulon*, pp. 221-22; *SAB*, vol. 1909-10, p. 6 Democmt, May 10, 1919, rl. 19. Bennett was listed on the first permanent faculty announcement for 1909-10; however, he only served during the summer terms; Morrison interview.

<sup>5</sup>Quotes from Rulon, pp. 229-30; Morrison interview.

<sup>6</sup>Quote from Rulon, p. 225; Democrat, May 12, 1919, rl. 19; Bennett document, SMD, fl. 11, Cabinet A; SAB, vol. 1925-26, pp. 13-14; The Southeastern, Durant, June 11, 1923 (hereafter cited as SE, date, fl. no.). Actual copies of *The Southeastern* are extant in the Henry Garland Bennett Memorial Library. However, because they are so fragile the author recommends that their use be extremely limited. Consequently, copies of the articles used in this study had been reproduced and made available in the archives for the researcher by file number. The file number corresponds with the end of that academic year in the institution's history.

<sup>6</sup>Quotes from SAB, vol. 1919-20, p. 5

<sup>7</sup>Democrat, June 4, 5, and July 22, 1919, rl. 20; Quotes from Democrat, June 5, and SAB, vol. 1919-20, p. 6.

<sup>8</sup>Bennett file; SMD, Cabinet A; Quotes from Rulon, pp. 222-23; Democrat, January 22, 1984, SNC, fl. 75; SE, February 19, 1923, fl. 14.

<sup>9</sup>Quote from Rulon, p. 223; See also Democrat, June 13, 1919, rl. 20, and SE, February 19, 1923, fl. 14.

<sup>10</sup>Democrat, June 2, 3, 14, July 22, and 24, 1919, SNC, fl. 11; Quotes from June 3 and July 24.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid., August 19, 1919, rl. 20.

<sup>12</sup>Holisso, vol. 1920, pp. 71-72.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid., p. 75.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid., pp. 76-77 and 82-83.

<sup>15</sup>SMD, AR, 1919-28, Cabinet A; Quotes from Holisso, vol. 1920, pp. 106 and 108; Democrat, October 2, 1919, rl. 20.

<sup>16</sup>SAB, vol. 1919-20, pp. 6 and 14-16; Democrat, November 12, 27, and 28, 1919, rl. 20; SAB, vol. 1921-22, pp. 72-75; See also SE, January 8 and November 5, 1923, and September 23, 1924, and October 7, 1925, fl. 14, 15, 16, and 17.

<sup>17</sup>Democrat, December 5, 1919, rl. 21.

<sup>18</sup>Holisso, vol. 1920, pp. 121-54; Quote from p. 153.

<sup>19</sup>Democrat, November 13, 1919, rl. 21.

<sup>20</sup>Ibid., January 23, 1920, rl. 21; See also Democrat, August 1, 1919, and February 18, 1920, rl. 20 and 21.

<sup>21</sup>SAB, vol. 1919-20, pp. 17-20; Democrat, January 3 and 23, 1920, SNC, fl. 11; Quote from Democrat, May 20, 1920, rl. 21; See also Democrat, June 8, 1920, rl. 22, and SAB, vol. 1921-22, pp. 9-12.

<sup>22</sup>Utterback interview, Quote from Holisso, vol. 1921, pp. 86-87. See also pp. 84-85.

<sup>23</sup>SMD, AR, 1920-21, Cabinet A, Holisso, vol. 1921, pp. 102-13.

<sup>24</sup>Interview with Eugene Slaughter, 1984; Democrat, May 11, 17, 18, 21, and 25, 1921, rl. 23.

<sup>25</sup>Democrat, September 7, 1921, rl. 24. For a good description of Southeastern's growth under Bennett's direction, see Democrat, August 21 and November 3, 1921, SNC, fl. 13; Various newspaper clippings, nd., SNC, fl. 13.

<sup>26</sup>Quotes from Holisso, vol. 1922, p. 112; SE, September 25, 1923, fl. 14.

<sup>27</sup>SMD, AR, 1919-22, Cabinet A; Holisso, vol. 1922, pp. 111-25 and 80; Morrison interview; Utterback interview; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>28</sup>Holisso, vol. 1922, pp. 26, 76, and 106

<sup>29</sup>Ibid., pp. 27-31 and 84; Democrat, December 19, 1921, and January 18, 1922, SNC, fl. 13; Holisso, vol. 1922, pp. 137-41 and 78; Utterback interview.

<sup>30</sup>Democrat, January 23, 1922, rl. 25; SAB, vol. 1925-26, p. 5; See also SE, October 2, 1922, and January 15, 29, February 15, and July 16, 1923, fl. 14; Quotes from SAB, p. 5, and Democrat, January 23.

<sup>31</sup>Democrat, May 9, 1922, SNC, fl. 13; SE, September 25, October 23, and November 11, 1922, fl. 14.

<sup>32</sup>Democrat, May 15, 1922, rl. 25 SE, December 4, 1922, and February 12, 1923, fl. 14; Democrat, January 20 and August 22, 1923, SNC, fl. 14 and 15; Quotes from Democrat, May 15 and August 22.

<sup>33</sup>Democrat, September 12, 1922, SNC, fl. 14; SE, June 4, 1923, fl. 14.

<sup>34</sup>Democrat, September 22, 1923, rl. 26; SE, September 25 and December 4, 1922, fl. 14; Quote from December 4.

<sup>35</sup>SE, September 25, 1922, fl. 14.

<sup>36</sup>Quote from SE, October 16, 1922, fl. 14; See also SE, December 18, 1922, and February 26, 1923, fl. 14.

<sup>37</sup>Holisso, vol. 1923, pp. 98-99; SE, October 9, November 5, and 26, 1922, and February 5, 1923, fl. 14.

<sup>38</sup>SAB, vol. 1925-26, p. 16; SE, October 16, 1922, fl. 14.

<sup>39</sup>SAB, vol. 1921-22, p. 16 SE, May 7 and June 11, 1923, fl. 14 and 15.

<sup>40</sup>SMD, Council Presidents of Southeastern File, SMD, Cabinet A (hereafter cited as Council Presidents file, SMD, Cabinet A); Quotes from SE, January 29 and February 5, 1923, fl. 14; See also SE, January 22, 1923, fl. 14; Holisso, vol. 1923, p. 103

<sup>41</sup>SMD, AR, 1922-23, Cabinet A; Quote from Holisso, vol. 1923, p. 124.

<sup>42</sup>Holisso, vol. 1923, pp. 124-31; SE, November 27 and December 11, 1922, fl. 14; Quote from Holisso, p. 131.

<sup>43</sup>*SE*, September 25, October 2, 27, November 20, and 27, 1922 fl. 14; *Holisso*, vol. 1923, p. 104; Quotes from *SE*, November 20 and 27.

<sup>44</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1923, pp. 132-36; *SE*, December 25, 1922 and February 12, 28, March 12, and 19, 1923, fl. 14; Quote from *Holisso*, p. 132; *SMD*, AR, 1922-23, Cabinet A.

<sup>45</sup>*Morrison* interview; Utterback interview; Quotes from *SE*, December 4, 1922 fl. 14; See also *SE*, September 25, October 9 and 16, 1922 fl. 14 and *Holisso*, vol. 1923, p. 96 and vol. 1924, p. 114.

<sup>46</sup>*SL*, vol. 1923 pp. 352 and 400; *Democrat*, January 24 and August 22, 1923 rl. 26 and 27; See also *SE*, January 29, September 17, and October 29, 1923, and January 7 and February 4, 1924, fl. 14 and 15.

<sup>47</sup>*SE*, October 9, 1922 and March 3 and 12, 1923, fl. 14; *Holisso*, vol. 1923 pp. 93 and 136-37; Quotes from *SE*, October 9 and March 12; Utterback interview; *Momson* interview.

<sup>48</sup>*SE*, May 7 and April 9, 1923 fl. 14; *Democrat*, May 14, 15, 22, and 28, 1923 rl. 27.

*Democrat*, May 30, 1923, SNC, fl. 14; *SE*, June 11, 1923, fl. 15; *Democrat*, August 18, 19, and 22, 1923 rl. 27; Quotes from *SE*, June 11 and *Democrat*, August 22. See also *SE*, May 7, June 4, September 17, and October 29, 1923, fl. 15.

<sup>50</sup>*Democrat*, August 2, 1923 rl. 27; *SE*, September 17 and October 29, 1923 and February 18, 1924 fl. 15; *SAB*, vol. 1923-24, p. 12; Quote from *SE*, February 18.

<sup>51</sup>*SAB*, vol. 1925-26 pp. 51-54; Quotes from *SE*, October 29 and September 17, 1923, fl. 15; *Democrat*, August 31, 1923 rl. 28; See also *SE*, February 26, 1923 fl. 14.

<sup>52</sup>*SMD*, AR, 1923-24, Cabinet A; *Holisso*, vol. 1924, pp. 75-83; Quotes from *SE*, September 24, 1923, fl. 15; *Southeastern Student Handbooks* (Durant: Student Council), vol. 1929-30, p. 66 (hereafter cited as *SSH*, vol. p. no.); *Holisso*, vol. 1924, p. 106; *Momson* interview.

Quote from Utterback interview; *SMD*, AR, 1923-24 Cabinet A; *SE*, November 12 and December 17, 1923, and February 11, 1924, fl. 15.

<sup>54</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1924, pp. 84-88; Quotes from pp. 86 and 88; See also *SE*, January 7, 1924, fl. 15.

<sup>55</sup>*SE*, November 10, 19, and December 10, 1923, and February 11, 18, 25, March 3, and 17, 1924, fl. 15; Quote from *Holisso*, vol. 1924, p. 89.

<sup>56</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1924, p. 120; *SE*, September 24, October 1, November 19, and December 10, 1923 fl. 15; *Holisso*, vol. 1924 pp. 118-19; Quote from *Holisso*, p. 102; See also *SE*, September 24, November 12, 19, and December 17, 1923 fl. 15.

<sup>57</sup>*Council Presidents* file, *SMD*, Cabinet A; Quotes from *SE*, October 29, 19, and 23, 1923, fl. 15; *SSH*, vol. 1929-30, p. 26.

<sup>58</sup>*SE*, March 11, 1924 fl. 15; Eugene Slaughter interview; Morrison interview; *The Southeastern* (Durant: publisher unknown, 1928), p. 114. This issue of a Southeastern annual was the only one ever entitled *The Southeastern*. After a twenty-year period following this 1928 edition, no annual was published. When publication resumed, the annuals were called *The Savage*; "Amigos Sketch," prepared by Eugene Slaughter, copy in *SMD*, Cabinet A; Quote from *SE*, October 29, 1923, fl. 15.

<sup>59</sup>*SE*, April 7, 21, 28, and May 5, 1924, fl. 15; *Holisso*, vol. 1924, p. 110; Interview with Lucy and Sallie Leonard, 1984; *SE*, December 17, 1923, fl. 15.

<sup>60</sup>*SE*, September 17 and October 29, 1923 and January 7, 1924 fl. 15; *Holisso*, vol. 1924 pp. 104-05; See also *SE*, February 18, March 10, and May 12, 1924 fl. 15; *SMD*, AR, 1923-24, Cabinet A.

<sup>61</sup>*SE*, September 17 and October 29, 1923 and May 12, 1924 fl. 15; Morrison interview; Interview with Robert Thomas, 1984; *Democrat*, May 12 and 17, 1924 fl. 29.

<sup>62</sup>*Democrat*, May 15, 16, 17, 26, 31, and June 6, 1924, rl. 29; *SE*, March 17, April 28, and May 5, 1924, fl. 15; Enrollment Statistics, *SMD*, Cabinet A; *SAB*, vol. 1927-28 pp. 18-20 and 115-17; Quote from *SE*, October 7, 1925 fl. 17; See also *SE*, January 29, February 23, September 17 and October 29, 1923 and May 12, 1926 fl. 14, 15, and 17.

<sup>63</sup>President Bennett file, *SMD*, Cabinet A; *Democrat*, June 19, 1926, SNC, fl. 17; *SE*, May 5, 1926, fl. 17; Council Presidents file, *SMD*, Cabinet A; Quotes from *SE*, September 30, 1924, fl. 16; *SE*, December 9, 1924, and April 29, 1925 fl. 16; Copy of yell in *SMD*, fl. 16, Cabinet A.

<sup>64</sup>For clipping on Hobo Day, see *SE*, April 8, 1925 and April 7, 1926 fl. 16 and 17; *SE*, October 7, December 2, 9, and 23, 1925 and February 4, March 3, and April 12, 1926 fl. 17; For information on the Scribblers, see *SE*, March 11, October 7 and 28, 1925 and January 20, 1926 fl. 16 and 17.

<sup>65</sup>*SE*, November 4, 1925 and January 20, 1926 fl. 17; Quote from *SE*, January 20; Copy of members of band in *SMD*, fl. 17, Cabinet A. Although the band was organized in late 1924, the group had no opportunity to appear at a Savage game until the fall; See also *Holisso*, vol. 1924, p. 113.

<sup>66</sup>Quotes from Slaughter interview; See also *The Southeastern* (annual), vol. 1928, pp. 112-17; *SE*, November 4, 1925, fl. 17.

<sup>67</sup>*Democrat*, November 11 and October 23, 1926, rl. 33; *Holisso*, vol. 1928 pp. 112-13 and 115-17; Quotes from "Amigos Sketch" by Eugene Slaughter and Slaughter interview; See also *SE*, March 7, 1928 fl. 19, and September 14 and 21, 1927, fl. 19.

<sup>68</sup>*SMD*, AR, 1924-27, Cabinet A; *SE*, September 23, 30, October 6, 21, 28, November 4, and 11, 1924 fl. 16; See also *SE*, October 7, 21, 28, November 4, and December 2, 1925 and October 5, 12, 19, 28, November 16, 23, and 30, 1926 fl. 16, 17, and 18; Quote from October 6, 1924.

<sup>69</sup>*SMD*, AR, 1924-28, Cabinet A; *SE*, December 16, 1924, and January 27, February 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11, and 25, 1925 fl. 16; Quotes from March 11 and 25; See also *SE*, December 23, 1925 and February 4, 10, 17, and March 3, 1926 fl. 17; *Democrat*, January 8 and March 12, 1927, SNC, fl. 18; Quote from January 8.

<sup>70</sup>*SE*, March 18, April 9, 29, May 13, and 25, 1925, fl. 16; *Democrat*, May 13 and 18, 1925, SNC, fl. 16; *SE*, March 4, April 1, 7, 14, and 28, 1926, fl. 17; See also SMD, AR, 1925-27, Cabinet A.

<sup>71</sup>*SE*, March 3 and April 21, 1926, fl. 17; For articles on debate, see *Democrat*, May 8, 1925, SNC, fl. 16 and *SE*, April 29, 1925, and March 24, April 1, 14, and 28, 1926, fl. 17.

<sup>72</sup>*Democrat*, June 8 and December 17, 1926, SNC, fl. 18; Quote from December 17.

<sup>73</sup>*SL*, vol. 1927, pp. 134-36; *Democrat*, March 11, 18, and 25, 1927, SNC, fl. 18. See also *SL*, vol. 1927, p. 13.

<sup>74</sup>*Democrat*, May 1, 12, and 22, 1927, SNC, fl. 18; *SE*, November 16, 1927, fl. 19.

<sup>75</sup>*SE*, October 19 and December 7, 1927, and January 25, March 8, and May 9, 1928, fl. 19; Quotes from October 19 and December 7.

<sup>76</sup>*SE*, April 4, 1928, fl. 19.

<sup>77</sup>Quotes from *Holisso*, vol. 1928, pp. 122-23; See also SMD, AR, 1927-28, Cabinet A and *SE*, April 4, 1928, fl. 19.

<sup>78</sup>*SE*, October 12 and 26, 1927, fl. 19 *Holisso*, vol. 1928, pp. 106-07.

<sup>79</sup>*SE*, April 11, 1928, fl. 19; Quotes from *Holisso*, vol. 1928, pp. 134-35.

<sup>80</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 95.

<sup>81</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 97; *SE*, April 4 and 11, February 19, March 7, 14, and 21, 1928, fl. 19.

<sup>82</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1928, pp. 154-55; Quote from *SE*, October 5, 1928, fl. 20; See also *SE*, March 27, 1928, fl. 19.

<sup>83</sup>*SE*, September 14, 1927, and March 7 and April 4, 1928, fl. 19; For articles on improvements, see *SE*, April 18, 1925, and September 24, 1927, and January 11 and May 9, 1928, fl. 16 and 19.

<sup>84</sup>*SE*, May 9, 1928, fl. 19; *Rulon*, pp. 219-20.

<sup>85</sup>*Holisso*, vol. 1928, pp. 22-23; Quote from p. 22.

<sup>86</sup>*Ibid.*; Quotes from *Rulon*, p. 224.

## Chapter VI

President Eugene S. Briggs File, SMD, Cabinet A; Morrison interview; *SE*, April 22, 1931, fl. 22; *Democrat*, August 30, 1928, rl. 37; *SE*, September 12, 1928, fl. 20.

<sup>2</sup>Briggs file, SMD, Cabinet A; *SE*, February 6, 1929, fl. 20, and January 14, 1931, fl. 22.

<sup>3</sup>*SE*, January 14, 1931, fl. 22; Briggs document, SMD, fl. 20, Cabinet A.

<sup>4</sup>Quotes from *Democrat*, August 30, 1928, rl. 37, and *SE*, September 12, 1928, fl. 20.

Quotes from *Ibid.*; Slaughter interview; Interview with Robert Davis, 1984; Interview with Rector H. Swearingin, 1984; Interview with Lucy and Sallie Leonard, 1984.

Quotes from *SE*, September 12, 1928, fl. 20; Slaughter interview; Davis interview; Lucy and Sallie Leonard interview.

<sup>7</sup>*SE*, November 12, 1930, fl. 22.

<sup>8</sup>Quotes from *Ibid.*; Davis interview; Slaughter interview; Swearingin interview.

<sup>9</sup>*SE*, September 26 and December 19, 1928, and March 13, 1929, and January 13 and September 28, 1932, fl. 20 and 24; Quotes from *SE*, September 26, 1928, and *SSH*, vol. 1929-30, pp. 35-36.

<sup>10</sup>*SE*, February 27, 1929, fl. 20.

<sup>11</sup>*Ibid.*; September 26, 1928, fl. 20.

<sup>12</sup>Davis interview; Leonard interview; Swearingin interview; Quotes from *Demot*, February 9, 1983, SNC, fl. 74.

<sup>13</sup>*Ibid.*; Quote from *SE*, September 30, 1931, fl. 23.

<sup>14</sup>Quotes from *SE*, February 13, 1929, fl. 20; See also *SSH*, vol. 1929-30, pp. 24-26.

<sup>15</sup>Quotes from *SE*, September 26, 1928, and September 13, 1933, fl. 20 and 25; See also *SE*, April 15, 1929, and September 10 and October 1, 1930, and September 13, 27, and January 4, 1933, and April 19, 1934, fl. 20, 22, 24, and 25; Last quote from Swearingin interview.

<sup>16</sup>*SE*, February 27 and March 20, 1929, and April 22, 1931, and December 7, 1932, fl. 20, 22, and 24; *SSH*, vol. 1929-30, pp. 15-22.

<sup>17</sup>*SE*, November 7, 1928, and January 23 and February 27, 1929, and April 22, 1931, fl. 20 and 22; *SSH*, vol. 1929-30; Davis interview.

<sup>18</sup>Slaughter interview; *SSH*, vol. 1929-30, pp. 41-58; *SSH*, vol. 1930-31, pp. 38-66; See also *SE*, September 12 and October 10, 1928, and February 6, March 27, April 10, May 1, and November 13, 1929, and July 15 and October 7, 1931, and November 9, 1932, fl. 20, 21, 23, and 24.

<sup>19</sup>Davis interview; Swearingin interview; Slaughter interview; See also *SE*, September 12, 1928, and January 9 and 16, 1929, and September 9, 1931, and September 21, 1932, fl. 20, 23, and 24.

<sup>20</sup>Quotes from *SE*, September 26, 1928, fl. 20.

<sup>21</sup>SE, October 3, 10, 24, November 7, 14, 21, and 28, 1928, and January 30, 1929, fl. 20; Briggs documents, SMD, fl. 20 and 21, Cabinet A.

<sup>22</sup>SE, September 24, 1928, fl. 20; SMD, AR, 1928-29, Cabinet A; See also SE, January 9, April 3, 10, and May 1, 1929, fl. 20.

<sup>23</sup>Sears, "General Ira C. Eaker": Quote from *The Savage Magazine*, pp. 15-16, copy in SMD, Cabinet A; See also SE, January 13, 30, and March 13, 1929, fl. 20.

"Quote from *The Savage Magazine*, pp. 15-16; See also SE, January 16, 23, February 13, March 6, 13, and April 17, 1929, fl. 20. A few months later, Durant named its airport in honor of Eaker. For the best study of Eaker's life, see Sears, "General Ira C. Eaker."

<sup>25</sup>SL, vol. 1929, p. 290

<sup>26</sup>Quote from Marvin Kroeker, "The Depression Years," in *East Central*, p. 32; SL, vol. 1931, p. 307; Leonard interview; Slaughter interview; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>27</sup>SE, May 7, September 9 and 30, 1931, fl. 22 and 23; Enrollment Statistics, SMD, fl. 22, 23, and 24, Cabinet A; One survey said the number reached six hundred; See also various newspaper clippings, nd., SNC, fl. 25 and 26; SAB, vol. 1933-34, pp. 31-38. The figures seem somewhat suspect; perhaps the number included those taking correspondence courses.

<sup>28</sup>Quote from Kroeker, *East Central*, p. 33; Briggs file, SMD, Cabinet A Davis interview; Leonard interview; Swearingin interview; Various newspaper clippings, nd., SNC, fl. 22, 23, and 24.

<sup>29</sup>Quotes from SE, March 25 and April 22, 1931, fl. 22, and SSH, vol. 1930-31, p. 34; See also SAB, vol. 1933-34, pp. 17-18.

<sup>30</sup>Quote from SAB, 1933-34, pp. 17-19; Kroeker, *East Central*, p. 34; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A; SSH, vol. 1929-30, pp. 36-37; Davis interview; Swearingin interview; Interview with Sara Hughey Bounds, 1984.

<sup>31</sup>SAB, vol. 1933-34, pp. 18-19.

<sup>32</sup>Quote from SE, September 21, 1932, fl. 24; SSH, vol. 1929-30, pp. 42, 64, and 65; SSH, vol. 1935-36, pp. 36-40; See also SE, September 26 and December 19, 1928, and January 30, September 25, October 2, and December 4, 1929, and March 26, April 30, and May 14, 1930, and October 21 and November 11, 1931, and November 9, 1932, and March 1, 1933, fl. 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24.

<sup>33</sup>SSH, 1934-35, p. 42.

<sup>34</sup>Ibid., p. 43.

<sup>35</sup>Ibid., p. 44.

<sup>36</sup>SMD, AR, 1929-30, Cabinet A; See also SE, December 10, 1930, and July 15, 1931, fl. 22.

<sup>37</sup>SMD, AR, 1931-33, Cabinet A; SE, September 23 and December 2, 1931, and November 30, 1932, and January 18, 1933, fl. 23 and 24.

<sup>38</sup>SMD, AR, 1929-33, Cabinet A. See also various newspaper clippings, nd., SNC, fl. 21, 22, 23, and 24; SE, January 13, 1931, and May 11, 1933, fl. 22 and 24.

<sup>39</sup>Quote from SE, November 23, 1932, fl. 24; See also SE, September 25, 1929, and February 26, 1930, and May 25, June 17, September 9, and 30, 1931, fl. 21 and

<sup>40</sup>Quote from SE, April 1, 1930, fl. 21; See also September 25, 1929, and January 8, 1930, fl. 21; Briggs file, SMD, Cabinet A, Briggs documents, SMD, Cabinet A

"Quote from Kroeker, *East Central*, p. 35; Milligan interview; Slaughter interview.

<sup>42</sup>Milligan interview.

<sup>43</sup>Davis interview; Swearingin interview; SSH, vol. 1935-36, p. 61; Slaughter interview; Utterback interview.

"Briggs file, SMD, Cabinet A; Briggs documents, SMD, Cabinet A.

"President Wade H. Shumate File, SMD, Cabinet A; SE, September 13, 1933, fl. 25; Morrison papers, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>46</sup>Morrison interview; Slaughter interview; Various newspaper clippings, nd., SNC, fl. 25, 26, and 27; Quote from Kroeker, *East Central*, p. 36; Milligan interview.

<sup>47</sup>SL, vol. 1933, p. 135; SE, May 16, 1934, fl. 25; Slaughter interview; Morrison interview; Shumate file, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>48</sup>SE, October 11, 25, and November 8, 1933, fl. 25; *Southeastern Student Scrapbooks*, vol. 1933-34 (hereafter cited as SSS, vol. no.).

25. "Interview with John Clift, 1984; SE, October 11 and December 20, 1933, fl.

<sup>50</sup>SMD, AR, 1933-35, Cabinet A. Quote from SE, November 22, 1933, fl. 25; See also SE, March 7 and 21, 1934, fl. 25.

<sup>51</sup>Quote from SE, March 21, 1934, fl. 25; SMD, AR, 1933-35, Cabinet A; See also SE, April 19, May 2, and 16, 1934, fl. 25.

<sup>52</sup>Quote from SE, March 21, 1934, fl. 25; See also SE, March 7, 21, and April 19, 1934, fl. 25.

<sup>53</sup>SE, February 21 and May 16, 1934, and March 6 and April 3, 1935, and April 1, 1936, fl. 25, 26, and 27; Slaughter interview; See also various newspaper clippings, nd., SNC, fl. 25, 26, and 27.

<sup>54</sup>SE, February 1, 1933, and January 10, 24, February 7, 21, March 7, and September 9, 1934, fl. 24, 25, and 26.

<sup>55</sup>Ibid.; Quote from SE, March 7, 1934, fl. 25.

<sup>56</sup>Quote from SE, April 8, 1935, fl. 26; See also SE, September 13, 1933, and March 7, April 24, September 19, and October 3, 1934, and January 10, 1935 fl. 25 and 26.

<sup>57</sup>SE, October 3, 1934, fl. 26; SL, vol. 1935, pp. 394-95.

<sup>58</sup>Shumate file, SMD, Cabinet A; Various newspaper clippings in SSS, vol. 1934-35; Quote from SE, May 29, 1935, fl. 26.

\*\* President Kate Galt Zaneis File, SMD, Cabinet A; Clipping of *Denison Herald*, September 11, 1973; Morrison Papers: SMD, Cabinet A; Quotes from Linda Arlene Beach, "Kate Galt Zaneis: First Lady of Education in Oklahoma," Thesis, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, 1936, copy in SMD, Cabinet A, and from *Daily Oklahoman*, March 4, 1973 SNC, fl. 62. For an indepth view of the life of Kate Galt Zaneis, Beach's work is by far the most impressive.

<sup>60</sup>Quote cited in Beach, pp. 5-6; Zaneis file, SMD, Cabinet A; *Daily Oklahoman*, SNC, fl. 27.

<sup>61</sup>Ibid.; *Denison Herald*, September 11, 1973, SNC, fl. 63; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A; Quote from Beach, pp. 6-7.

<sup>62</sup>Quotes from Beach, p. 12; Zaneis file, SMD, Cabinet A; Morrison interview.

\*\* Quotes from Morrison interview and Beach, p. 13 Slaughter interview; Zaneis file, SMD, Cabinet A; *Daily Oklahoman*, nd., SNC, fl. 27; *Denison Herald*, September 11, 1973, SNC, fl. 63; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>64</sup>Quotes from *Capitol Hill Beacon*, August 6, 1935, SNC, fl. 27; Morrison interview; *Daily Oklahoman*, nd., SNC, fl. 27.

<sup>65</sup>Various newspaper clippings, nd., SNC, fl. 27; SE, May 29, 1935 fl. 26; SSS, vol. 1934-35.

<sup>66</sup>Ibid.; Quotes from Beach, p. 21, and SE, May 29, 1935, fl. 26 SSS, vol. 1934-35.

<sup>67</sup>Quotes from *Durant Weekly News*, February 3, 1937 SNC, fl. 28, and clipping in SSS, nd., vol. 1936-37.

\*\* Morrison interview; Slaughter interview; Leonard interview; SE, May 29, 1935, fl. 26; Beach, p. 24.

<sup>68</sup>Various statewide newspaper clippings in SSS, vol. 1935-36; SE, May 29, 1935, and January 22, 1936 fl. 26 and 27; SSS, vol. 1935-36.

<sup>70</sup>Morrison interview; Slaughter interview; SE, January 22, 1936, fl. 27. Quote from Beach, p. 25. The quote by Professor Houston is one of the most famous campus stories known at SOSU; Zaneis file, SMD, Cabinet A.

\*\* Beach, pp. 34-35.

<sup>72</sup>Ibid.

<sup>73</sup>Quotes from Ibid., p. 31, and SE, September 18, 1935, fl. 27; See also SE, December 11, 1935, and February 5 and April 15, 1936, fl. 27.

<sup>74</sup>Zaneis file, SMD, Cabinet A; Enrollment Statistics, SMD, fl. 27 and 28, Cabinet A; SE, September 18 and October 2, 1935, and January 22, 1936, fl. 27; SSS, vol. 1935-36.

\*\* Quotes from SE, January 22 and June 10, 1936, fl. 27 and 28; *Ada News*, August 11, 1935, SNC, fl. 27; Zaneis file, SMD, Cabinet A SSS, vol. 1935-36 and 1936-37.

\*\* Quotes from Beach, p. 33, and *Tulsa World*, March 21, 1937 SNC, fl. 28; See also SE, March 3, 17, and 31, 1937, fl. 28; *Christian Science Monitor*, March 16, 1937, clipping in SNC, fl. 28. There are over two hundred newspaper clippings about Zaneis and the controversy surrounding her dismissal in SNC, fl. 28, and SSS, vol. 1936-37.

<sup>77</sup>Zaneis file, SMD, Cabinet A, Morrison interview; SE, April 15, 1936 fl. 27; Quote from Beach, pp. 37-38.

<sup>78</sup>Quotes from *Daily Ardmore*, December 10, 1936, and January 27, 1937, SNC, fl. 28, and newspaper clipping, no title or date, in Zaneis file, SMD, Cabinet A; 1937, SNC, fl. 28. Many articles on this issue can be found in the SSS, vol. 1936-37 and 1937-38; *Idabel Gazette*, January 20, 1937, SNC, fl. 28.

<sup>79</sup>*Mangum Star*, May 23, 1937, SNC, fl. 28; *Shawnee News*, May 23, 1937, SNC, fl. 28; *Alva Record*, May 23, 1937, SNC, fl. 28; Quote from *Holdenville Tribune*, May 25, 1937, SNC, fl. 28. Again, there are hundreds of additional articles on this issue in SNC, fl. 28 and 29, and in the SSS, vol. 1936-37 and 1937-38.

<sup>80</sup>Ibid.; Quotes from *Oklahoma City Times*, May 25, 1937 SNC, fl. 28, and from SSS, vol. 1936-37.

\*\* Slaughter interview; Zaneis file, SMD, Cabinet A; Morrison interview, Beach, pp. 39 and 49.

<sup>82</sup>Beach, p. 48. Original letters concerning these various issues can be found in the "Southeastern Oklahoma State University File," Archives and Records Department, State Department of Libraries, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

<sup>83</sup>Quote from Beach, p. 41; Slaughter interview; Morrison interview; SSS, vol. 1936-37 and 1937-38.

## Chapter VII

<sup>1</sup>Enid News, May 25, 1937, SNC, fl. 28; Quotes from *Henryetta News*, May 24, 1937, and *Daily Ardmore*, May 24, 1937, SNC, fl. 28.

<sup>2</sup>Quotes from *Oklahoma City Times*, May 28, 1937, SNC, fl. 28; See also *Enid News*, May 25, 1937, SNC, fl. 28. There are many other clippings on this subject in the various state papers in SNC, fl. 28 and SSS, vol. 1936-37.

<sup>3</sup>Quotes from SE, May 26, 1937, fl. 28, and *Daily Ardmore*, May 24, 1937, SNC, fl. 28; SSS, vol. 1936-37. See also *El Reno Tribune*, May 24, 1937 SNC, fl. 28; President William Brown Morrison File, SMD, Cabinet A.



<sup>1</sup>President Hugh Vance Posey File, SMD, Cabinet A; Morrison interview; *Oklahoma City Times*, May 28, 1937; SNC, fl. 28; *SSS*, vol. 1937-38; Interview with Hugh Vance Posey, 1980; SE, June 30, 1937, fl. 28.

<sup>5</sup>SE, October 13, 1937, fl. 29.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., November 24, 1937.

<sup>7</sup>Quotes from bid., and March 23, 1938, fl. 29.

<sup>8</sup>Quote from SE, October 27, 1937, fl. 29.

<sup>9</sup>Quote from SE, December 8, 1937, fl. 29.

<sup>10</sup>Quote from SE, November 11, 1937, fl. 29.

<sup>11</sup>Block quotation from SE, February 9, 1938, fl. 29; Additional quote in SE, May 3, 1939, fl. 30; See also SE, May 18 and July 27, 1938, and April 19, 1939, fl. 29 and 30.

<sup>12</sup>SE, April 20, 1938 and February 22, March 22, and April 19, 1939, fl. 29 and 30.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid., April 5, 1939, fl. 30.

<sup>14</sup>Paul Laird File, SMD, Cabinet A; Quotes from SE, January 11, 1939, fl. 30.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid.; SE, March 22, 1939, fl. 30.

<sup>16</sup>Posey file, SMD, Cabinet A; Morrison interview; SE, July 13, October 26, November 9, and 28, 1938 and June 14, 1939, fl. 30 and 31.

<sup>17</sup>Enrollment Statistics, SMD, fl. 29, 30, and 31, Cabinet A; SE, June 27, October 12, and November 28, 1938, fl. 30; Posey file, SMD, Cabinet A; SL, vol. 1937, p. 495.

<sup>18</sup>SMD, AR, 1937-39, Cabinet A; SE, November 29, 1937, and November 28 and December 7, 1938 and February 22, March 8, 22, April 19, and May 3, 1939, fl. 29 and 30.

<sup>19</sup>Posey file, SMD, Cabinet A; Quotes from various newspaper clippings, no title, nd., SNC, fl. 30; SE, July 13 and August 5, 1938, fl. 30.

<sup>20</sup>SSS, vol. 1938-39; Undated and untitled newspaper clippings in Posey file, SMD, Cabinet A; Posey interview; Morrison interview; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>21</sup>Undated and untitled newspaper clipping in Posey file, SMD, Cabinet A; Posey interview.

<sup>22</sup>President T. T. Montgomery File, SMD, Cabinet A; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A SE, September 27, 1939, fl. 31.

<sup>23</sup>Quotes from SE, September 27, 1939, fl. 31.

<sup>24</sup>bid, Undated and untitled newspaper clipping in Montgomery file, SMD, Cabinet A, SE, March 22, 1939 and July 17, 1930, fl. 30 and 31, Quote from SE, September 27, fl. 31, Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A

<sup>25</sup>Morrison interview; Interview with Virginia T. Fisher, 1984.

<sup>26</sup>Rulon, pp. 222, 223, and 253; See also Chapter VI. See also James Clark Milligan, *Oklahoma: A Regional History* (Durant: Mesa Publishing Company, 1985), pp. 185-88.

<sup>27</sup>Interview with Allen E. Shearer, 1978; Posey interview; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A, Morrison interview

<sup>28</sup>Quotes from Shearer interview.

<sup>29</sup>Milligan, pp. 184-85; SL, vol. 1937 p. 495; Milligan interview; Oklahoma, *Biennial Reports of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education* (Oklahoma City: State Regents for Higher Education, 1942-84), vol. 1942 p. 191 (hereafter cited as BR, vol. no.); The 1942 report of the Regents showed the amount to be \$29,000 Shearer interview.

<sup>30</sup>BR, vol. 1942 pp. 28, 33, and 39; Quotes from Shearer interview; Morrison interview; SAB, vols. 1948-52.

<sup>31</sup>Quotes from Shearer interview, and SAB, vol. 1942, p. 19; See also SAB, vols. 1939-52.

<sup>32</sup>Quotes from Shearer interview; See also SAB, vol. 1948 pp. 15-16 and 24-53.

<sup>33</sup>Shearer interview.

<sup>34</sup>SE, September 27 and October 25, 1939 and February 7 and March 21, 1940, and January 29, 1941; See also various clippings on the aviation program in SNC, fl. 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36.

<sup>35</sup>SE, November 6, 20, and December 18, 1940 and February 26 and April 9, 1941, fl. 32. See also SE, June 19, 1940, fl. 32, for the sentiment against American involvement in the early stages of the war.

<sup>36</sup>SE, November 12, 1941, fl. 33.

<sup>37</sup>Quotes from SE, October 1, November 12, and 26, 1941, fl. 33.

<sup>38</sup>SMD, AR, 1941-42, Cabinet A, SE, November 12, 26, February 25 March 25, and April 22, 1941, fl. 33; Fisher interview.

<sup>39</sup>BR, vol. 1946 p. 98; "Southeastern Service Bulletin," SMD, Cabinet A; SE, January 14, 28, February 11, March 25, and April 8, 1942, and January 20, 1943, fl. 33 and 34. Every week *The Southeastern* carried an article concerning service news about those engaged in the great struggle.

<sup>40</sup>SE, January 6 and November 17, 1943 and January 19 and March 17, 1944, and November 28, 1945, fl. 34, 35, 36, and 37; BR, vol. 1946 p. 98; "Southeastern Service Bulletin," SMD, Cabinet A. After this chapter was type set, the author discovered a new source. The remaining young men who lost their lives heroically

were W. C. Seago, Earl LaVerne Sharp, Roy Grant, Leo Shull, Evan Dhu Cameron, Jr., Denton Collier, William E. Grumbles, Moody Lusby, Jarold Byrom, William Lambden, Charles Lucas, Randall Cotton, Cherry Pitts, Clinton Murphree, and Edward Setliff.

<sup>41</sup>Quote from SE, March 31, 1943, fl. 34; See also SE, January 14, 18, February 11, April 18, May 6, and December 9, 1942, and March 31 and December 15, 1943, fl. 33 and 34; See also various clippings on the war work, War File, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>42</sup>BR, vol. 1942, p. 60, and BR, vol. 1944, p. 102; SE, November 13, 1942, fl. 34.

<sup>43</sup>Quotes from SE, April 14, 1943, fl. 34.

<sup>44</sup>BR, vol. 1946, p. 98; SE, January 14, 28, February 11, and March 25, 1942, and July 12, 1944, fl. 33 and 35; War File, SMD, Cabinet A, Council Presidents file, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>45</sup>SMD, AR, 1942-43, Cabinet A; SE, February 17, March 25, and December 9, 1942, and May 26, 1943, and March 1, 29, April 26, and December 20, 1944, and January 24 and April 18, 1945, fl. 33, 34, 35, and 36; Quote from April 26.

<sup>46</sup>BR, vol. 1946, pp. 19 and 105; SE, September 19, 1945, and January 23 and February 20, 1946, fl. 37.

<sup>47</sup>BR, vol. 1942, pp. 3-6.

<sup>48</sup>BR, vol. 1946, p. 105.

<sup>49</sup>Enrollment Statistics, SMD, fl. 37, Cabinet A; BR, vol. 1948, p. 26, vol. 1950, p. 27, vol. 1946, p. 74, and vol. 1952, p. 67; "Southeastern Academic Vice-president's Reports," SMD, Cabinet D.

<sup>50</sup>SE, March 6 and July 10, 1946, and February 5, 1947, fl. 37 and 38; BR, vol. 1948, p. 26.

<sup>51</sup>BR, vol. 1950, pp. 26, 44, and 70; "Academic Vice-President's Reports," SMD, Cabinet D; BR, vol. 1948, pp. 45 and 59; SE, January 8, 1947, and April 21, June 9, July 7, and September 22, 1948, and May 18, June 1, 15, and September 28, 1949, fl. 38, 39, 40, and 41; Quote from BR, vol. 1950, p. 52.

<sup>52</sup>Quote from BR, vol. 1952, p. 52.

<sup>53</sup>Shearer interview; Morrison interview; BR, vol. 1946, pp. 63 and 66, vol. 1948, p. 40, and vol. 1952, p. 60.

<sup>54</sup>BR, vol. 1948, pp. 73-75; SE, October 16, 1946, fl. 38.

<sup>55</sup>SAB, vols. 1945-52; Shearer interview; SE, April 6, 1949, fl. 40.

<sup>56</sup>Quotes from SE, April 6, 1949, fl. 40; SAB, vols. 1945-52 Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A; Shearer interview.

<sup>57</sup>SAB, vol. 1946-47; Morrison interview; SE, May 10, 1944, fl. 35; Shearer interview.

<sup>58</sup>SE, January 26, 1946, fl. 37.

<sup>59</sup>Ibid., June 12, 1946, fl. 37; *The Savage* (Durant; various publishers, 1947-84), vol. 1948, pp. 82-118; List of Council Presidents, SMD, Cabinet A. *The Savage* (Southeastern's annual) was formerly called *The Holisso* (1910-1924).

<sup>60</sup>Quotes from *The Savage*, vol. 1948, pp. 86, 88, and 105, and vol. 1949, pp. 87 and 93, and vol. 1951, p. 96. *The Southeastern* newspaper issues contain, of course, hundreds of news items about these clubs and their activities through the years.

<sup>61</sup>SE, April 30, 1947, and May 18 and December 31, 1949, and March 1, 1950, fl. 38, 40, and 41.

<sup>62</sup>*The Savage*, vols. 1948, 1949, and 1951; SE, March 5, 19, April 2, 30, and November 19, 1947, and February 15, 1950, fl. 38, 39, and 41.

<sup>63</sup>Quotes from SE, January 10, 1940, fl. 31; See also SE, January 24, 1940, and December 21, 1949, fl. 32 and 41; See also *The Savage*, vols. 1948, 1949, and 1951.

<sup>64</sup>Quote from SE, September 28, 1949, fl. 41; See also SE, June 1, 15, and October 12, 1949, fl. 41; Shearer interview.

<sup>65</sup>SE, June 1, 15, September 28, October 12, November 9, 23, December 7, and 21, 1949, and January 18 and May 3, 1950, fl. 41; Quote from June 15.

<sup>66</sup>Fisher interview; Shearer interview; BR, vol. 1948, pp. 84 and 90; Quote from BR, p. 90; SAB, vol. 1949-50, p. 4 Shearer interview.

<sup>67</sup>Shearer interview; Shearer interview; Morrison interview; Morrison Papers, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>68</sup>Edited quote from SAB, vol. 1982-85, p. 6 Shearer interview; Morrison interview.

<sup>69</sup>BR, 1948, p. 84 Shearer interview; Morrison interview; Shearer interview.

<sup>70</sup>BR, vol. 1948, pp. 84-92; Shearer interview; Shearer interview; Morrison interview.

<sup>71</sup>Interview with Leon Hibbs, 1984; Fisher interview; Shearer interview; Shearer interview; BR, vols. 1946-52.

<sup>72</sup>The quote about President Bennett is a widely known one on the Southeastern campus and in downtown Durant. Whether he actually ever said the phrase or whether it is a story made to fit the circumstances is not factually known. Several people told the author the exact phraseology, however, when they recited their recollections of the Bennett years. See also BR, vol. 1948, pp. 86 and 90 for the remaining quotes.

<sup>73</sup>Shearer interview; Shearer interview; Morrison interview.

<sup>74</sup>SMD, AR, 1946-52, Cabinet A. Quotes from SE, December 11, 1946, and February 11, 1948, fl. 38 and 39; See also SE, November 27, 1946, and November 19 and December 13, 1947, and February 11, November 17, December 1, and 15, 1948, and November 23 and December 7, 1949, fl. 38, 39, 40, and 41.

<sup>76</sup>SMD, AR, 1946-52, Cabinet A; SE, March 6 and 20, 1946, and March 19, 1947, and March 10 and 24, 1948, and March 9 and 23, 1949, fl. 37, 38, 39, and 40; *The Savage*, vol. 1951.

<sup>76</sup>SMD, AR, 1946-52, Cabinet A; SE, May 14, 1947, and April 21 and May 5, 1948, fl. 38 and 39; Quote from SE, May 14.

<sup>77</sup>SE, January 8, February 19, May 14, June 4, 18, and December 17, 1947, and February 25, March 23, and December 15, 1948, and October 26, 1949, and May 3, 1950, fl. 38, 39, 40, and 41.

<sup>78</sup>*The Savage*, vol. 1948; SE, May 5, 19, and June 23, 1948, and April 6, 1949, fl. 39 and 40.

<sup>79</sup>SE, November 19, 1946, and March 9, 1947, and May 5 and December 1, 1948, and March 9, July 13, November 9, 23, and December 7, 1949, and February 15, 1950, fl. 38, 39, 40, and 41.

<sup>80</sup>SE, December 7 and 21, 1949, and March 1, 1950, fl. 41; Unfortunately, there are no *Southeasterns* extant for 1951-52. Consequently, it is impossible to give a survey of activities as in the other more documentable years. The only real sources available are the athletic records and the annuals.

## Chapter VIII

'Quote from "Allen E. Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C; BR, vol. 1952, p. 8. See Chapter VII, pp. 235-38.

'Quote from "Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>President Allen E. Shearer File, SMD, Cabinet A; Quote from "Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C.

'Shearer file, SMD, Cabinet A. See Chapter VII, pp. 235-38.

'Quote from "Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C; Shearer interview.

'BR, vol. 1952, p. 64 BR, vol. 1954, p. 65; SE, July 1, 1953; Interview with David Parker, 1984.

Copy of oaths in SMD, Cabinet A. See SL for original laws.

<sup>8</sup>SE, November 15, 1961; "Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C.

<sup>10</sup>Milligan, *A Regional History*, pp. 192-94; SE, October 7, 1953, and October 20, 1954, and September 9 and October 5, 1955.

\*\*Quotes from "Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C, and SE, October 20, 1954, and September 12 and 21, 1955. See also SE, September 21, 1956, and October 20, 1955.

<sup>12</sup>Quotes from SE, February 9 and March 9, 1955. "Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C; Shearer interview.

<sup>13</sup>BR, vol. 1952, p. 67, and vol. 1954, p. 65; SE, July 1, 1953; BR, vol. 1956, p. 70.

<sup>14</sup>SE, June 17, July 1, 22, and September 23, 1953, and January 1, February 24, September 22, and October 6, 1953.

<sup>15</sup>Quotes from SE, March 24, 1954. See also SE, June 17, 1953; Fisher interview.

<sup>16</sup>Quote from SE, June 16, 1954; BR, vol. 1956, pp. 32-33.

<sup>17</sup>SE, June 30 and October 6, 1954, and April 6, 1955, and June 27, 1956

<sup>18</sup>BR, vol. 1958, pp. 31-33; SE, July 27, 1955, and February 18, 1956, and June 26, July 24, November 13, 20, and 27, 1957, and February 26, 1958.

<sup>19</sup>"Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C; BR, vol. 1958, pp. 31-33; SE, June 11 and September 24, 1958, and November 11, 1959.

<sup>20</sup>"Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C; SAB, vols. 1952-67, faculty lists

<sup>21</sup>SE, April 6 and 20, 1955, and January 16 and 30, 1957; Allan Nevins and Henry Steele Commager, *A Pocket History of the United States* (New York: Simon and Schuster), pp. 489-515.

<sup>22</sup>Quote from SE, July 28, 1954. See also SE, October 7, 1953, and September 21, 1955, and October 5, 1956; Registrar's Records, SMD, Cabinet A.

<sup>23</sup>Nevins and Commager, *A Pocket History*, pp. 522-40

<sup>24</sup>Swearingin Interview: SE, January 18, 1950, and July 1 and November 23, 1953, and January 27 and February 24, 1954; "Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C

<sup>25</sup>*The Savage*, vol. 1952, p. 216, and vol. 1954, pp. 40-44, and vol. 1955, pp. 126-29, and vol. 1956, pp. 163-65; SE, June 17 and September 23, 1953, and December 15, 1954. Quote from interview with Helen Owens, 1985.

<sup>26</sup>*The Sauvage*, vol. 1954, p. 54, and vol. 1955, pp. 58-59, and vol. 1956, p. 92; SE, December 14, 1955.

<sup>27</sup>Quote from *The Sauvage*, vol. 1949, p. 100. See also SE, September 23 and October 7, 1953, and May 5 and October 6, 1954, and October 1, 1958.

<sup>28</sup>*The Savage*, vol. 1956, pp. 78-80 and 93, and vol. 1957, pp. 82, 90, and 92; SE, June 5 and September 23, 1953, and April 21 and November 17, 1954, and October 23 and 30, 1957. See also SE, October 3, 1956, and September 21, 1955, and *The Savage*, vol. 1955, pp. 40, 46, 55, 58, and 136.

<sup>29</sup>Interview with Buddy Spencer, 1984. See also *The Sauvage*, vol. 1954, pp. 151-52.

<sup>30</sup>SMD, AR, 1952-59, Cabinet A; SE, November 4, 18, and December 2, 1953, and October 3 and 10, 1956.

<sup>31</sup>SMD, AR, 1955, Cabinet A; Quote from SE, June 13, 1956.

<sup>32</sup>SMD, AR, 1952-59, Cabinet A; SE, January 8 and April 11, 1956, and February 4 and October 21, 1959.

<sup>33</sup>*The Savage*, vol. 1955, pp. 108-11, and vol. 1956, pp. 150-55.

<sup>34</sup>SE, March 23, 1955, and March 27, 1957, and April 23 and 30, 1958; SMD, AR, 1952-59, Cabinet A.

<sup>35</sup>Quote from Spencer interview; SE, November 30, 1955, and May 9, 1956, and July 3 and November 19, 1958.

<sup>36</sup>SE, June 17 and 25, 1954, and June 5, 1957, and June 9, 1958; *The Savage*, vol. 1955, pp. 134-35.

<sup>37</sup>Quotes from "Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C, and SE, July 27, 1955. See also SE, January 10, 1954, and June 29 and July 27, 1955; Shearer interview.

<sup>38</sup>SE, June 17 and November 18, 1953, and April 7, 21, May 19, and June 16, 1954, and June 15 and 29, 1955, and June 13, 1956, and June 5 and 19, 1957, and June 28 and July 2, 1958.

<sup>39</sup>Quote from SE, April 10, 1957; "Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C; Shearer interview.

<sup>40</sup>Milligan interview.

<sup>41</sup>SE, September 26, October 10, and 16, 1956, and November 25, 1957, and July 2 and October 23, 1958; "Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C.

<sup>42</sup>SE, December 11, 1957, and October 4 and 11, 1962, and June 27 and October 18, 1963, and March 26 and July 2, 1964; "Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C.

<sup>43</sup>Quotes from SE, June 12, 1957. See also SE, December 2, 1953, and May 22 and September 18, 1957.

<sup>44</sup>Slaughter interview; SE, October 24 and November 21, 1956, and December 18, 1957, and June 28, 1958, and July 1, 1959.

<sup>45</sup>Quote from SE, April 3, 1957. See also SE, December 18, 1957, and June 21, 1962, and March 7, 1963. Slaughter wrote many articles concerning the subject of certification and needed reform. Many of the articles have been copied and can be found in SMD, Slaughter file, Cabinet C.

<sup>46</sup>SE, November 30, 1955.

<sup>47</sup>Quotes from SE, March 27, 1957. See also SE, November 30, 1955, and June 27, 1956.

<sup>48</sup>Johnson's quote has been used frequently, most recently in the famous movie *The Right Stuff*; SE, October 9, 16, November 13, 20, and December 11, 1957; Milligan interview.

<sup>49</sup>Quotes from "Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C; Shearer interview.

<sup>50</sup>Ibid.; SE, November 9, 1960. See also SE, November 16, 1960; Shearer interview.

"Quotes from SE, May 14, 1958

<sup>52</sup>Quotes from SE, December 10, 1958.

<sup>53</sup>SE, March 18, June 10, and July 15, 1959.

<sup>54</sup>Quote from SE, July 15, 1959. See also SE, September 16 and October 14, 1959.

"BR, vol. 1960, pp. 31-32; SE, February 4, July 22, September 16, and October 7, 1959, and January 20, March 9, 30, and April 30, 1960.

<sup>56</sup>Shearer file, SMD, Cabinet A; SE, April 13 and May 25, 1960

"Quotes from SE, May 27 and September 16, 1959.

<sup>58</sup>"Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C; Shearer file, SMD, Cabinet A; Shearer interview.

<sup>59</sup>Interview with John Massey, 1984; "Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C; Shearer interview.

<sup>60</sup>SE, October 14, 21, 28, November 4, 11, and 18, 1959; Quotes from November 18.

<sup>61</sup>SE, November 18, 1959

<sup>62</sup>Milligan interview; SE, November 2, 1960, and November 15, 1961. Nevins and Commanger, *A Pocket History*, p. 546.

<sup>63</sup>Quotes from SE, December 18, 1957. See also SE, June 11, 1958, and December 13, 1958.

"Interview with Paul Wiley, 1984; Quotes from SE, February 26 and June 11, 1958.

<sup>65</sup>SE, October 3, 1956, and November 23, 1960, and April 19, 26, and May 17, 1961, and June 30, 1962.

<sup>66</sup>SMD, Debate file, Cabinet A; Quote from SE, February 28, 1963. See also SE, October 6, 1954, and November 16, 1955, and February 8, 22, April 11, and December 12, 1956, and March 27 and October 30, 1957, and January 15 and March 12, 1958, and May 24, 1961.

<sup>67</sup>*The Savage*, vol. 1959, p. 93, and vol. 1960, p. 56; SE, June 23, 1958, and November 4, 1959, and May 4 and November 11, 1960, and April 19, May 10, and October 18, 1961, and May 9 and November 22, 1962, and February 14, May 16, and October 24, 1963, and April 26 and November 12, 1964, and March 18, May 6, October 7, and November 4, 1965, and September 29, 1966.

<sup>68</sup>Quote from SE, November 22, 1962. See also *The Savage*, vol. 1961, pp. 90-91, and vol. 1963, pp. 100-01; SE, September 28 and November 2, 1960, and October 11, 1962.

<sup>69</sup>SE, February 22, 1956, and February 5, 1958, and October 7, 1959, and February 7, 1962, and March 7, 1963.

<sup>70</sup>SE, January 1, July 2, and 23, 1958, and March 11 and December 9, 1959, and June 29, July 20, and December 14, 1960, and March 7, 1962.

<sup>71</sup>SE, November 16, 1960, and June 29 and November 8, 1961, and November 8 and 15, 1962, and May 9, 1963.

“Quotes from SE, November 27, 1957.

<sup>73</sup>Ibid.; SE, February 4, 25, and March 11, 1959, and March 29, 1961, and March 28, 1962, and March 21 and 28, 1963, and March 19 and 26, 1964, and February 17 and March 24, 1966.

<sup>74</sup>The Savage, vol. 1959, p. 178, and vol. 1960, p. 128, and vol. 1963, pp. 110-24; SE, October 5, 1955, May 9 and December 19, 1956, and November 5, 1958, and September 16, 1959, and October 8, 1964, and February 25 and October 14, 1965.

<sup>75</sup>The Savage, vol. 1956, pp. 100-10, and vol. 1962, pp. 70-82; SE, December 19, 1956, and October 22, December 10, and 17, 1958, and February 11, 18, and 25, 1959.

<sup>76</sup>Quote from SE, October 8, 1958. See also SE, October 1, 1958, and October 14, 1959, and February 8, March 1, and May 3, 1961, and October 21, 1965.

<sup>77</sup>SAB, vol. 1953-54, pp. 16-21, and vol. 1962-63, pp. 18-21, and vol. 1964-65, pp. 18-21.

<sup>78</sup>The Savage, vol. 1959, pp. 172-83; SE, November 31, 1955, and December 12, 1956, and December 11, 1957, and November 26, 1958, and December 9, 1959, and February 24 and December 7, 1960, and March 29, 1961.

<sup>79</sup>The Savage, vol. 1963, pp. 126-31; SE, October 31, 1956, and November 6, 1957, and November 11, 1959, and September 21, October 12, and November 9, 1960, and May 2, 1963.

<sup>80</sup>Quote from SE, February 14, 1963. See also SE, February 24, 1954, and February 23, 1955, and October 21, 1956, and November 27, 1957, and November 28 and October 5, 1960, and January 18, 1961, and February 22, 1963.

<sup>81</sup>Quotes from SE, May 2, 1962. See also Anne Semple, *Ties That Bind: The Story of OklaLahoma Presbyterian College* (Ph.D. Dissertation, Durant: Private Printing), pp. 7-24; “Shearer Memoirs,” SMD, Cabinet C; SE, March 3, 1966.

<sup>82</sup>Semple, *Ties That Bind*, pp. 24-78; SE, March 3, 1966.

<sup>83</sup>Interview with Jorge Morales, 1984.

<sup>84</sup>Quotes from SE, May 2, 1962, and February 14, 1963

<sup>86</sup>Shearer file, SMD, Cabinet A; “Shearer Memoirs,” SMD, Cabinet C; Quotes from SE, February 22 and October 10, 1963. See also SE, July 20, September 4, November 2, and 28, 1960.

<sup>86</sup>Quotes from “Shearer Memoirs,” SMD, Cabinet C, and SE, November 2, 1960. See also SE, January 13, February 6, and November 23, 1960, and September 27 and December 6, 1961.

<sup>87</sup>Quotes from Morales interview, and SE, March 29, 1961. See also SE, October 19, 1960, and January 18, 1961; Shearer interview.

<sup>88</sup>NeVins and Commanger, *A Pocket History*, pp. 515-53; SE, November 7, 1956, January 16 and 30, 1957, and March 26, 1958, and October 26, 1960, and March 22, 1961.

<sup>89</sup>NeVins and Commanger, *A Pocket History*, pp. 556-63; SE, January 30, 1957, and November 1 and December 6, 1961, and October 4 and 6, 1962.

<sup>90</sup>Ibid.; Milligan interview.

<sup>91</sup>SE, February 28 and March 7, 1962, and July 4, 1963; Quotes from July 4.

<sup>92</sup>Ibid.

<sup>93</sup>SE, September 19, 26, October 17, and 24, 1963.

<sup>94</sup>BR, vol. 1964, pp. 50-54; SE, June 21, 28, and September 20, and November 22, 1962, and April 4, September 19, and 26, 1963, and February 6, 1964; “South-eastern Academic Vice-president’s Reports,” SMD, Cabinet D; Quotes from November 22.

<sup>95</sup>Morrison interview; BR, vol. 1964, pp. 50-54; SE, September 20 and November 22, 1962, and February 6, 1964; Quote from November 22.

<sup>96</sup>Quotes from “Shearer Memoirs,” SMD, Cabinet C, and SE, November 21, 1963. See also SE, May 16, September 26, and November 14, 1963.

<sup>97</sup>NeVins and Commanger, *A Pocket History*, pp. 574-75; SE, November 28 and December 19, 1963.

<sup>98</sup>Quotes from Milligan interview, and SE, November 18, 1982. See also SE, November 28, 1963.

<sup>99</sup>BR, vol. 1964, pp. 50-54, and vol. 1966, pp. 56-59, and vol. 1968, pp. 53-55; Registrar’s Records, SMD, Cabinet A; Milligan interview; SE, October 12 and November 2, 1960, and March 29, May 3, and November 27, 1961, and June 28, 1962, and July 25 and December 19, 1963, and April 23, May 7, September 17, and November 12, 1964, and April 21, 1966, and February 9, 1967.

<sup>100</sup>Quotes from SE, February 20, 1964. See also March 12, October 8, and 15, 1964, and January 13 and October 6, 1966, and June 22, July 13, and September 21, 1967; BR, vol. 1968, pp. 53-55; “Shearer Memoirs,” SMD, Cabinet C.

<sup>101</sup>Quotes from “Shearer Memoirs,” SMD, Cabinet C; BR, vol. 1968, pp. 53-55; Interview with Leon Hibbs, 1985; Shearer interview.

<sup>102</sup>SAB, vol. 1967-68, p. 29; SE, April 1 and September 16, 1965.

<sup>103</sup>Milligan interview; SE, September 23, 1965, and January 13, April 21, and October 6, 1966, and December 2, 1967; SAB, vol. 1967-68, p. 57.

<sup>104</sup>"Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C; *SAB*, vol. 1968-69, pp. 61-62; *BR*, vol. 1968, pp. 53-55; *SE*, May 12, June 30, October 13, 27, and December 8, 1966, and April 4, 1967; Quote from April 4.

<sup>105</sup>*SE*, May 4, June 8, and 22, 1960, and May 2, June 14, 21, and July 26, 1962, and February 22, June 27, and July 4, 1963, and June 25, 1964, and February 25, April 15, June 24, July 1, 15, and 22, 1965; *BR*, vol. 1964, pp. 50-54, and vol. 1966, pp. 56-59, and vol. 1968, pp. 53-55.

<sup>106</sup>Quotes from *SE*, November 10, 1966. See also *BR*, vol. 1964, pp. 50-54, and vol. 1966, pp. 56-59, and vol. 1968, pp. 53-55; *SE*, November 15, 1961, and November 18, 1963.

<sup>107</sup>Quotes from *SE*, April 15, 1965; "Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C; *SE*, July 25, September 19, October 10, and 31, 1963, and November 5, 1964, and November 14, 1965.

<sup>108</sup>"Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C; Slaughter file, SMD, Cabinet C; *SE*, March 7 and June 20, 1963, and February 11, June 10, and December 9, 1965, and December 14, 1967; *BR*, vol. 1964, pp. 50-54, and vol. 1966, pp. 56-59.

<sup>109</sup>*SE*, April 2 and November 12, 1958, and June 10, September 30, and November 4, 1959, and February 2, June 29, and December 14, 1960, and June 21, 1961, and January 10, March 21, and May 9, 1962, and April 25, November 14, and December 12, 1963, and March 12 and June 18, 1964, and February 4, March 11, 25, April 15, June 17, July 15, September 23, and 30, 1965, and February 10, 1966, and September 21 and December 15, 1967; Faculty Files, SMD, Cabinet C.

<sup>110</sup>Faculty Files, SMD, Cabinet C; *SE*, September 27, 1961, and April 4, 1963, and February 13, 1964, and May 20 and November 4, 1965, and March 17, 1966, and July 26, 1967; Quotes from "Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C.

<sup>111</sup>*SMD*, AR, 1959-67, Cabinet A, *SE*, March 14 and 21, 1962.

<sup>112</sup>Quote from *SE*, June 21, 1962; *SMD*, AR, 1959-67, Cabinet A.

<sup>113</sup>*SE*, February 25, 1965; "Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C; Interview with Bob Thomas, 1984; *SMD*, AR, 1959-67, Cabinet A; *SE*, November 29, 1966.

<sup>114</sup>*SMD*, AR, 1959-67, Cabinet A.

<sup>115</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>116</sup>*Ibid.*; Quote from *SE*, May 13, 1965.

<sup>117</sup>*SE*, May 5, 1961, and February 13, 27, and November 26, 1964, and February 14, March 18, April 13, 29, May 2, and September 16, 1965, and February 24, March 10, June 16, and July 14, 1966, and January 12, 1967.

<sup>118</sup>*SE*, December 12 and 19, 1963, and February 20, 1964, and April 15 and May 6, 1965, and December 15, 1966.

<sup>119</sup>*SAB*, vol. 1967-68, p. 20; *SE*, March 10 and May 5, 1966

<sup>120</sup>Quotes from "Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C; Shearer interview

<sup>121</sup>*SE*, April 20 and 27, 1967; Shearer file, SMD, Cabinet A; Shearer interview.

<sup>122</sup>*SE*, February 19, 1962; Swearingin interview.

<sup>123</sup>"Shearer Memoirs," SMD, Cabinet C

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 Thomas, Robert. Durant, Oklahoma. 1984  
 Utterback, Priscilla. Durant, Oklahoma. 1984  
 Weder, Shirley. Durant, Oklahoma. 1984  
 Wiley, Paul. Durant, Oklahoma. 1984

Abbott, Charles: 164, 170  
 Abbott, Kathleen: 88, 104, 113  
 Abbott, Louise: 140  
 Abbott, Ruth: 67  
 Abbott, Whitt: 172  
 Abilene Christian College (University). 229  
 Ada: 9, 14-16, 37, 62, 63, 70, 71, 75, 76, 81, 89, 90, 97, 98, 140, 155, 172, 259, 317  
 Adams, Joe Lou: 67, 119  
 Adams, Louise: 104  
 Adams, Marvin: 322  
 Adamson, A.C.: 142  
 Agee Rochelle: 170, 172  
 Agee, Thelma: 172  
 Aker, Mrs. Harry: 297  
 Akin, Oliver H.: 62  
 Albert, Carl: 261, 292, 312, 316, 317  
 Alderson, Maw McCleary: 197  
 Allen, Charles: 306  
 Allen, Clarence: 112  
 Allen, Dick: 261, 297  
 Allen, Lee: 261  
 Allen, Norvin: 300  
 Allen, Pauline: 136  
 Allen, Ruth: 172  
 Alva: 9, 10, 26, 57, 99, 150, 167  
 Alverson High: 45, 47  
 American Association of State Colleges & Universities: 145  
 Anderson, Jack: 195  
 Anderson, Jo: 261  
 Andrews, Charles: 304, 321  
 Anthony, W.B.: 49  
 Apel, Fran: 280  
 Apple, Joe: 167, 172  
 Ardmore: 9, 14, 25, 53, 60, 63, 64, 68, 69, 77, 93, 187, 209-211  
 Ardmore High School: 24, 40, 60, 63, 69, 209  
 Arizona State Teachers College. 167  
 Arkadelphia, AR: 129, 149, 224, 260  
 Arkansas College, Batesville, AR 7  
 Arkansas State Teachers, Conway, AR 159, 168, 173  
 Arkansas Tech, Russellville, AR 166  
 Arkansas Territory: 3  
 Armstrong Academy: 2, 7, 60, 63, 75, 99  
 Armstrong, Carl: 300, 306  
 Armstrong, Clifford: 172, 191  
 Armstrong, Lewis: 167  
 Armstrong, Lucille: 151  
 Amett, Butch: 323  
 Arnold, Clayton: 240  
 Arnold, Murr: 115  
 Arnold, Pearl: 104  
 Ashford, Boyce: 199  
 Atlantic City, NJ: 229  
 Atoka: 6, 19, 23, 65  
 Atoka Agreement: 5, 6  
 Atoka County: 23, 65  
 Atoka High School: 47, 48, 88, 97, 119  
 Austin College: 39, 46, 48, 69, 96, 103, 125, 141, 143, 152, 167, 168, 281, 282  
 Austin, Nell: 136  
 Austin, Walter: 164  
 Babb, Sam: 205  
 Bacon, Marty: 282  
 Bahner, Bud: 282  
 Bailey, Jerry: 323  
 Bailey, Sandra: 304, 306  
 Baker, Florence: 99  
 Baker, Ghaska D. J.: 33  
 Baker, Sandra: 304  
 Baldwin, J.H.: 11  
 Balek, Bruce: 261  
 Baler, Mary. 304  
 Banister, B.O.: 157  
 Bannister, Joe: 162  
 Barbee, Beverly: 302  
 Barentine, Opal: 172  
 Barker, Allan: 325  
 Barker, Lewis: 295, 321  
 Barnes, Jim: 300  
 Barnett, Cecil: 113  
 Barnhart, Charles: 323  
 Bartlett, Lillian: 33  
 Baskin, Vlasta "Pat": 309  
 Baskin, Wade: 295, 309, 310, 319, 320  
 Basye, Hail: 164  
 Batchelor, Dan: 300  
 Bateman, Alexander: 87  
 Bates, H.S.: 136, 221, 243  
 Battaille, Ed: 109, 113, 115  
 Battenberg, J.P.: 133  
 Battiest, Armstrong: 164  
 Baulch, Trent: 324  
 Baumgardner, K.W.: 302, 319  
 Baylor University: 112, 113, 206, 300  
 BeaVert, Julia: 67  
 Beal, Lovd: 302  
 Beane, George P.: 104, 109  
 Beane, R.D.: 104  
 Beaton, Barbara: 306  
 Beaton, "Boo": 304  
 Beaty, Elsie: 151

Beaty, Robert: 149, 156  
 Beech, Linda: 215, 216, 222  
 Bell Hops: 143, 150, 151  
 Bell, Requa W.: 142, 143, 149-152, 158, 313  
 Bement, Fred 205  
 Bennett, E d 151, 158, 159  
 Bennett, Henry Garland: 24, 41; Administration of: 129-176; 179, 181, 182, 185, 202-204, 212-214, 223, 224, 228, 235, 258  
 Bennett, W.F.: 103  
 Bennington: 3, 7  
 Berger, Allen: 75  
 Biffle, Lottie: 88, 97  
 Binning, Harlowe: 261  
 Blackwood, Sarah: 306  
 Blagg, Ruel: 279  
 Blair, Tom: 302, 303  
 Blanchard, Ben: 67  
 Blanton, Rozana: 143  
 Bliss, Nan: 303  
 Bloomfield Seminary: 2, 7, 21  
 Blount, Maxine: 172  
 Blue Bell Violets: 133  
 Blue Valley Farmer: 204  
 Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges: 257, 258  
 Bonds, Archibald: 78  
 Bone, Billie: 172  
 Bonham, T X 6  
 Bostic, Doyle: 273, 321  
 Boswell: 130  
 Boswell, S.C.: 126  
 Bosworth, Sarah C.: 33  
 Boule: 163  
 Bowden, Julie: 198, 199  
 Bowen, Collin: 261  
 Bowlin, Jo: 281  
 Bowman, Zelma: 306  
 Boyd, Isabelle: 33  
 Boyd, Mary Lou: 104  
 Boyet, Alvin: 149, 155, 158, 166  
 Boynton, Edwin: 295  
 Bracken, Blackie: 304  
 Braden, Pearl: 172  
 Bradford, Reggie: 318  
 Brady, Jeanne: 300  
 Bragg, Blanche: 204  
 Braly, Mary: 47  
 Braly, W.C.: 47, 50  
 Branson, John: 295  
 Breedlove, W.F.: 25  
 Brent, Pearl: 210  
 Brewer, Theodore F.: 116  
 Brewster, Billy B.: 163, 172

Bridges, Roy: 62  
 Briggs, Edna Helen: 180  
 Briggs, Eleanor Sue: 180  
 Briggs, Eugene S. — Administration of: 179-204; 206, 228  
 Briggs, Marie Cleveland: 180  
 Briggs, Mary Betty Gentry: 180  
 Briggs, Stephen Gentry: 180  
 Briggs, Susan A. Pyle: 180  
 Briggs, Thomas Hale: 180  
 Briles, Charles W.: 64, 90  
 Brock, E.E.: 11  
 Brock, Juadina: 245  
 Brooks, Straton D.: 99  
 Brooks, T.D. — Administration of: 106-128; 160, 212  
 Broughton, Clifford 291  
 Brown, Ben: 126  
 Brown, Charles: 285  
 Brown, Darwin: 112  
 Brown, Donald: 315, 320  
 Brown, Harry: 102  
 Brown, Melvin: 282, 322  
 Brown, Paul: 282  
 Bruce, Alvin: 173  
 Brumley, Bernita: 302  
 Bryan County Democrat—First notation of: 9  
 Bryan County — Location of: 1, 47  
 Bryan, William Jennings: 47, 142  
 Bryant, Calvin: 39, 70, 125, 138  
 Bryant, Robert: 157  
 Bryce, Johnny: 166  
 Buck, Carl: 191, 198  
 Bull, Charley: 243  
 Burger, Jeanne: 325  
 Burke, Judy: 306  
 Burket, Ferdie: 282  
 Burket, Jimmy: 304  
 Burleson College: 69, 86, 149, 173, 191  
 Burnett, Cecil: 138  
 Burns, Jeanette: 163  
 Burns, Phil: 228  
 Burris, Hallie: 120  
 Burroughs, Tom: 300, 304, 306  
 Butler, E.G.: 121  
 Butler, Georgia: 267, 269  
 Byers, James: 261  
 Byers, Margaret: 304  
 Byers, Phyllis: 304  
 Byington, Simon: 7  
 Byrd, Edward L.: 324  
 Byrom, Jack: 243  
 Cain, Reasor: 112, 140  
 Calvin Institute: 307

Cameron State School of Agriculture: 228  
 Cameron, E.D.: 19, 29  
 Campbell, Camilla: 306  
 Campbell, Kenneth 157, 168  
 Campbell, Velma: 172  
 Campbell, Vera: 172  
 Caney: 150  
 Cannon, Ernest: 168  
 Canterbury, William C.: 24-26; Administration of: 93-101, 108  
 Cantrell, E.L.: 164  
 Cantrell, Jewell: 47  
 Carney, C.C.: 321  
 Carpenter, Don: 279  
 Carr, William: 195  
 Carrabelle, F L 267  
 Carriage Point: 4  
 Carroll, Hugh A.: 33  
 Carrollton, MO: 180  
 Carter, Anna: 206  
 Carter County: 23, 65, 210, 211  
 Carter, Eugenia: 63  
 Carter, Jack: 261  
 Carter, Wesley: 243  
 Cartwright, Earl: 166  
 Castile, Irene: 143  
 Castleberry, Lou: 279  
 Central College, MO: 180  
 Central State University (College, Teachers, Normal): 9, 10, 16, 17, 19, 51, 57, 92, 98, 109, 111, 120, 127, 134, 141, 155, 164, 166, 167, 171, 205, 230, 232, 237, 242, 257, 323  
 Chambers, Max: 257, 273  
 Chaney, Gerry: 324  
 Chickasaw Nation: 1, 2, 5  
 Childers, Joy: 286  
 Childers, Lowell: 205  
 Chitwood, Walter N.: 70, 75, 76, 87  
 Choate, Chuck: 300  
 Choate, Tommy: 303, 306  
 Choctaw County: 23, 24, 41, 65, 73, 80, 130, 213  
 Choctaw Nation: 1-5, 7, 8, 69, 72  
 Christian College, Columbia, MO 202  
 Christian, Duke: 324  
 Christie, Joe: 324  
 Chuckwa (Hashukwa): 7, 69, 112, 138  
 Civil War: 2  
 Claremore: 55, 57  
 Claremore Military Academy: 57  
 Claremore Preparatory School: 52  
 Clark, Esther: 151  
 Clark, Haskell: 195, 243  
 Clark, John: 56, 262

Clay, Earl: 136  
 Cleghorn, Dale: 240  
 Clements, Joe: 143, 151, 158  
 Cleveland, Omar: 149  
 Click, Elizabeth: 206  
 Click, Lottie: 206  
 Clifton, Leonard L.: 204  
 Cline, Milton: 157, 164  
 Clymer, Mitchell: 172  
 Coal County: 23  
 Coalgate High School: 47  
 Cobb, Harvey: 151, 152, 158  
 Cobb, Wayne: 322  
 Collier, Clyde: 113  
 Collier, Jeff: 136  
 Collins, Bailey: 62, 70  
 Collins, Lydia: 66  
 Collins, Minnie: 104  
 Collins, Warren G.: 243  
 Columbia, MO: 202  
 Columbia University: 141, 161, 179, 181, 191, 202  
 Colvin, Alice: 33  
 Colwick, J.T.: 275  
 Combs, Barbara: 136  
 Comstock, Ty: 324  
 Confederate States of America: 2  
 Connell, Vera Pearl: 130  
 Connors, Ruth 151  
 Conway, AR: 229  
 Conwell, C.M.: 228  
 Cook, Lloyd 301, 314  
 Cooke, Guy: 240, 241  
 Cooper, Anna Bell: 225  
 Corbin, Blanche: 233  
 Corbitt, Tom: 300  
 Cordell, Harry: 175  
 Costly, Clifford 115, 116  
 Cotton, Ann: 279  
 Cotton, Raymond 323  
 Coulson, Eleanor: 136  
 Cox, Bill: 280  
 Cox, Jimmy: 304  
 Cox, Louise: 163  
 Cox, Ruth: 67  
 Crable, A.L.: 220, 222-224, 228  
 Craie, Fred 163, 164  
 Cravens, Mary: 240  
 Crawford, Coleman: 152, 159, 167  
 Crawford, Opal: 135, 136  
 Crenshaw, Edwardine W.: 66, 110  
 Crénshaw, Miriam: 67  
 Crockett, Bernice: 319  
 Crockett, David 163  
 Crow, Lois: 321  
 Crowder, Bill: 303

Crowe, Bob: 285  
 Crowell, Ray: 324  
 Crowley, Nell Ruth: 245, 261  
 Crownover, Diane: 318  
 Cruce, Lee: 57, 60, 72, 74, 77-82, 160  
 Crudup, Clarence: 89, 97-99, 104-109  
 Crudup, Dora: 52  
 Crudup, Edna: 41  
 Crump, Mrs. R.E.: 142, 297  
 Crutcher, Allen: 212  
 Cudd, Ben: 104  
 Cudd, Bess: 99  
 Cunningham, J. Lee: 149  
 Currin, Marion: 149, 150  
 Currin, Virgil: 149, 150  
 Curtis Act: 5, 6  
 Curtis, Earl: 260, 283  
 Curtis, Otho: 242  
 Dagley, A.W.: 136  
 Daily Ardmoreite: 220  
 Daily Oklahoman: 29, 30, 87, 106, 124, 170, 198  
 Daley, John: 242  
 Dallas University: 62, 86, 141, 149  
 Danielson, Tim: 304  
 Daugherty, W.B.: 325  
 Davis, A.B.: 119, 126  
 Davis, Dee: 172, 173  
 Davis, Fairy: 168, 170  
 Davis, Fletcher: 172  
 Davis, Gladys: 67, 88, 163  
 Davis, J.T.: 140  
 Davis, John: 4  
 Davis, Kathleen: 301  
 Davis, Lennie: 51, 52  
 Davis, Paul: 283  
 Davis, Rex: 206  
 Davis, Robert: 195, 201, 297  
 Dawes Commission: 5  
 Dawes, Henry L.: 5  
 Dean, Jerry: 324  
 Dees, Hubert: 136  
 Demand, L. Stanley: 33  
 Denison High School: 48  
 Denison, T X 23, 202, 270, 320  
 Denniston, Jamie: 149  
 Denson, Doris: 229  
 Denton State Normal (North Texas State University): 48, 104, 124  
 Denton, Troy: 157  
 Depew, Walter: 323  
 Dickerson, Guy B.: 87  
 Dickerson, Ruth: 67  
 Dickson, John: 321  
 Diffie, Bailey W.: 143, 149, 158, 185, 229, 313  
 Disciples of Christ Church: 187, 202

Dixon, Fred B.: 189, 190, 194  
 Dobbins, James: 318  
 Dodd, Harry: 282  
 Dodson, J.W.: 243  
 Dodson, W.T.: 73, 84, 86, 87, 94  
 Donoho, Otis: 164  
 Douglass, James Ed: 241  
 Downen, Jim: 151, 159  
 Downing, J.H.: 78  
 Downs, Walter E.: 228  
 Dunagan, Dana: 280, 281  
 Duncan: 14  
 Duncan, Cecil: 261, 283  
 Duncan, Norman: 205  
 Dunham, Phil: 302  
 Dunlap, C.C.: 149, 228  
 Dunlap, E.T.: 327  
 Durant, Besant: 3  
 Durant Chamber of Commerce: 17, 18, 20, 64, 95, 122, 126, 137, 139, 168, 169, 195, 202, 212, 265, 308, 309, 317  
 Durant Daily Democrat—First notation of: 36: 157  
 Durant, Dixon: 3-7, 50  
 Durant, Fisher: 3  
 Durant High School: 20, 29, 51, 153  
 Durant, Jesse: 3  
 Durant—Location of: 1-6  
 Durant, Pierre: 2  
 Durant Presbyterian College: 33, 307  
 Durant Public Schools: 24  
 Durant Station: 3, 4, 7  
 Durant Student Loan Fund: 147  
 Durant Weekly News: 213, 219  
 Durant, Will: 191  
 Durant, William A.: 7, 9-11, 13-17, 38, 43, 49, 78-82, 98, 107, 119, 139  
 Durant, William A., Jr.: 62, 87, 88  
 Dwight, Leslie A.: 243, 292, 294, 312, 319, 320  
 Dye, Jack: 321  
 Dye, Upton: 191  
 Dyer, Clarence: 191, 199, 261, 283  
 Dyer, Flodelle: 136  
 Dyer, Mac: 324  
 Eaker, Claude: 136  
 Eaker, H. Grady: 135, 136, 138  
 Eaker, Ira: 98, 99, 113-116, 191, 192, 228, 244, 261  
 Early, Fred: 70  
 Earnest, Austin: 242  
 East Central University (State College, State Teachers, Normal): 39, 62-64, 70, 86-90, 97, 98, 113, 115, 120, 136, 141, 143, 149, 152, 155, 159, 166, 168, 171-173, 191, 193, 198, 203, 227, 228, 237, 259, 260, 281, 323

East Texas State College (University): 149  
 Eastern Oklahoma College: 228  
 Eastern Washington College: 260  
 Eastwood, Anna: 33  
 Eaton, GA: 267  
 Echols, W.H.: 24, 43, 101, 117  
 Eddleman, Verna: 51, 52  
 Edmond, 9, 16, 19, 51, 57, 92, 98, 109  
 Edwards, H.S.: 140  
 Edwards, Tony: 63  
 Edwards, William: 243  
 Eisenhower, Dwight David: 270, 277, 292, 298  
 Elk City: 323  
 Elkin, Fait: 159  
 Elks Lodge: 18, 140, 165  
 Elliff, Rose: 112  
 Emerson, David: 277, 282  
 Emory, Lois: 240  
 England, Ida: 112  
 Engles, Charles: 243  
 Enid: 166  
 Enoch, Clayton: 164  
 Epton, Hicks: 171-173  
 Epworth University (Oklahoma City University): 39  
 Ernest, Mr. and Mrs. I.M.: 297  
 Ernst, Loyd: 282  
 Erwin, Jack: 304  
 Euhank, Dillard: 149, 150, 155, 170, 313  
 Evans, A. Grant: 41  
 Evans, Charles: 209  
 Evans, E.M.: 11, 119, 213  
 Evans, Leland: 157  
 Ewell, A.E.: 11, 13, 15-17  
 Fairview: 203  
 Fannin, Harlin: 150  
 Fannin, Hugh: 156  
 Farley, Clovis: 172  
 Farmer, Frank: 149, 155, 166  
 Faulkenherry, David: 299  
 Faulkner, Andrew S.: 65, 75, 94; Administration of 101-111, 117, 213  
 Fayette, MO: 180  
 Ferguson, A.H.: 212  
 Ferguson, Glen: 158  
 Ferguson, Larry: 303  
 First Christian Church: 52, 63, 64, 76, 126, 127, 168, 180  
 First Methodist Church: 22, 24  
 First National Bank: 6  
 Fisher, Duane: 231  
 Fisher, Virginia T.: 235, 273  
 Fitzgerald, Virginia: 33  
 Five Civilized Tribes: 5



Gibson, Ettie: 125  
Gibson, H.W., Sr.: 11  
Gibson, Willard: 149  
Gill, Florence: 64  
Gilliland, A.W.: 69, 70, 74, 75, 83  
Gilpin, Johnny: 300  
Gilstrap, George: 164  
Gladney, Ernest: 149  
Glenn, Harris: 163  
Glenn, John C.: 251  
Godfrey, Percy D.: 154, 156, 166  
Goin, Esther: 277  
Goins, Roscoe: 173  
Goode, Darrell: 281  
Gooding, Bruce O.: 243  
Goodland Academy: 63  
Goodman, Mildred: 113  
Goodman, Ruth: 113  
Goodrich, Otis: 242  
Gordon, Darlene: 280  
Gordon, Edward: 300  
Gordon, Linda: 318  
Grad, Rachel: 151, 157  
Gragg, Edith: 66  
Graham, W.B.: 166  
Granite: 203  
Grant County, AR: 224  
Grant, Floyd F.: 243  
Grayson County College, TX: 62  
Green, Jack N.: 243  
Green, Jack: 319  
Green, Jim: 302  
Green, John: 261  
Green, Max: 301  
Green, Nellie: 140  
Green, Rick: 261  
Greene, Billie: 229  
Greenwood, Ella: 33  
Greer, Henry: 136  
Grimes, Bill: 295, 321  
Groce, Ike: 324  
Gustin, Wayne: 318  
Guthrie: 8-11, 14, 16, 29, 37  
Guthrie, Nadine: 206  
Gwaltney, Ruth: 151  
Haas, Seymour: 191  
Haddock, E.T.: 172  
Hagen, Joyce: 261  
Haggard, E. Martin: 214  
Hagood, Floyd: 88  
Hagood, Wendell: 164  
Haile, Virginia: 279  
Hall, Helen: 172  
Hall, Hugh, 241, 243  
Hall, Irving: 164  
Hall, Jerry: 283

Hall, Linnie Ruth: 321  
Halsell, R.R.: 7  
Hambrink, Winona: 318  
Hamilton, Billy: 325  
Hammack, Charlie: 287  
Hampton, Hollis: 88, 113, 116  
Hampton, Jim: 286  
Hampton, L.C.: 33  
Hampton, Leila: 97  
Hankins, Cecil: 242  
Hannon, Ray: 112  
Harbour, John: 282  
Hardaway, Sue: 144  
Hardin College: 259  
Hardy, R.D.: 33, 52, 64, 90  
Hardy, Summers: 90  
Hargrove College: 62  
Harkey, Lorinne: 170  
Harkey, Paul: 229  
Harkey, R.W.: 299  
Harle, Budge: 163  
Harmon, Harold: 306  
Harral, Stewart: 163, 164  
Harrel, Merle: 261  
Harris, James D.: 259  
Harris, Lola: 64  
Harris, Marge: 303  
Harris, Orville: 136  
Harris, Sylvia: 143, 157, 159  
Harrison, Luther: 140  
Harrogata, TN: 267  
Hart, Maxey: 104  
Hartness, Fran: 280  
Haskell, Charles N.: 11, 12, 17, 18, 29  
Hastings, J.F.: 109  
Hastings, Sue Ann: 325  
Hastings, W.W.: 19  
Hatch, Farrell: 279  
Hatchett, C.C.: 11, 221-223  
Hatchett, Jesse Mercer: 10, 11, 13, 14, 16  
Hatley, A.B.: 150  
Hatley, George B.: 150  
Hawkins, W.O.: 261  
Hayes, Coleman: 143, 144, 151  
Hayes, Jack: 98  
Hayes, V.B.: 111, 126  
Haygood, Mary: 151  
Haynes, Harold: 104, 113  
Haynes, Helen: 104  
Haynes, Nelle: 67  
Haynie, Opal: 172  
Heard, Suzanne: 281  
Heath, Kenneth: 300  
Helbach, Joe: 109  
Helbach, Karl: 88, 97, 109

Helbach, Rudolph: 62, 75, 84, 85, 88, 97  
Hemphill, Joe: 260  
Henderson-Brown College (Henderson State University): 149, 224  
Henderson, David: 300  
Hendricks, Monte: 323  
Hendricks, Ronnie: 282  
Hendrix, Mike: 318  
Henry, "Bulldog": 304  
Henry, George: 168  
Henthorn, Barbara: 318  
Herod, Miriam: 33  
Hess, Julianna: 206  
Hewitt, Henry: 157  
Hewitt, Ruth: 172  
Hibbs, Leon — 328; Administration of: 329-333  
Hicks, Jewel: 126, 139  
Higgenbotham, Dorothy: 300  
Hill, Fred: 151  
Hill, Leon: 300  
Hill, Raymond: 157  
Hillsboro, TX: 106  
Hinshaw, Elihu B.: 21, 24, 26, 29, 37  
Hockaday, Ela: 33, 112, 228  
Hockaday School for Girls: 228  
Hodge, Oliver: 275  
Holden, Marilyn: 302  
Holder, Sandra: 300, 306  
Holder, Te Loa: 300, 302, 306  
Holderfield, Jim: 324  
Holes, J.R.: 175  
Holford, Dean: 300  
Holisso—First notation of: 51; 72, 79  
Hollers, Anna Jo: 280  
Holloway, William J.: 159, 169, 170, 175, 201  
Holmes, Jack: 126  
Holstine, Carol: 318  
Holt, Adolphus: 138  
Holt, Burt: 188  
Honts, Frank: 157, 159  
Honts, John: 168, 170  
Hopettes: 151, 155  
Horn, Mildred: 206  
Hornuff, Lothar: 295  
Hot Springs, AR: 224  
Houston, Thomas A.: 206, 215, 229, 261, 299  
Howard County, MO: 180  
Huber, Oma Lee: 147  
Huddleston, E.B.: 15  
Hudson, L.A.: 304  
Hugo: 63, 73, 90, 102, 130, 159, 213, 225  
Hugo Public Schools: 24

Hulse, Lois: 144  
Human, Ola: 67, 143  
Hunnicut, Paul: 199, 205  
Hunt, Gertrude: 33  
Hunt, Jackie: 323  
Hunter, Thomas: 80  
Hunziker, John: 286, 319  
Hutchins, Lee: 126  
Hutton, Linda: 301, 302  
Hutton, Pat: 301, 306  
Hynds, F.P.: 122  
Isaacs, J.D.: 112, 115, 116  
Jackson, Alfred: 172  
Jackson, Clyde: 320  
Jackson County: 80  
Jackson, Kathryn: 135, 136  
Jackson, Sam: 164  
James, Mrs. Ollie: 173, 174  
James, Ollie, Jr.: 240  
Jarrell, Howard: 88, 89, 98, 104, 113, 116  
Jarrell, Lois: 67, 88, 110  
Jarrell, Marguerite: 127  
Jarrell, Mrs. Howard: 197  
Jefferson County: 65  
Jenkins, Clarice: 88  
Jennings, Al: 39  
Johnson, Bernice: 295  
Johnson, Bruce: 295, 318  
Johnson, Byrde: 113  
Johnson, Grady: 113, 142  
Johnson, Harry Bill: 280, 283  
Johnson, L.F.: 199  
Johnson, Louis G.: 295, 319, 321  
Johnson, Merle: 206  
Johnson, Randy: 295  
Johnson, Steve: 295  
Johnson, Weaver: 52  
Johnson, Willoughby: 143, 151, 158  
Johnston, C.L.: 126  
Johnston County: 23, 114  
Johnston, Henry S.: 169, 174, 179, 200  
Johnston, Parkie: 303  
Jolly, Mrs. P.Y.: 297  
Jones, Cecile: 204  
Jones, Don: 301  
Jones, Gary: 324  
Jones, Gene: 260  
Jones, Jerry: 323  
Jones, William: 67  
Jones, Winnie: 279  
KSEO: 262  
KXII: 320  
Kansas City, KS: 150, 229, 260  
Kappa Delta Pi: 173

Katy Bell: 281, 282  
 Katy Railroad: 2, 3, 5, 7, 16, 17, 19  
 Kaufman, Kenneth C.: 33  
 Kelley, Ottis: 157  
 Kelley, Patricia: 325  
 Kelsey, S.H.: 56  
 Kennamer, Jan: 300, 303  
 Kennedy, Calvin: 285  
 Kennedy, Leon: 280, 283  
 Kenner, JoAnn: 280  
 Kerr, Robert S.: 129, 235, 248, 297  
 Kersey, Harley: 205  
 Kilpatrick, Anne: 295  
 Kilpatrick, Cheryl: 318  
 Kilpatrick, Earl: 294, 312, 321  
 Kimbriel, Hardy: 151  
 Kimbriel, Harry: 144, 147, 158, 313  
 Kindle, Walter: 158  
 King, H.C.: 42  
 King, Stephen: 206  
 Kingston: 64, 131  
 Kinyo, John: 283  
 Kirby, Lester: 172  
 Kirksville, MO: 101  
 Kizer, Arthur: 172  
 Knapp, Bradford: 175  
 Korenek, Leonard: 282  
 Kovaciny, Cathryn: 318  
 Krattiger, John T.: 289, 296, 312  
 Kroeker, Marvin: 192, 193  
 Krumtum, J.C.M.: 65  
 Kurian, T.J.: 325  
 Ladonia, MO: 101  
 LaGrave, Anne: 195  
 Laird, Mildred: 195  
 Laird, Paul E.: 33, 34, 44, 45, 61, 62, 65, 66, 68, 69, 73, 74, 76, 85-87, 96, 102, 103, 124, 125, 135, 137, 154, 162, 192, 204, 207, 230  
 Lambert, Walter: 136  
 Lance, J.F.: 124  
 Landreth, Carry: 275, 303, 325  
 Lane, Joy: 301  
 Langham, Tommy: 282  
 Latham, James: 295  
 Latimer County: 65  
 Laughlin, Joe: 172, 191  
 Laurence, Helen: 151  
 Lawrence, John: 126  
 LeFlore County: 65, 73, 80  
 LeVan, Hershel: 170  
 Leach, Katy: 300, 304  
 Leake, Dorothy: 286, 292, 293  
 Leavell, Ullin: 286  
 Leavenworth, KS: 53  
 Ledford, Florence: 162  
 Lee, Fon: 103, 113

Leecraft, Frank: 108  
 LeFlore County: 65, 73, 80  
 Leister, Dennis: 164  
 Leman, Dale: 297  
 Leonard, Barbara: 300  
 Leonard, Claude: 191  
 Leonard, John: 88  
 Leonard, Lucy: 135, 158, 161, 197, 256  
 Leonard, Sallie: 123, 125, 126, 243  
 Leonard, Walter: 191  
 LeVan, Hershel: 170  
 Levine, Harry: 39  
 Lewis, Grady: 104  
 Lewis, Ina: 52  
 Lewis, Ken: 261, 283  
 Lewis, LaVon: 300  
 Lewis, Lee: 205  
 Lewis, Pearl: 228  
 Lewis, Willis: 151  
 Lieber, Fritz: 189  
 Lincoln Memorial University: 267  
 Lincoln Ward School: 210  
 Lindale, TX: 150  
 Linscheid, Adolph: 73, 99, 120, 121, 227, 228, 261  
 Little Rock, AR: 3  
 Lively, Morns U.: 75, 76, 89, 110  
 Livingston County, KY: 93  
 Lloyd, W.J.B.: 7  
 Locke, Charles: 243  
 Locke, Vivian: 207  
 Logan, John W.: 273  
 Lone Grove High Schmol: 210  
 Long, Ronald Gene: 318  
 Louisiana State Teachers College: 168, 173  
 Love County: 23, 65  
 Lovelace, Leona: 172  
 Lowry, Fred: 172  
 Lowry, Fred, Jr.: 164  
 Lucas, Joe **Bob** 229  
 Luse, Eugene: 320  
 Lutes, Fred: 164  
 Lyday, Edna: 120  
 Lyday, Florice: 147  
 Lyrly, GA: 266  
 Lynn, Buster: 198  
 Lynn, Harold: 321  
 Lysaught, Jay: 324  
 Mackey, Ruth: 104  
 Mackin, Cecil: 113, 118, 120, 127  
 Mackin, Ina: 103  
 Macon, GA: 267  
 Maddox, Madge: 306  
 Madill: 41, 42, 64, 73, 233  
 Mahoney, L.D.: 260, 283  
 Malone, Hal: 149

Mangrum, C.W.: 324  
 Mangum: 203  
 Margrave, Virginia: 172  
 Marietta: 21, 24, 26, 63, 93  
 Marks, M.R.: 143  
 Marland, Ernest W.: 209, 211, 212, 215, 221  
 Marsh, Jerry: 306  
 Marshall County: 23, 65, 114  
 Marshall, Gibson: 159  
 Martin, Don: 302  
 Martin, Mike: 324  
 Martin, Raymond: 163, 164, 205  
 Martin, Roy: 164  
 Mason, Wilma: 104  
 Massey, John: 296  
 Matthews, Hal: 104, 106, 113, 116  
 Matthews, Taylor: 164  
 Maxwell, Harold K.: 51, 52  
 Maxwell, Maude: 163  
 May, Beverly: 306  
 May, Lou Ellen: 261  
 May, Lucretia: 300  
 Maytubby, Dudley: 113  
 McAlester: 45, 63, 142, 261  
 McAlister, Wade: 104  
 McBride, William: 164  
 McCain, Charley: 39  
 McCain, Jerry: 302  
 McCain, John: 300  
 McCarley, Howard 293-295  
 McCarthy, Joe: 269, 270, 276  
 McCarty, Hound 166  
 McCarty, Mattie D.: 141  
 McCash, LN.: 142  
 McClain, Bill: 282  
 McClellan, Theo: 163, 164  
 McClendon, Max: 279  
 McClendon, Veda: 172  
 McCollum, Robert: 113, 115  
 McCord, Reece: 198  
 McCracken, T.C.: 173  
 McCreary, John: 304  
 McCurtain County: 16, 65  
 McDonald, John A.: 220, 223  
 McFarland, Albert: 109  
 McGee, Pete: 300  
 McGovern, Troyce: 321  
 McGowan, Mike: 318  
 McGuire, Connie: 322  
 McIntire, Carl: 157, 159, 161, 168, 229  
 McIntire, Forrest 228  
 McIntire, Helen: 147, 157  
 McIntosh County: 65  
 McIntosh, J.T.: 100, 107, 119  
 McKean, Edith: 72

McKinney, Alice: 33, 88, 113  
 McKinney, B.A.: 119  
 McKinney, Camille: 104  
 McKinney, Doris: 140  
 McKinney, Elizabeth: 104  
 McKinney, Hallie: 33, 34, 118, 131, 148, 161, 165, 185, 186, 256, 273  
 McKinney, J.R.: 11, 119, 126  
 McKinney, Raymond: 240  
 McKinzie, Henry: 303  
 McKinzie, Phil: 280  
 McLaughlin, Verna: 151  
 McMahan, Gertrude: 113  
 McMahan, Lucy: 113, 120  
 McNeeley, Bill: 39  
 McPherren, Charles E.: 107  
 McReynolds, E.C.: 274  
 McVay, Tommy: 324  
 Melson, Arlie: 318  
 Melson, Bascom: 281  
 Menefee, J.A.: 19  
 Mercer University: 267  
 Metcalf, Branson: 324  
 Mikkelsen, Freia: 204  
 Miller, Frances: 172  
 Miller, Joe J.: 115, 120  
 Miller, Sandra: 300  
 Milligan, James: 315  
 Mills, Billy: 279  
 Minter, Kirby: 260, 283  
 Mississippi A & M: 8  
 Mississippi College: 173  
 Missouri State Normal at Kirksville: 101  
 Miteh, John L.: 20  
 Moberly, MO: 180  
 Montgomery, George: 233  
 Montgomery, Jo Anne: 233  
 Montgomery, John Q.: 243  
 Montgomery, Phil: 233  
 Montgomery, Sally Tucker: 233  
 Montgomery, T.T. — Administration of: 133, 233-263; 266, 273, 274  
 Moore, Charles F.: 240  
 Moore, Deuger: 112, 115, 120  
 Moore, Marcus Egbert — Administration of: 21-54; 58, 91, 130, 160  
 Moore, Marvin: 198  
 Moore, Prentiss: 97, 109, 115  
 Moore, Richard: 243  
 Morales, Jorge: 308  
 Morehead, Opal: 112  
 Moreland, Geraldine: 172  
 Morgan, R.J.: 80  
 Morgan, William: 109  
 Morris, Bronaugh: 206



Morris, George B.: 33  
 Morris, J.S.: 11  
 Morris, Jessie: 172  
 Morris, John W.: 243  
 Morris, Moran: 241, 243  
 Morris, Ralph L.: 240  
 Morrison, James: 113, 151, 286, 296, 313, 314, 320, 321  
 Morrison, Ross: 147  
 Morrison, W.B.: 20, 224  
 Morrow, Beulah: 113  
 Morrow, George: 300  
 Morrow, Lillian: 47, 52  
 Morrow, Tobe: 39  
 Morton, Ohland: 141, 157  
 Moseley, Ethel: 157, 159  
 Mosley, J.F.: 19  
 Mosley, John: 110, 228  
 Mueller, John: 273  
 Muldrew, Richard: 322  
 Mullins, Dorothy Bess: 245  
 Munson, Julia: 112, 155  
 Munwn, Naomi: 136, 141  
 Murdaugh, Edmund Dandridge — Administration of: 52-95; 113, 130, 160  
 Murray, Johnston: 271  
 Murray, Sally: 304, 306  
 Murray State College: 86, 141, 149, 150, 154, 171  
 Murray, William H.: 201, 202, 204, 237, 271  
 Nagle, L. Marshall: 286  
**Na-Na-No-Wa**: 125  
 Nash, M.A.: 133, 152, 160, 228, 273  
 Nashville, AR: 171  
 Nashville, TN: 225, 236, 268  
 National Normal University: 93  
 Neeley, C.L.: 43  
 Neeley, Mrs. Edna: 297  
 Neeley, Nadine: 175  
 Neely, Margaret: 151  
 Nelson, Gerald: 241  
 Nelson, Gertrude: 67  
 Nelson, M.B.: 320  
 Nettles, Billy: 301  
 New Hope, AR: 129  
 New, Jane: 300  
 Newlon, Jesse: 191  
 Newman, Charlotte: 303  
 Newman, Porter: 119  
 Nichols, Mary: 300  
 Nix, Sharon: 306  
 Nixon, Mel: 301  
 Nixon, Melburn: 295  
 Nixon, Rucline: 229  
 Nixon, Rudene: 229

Nobles, Harry: 85  
 Nobles, Scotty: 261  
 Noel, Ray: 306  
 Nolen, Bess: 47, 67, 88  
 Nolen, Bryan: 104, 220, 228  
 Nolen, Don: 261  
 Nolen, Irma: 136  
 Nolen, Mabel: 41  
 Normal Board of Regents: 19, 20, 25, 41, 49  
 Norman: 63, 109, 120, 159  
 Norman, L.B.: 297  
 Norman, Wade: 299  
 North Central Association: 171, 236, 250, 251, 295  
 North Texas State University (Denton Normal): 88, 104, 144, 168, 173  
 Northeastern Oklahoma Junior College: 228  
 Northeastern State University (State College, State Teachers, Normal): 46, 61, 76, 81, 86, 109, 117, 141, 143, 159, 168, 173, 203, 223, 237, 273, 281  
 Northwestern Oklahoma State University (State College, State Teachers, Normal): 9, 10, 26, 57, 76, 98, 120, 150, 167  
 Notre Dame: 300  
 Nutter, Dan: 280  
 Oakes, F.C.: 98  
 O'Banion, Ruth: 135  
 Ogden, Ben: 157, 159  
 Ohio Northern University: 93  
 Ohio University: 173  
 Oklahoma Baptist University (College): 67, 141, 149, 152, 172, 227  
 Oklahoma City: 13, 19, 20, 49, 52, 58, 60, 65, 72-75, 80, 83, 91, 106, 109, 124, 126, 139, 169, 211, 216  
 Oklahoma City College (Oklahoma City University): 39, 149, 152, 166, 172, 205  
 Oklahoma College for Women: 228  
 Oklahoma — Definition of: 1  
 Oklahoma Education Association: 233  
 Oklahoma Indian Territory: 3.5, 7, 11, 12, 55, 143, 307  
 Oklahoma Military College: 228  
 Oklahoma Presbyterian College: 20, 24, 42, 153, 224, 307-310, 326  
 Oklahoma Presbyterian College Cardinals: 204, 265  
 Oklahoma School of Mines: 141  
 Oklahoma State University (A & M College): 3, 55-57, 81, 82, 97, 131, 175, 176, 211, 212, 224, 225, 232, 235, 286, 293

Oklahoma Territory: 5, 19, 55  
 Okmulgee: 179, 180, 323  
 Orr, M.G.: 193, 228  
 Ouachita Baptist College, AR: 86, 129, 141, 259  
 Owens, Helen: 279  
 Palmer, Oscar: 67, 88, 97, 103  
 Parham, Don: 260, 295, 312, 324  
 Parker, A.M.: 157  
 Parker, Cora: 52  
 Parker, Jack T.: 243  
 Parkhill, Bob: 322  
 Parks, Joe: 172  
 Parrish, William: 173  
 Parsons, Andrew Clarkson: 33  
 Paskorz, Steve: 282  
 Patterson, John: 232  
 Patton, L.T.: 242  
 Paullin, Anna: 47, 88  
 Pauls Valley: 51, 63  
 Pearson, Annie: 33  
 Pendleton, Bernice: 104, 113  
 Pendleton, Irene: 113  
 Pendleton, Norma: 144, 151  
 Pendleton, W.F.: 119, 126  
 Penn, Howard: 301  
 Penn State Teachers College: 260  
 Pettey, Sue: 67, 88, 97  
 Petty, Clara: 41  
 Phelps, Pat: 296, 304, 324  
 Phillips, Buenos: 103, 104  
 Phillips, Faye: 172  
 Phillips, John Allen: 206  
 Phillips, Leon: 203, 232, 233, 235, 237, 246  
 Phillips University: 142, 149, 156, 167, 202  
 Phlam, George H.: 206  
 Pickard, Frank: 279  
 Pierce, Alden: 163  
 Pierce, Guy: 279  
 Piller, Raymond: 274, 321  
 Pinkerton, Harry: 156, 166  
 Pirtle, Consuela: 97  
 Pittsburg County: 65  
 Plunkett, Maurice: 199, 206  
 Polk, R.L.: 6  
 Pollard, Leon: 243  
 Polytech College of Ft. Worth, TX: 48  
 Ponca City: 195  
 Pontotoc County: 15  
 Pool, Archie: 157, 159, 168  
 Pool, L.B.: 243  
 Pool, Sam: 271  
 Pool, Sam L.: 299, 300  
 Poole, Mabelle: 67  
 Posey, Hugh Vance — Administration of: 223-234; 236, 268

Posey, Mary: 225  
 Pottawatomie County: 77  
 Potts, Charles: 303  
 Poulter, Rowland: 39  
 Pounders, Frank: 261  
 Powers, Pat: 321  
 Powers, R.E.: 95  
 Pratt, Myrtle: 151  
 Presley, Dick: 304  
 Prewitt, Max: 261, 283  
 Price, Frank: 39  
 Price, Jerald: 324  
 Price, Lena W.: 197  
 Pritchett, Lafayette: 125  
 Proffitt, Edward F.: 33  
 Props, John L.: 299  
 Pruitt, Bonnie Mae: 135  
 Pruitt, H.C.: 167  
 Purdy, Alfred: 136  
 Purdy, Ethel: 104  
 Pushmataha County: 65  
 Pyrum, Phyllis: 299  
 Quincy, Ross: 136  
 Radasinovich, Rade: 321  
 Rae, Eleanor: 172  
 Raines, Floyd: 172  
 Rainey, Hattie: 33, 97  
 Rains, Stanley: 301  
 Rains, Willie: 123  
 Rainwater, Freddy: 303  
 Ralls, J.G.: 107  
 Ramazetti, Betty Scott: 245  
 Ramsey, Clairene: 229  
 Ramsey, O.L.: 198, 205, 214  
 Rand, Phyllis: 318  
 Randall, Lillian: 151  
 Rape, Larry: 300  
 Rappolee, Piggy: 166  
 Ratliff, E.S.: 15  
 Reaves, Morns: 282  
 Reavis, Nita: 304  
 Red Red Rose Society: 133, 134, 179  
 Reece, J.T.: 228  
 Reed, Fred: 206  
 Reed, J.T.: 228  
 Reeves, Dorothy: 163  
 Reid, Frank: 157, 159  
 Reigh, Darryel: 318  
 Renick, Roderick: 120  
 Reynolds, Annie: 47  
 Reynolds, Edith: 113  
 Reynolds, Stella: 113, 135, 136  
 Rhea, Tom: 314  
 Richards, C.N.: 77  
 Richmond, Curtis: 324  
 Riddle, Bill: 300  
 Riddle, Jesse: 306

Riley, Lewis: 62, 63  
Riling, J.T.: 228  
Riling, Mildred: 243, 320  
Ripey, W.P.: 59  
Risner, A.C.: 19  
Ritchey, Haydee: 123, 127  
Ritchey, Mary: 66, 110  
Ritchey, Thelma: 123, 127  
Rivers, Florence: 104  
Roach, Will: 109  
Roberts, Darryl: 324  
Roberts, Otto: 149  
Roberts, Robert: 149, 158  
Roberts, Sam: 158  
Robertson, J.B.A.: 126, 145, 146, 160  
Robinson, Jack: 299, 325  
Robinson, Mary Nell: 280  
Robinson, Rosa: 140, 141, 147, 151  
Robison, Amy: 309  
Roblyer, Carl: 242  
Rockville Academy: 267  
Roddie, Reuben M.: 11  
Roemer, Steve: 324  
Rogers County: 78  
Rogers, Don: 85  
Rogers, Will: 228  
Rogers, William: 104  
Roling, Mattie Sue: 229  
Roosevelt, Eleanor: 218, 221  
Roosevelt, Franklin D.: 7, 207, 217, 218, 239, 242  
Roosevelt, Theodore: 8  
Rose, Mike: 300  
Ross, A.F.: 11  
Ross, Margaret Fuller: 206  
Rountree, Richard: 324  
Rowland, Charles: 161  
Rulon, Philip Reed: 57, 92, 131, 134, 176  
Russell, Boyd: 191  
Russell, Buna: 172  
Russell High School: 173  
Russell, James: 170  
Russell, James Earl: 141  
Rutherford, Richard: 323  
Rye, Howard: 279  
Ryle, Jesse A.: 33  
Ryle, Walter: 104  
Sailors, Leonard: 191  
Sallisaw: 203  
Sammons, Gail: 300  
Sample, Dwight, Jr.: 164  
Sample, Margaret: 172  
Sample, Sandra: 304  
Sampson, C.B.: 241  
Sandefur, Laurabelle: 304  
Sanders, Gerald: 161

Sanguin, Polly: 302, 304  
Sapulpa: 175  
Satterlee, F.N.: 303  
Sauls, Laudy: 39  
Savage Forensic Debate Tournament: 206  
Savages-Origin of: 143  
Scarborough, Gay: 120  
Schell, Clara: 172  
Schenk, Waldo: 67  
Schilz, Sylviagene: 280  
Schoonover, Floy: 135, 136  
Schreiner, Max: 136  
Schuler, Cooper: 113, 116  
Schuler, James L.: 19, 39, 78  
Schuster, Elaine: 315  
Scott, Joe: 228  
Semple, Anne: 286, 307, 308, 319, 320  
Semple, Mrs. W.F.: 297  
Severance, A.L.: 11, 47  
Severance, Cal: 104  
Severance, Gladys: 109  
Sexton, Bill: 141  
Sexton, Ruth: 151, 152  
Sexton, Tommy: 164  
Shannon, Edfred: 136  
Shannon, Landles: 147, 151, 152  
Shannon, Stella Dee: 165, 172, 173  
Shannon, Thompson: 173  
Shaver, Jim: 285  
Shaw, Otto: 144  
Shaw, Ralph: 157, 163, 228  
Shawnee: 61, 63  
Shayne, C.G.: 126  
Shearer, Allen E.: 235, 236, 238, 239, 243, 244, 250-252; Administration of: 265-328  
Shearer, Mildred: 268, 269  
Sheridan, AR: 224  
Sherman High School: 47-49  
Sherman, TX: 18, 46, 103, 108, 202  
Shields, Bill: 324  
Shilling, B.D.: 170  
Shilling, Marvin: 89, 114  
Shipp, Jerry: 283  
Shull, Leo: 240  
Shull, Pearl: 155  
Shull, Serge: 151  
Shumate, Maude Chenaulty: 203  
Shumate, Wade Hampton — Administration of: 202-209  
Shumate, Wahlelu Maude: 203  
Silver, Wayne H.: 286  
Simmons College: 159, 168  
Simmons, Jerry: 300  
Sitting Bulls: 172

Sivells, J.W.: 164  
Skipworth, Walter: 240  
Slack, Katie Frank: 295  
Slater, MO: 180  
Slaughter, Eugene: 163-165, 190, 216, 243, 286, 289, 290  
Slaughter, Eugene "Gene", Jr.: 299, 300, 319, 321  
Smiley, Blake: 323  
Smiley, Pat: 323  
Smith, Andy: 154  
Smith, Clyde: 323, 324  
Smith, E.L.: 228  
Smith, George: 302  
Smith, Gorman: 261  
Smith, H.H.: 77, 78  
Smith, Kathryn: 151  
Smith, Mabel: 297  
Smith, Meda: 66  
Smith, Sandra: 304  
Smith, Vera: 164  
Smith, William Walker: 325  
Smoyer, Dan: 159  
Sneed, George: 206  
Snell, Vernon: 313  
Soper: 224  
*Southeastern*: 156  
*Southeastern Gazette*: 125  
*Southeastern Normalite*: 38  
Southeastern Oklahoma State College — Naming of: 234, 235  
Southeastern Oklahoma State Teachers College — Naming of: 139, 140  
Southeastern Oklahoma State University — Creation of: 1-20  
Southeastern State Normal-History of: 1-139  
Southern Illinois University: 323  
Southern Methodist University: 110, 125, 141, 150  
Southern Normal University of Tennessee: 21  
Southern University, Greensboro, AL: 8  
Southwestern Oklahoma State University (State College, State Teachers Normal): 9, 10, 26, 120, 124, 156, 166, 167, 230, 232  
Spangler, J.L.: 80  
Spangler, Jim: 300  
Spear, Irene: 172  
Spears, Ed L.: 126  
Spencer, Buddy: 279, 281, 284  
Spivey, James: 283  
Sprague, Elmer: 148

Sprogue, James R.: 297  
Squaws: 172  
Stafford, Phyllis: 279  
Stallings, Juadina: 261  
Stanley, Wayne: 172  
State Board of Affairs: 19, 37, 138, 139  
State Board of Education: 12, 21, 52, 59, 62, 91, 93, 100, 101, 105-107, 110, 111, 116, 138, 144, 160, 161, 179, 211, 218-222, 224, 232, 233  
State Department of Education: 170  
Statesboro, GA: 268  
Steed, Fannye Marie: 112  
Steel, John R.: 243  
Steger Lumber Company: 50  
Stevens County: 65  
Stephenson, Aubrey: 172  
Stephenson, Carrie May: 88, 97, 104  
Stephenson, Ruby: 47  
Stephenson, W.F.: 164  
Stevens, Dave: 191, 242, 243, 259, 282  
Stewart, Arthur: 261  
Stewart, Dan: 63, 75, 76, 110  
Stewart, Elizabeth: 163  
Stewart, James C.: 240  
Stewart, Margeret: 151  
Stewart, W.P.: 50  
Stillwater: 55, 56, 131, 175, 176, 214, 224  
Stinson, Larry: 324  
Stinson, Moon: 261  
Stinson, Ruth: 47  
Stoddard, Betty: 301  
Stone, S.W.: 126  
Story, R.F.: 119, 126  
Stout, Julia E.: 136, 155, 158  
Stovall, David: 169  
Stricklen, Robert: 157  
Stroup, Fred, Jr.: 299  
Stuart, Georgia: 135  
Sturch, Ernest: 286, 293, 299, 312, 321, 322  
Sullivan, Bloomer: 205, 231, 242, 260, 275, 283, 324  
Sullivan, Sam: 209, 219  
Sulphur: 37  
Summerall, Robert: 172  
Sutton, Marcheta: 279  
Swearengin, Rector: 187, 255, 257, 273, 326  
Sweeney, Mike: 304  
Tabor, Marvin: 229  
Tahlequah: 14, 46, 61, 75, 76, 81, 86, 89, 109  
Tallahassee, FL: 267, 268  
Tate, Hazel: 157

Tatman, Clarice: 163  
Taylor, Dale: 240, 241  
Taylor, Joe: 304  
Taylor, John: 321  
Taylor, Maryln: 281  
Taylor, Roy: 104, 113, 115, 116  
Taylor, Terry: 302, 303  
Texarkana, AR: 130  
Texas Baptist College: 48  
Texas Christian University: 116, 121, 141, 203  
Texas Road: 4  
Texas Wesleyan: 113  
*The Savage Magazine*: 191  
*The Savage-Origin* of: 175, 262  
*The Southeastern-Origin* of: 146  
Thomas, John: 300  
Thomas, Pete: 113  
Thomas, Quentin: 302  
Thomas, Robert: 322, 323  
Thomas, Tommy: 300, 304  
Thomason, Butch: 324  
Thomason, Leonard Wells: 75, 76  
Thomason, W.A.: 110  
Thompson, Green: 126  
Thompson, Marion Zacheus: 203  
Thurman, Mae: 157  
Thurston, Frederick Payne: 63  
Timmons, Nathaniel: 198  
Tioga, TX: 202  
Tipton, Clifford: 199  
Tishomingo: 50, 63, 188  
Tishomingo A & M (Murray State College): 86  
Tomme, Buddy: 282  
Tompkins, R.R.: 137  
Tong, Mark: 299  
Tonkawa University Preparatory School: 92  
Townsend, Aaron: 302  
Townsend, Carol: 123  
Townsend, Carroll: 164  
Townsend, Don: 282  
Trahan, Dennis: 324  
Trammell, C.B.: 286, 319  
Trap, M.E.: 160  
Treadaway, Bertha Mae: 284  
Trent, Bessie: 33  
Trent, Bob: 273, 297  
Trent, Mark: 63  
Trenton, MO: 180  
Tricklin, Peggy: 151  
Truby, Dorothy: 163, 165, 195  
Truby, Hermine: 104, 172, 175  
Trumble, Ernest: 286, 313, 320  
Tucker, Tommy: 301-303

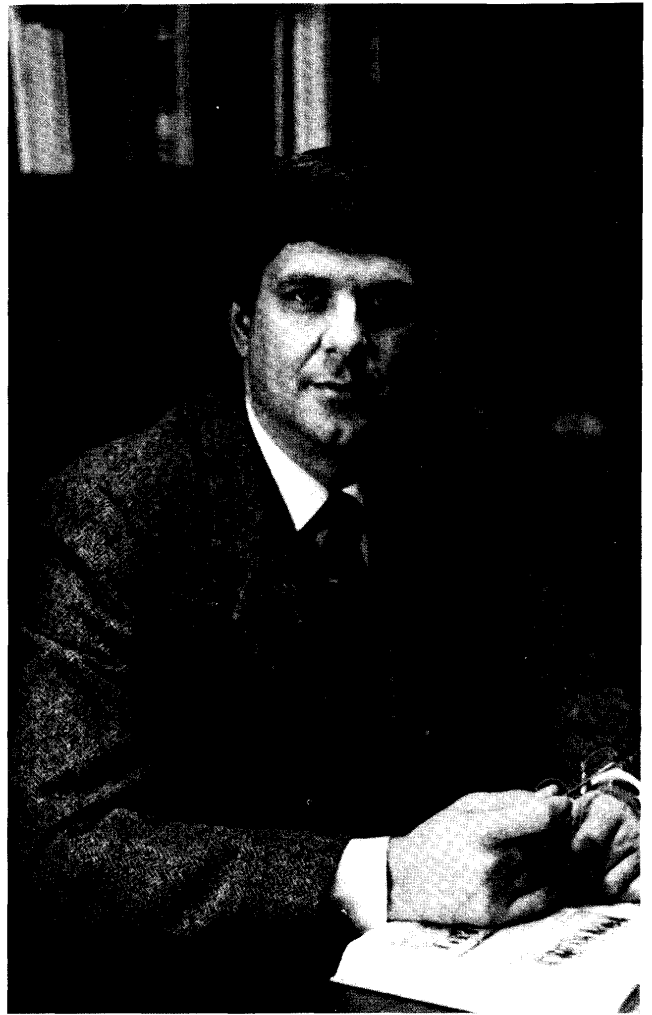
Tudor, H.O.: 119  
Tulsa: 149  
Turk, Sue: 151  
Turnbull, Jim: 300  
Turnbull, Walter T.: 126  
Turner, Roy J.: 255  
Twenty-Five Expansion Club (Chamber of Commerce): 103, 106, 111  
Tyree, Cotton: 141  
Tyree, Houston: 150  
Tyree, Joanna: 151, 157  
Tyree, Woodson: 136  
U.S. Military Academy: 261  
USS Oklahoma: 242  
Uniontown, AL: 55  
University of Arkansas: 47  
University of California: 154  
University of Chicago: 202  
University of Houston: 300  
University of Iowa: 165  
University of Kansas: 21  
University of Mississippi: 8  
University of Missouri: 295  
University of Oklahoma: 8, 33, 41, 50, 51, 81, 82, 99, 110, 113, 115, 119, 159, 167, 203, 221, 234, 282, 285, 286, 293  
University of Southern California: 228  
University of Texas: 10  
University of Tulsa: 149, 323  
University of Virginia: 55, 92  
University of Wyoming: 167  
Utterback, Priscilla: 140, 144, 151, 152, 155, 159  
Utterback, William Elbert: 8, 11  
Vanderbilt University: 285  
Van Dyke, Susan: 280  
Vansickle, Archie: 324  
Vaughan, John S.: 114, 131, 154, 161, 169, 170, 179, 216, 223, 228, 232  
Vaughan, Martha Lou: 204, 206  
Veatch, Earle: 197  
Wagner, Eugenia: 113  
Wair, Beulah: 41  
Waits, E.M.: 121  
Walker, Arnold: 295, 321  
Wallace, Juanita: 195  
Wallace, Yuca: 151  
Wallbaum, Janis: 318  
Wallender, Honest: 136, 141  
Walters, Mary: 300  
Walton, J.C.: 151, 153  
Wann, Elsie: 88, 104  
Wann, Grady: 70, 85, 87, 88  
Ward, Lloyd: 164, 172  
Washington, Bertha: 69  
Washington Irving School: 20

Watson, Stanley: 164  
Watts, Jack: 300  
Weast, Tommy: 282  
Weatherford: 9, 10, 26, 124, 156  
Webb, Troy: 260  
Webster, Nan: 303  
Weith, C.C.: 52  
Welborn, Claude: 295  
Welsh, Gladys: 121  
Wentz, Lew H.: 195  
Wesleyan College, Macon, GA: 117, 119  
West, Lena: 63  
West, Norman: 323  
West, Tony: 324  
Westbrook, Paul: 324  
Wharton, Frances: 172  
Wheeler, J.L.: 240  
White, Alvin: 295, 318, 319, 321  
White, James: 243  
White, Opal: 172  
Whitehead, M.C.: 240  
Whiteman, Buddy: 303  
Whitewright, TX: 310  
Whitfill, Don: 299, 325  
Wickham, M.M.: 118  
Wilburton School of Mines: 86, 191  
Wiley, Paul: 298, 299  
Willite, William: 157, 159  
Wilkie, Oscar: 300  
Wilkinson, Bud: 282  
William & Mary College: 55, 56, 92  
William, Charlotte: 300, 325  
Williams, Daryl: 104  
Williams, David L.: 253  
Williams, Dorothy Hammond: 245  
Williams, Earle: 167  
Williams, Jay: 301  
Williams, Lou Ann: 318  
Williams, Myra: 69, 75  
Williams, Pauline: 281  
Williams, Robert L.: 8, 11, 52, 90, 100, 101, 108, 123, 160  
Williams, Robert: 151  
Williams, Ruth Crowley: 245  
Williams, Sharon: 318  
Williams, Vera: 97, 103  
Williams, W.S.: 126

Williamson, Roxye: 97, 104  
Willingham, John: 286  
Wilmouth, Bob: 322  
Wilmouth, Gene: 323  
Wilson, R.H.: 52, 95, 96, 100, 134  
Windes, Kenneth: 150, 159  
Windes, Russell: 144  
Winfrey, Evelyn: 144  
Winters, N.E.: 57  
Wirt: 210  
Witt, Brennon: 149, 150, 155, 156, 158, 166, 172  
Womack, Ruth: 164  
Womble, Warren: 261  
Wood, Dale: 300, 304  
Wood, Emmeretta: 113, 136  
Wood, George: 300  
Wood, Judy: 306  
Wood, Sandy Glaze: 306  
Woodward: 57  
Woodward, W.G.: 79-82  
Work, Isabel: 52  
Work, Rozelle: 204  
Wright, Allen: 1  
Wright, Houston: 161, 228  
Wright, James: 157  
Wright, Mariel: 286  
Wright, Ronnie: 301, 304  
Yarborough, Vendel: 172  
Yarborough, James: 105  
Yarborough, LaVer: 105, 109, 113  
Yarborough, Max: 283, 322  
Yates, Pearl: 47  
Yates, Wilma: 136  
Yates, Zayon: 88  
Yeager, Cole: 104  
Yerion, Joe: 41, 110  
Yost, Cheryl: 318  
Young-Harris College: 266, 269  
Young, Tillie Frances: 147, 151  
Youree, Gary: 318  
Zahendani, Abdol Hossain: 310  
Zaneis, Kate Galt — Administration of: 209-222, 224, 232, 235  
Zink, Lee: 318  
Zinnecker, Charles: 172, 191

*About the Author. . . .*

L. David Norris is Professor of History at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He is a graduate of Southern Arkansas University (B.A.), Arkansas State University (M.A.), and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (Ph.D.). On the doctoral level, he specialized in American and Spanish-American colonial history. Norris is a contributing author of a volume compiled by Dr. David Bushnell of the University of Florida entitled *Republic of the Two Floridas*. He has served as assistant editor and book review editor of the *Red River Valley Historical Journal*. He has contributed articles to historical quarterlies and has served on the board of various historical societies. He is married to Patricia Henry Norris and has one daughter, Stephanie Lynn Norris.



L. David Norris