

PAYNE COUNTY

# Historical Review



VOLUME VI

NUMBER 3

SPRING 1986

**Cover Photo:**

The students and faculty of Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College in 1900 pose in front of Old Central. Standing in front at the right of the front door, is President A. C. Scott. He is holding something in his hands. This picture, preserved by Mary Nielson Taylor of the class of 1903, shows the portico of Old Central with an elaborate metal railing. The class of 1903 were freshmen at the time, and about ninety of them are in the picture.

*Photo Courtesy of Dr. Berlin B. Chapman*

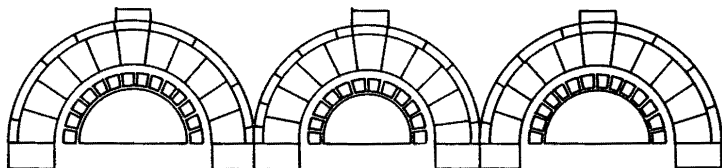
PAYNE COUNTY

# Historical Review

VOLUME VI

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*PAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY*

Ann Carlson, *Editor*  
Helen Matoy, *Assistant Editor*  
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### **Editorial Policy**

The *PAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL REVIEW* is published quarterly by the Payne County Historical Society. It is distributed without additional charge to members of the Payne County Historical Society. Single issues, when available, may be purchased at \$2.50 each.

The *PAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL REVIEW* welcomes reader's comments, news, or requests for information from readers. Family histories, memories, diaries, letters, histories or groups or institutions, articles, photographs, or maps are also welcome. No payment is made for articles published in the *REVIEW*.

Correspondence should be addressed to the Editor. The Society assumes no responsibility for statements made by contributors.



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## That Great Class of 1903

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*by R. Morton House*

The delightful story of one of the earliest classes at Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, the Class of 1903. Written in 1965, the story was published in the Winter 1966-67 issue of the Chronicles of Oklahoma. The version printed here is a combination of the original before editing as preserved by Dr. Berlin B. Chapman and the final published account. While diligent research shows that Mr. House's memory sometimes faltered, his story should remind us all of the need to record and preserve our own recollections.

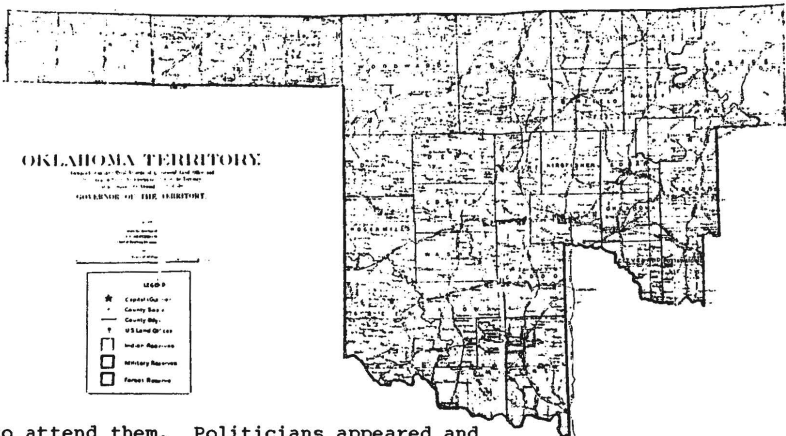
R. Morton House was the first Aggie to go with Westinghouse in Pittsburg and Niagara Falls. In 1907 he went to Pine Bluff, Arkansas, where he (in association with the YMCA in which he had great interest all his life) started an adult education program for employees of the Cotton Belt Railroad. In 1911, Mr. House returned to Bristow to take over the established family business, a farm implement company. The business failed during the Great Depression. In 1932, Mr. House returned to Stillwater and became the storekeeper for the Athletic Department. Mr. House died in 1969; he was almost ninety years old.

## That Great Class of 1903

There was an area about four times the size of Rhode Island, near the center of what was to be the state of Oklahoma, which was not assigned to Indians, called the "Unassigned Lands." Thousands of people over the nation, ever hungry for "free homesteads," forced Congress to authorize the opening of the "Unassigned Lands" for settlement by the Land Run of April 22, 1889. Thus, Oklahoma Territory was legally born.

The final size and shape of the territory was the combination of eight areas thrown open to settlement: the first on April 22, 1889; the eighth on August 6, 1901.

As the settlers in the later openings were enthusiastically extending the boundaries of the new territory, the first arrivals in the early openings were changing the land from immense, open, unclaimed prairies where buffalo had grazed at will, into 160 acre "claims" with dugouts, half-dugouts, sod houses, log cabins and an occasional one-room pine shanty, to be used as homes for homesteaders and their families. Almost immediately small towns sprang up with stores and business offices. Post offices were established and by the following fall a few schools were started in some of the homes by and for the few who could spare the time



to attend them. Politicians appeared and Courts and Legislatures were organized, and banks were built, commonly with only \$10,000 in capital stock. Even though the beginnings were small, business flourished.

Our first Territorial Governor, the Honorable George W. Steele from Indiana, was appointed by President Harrison, and he ordered our first census. Our citizens numbered 60,417, of whom 3,300 were Negroes. Soon the time-worn idea that, "To the victor, belong the spoils" was busily at work locating "political plums." Governor Steele vetoed a bill which would move the capitol from Guthrie to Oklahoma City, and in the turmoil which followed, the university was located in Norman, the normal school in Edmond, and the agricultural college in Stillwater.

As soon as it was finally determined that the Agricultural College was to be located in Stillwater, its citizens--a competitive, tenacious, sturdy group of

pioneers--accepted no interference as insurmountable. Not even waiting for a suitable building to be erected, they lost no time starting the A. & M. College by holding the first college classes in the First Congregational Church, on the corner of Sixth and Duncan Streets in Stillwater, on December 14, 1891. Then "Old Central" was built for \$14,948, under contract with H. Ryan on June 20, 1893.

During those rigorous pioneering days, homes were not bothered with incorrigible children nor were schools bothered with "drop-outs." Everybody had to work to keep things going. Most people now, have to work "to make a living." We not only had to do that, but we had to tame a wild country at the same time. There were no herds of beef cattle, and even milk cows were scarce. We had to raise corn to grind meal for our cornbread. Posts had to be split and fences built. Houses, barns and sheds had to be erected. Wells had to be dug or water hauled. Timber land had to be cleared, brush burned, and sod plowed. We had no cars, few buggies, and no phones, but we overlooked that for we had no time for visiting. All teenagers and even the younger children did as much adult work as was possible.

School, consisting of four or five months a year with all grades under one teacher in one room, was such a relief from the drudgery on the "claim" that pupils were glad to stay in school all they could. I remember teaching my second school in 1897. I taught five months for \$30.00 per month in a log schoolhouse, located three miles west of Arlington, Oklahoma. I was eighteen years old. We enjoyed a wonderful winter together even though our school program was badly interrupted by numerous absences for cotton-

picking, mumps, measles, and extra bad winter weather. We had 20 degrees below zero three days and harvested ice 6 1/4 inches thick from quiet over-flowed Deep Fork ponds.

In September of 1899, ten years after the first opening of land in Oklahoma Territory, forty-six girls and forty-nine boys enrolled as freshmen at the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College at Stillwater. Those ninety-five students came from fifty-one post offices across the land; one from Chicago; three from Missouri; one from Ohio; one from Texas; two from



Picture Courtesy of Special Collections, OSU Library

Class spirit was important to the early classes. The class of 1903 poses on the west steps of Old Central in 1901 when they were sophomores.

OKLAHOMA

Agricultural and Mechanical College

ANNUAL CATALOGUE, 1898-99

WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR 1899-1900

STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA.

College Calendar, 1899-1900

Entrance Examinations, Sept. 11-12.  
Fall Term begins Sept. 13; closes Dec. 20.  
Winter Term, begins Jan. 3; closes March 24.  
Spring Term, begins March 28; ends June 6.  
The usual holidays at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Washington's  
Birthday, Oklahoma Day and Decoration Day.

Kansas; one from South Carolina; and eighty-six from post offices in Oklahoma Territory. Many of these have since disappeared and been forgotten. Only thirty-one, a third of our freshman class of 1903, claimed Stillwater as their home.

The reputation attained by the Class of 1903 and the combined records of the members of that class were not surpassed by any other class at Oklahoma A. and M. College in the days of Oklahoma Territory.

## FACULTY.

ANGELO C. SCOTT, A. M., LL. M.  
President, and Professor of the English Language and Literature.

GEORGE L. HOLTER, B. S.  
Professor of Chemistry.

HARRY E. THOMPSON, B. S.  
Principal of Preparatory Department.

ERNEST E. BOGUE, M. S.  
Professor of Botany and Entomology.

LOWERY L. LEWIS, M. S., D. V. M.  
Professor of Zoology and Veterinary Science.

JOHN FIELDS, B. S.  
Director of Experiment Station, and Station Chemist.

RICHARD E. CHANDLER, M. E.  
Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Physics.

JAMES W. MEANS, B. S.  
Professor of Mathematics.

FRANK C. BURTIS, M. S.  
Professor of Agriculture and Horticulture.

MISS MAY OVERSTREET.  
Assistant in Preparatory Department.

OSCAR M. MORRIS, B. S.  
Instructor in Horticulture.

## OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

AUGUSTUS G. FORD, B. S.  
Assistant Station Chemist.

CARL A. BESSEY, A. B., B. S.  
Assistant in Mechanical Engineering.

KILLIS CAMPBELL, Ph. D.  
Assistant in the English Language and Literature, in charge of Latin and German.

MRS. ELLA L. STEVENSON.  
Instructor in Music.

MISS GEORGINA M. HOLT.  
Instructor in Stenography and Typewriting, and Official Stenographer.

FRANK D. NORTHUP.  
Superintendent of Printing Department, and Instructor in Printing.

HENRY M. HAND.  
Secretary.

(A Chair of History and Political Science is to be established and filled at the beginning of the fall term, 1908.)

When we arrived in Stillwater, we found three completed college buildings on the campus: Old Central; a stone Shops Building, standing where Gundersen Hall now stands; and a two-story brick Chemistry Building, straight west of Old Central, in the parking lot just east of the present Communications Building [Miller Journalism and Broadcasting]. The rear half of the Chemistry Building was occupied by the agricultural department and the experiment

station. Professor John Fields, who presided over the experiment station, later ran for Governor but lost the election to Jack Walton. The Chemistry Building was razed in 1936. The stone Shops Building housed the foundry, machine shop, electric laboratory and blacksmith shop on the ground floor, and the printing and physics departments, and the mechanical drawing room on the second floor. The present powerplant and engineering schools grew out of this Shops Building.

The then incomplete east half of our Library, (better known in later years as Williams Hall) [east of Old Central where a portion of the Seretean Center now stands] was started in the spring of 1899 but was not occupied until late 1900. There were no trees or shrubs anywhere on the campus. A driveway entered the campus going north from Knoblock Street, curving to serve the Library and Old Central and then south from campus to Hester Street. The driveway and walk beside it were covered with coal cinders from the power plant. We had no natural gas to burn in those days, but artificial gas was manufactured in the basement of Old Central. Cisterns with rain water supplied the needs of the buildings.

Arriving as freshmen in September of 1899, our class could not build a football team for playing that fall. Most of us boys had never seen a football game, and some of our mothers objected to us playing the game. As reported by the newspapers of the day, it was too rough and dangerous. In fact, my mother had elicited my promise not to play college football before I left home.

However, the class of 1902 had a team in the fall of 1899. These sophomores had no opposition except from groups without



experience, volunteers from schools and towns near by, all absolutely without training. At that time there were twenty-six boys and six girls enrolled as 1902 sophomores, only six boys and three girls as 1901 juniors, and five boys and one girl as 1900 seniors. Our class of 1903 enrolled that fall of 1899 with forty-nine of us boys and soon things began to change. There were two "sub freshman" classes and one class of "special" students, all filled with boys and girls who needed to learn many subjects they had never had the opportunity to learn in their young, weak schools at home, where high schools were so few and far-between. As a result in the increased enrollment in these different groups, class competition and class loyalty became powerful forces in the growth of our school.

President Scott announced in Chapel one winter morning that the colleges of the territory had organized the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Athletic Association, including A & M at Stillwater, Northwestern at Alva, Kingfisher College at Kingfisher, Central at Edmond, and OU at Norman. Then he electrified us with the idea of proving our supremacy in athletics.

The twenty-six sophomore boys with the forty-nine lately enrolled freshmen enthusiastically organized the A. & M. Athletic Association in January of 1900. As I write this my nerves have become tense and my pulse quickened, and I laugh inwardly as I think of how we boys and some good sports on the faculty scrambled around getting ready for our first local track meet April 22 and preparing for our first state field meet to be held in Guthrie on May 4, 1900. I enrolled April 4 only eighteen days before our first local track meet.

A quarter-mile track was

scraped out of a close-cut short, stiff-stubbled alfalfa field just north of what is now the old Gym or Armory building [Architecture]. While practicing the mile-walk on this new track, "Doc Lew" (Dr. Lowry L. Lewis, head of the zoology department) would follow on his bicycle, coaxing all the contestants to try harder. He told us of the difference between a running and a walking "hip-wiggle" and that judges would rule a "running hip-wiggler" ineligible for a score.

Also he and John Fields would persuade different boys to enter contests they had never seen or heard of before such as: "Sutton, why don't you enter the hurdles?" The first high hurdle race we ever ran ended with every hurdle being knocked down.

And, "Slaybaugh, why not enter the pole-vault?" So we entered and how stiff and heavy that vaulting pole was. Wallace Thornberry from the class of 1902 won first place in our first vaulting contest at 8 feet 6 inches. Joe Slaybaugh and I tied for second at 8 feet 3 inches. We all went over the bar in a sitting position with our feet, heavy rubbersoled shoes, and full-length trousers giving us the most trouble.

But Doc Lew and John Fields whipped us into shape, and we went to Guthrie on May 4, 1900, for the first territorial field meet in Oklahoma. We won it for A & M with a score of 55 points. Central of Edmond placed second with 44 points, and North-western of Alva won 13 points. OU did not attend the meet. A & M also won possession of the Douglas Cup, which was to be the permanent possession of the school which "first won three Championship meets."

When college opened in Sep-

tember 1900, the organization of an all-college football team was inevitable. I had become 21 years of age since the first field meet so I wrote home to Mother stating that, "as I am now on my own' I simply must rescind my promise not to play football. I feel I must be loyal to my classmates and to school." Thus I secured her consent and joined the team. The work that fall consisted of learning and executing plays, learning which boy was best suited for a particular position, and playing practice games with class teams and "gun fodder" groups which could be found in neighboring schools. All this was done in preparation for the scheduling of real off-campus games the next fall.

In the spring of 1901, on April 22, our second local field meet, won by the class of 1903, determined which athletes we would send to the second territorial meet at Guthrie on May 24, 1901. A & M won this meet with a score of 64 points. OU placed second with 47 points, Northwestern won 12 points, and Central won 2. The winning track team was composed of one 1902 boy (Virgil Sutton), nine 1903 boys (Morrow, Lincoln, McCance, Preston, Floyd McBride, Bob Kerr, Datus Sater, Joe Slaybaugh, and Morton House), eight 1904 boys (Frank McBride, Milhouse, Whitten, Lovett, Joe Thornberry, Tarr, Bill Amos, Treeman), and one 1905 boy (Bobby Burns). The Douglas Cup came back to A & M the second time.

During the 1901 football season, A & M's first all-college team played six games: Kingfisher College at Kingfisher, Northwestern Normal at Perry, Logan High at Guthrie, and Chillocco Pawnee Indians and Stillwater High on the A & M campus. We had no coach. The 1906 team was the first to

AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

ANNUAL ATHLETIC CONTEST

College Athletic Ground, Monday, April 22, 1901

Program.

1. <sup>12</sup> SOFT PUT: J. W. Thornberry, E. A. Tarr, C. E. Morrow.
2. <sup>13</sup> HURDLE RACE: C. O. Preston, V. L. Sutton, W. Amos, M. M. Woodson.
3. <sup>14</sup> 100 YARD DASH: C. E. Morrow, B. Burns, Datus Sater, W. A. Tarr.
4. <sup>15</sup> HURDLE RACE: W. A. Epperson, J. W. Thornberry, C. V. Jones, George Harrod.
5. <sup>16</sup> HURDLE RACE: C. O. Preston, J. M. Pennington, W. A. Tarr.
6. <sup>17</sup> WRESTLING: R. H. Kerr, C. N. Jones, H. Galich, A. E. Lovett.
7. <sup>18</sup> PAIR FIGHT: C. O. Preston, V. L. Sutton, Whitten, M. M. Woodson, J. Slaybaugh.
8. <sup>19</sup> 100 YARD DASH: B. Burns, J. M. Pennington, B. Treeman, C. E. Morrow, Frank Hall.
9. <sup>20</sup> MILE RACE: Datus Sater, F. Fossil, Fort Overton, R. M. House.
10. <sup>21</sup> 100 YARD HURDLE: R. H. Kerr, C. O. Preston, V. L. Sutton, F. McReis, C. E. Morrow.
11. <sup>22</sup> 400 YARD DASH: B. Burns, W. A. Tarr, J. Slaybaugh.
12. <sup>23</sup> 100 YARD HURDLE: C. O. Preston, V. L. Sutton, P. Wallis, Wilburn, C. E. Morrow, J. Slaybaugh, O. W. Jones.
13. <sup>24</sup> MILE WALK: R. H. Kerr, H. F. Pizz, W. A. Epperson, B. Silhouse, Henry Lisolds.
14. <sup>25</sup> STAYDOWN HURDLE: V. L. Sutton, J. W. Thornberry, W. A. Tarr, Royal McReis.
15. <sup>26</sup> BASKET BALL: Juniors vs. Sophomores.

*Property of R.M. House*



have a coach, and he was a local volunteer. The 1907 team had the first paid coach. Our 1903 players took advice from all who gave it. We thought the one who offered advice surely must know more about the game than we did; we knew so little. Most of us played the entire game because we had few substitutes. I remember that we had only fourteen boys on the squad when we went to Kingfisher. I went as a "sub" but was promoted to the "first string" during the game, which Kingfisher won 12 to 0.

Our first varsity team played six games that first year making a seasonal game record of 3-3-0. We scored 72 points and held our opponents down to 28. The 1908 team was the first to surpass our 3-3-0 record, but they had a paid coach. Although they scored 14 points more than we did, their opponents scored 38 points more than ours did. Also, after our 1903 boys graduated and went out to conquer the world, the college played eleven scheduled games and made only ONE touchdown.

Mr. Otis Wile of the athletic department put out annually his football almanac, a wonderful volume of sports data, well worth having in your library. The 1965 edition shows that in more than thirty different years since our time, A & M-OSU teams have made poorer season-game records than that 3-3-0 record of our 1903 class.

Mr. Wile's almanac also reports that no football team was fielded in 1902. The reason for that statement is the fact that on an off weekend late in the fall of 1901 a promiscuously assembled team was made up on the campus. Some regular players, and some who were not, traveled to a neighboring town that challenged us to play an un-scheduled game. Their team consisted of

## All Time OSU Football Record

Records of First 43 Years		1923		1924		1925	
1901	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
1902	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1903	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
1904	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
1905	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1906	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1907	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1908	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
1909	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1910	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1911	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1912	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1913	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1914	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1915	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1916	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1917	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1918	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1919	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1920	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1921	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1922	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1923	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1924	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1925	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1926	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1927	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1928	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1929	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1930	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1931	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1932	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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2013	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2014	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2015	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2016	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2017	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2019	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2020	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2021	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2025	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

(Continued on Next Page) 33

their town boys who were untrained, without a coach, and unusually tough. Their line was almost immovable. Our team used the old fashioned A-formation play to buck their line with our strongest man at the head of the formed A. Our opponents simply "dogpiled" our point man and crushed his chest.

The next day our fine, generally admired student, Joe Houska from Kremlin, died. The faculty immediately met in force and unanimously ruled that no scheduled football could be played next season, and that no home games, in the future, should be played off campus. As our

# THE COLLEGE PAPER

Published Monthly During School Year by the Students of the A. and M. College.  
 The Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College  
 WILLWATER, OKLA., NOVEMBER, 1902. Ten Cents  
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Volume 7,  
 Number 8

STUDENT EDITORS.

JOHN W. K.

L. E. DAYMAN '02

W. W. E. KIRKMAN '02

G. E. HINES '02

GEORGE B. GELDER, SUPERINTENDENT OF PRINTING  
 (COLLEGE PRESS.)

## AN UNLOVED FRIEND (Written by Request.)

IN ESTIMATING himself one may go to  
 one extremes. One of these extremes is  
 diffidence. Most of us tend toward the  
 how that there is some special significance  
 successes and attainments, and that our  
 and other short comings we are ke  
 go on a good and successful man we  
 that he could see himself as others se  
 able wish, and, if realized, would e  
 nearly correct estimate of his own  
 That younger man is especially  
 and competent friend who will t  
 and still more fortunate in the y  
 cisms without irritation. How  
 when called to recite, stand a  
 words in which be supposed

100

## THE COLLEGE PAPER

### RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were adopted at  
 Chapel Service, October 31, 1902.

WHEREAS, Joseph C. Houska, a member  
 of the Freshman class, was suddenly called  
 away by our all wise Father; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That in his death the college  
 has lost an earnest and faithful student, and  
 the class a loved and honored member.

RESOLVED, That we hold him in affection-  
 ate remembrance as a young man of noble and  
 upright character.

RESOLVED, That we extend to the bereav-  
 ed family our deepest sympathy.

RESOLVED, That a copy of these resolu-  
 tions be sent to the parents of the deceased,  
 and that they be published in the College Paper,  
 and that they be placed upon the class record.



Field Day was a key event at Oklahoma A. and M. College. Held at the college track which was nothing more than a graded trail around a hay field, the athletes who won would compose the team for the Intercollegiate Meet held later in the spring. The 1903 class clown who is pictured riding a bicycle in the top picture, poses inside one of the college buildings in the picture below. Although the clown is unidentified, the photographer is reported to be Dr. L. L. Lewis.

class would graduate in the spring of 1903, our 1903 boys' football days were over.

The results of our third local track meet on April 22 changed only slightly the membership of the team that went to Guthrie for our third territorial meet on May 23, 1902. A & M won the meet with a score of 57 1/2; OU placed second with a score of 54 points; and Central won 4 points. Northwestern did not attend the 1902 meet. Kingfisher won all the points in tennis in all three meets but had so small an enrollment of boys that the school did not compete in field athletics. However, C. C. Roberts, their best tennis player, was territorial champion for several years.

So we took the Douglas Cup



home to keep. There were five 1902 boys, six 1903 boys, five 1904 boys and four 1905 boys on that 1902 A & M track team.

The main social event of our 1903 class, when we were freshmen in the spring of 1900, was our freshman party. It was held in one of the larger homes near the college because our enrollment was almost one hundred, a smaller home could not accommodate forty-six girls with their beaux as lively as we freshmen were. We were having a wonderful time with the parlor games of that day when the doors were crashed open, and a group of sophomore boys rushed in and threw liquid ammonia into the crowded room. Several girls' faces, arms, and dresses were



Picture Courtesy of Special Collections, OSU Library

Class Day was a big event as these beauties of the Class of 1903 reveal. Identified later in 1957 by Mary Taylor and Mary Hartman, the girls are Bertha Rubble Warren, Jessee Morrow Watkins, Stella Nelson, Mary Jarrell Hartman, Mary Nielsen Taylor, and Esther North.



Oklahoma  
Agricultural and Mechanical College

CLASS DAY, JUNE 2, 1903

PROGRAM

PART I

MALE QUARTET - *Where World I Be* - KULLER  
Mr. Swiler, Mr. Melton, Mr. Bush, Mr. Wilson

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS - W. E. KESTER

CLASS POEM - NINA B. HURD

ADDRESS TO JUNIORS - R. H. CLERK

RESPONSE - R. D. BOWLES

PIANO SOLO - *Fourth Muzuka* - GOSARD  
Miss Edith Fife

DRAMATIC READING - Milton's *L. Allegro* - MAUD MILLER  
With Interpretation by Misses Jarrell, Ruble,  
North, Nielson, Nelson, and Morrow

MALE QUARTET - *The Wanderer's Return* - ~~all~~

REMINISCENT - H. S. GULICK

CLASS ORATION - A. G. ROBINSON

PIANO DUET - *Ma's de Cecil* - D. de GRAU  
Miss Oli Helm, Miss Blanche Stees

PART II

FARCE - *A Lily Story* - William Dean Howells  
CAST

MR. CAMPBELL	LELA NAGGIN
MR. CAMPBELL	M. N. KASSIN
MR. WELLS	FRANK LAYTON
JANET	MARIE G. HARRIS
MISS STEWART	EDDIE NORTON
MISS HULL	MARY JARRELL

splashed, and pandemonium reigned. We boys immediately gave chase, but the offenders fled in all directions. We had no idea of what we would do to them if and when we caught them. We were only freshmen, and this was our first experience with hazing, but we learned quite a bit that night about class fights.

One of our groups found George Janeway under the hay in the loft of his father's horse barn on a Duck Street alley crying out that he would tell his father who would surely fix us if we boys did not leave him alone. Another group found Merle Woodson under the bed in the farthest corner of his upstairs room of the square brick house that stood where the Kappa Alpha house now stands [in 1966] at 308 South Hester Street. He was terror stricken and white with fear. We felt so sorry for him that we left him as he crawled back under the bed.

We caught Arthur Flower on the front steps of Old Central and took him to the cistern on the north side, held him under, and pumped water in his face. We quickly learned how easily a person can be drowned. We almost drowned him. Wouldn't it have been awful if we had? Both he and we learned much that evening. He took his punishment like a man and all of us were good friends as long as we were together in college. He later was a highly respected zoology professor at Missouri University.

Class loyalty in those days was a wonderful force. Its bonds of friendship overcame all personal peculiarities among classmates and kept classes intact. At the same time, it kept classes apart from each other. Hazing was still a college custom, brought from older eastern schools. Sophomores resisted larger freshman classes

taking over. As a result, when scraps arose, seniors sided with sophomores and juniors sided with freshmen. Tricks were only tricks. Chicken roasts, ice cream thefts, ducking in the pond, party raids, flag fights, purloining food, and all such stunts were simply expressions of exuberance, whether against other classes, the faculty, town citizens, or college employees.

In our knowledge of classes before and after our class of 1903, the class of 1902 seemed to be the most obstreperous. Rex Shively, Ralph Kratka, Art Flower, Fred Gillett, and Jim Curtain (seemingly the leader, a nephew of Professor G. W. Holter of the chemistry department) were all experts in thinking up and performing stunts. Finally, Fred Gillett was sent back home and things became, and remained, quiet for years.

During the spring of 1900, four of us boys learned how each of us liked to sing and organized a male quartet. Jack Robinson sang wonderful high tenor; Joe Slaybaugh, fine second tenor; Frank Hall carried the melody; and I sang bass, even low C. We met in Frank's home at the corner of Elm and Duck Streets every Sunday at 3 p.m., rain or shine, hot or cold, with or without our girls and sang until 4:30. We built up to a two and one half hour repertoire with or without accompaniment. We stayed together until Frank Hall left school for a bank job in Wichita in the fall of 1902. We later learned that we had spoiled our chance for lasting notoriety because of our name. We were the first A & M male quartet and quite popular on local programs and as serenaders on moonlight evenings. A friendly listener named us "The Tom Cat Quartet." The name stuck and has never been forgotten. Both Jack and Joe died lately, Jack in Nevada and

OKLAHOMA  
 AGRICULTURAL AND  
 MECHANICAL COLLEGE

ANNUAL CATALOGUE, 1939-40  
 WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR 1940-41

STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA.

46 OKLAHOMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

Lowry, Chester H.	Stillwater
McCaslin, William N.	Eason
McReynolds, Samuel A.	Stillwater
Misam, Edna F.	Stillwater
Mcford, Fred E.	Parkland
Otey, Monroe J.	Perkins
Figg, Howard F.	Crow Creek, South Dakota
Figz, Carl L.	Crow Creek, South Dakota
Bector, Frank L.	Eaid
Shively, Rex	Stillwater
Slack, John O.	Stillwater
Sutton, Virgil L.	Stillwater
Talbot, Myrtle M.	Stillwater
Thornberry, Wallace T.	Waukomie
Walker, Belle	Stillwater
Wise, Leonard	Ingalls
Worley, W. Alson	Robberson, Indian Territory

FRESHMEN

Anderson, R. Stanley	Woodward
Ashton, Romney E.	Chicago, Illinois
Baker, Ollie M.	Council
Barcoe, George G.	Blackburn
Ball, Ernest E.	Glencoe
Beavers, Minnie	Crystal
Bowen, N. Howard	Carrier
Brazwell, Forter H.	Ingalls
Burdett, W. Benton	Stillwater
Berry, James E.	Stillwater
Campbell, Samuel H.	Mulball
Carson, Ross L.	Perkins
Cawthon, James S.	Shawnee
Collier, Jennie	Red Rock
Cones, T. Connar	Lamont
Covey, Orson R.	Sumner
Crouse, Paul G.	Fouts
Curry, Charles W.	Stillwater
Darrell, Nellie V.	Stillwater
Davis, Charles L.	Walker, Missouri
Doss, Clayton T.	Shawnee
Dusch, Florence	Union
Garner, Rosa E.	Virginia, Missouri
Gulick, Horace S.	Sac & Fox
Hall, Frank D.	Stillwater
Hamm, Clyde	Ceres
Hanner, Walter	Stillwater

Joe in California. Frank became a vice president of a large insurance company in New York and is now retired, living on Long Island and in Florida.

Some of our boys were fortunate in having janitor jobs at \$10.00 per month in the different buildings. I had the lower floor of Old Central in 1900, the east half of the Library in 1901, and half of our new Engineering Building until graduation. The remains of our first Engineering Building are just south of Gundersen Hall.

"Uncle Jimmy" Means taught



every Monday morning with a problem assignment on the blackboard. Our ability to solve the problem proved whether or not we had mastered our weekend assignment. Our term grades were greatly affected by those slips of paper. It paid to be neat and accurate with no careless scribbling. We often had two slips a week.

In the spring of 1901, President Scott organized a chorus class of seventy voices, less than a dozen of whom were college students, which met weekly in the home of Mrs. H. B. Bullen, who was an accomplished pianist. Dr. A. C. Scott also was a wonderful musician. It was a joy to have him sit down at an old fashioned pump organ in our chapel or elsewhere, pull out all of the stops and without a flaw, inspire the audience with music that made us all want to sing our very best and loudest. We had Chapel every morning, short sessions but interesting and well attended. Each student sat in an assigned seat and monitors kept records of attendance which affected our grades.

I remember one Chapel session when a visiting YMCA official addressed the group. I do not remember his name or any part of his address except the one word, "others." He made such an impression on me that it has been a part of my life for sixty-five years. When dismissed from Chapel, President Scott had everyone file out past him and the speaker, and each student was introduced correctly by his own name. Our enrollment was almost 550, and we upper classes march out last and were amazed with the demonstration. Our respect for Dr. Scott's many abilities was greatly enhanced that day.

Dr. Scott's chorus "put on" His Majesty's Ship Pinafore in the Opera

## *H. M. S. Pinafore*

### *Browning Parlor Entertainment*

*At the Home of Mrs. H. B. Bullen.*

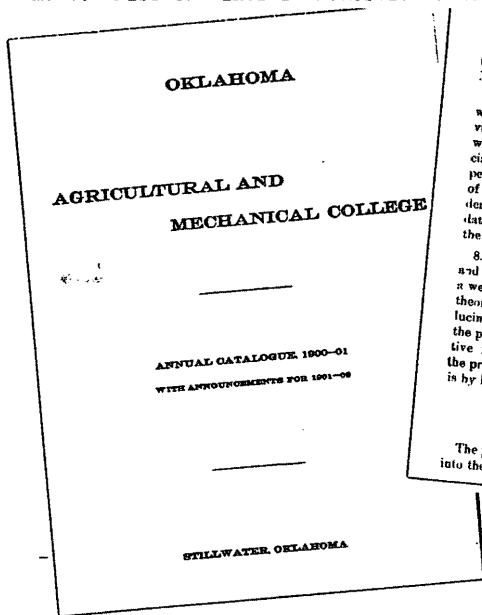
COMMITTEE:

MRS. BULLEN  
MRS. CHANDLER  
MRS. HODGEN  
MRS. HILLHOUSE  
MRS. SCOTT  
MRS. SHAW  
MRS. SWILER  
MRS. WEROFF

January Twenty-fourth, Nineteen Hundred and Two.

House in the spring of 1902 and Mikado in the spring of 1903. The Opera House, very much in use then, is the remodeled building at 116 East Ninth, occupied by Remy and Shepherd. Membership in that chorus was part of our quartet's college education, a part which we certainly enjoyed.

The girls of the class of 1903 were "starters," for the first domestic economy class at A. & M. was begun July 1, 1900, by Miss Maude Gardiner. Our sophomore girls of 1903 were her first students. The class met in the southeast basement room of Old Central. In 1901 the erection of the west half of our Library and our larger auditorium (Prairie Playhouse) was begun. Its second floor front was to be occupied by the expansion of Doc Lew's zoology department. Miss Gardiner's "Domestic Economy"



a business standpoint the nature of contracts, partnerships, real estate, and the forms of business paper.

**7. GENERAL HISTORY.** This subject is carried through the winter and spring terms of the senior year. After a general view of oriental civilizations, with special references to those which noticeably affected subsequent conditions in Europe, special attention is given to Grecian and Roman history. The period of the middle ages is then taken up, followed by a study of modern history. It is the constant thought to have the student see something more in this subject than unrelated facts and dates—to trace causes and results, and to get at the story of the development of the race.

**8. PSYCHOLOGY.** This subject is carried through the winter and spring terms of the senior year. The student reciting twice a week. While the student is invited to discuss such prominent theories as double consciousness, mental evolution in man, hallucination, hypnotism, genius, etc., he is constantly drilled in the practical rules for the proper development of the perceptive faculty. The cultivation of imagination and memory, and the proper direction of the emotions and the will. Text book is by Reuben Post Halleck, "Psychology and Psychic Culture."

**Domestic Economy**

Miss Gardiner

The purpose of introducing the study of domestic economy into the college course is to afford a training in the special sub-

jects which must be considered in the arrangement and management of every home. The best provision for the material waste of the household can be made only by those who have been trained for this work; and such a training is not only practical from a utilitarian point of view, but it is educative in the best sense. It is believed that by the practical and scientific study of home problems young women will come to see more than mere routine in the household duties. The work in this department has been arranged consecutively so that the instruction received one term prepares the student for the next term's work; and the endeavor is to have it all correlated with the work of the other departments. This work is not planned to be given separately from other college studies; it is but one of the many lines of study provided for the young women of the college, and is subject to the usual regulations regarding entrance requirements, examination, and class records. A brief outline of the work planned for the coming year follows.

1. SEWING. Freshman Year, Fall Term. The student receives instruction in the elements of sewing, including different stitches, seams, hems, darning, etc., and the different fibers and fabrics—their preparation and manufacture. Order, neatness, and care of material are insisted upon.

2. SEWING. Freshman Year, Winter Term. The work in sewing is continued, and consists of drafting, cutting, and making plain garments, underwear, shirt waists, and cotton dresses; use of sewing machines.

3. COOKING. Freshman year, spring term. The first term's work in cooking consists of practical work in the preparation of the common, simple foods, and a study of the character and composition of food materials. Along with this first food work the study of hygienic is begun, which considers the health of individuals as dependent upon food, personal cleanliness, and proper habits. The desire is to show how a correct knowledge of the laws of nature is necessary for the preservation of health and strength.

4. COOKING. Sophomore year, winter term. The practical work in cooking is continued this term, and includes the study of food combinations, along with dining room work, marketing, and dietary study; also lectures on laundry work.

5. COOKING. Junior year, fall term. During the first half of this term the students are given practical work in the preparation of foods—canning, preserving, pickling and jelly making. The second half of the term they study home sanitation, invalid cookery, and care of the sick.

6. SEWING. Junior year, winter term. The work in the sewing department is resumed this term and the students continue dressmaking. Pattern drafting and dress cutting are taught, and the pupils become thoroughly familiar with a good and reliable dress cutting system. A lined dress is made and due attention is given to the study of form and color.

7. SEWING AND COOKING. Junior year, spring term. The first half of this term is given to further practical work in the sewing, making of fancy waist, and tailor suit. During the second half of the term the students receive instruction in invalid cookery and care of the sick.

### Public Speaking

Arrangements have been made by which systematic training in public speaking will be given in connection with the department of English, the work being given for the present by the president of the college. It will be required of sophomores and juniors during the winter term.

### Geology and Mineralogy

A course in general and economic geology is given in the winter year. As stated on another page (see Professor Holter's department under "Chemistry") the college is well equipped for practical and scientific work in mineralogy.

girls were to be moved from Old Central to the ground floor front of the new addition. Still later, when Gardiner Hall was built, they were moved into it.

For all my college life, several classmates and I lived in the two-story square, gray shingle-covered house across from the Prairie Playhouse on Knoblock Street. Each floor had four rooms with two boys in each room at \$2.00 each per month. Six of us 1903 boys finally decided that for our senior year, we would rent all four upper rooms, but would keep one empty to use as a "parlor" for our visitors. One of my sisters came to visit me once between terms. (We had three terms instead of two semesters.) She





The first basketball team at Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College was all female. Several member of the class of 1903 were on the first team. Pictured from left to right in the first row are Eva Parker, Beatrice Morgan, Veda Walker, Susie Carson, Abigale Nelson, Edith Otey, Stella Nelson, and Marian Northup. In the second row, standing from left to right, are Mary Nielsen, Mary Jarrell, Hester Thatcher, Nina Hurst, and Lila Nelson. Playing out-of-doors and with a basketball goal that lacked a backboard, girls in the Class of 1903 were a sight to behold.

was a guest in the home of three sisters, (one of whom was my best girl) over the weekend. Four of us boys on the upper floor invited the four girls to share a chicken feed in our spare room. They were to bring the extras. It was my time to get the chickens, and I knew just where to get them for I had been watching them grow for weeks. At the corner of Maple and Knoblock just east of the Library, where the little restaurant now [in 1966] is, there was a chicken coop with a high woven fence around it with fat Plymouth Rocks inside.

One of our boys stood outside the fence to receive my "find." Of course it was dark but I got inside the coop and could





Members of the 1903 class were the first graduates in domestic science at Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College. Pictured from left to right are Jessie Morrow-Watkins, Lila Nelson-Chandler, Esther North, Stella Nelson, Mary Nielson-Taylor, and Mary Jarrell-Hartman.

barely see the chickens on the roost poles. Finesse at this point is highly desirable to avoid noise and detection. Chickens roost with their rear toe (or thumb) behind the roost, and their other toes over the front. Just slip up behind the wanted one and touch its hind toe. Now touch the other toe and the chicken has left the roost and is on your finger. Now to avoid all squawks and flapping wings, simultaneously grab its neck and shove the chicken under your arm pit and deliver it to your helper. We had figured out that three 2 1/2 pound fat ones would be enough. I also found ten eggs that would improve the stew. Four trips from coop to fence. Now, "git fer home." The girls had brought a big stewkettle, and we soon had a luscious stew with lots of rich thin broth,

ready for eight healthy, hungry, growing, college students. However, I received my punishment without delay. I still love to drink warm rich chicken broth, and all had cups then. But I did not wait long enough for it to cool and blistered the whole inside of my mouth. It was almost unusable for more than a week.

Our 1903 girls are to be remembered not only for their starting the "Home Ec" school, but they organized A & M's first basketball team! Surprised? The micro-film of one of Stillwater's newspapers, "The Gazette," of April 23, 1901, reads as follows: "Field Day yesterday was most heartily enjoyed. Contestants were well trained and brought their records up. Hundreds witnessed the exhibition. Basketball was the main feature." Yes, years before our A & M boys became interested in the game which made A & M famous under the expert coaching of Mr. Henry Iba, our 1903 girls drew enthusiastic crowds to enjoy their games.

The girls made their own dress uniforms in their sewing laboratory. Their playing uniforms, the old-fashioned full-sized "bloomers" of that day, also were made by the laboratory students. Many student admirers seemed to enjoy the bloomers more than the games.

Classmate Henry Lincoln's father owned a fine apple orchard just south of where Murray Hall now stands, and each fall some of us apple lovers would go out on moonlight nights with empty "gunny" sacks and get them filled with handpicked apples from the trees. The road out there was the old-fashioned two-ditch road. One night we saw an opossum ahead of us on our way home and kicked him out of the ditch. As usual it played dead, so we took him for a feast and

put him in our sheet iron heater which had not been used since last winter to keep him until after classes the next morning. A Negro living where the Catholic Student Center now stands agreed that his wife would bake us a fine "possum and sweet tater" dish for 25 cents. We had a fine feast.

At the time the west half of our Library building was being built, the cinder walks were being changed to brick walks. Concrete was not yet in use and great piles of bricks were located near where they would be used. "Buck" Herrick, a fine fun-loving freshman from Guthrie, and his playboy cronies called me out with our signal whistle one beautiful night about midnight and suggested that the library's front entrance would look better if nicely filled with some of those brick. We all agreed as it was such a beautiful night for working. We filled the entrance and to finish the job, we went out to the street and carried a light pole and stood it up diagonally in front of the closed entrance. The city was then building the first pole line for electric service lines to the campus. In the joy of the occasion, I climbed the pole. When half way up, "Buck" called me by NAME, "House! House! Here comes President Scott!" I jumped and ran.

No telling how long the president had been around that corner learning who all of us were. Six boys chattering, clinking brick in the bright moon, only two blocks from his home. Next morning Buck was called before a full faculty meeting, and I became very uneasy for I had never been caught before. I knew Buck would never implicate me, but I also knew that President Scott had heard my name called loudly. We finally decided to write a petition to the faculty promising Buck's good behavior the

rest of the year if they would free him. His class signed, but not I. It worked! That was my closest experience.

We had a fine young professor on the faculty who was different from all the rest in that he was a typical Easterner, a graduate from William and Mary University. He taught Latin, German, and English. Our textbook in English was a small, thin blue book entitled, Unity, Coherence and Expression. Every Monday we had to turn in a notebook page theme and a 250-word theme every month. "Uncle Bobby" would grade and return them to us, take one or two of them and criticize the errors, telling us what we should have said. That was all very fine but he seemed to favor the girls and never would notice me. One blustery day, cold and wet, I had the "blues" and wrote a parody on the poem:

The day is cold and dark and dreary,  
It rains and the wind is never weary;  
The vine still clings to the molding  
wall,  
And at each gust the dead fall.  
The day is cold and dark and dreary.

I wrote three verses. I wish I had them now, but they are gone forever. It accomplished its purpose, however. My theme was discussed at the next class session, and I "belonged to the fold" thereafter. After graduation, while I was with Westinghouse, I entered a nation-wide theme contest and sent mine to "Uncle Bobby" Tucker and asked for his criticism. Later I was awarded first place among over six hundred contestants and a prize of \$4,000. "Uncle Bobby" Tucker was highly esteemed by all his language students.

While they were plastering the west half of Williams Hall in the fall of 1902, many lime barrels were emptied and scattered about the building. Some of my friends thought they would be more noticeable, and less in people's way, on top of the building's towers than where they were. In the bright moonlight, it was easy to climb up the north wall to the tower platform where with a long pole the empty barrels were easily lifted above and over the three short spires, but the tall southwest spire was quite troublesome. Next morning students attending early classes stopped to gaze in wonderment at those barrels high in the air. It is regrettable that no photographs of those barrelcrowned spires can be shown here for no photographer was available that morning. However, the writer vouches for the truth of the story.

The faculty had forbidden our playing college football that year, but neighboring teams invited groups of us to help them in their local games. We appreciated their friendliness. Guthrie High School asked Charlie Morrow and me to help them one Saturday afternoon. We enjoyed the trip but I did not enjoy the game. Charlie played half-back and I played tackle, and the field in the park at Guthrie was simply covered with goat-burs, which are far meaner than sandburs. I surely did not help much in the line. I suffered and Guthrie lost the game. On our return to Stillwater, however, we forgot our disappointment for losing the game.

We stopped to visit our good friend Mr. John Meyers who owned a clothing store and found him "up in the air" talking loud and long. He had three large sheet iron elephants at three roads leading into town

**OKLAHOMA**  
**AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE**  
**EIGHTH ANNUAL ORATORICAL CONTEST**  
**College Auditorium, April 13, 1903, 8 P. M.**

**CONTESTANTS:**

RENZO D. DOWREN, '04  
BENA H. BRYANT, '04  
JOHN W. REED, '04  
LILA E. NELSON, '04  
ARNDOTT G. ROBINSON, '04

**PROGRAM**

- |     |  |                |
|-----|--|----------------|
| 1.  | QUARTET—"The Gloomy Auld" .....                  | GORDON         |
|     | Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Satter, Mr. Wilson. |                |
| 2.  | "An Appeal for Childhood Today" .....            | MISS NELSON    |
| 3.  | PIANO SOLO—"Second Sonata" .....                 | GORDON         |
|     | Miss Rita Pitt.                                  |                |
| 4.  | "The Greatest Question" .....                    | MISS HENRY     |
| 5.  | "Orators and Territory" .....                    | MR. KING       |
| 6.  | QUARTET—College Song .....                       | GORDON         |
|     | Mr. Satter, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Bush, Mr. Wilson     |                |
| 7.  | "The Educational Outlook" .....                  | MR. ROBINSON   |
| 8.  | "Our Criticism" .....                            | MR. BOWEN      |
|     | a. PIANO DUET—"Qui Vive Gaby" .....              | GARD           |
|     | Miss Pitt, Mr. Scott                             |                |
|     | b. READING .....                                 | Miss Hope Burr |
| 10. | DECISION OF JUDGES.                              |                |

bearing his advertisement. They had been repainted the night before, with red heads, white front half and blue rear half. Of course, we, like everybody else, sympathized with him, but he remained noisy. To this day, we think Mr. Meyers and his fine business received more notoriety from the repaint job than if his elephants had been left alone. Of course, everybody thought Charlie and I had been in bed asleep, as we were supposed to be all night before we were to play a hard football game next day. Maybe the game was lost because we could not play up to par.

Regular pay for labor was 10 cents per hour, and all of us working our way through school, I would say 95 percent of us, were picking up every job we could find, whether or not it was sewing, housework, chores, yardwork, gardening, stableboy, farm work for college or farmer, stuffing envelopes for experiment station, running a foot-power printing press, milking cows, washing dishes, laundry work, or helping anybody at anything. Believe me, we kept busy.

I decided I wanted to run a laundry basket for a second job. There was no steam laundry in Stillwater, the nearest being in Wichita, Kansas. Bill Burlison of 1904 would not release the agency so I had to wait two years to get it. When I got it, on Mondays, I gathered, marked, wrapped, tied, recorded, and expressed over the Santa Fe to Wichita. The laundry paid all express charges, and I kept one fourth of collections. This netted me slightly more than \$4 a week, and that \$13 per month was a wonderful help.

President Scott was a well educated man, having degrees from both this country and Germany. He spent some time at

the University of Heidelberg, and of course, absorbed some ideas from German culture. He had earned two degrees from Kansas University and a year's travel in Europe. He also was well trained in music, both vocal and instrumental. He later earned in 1885 the degrees of LL.B., and LL. M., and still later the degree of Litt. D. was conferred upon him. A trait which Dr. Scott undoubtedly acquired during his time spent at Heidelberg University in Germany, was his inordinate love of the German song, "Die Wacht Am Rhein," I think it is safe to say, without exaggeration, that his song was sung twice or more each month during our college life, by that student body packed in that chapel, with Dr. Scott getting all the music possible out of that organ. It was wonderful to be there.

President Scott was of medium size, with no excess fat, erect, and lithe, and he walked with a spring in every step. He impressed one with the idea that he was the equal of any one in his group and that no group was better than his. His attitude and behavior simply demanded that we students should measure up to his high ideals, and his presence among us brought those results. I almost worshiped him.

When we as seniors were preparing for graduation, we quarreled about commencement invitations. The larger group decided to purchase an invitation costing 16 cents. The group I was in preferred the more expensive ones since we thought that we would graduate but this once, and we had but few relatives and friends to give them. The larger group took the matter to President Scott who called both groups before him and made quite a speech on class unity and loyalty, but all in favor of the cheaper invitation. In his address, he said, "might makes



Oklahoma  
 Agricultural and Mechanical College  
 Commencement of 1903  
 Commencement Exercises  
 Wednesday, June Third

**Twelfth Annual Commencement**  
**Program**

OVERTURE ..... *Gullerud* ..... STILLWATER ORCHESTRA

INVOCATION ..... OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ..... **REV. JOHN O. GUTHRIE**

ADDRESS ..... *Modern Mechanics* ..... R. MORTON HOUSE

PIANO SOLO ..... *Macoppa* ..... MRS. CHARLES W. BUSH

ADDRESS ..... *The Education of Women* ..... FLORENCE K. WALKER

SOLO ..... *Sing, Sailer, Slumber* ..... MRS. A. C. SCOTT

..... *Gould* ..... GOUND

ADDRESS ..... *The Value of the Doubt* ..... JESSIE E. MORROW

INTERLUDE ..... ORCHESTRA

ANNUAL ADDRESS ..... HON. CHARLES F. SCOTT  
 Congressman at Large for the State of Kansas

{ ABSTRACT OF THESES  
 { CONFERRING OF DEGREES

COMMENCEMENT ODE ..... Mendelssohn  
 MALE QUARTET

BENEDICTION

Graduates in the Degree of Bachelor of Science--1903

Brown, John Jacob Jr.	Gulich, Horace Stillmen
Hoover, George William	
House, Richard Morton	Houston, Mamie Gladys
Hurst, Nina Belle	
Barrell, Mary Winnetta	Kenyon, Ransom Scofield
Kerr, Robert Howard	
Kinder, William E.	Lincoln, Henry Bonn
McNair, Henry Floyd	
Miller, Maud Esabel	Morrow, Charles Edwin
Morrow, Bessie Elaine	
Nelson, Stella Cornelia	Nelson, Cyrus William
Nelson, Lila Elizabeth	
North, Esther Ann	Nielsen, Mary Albertina
Robinson, Abbott Granville	
Stable, Bertha May	Walker, Florence Mae

right." I jumped out of my seat shaking my fist, and shouted, "No, Sir, might does not make right." My idol had fallen from its pedestal, and I broke down and cried.

President Scott said not a word but quietly left the room. The class filed out without discussion. We purchased the 16 cent invitations. I still have mine, and it looks pretty good after sixty-four years. I have always attributed President Scott's opinion of "might" to his sojourn in Germany. Had he only said, "Majority Rules," nothing would have happened. So I forgave him long ago and enjoyed a nice visit with



The Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College campus underwent rapid change during the time that the Class of 1903 was in school. At the far east (right) of campus was the Library or Williams Hall as it would become known with the Prairie Playhouse at the rear. Old Central still stood in the center of campus with new buildings for engineering and chemistry.

Dr. and Mrs. Scott in their fine Oklahoma City home shortly before their deaths.

One great thing about the class of 1903 was the characters of its members. They spent four wonderful years together, but never was a classmate the subject of gossip, or in trouble for immorality, drinking, profanity, or illegal acts of any kind, or before the faculty "on the carpet" for questionable behavior. Our class record, however, was almost spoiled the night our Governor was hanged in effigy, from a light pole arm, at the corner of Seventh and Main Streets. The student body and the citizens were pretty well worked up because the Governor had just vetoed a bill in the legislature that included an appropriation

for needed improvements on the campus. It was one of those beautiful moonlight nights, and many excited people were all along Main Street, which then extended from Tenth north to Seventh. A big noise and a large crowd suddenly attracted everybody to Morrison's Corner Drugstore, where some boys from the "obstreperous" class had hanged an effigy. The crowd enjoyed itself for about twenty minutes, until President Scott arrived out of breath from his home on North Duck Street. He was greatly worried because politics were pretty "touchy" in those days. A few boys seemed to be drinking. One was arrested and jailed in the old corrugated-iron one-storied jail at the southwest corner of the courthouse yard. The effigy was cut down and



Picture Courtesy of Dr. Berlin B. Chapman

Twenty-one of the graduates of the Class of 1903 pose. In the front row (left to right) are Ransom S. Kenyon, Robert H. Kerr, William E. Kinder, John Brown, Horace S. Gulick, Floyd McBride, Henry Lincoln, and R. Morton House. In the back row are Bertha Ruble Warren, A. G. Robertson, Mary Nielson Taylor, Mary Jarrell Hartman, Jessie Morrow Watkins, Ninabelle Hurst Nichols, Stella Nelson, Maud Miller, Lila Nelson, Esther North, George Hoover, Marnie Houston, and Florence Walker. Absent were Charles Morrow and Cyrus Nelson.

everybody went home to bed. Next morning the jailed boy was forgiven and turned loose. Some of our 1903 boys were there. In fact, I was, but we were unscathed in that affair, for which I was truly thankful.

Instead of fraternities, we had a clubhouse (boys' dormitory) with second floor rooms, simply but completely furnished for two boys per room at \$2.00 per month, and third floor smaller, dormer windowed rooms, similarly furnished for two boys at \$1.50 each per month. We had to take our Saturday night bath in a big round washtub, because we poor folks had no modern plumbing then. The residents of the clubhouse organized themselves into an "Eating Club." One of the boys served as manager and one as treasurer with each getting his board and room for nothing, for the time involved in caring for the club. We hired a professional cook for \$60.00 and board and room, per month. (An awful expense we thought in those days.) The manager, treasurer, and cook would weekly buy the food, pay the bills, and divide the cost equally among the members, which was kept down to about \$2.25 per week. The old Clubhouse still stands [in 1966], but it has been sawed in half. The street numbers of the two halves are 410 and 418 on West Maple Street.

It gives a person who enjoyed life in those days and is enjoying life these days, a feeling of pleasure to compare the differences between the advantages, customs, behavior, and activities of the two periods in our lives. Then we had very, very few telephones; there were no movies, not even silent ones; we enjoyed good operas, a few good minstrels and vaudeville shows but television had not been thought of; golf was known only in Scotland; night clubs were unheard of; there were no autos or flying

machines; we had no fraternities or sororities to support. Competitive basketball was unknown. Baseball was unorganized for few towns could afford the expense of suiting up and supporting a baseball team. Horse racing and prize fighting, both were taboo because of gambling, and no auditoriums or stadiums had been built. But boy we enjoyed life! The world was ours, and we were earning our college diplomas, getting ready to meet all competitors and conquer the world.

One of the most noticeable changes in the appearance of Stillwater since the old days is the condition of the trees, flowers and yards. Beautiful roses of all species and colors grew profusely everywhere, but neglect and insects have almost eliminated them. Dandelions and their seed stalks are a pest. Many varieties of trees have been planted without thought of regularity or distance apart, and left to grow without pruning or trimming. A beautiful town then, it is ugly now. When the town was young, fruit trees preceded shade trees, but now women buy fruit in tin cans. Insects ruined peach and other orchard trees, except cherry trees which were plentiful in early and late varieties. They bore luscious fruit in most back yards, but even now they are disappearing.

I especially remember three places where very large, dark June cherries were abundant; southwest of Stout Hall on Lincoln's farm; in Mr. Hoover's back yard just south of the First Baptist Church; and in Mr. Hayes' yard at the corner of Third and Duck Streets, south of Freeman E. Miller's home. Henry Lincoln and George Hoover were our classmates, and we felt we were part owners of their cherries and frequently

helped ourselves to them; but those of Mr. Hayes were enclosed by a high woven wire fence, supposed to be climb-proof, for the owner was known to be opposed to students' pranks. We imagined his cherries were larger and better tasting than others elsewhere. Some of us boys wore Derby hats and they were wonderful containers for large quantities to be eaten after we had "made our get away." A small amount of cherry juice in our hats did not bother us, we just wiped it dry with our handkerchiefs.

The auditorium part of the Library, (now the Prairie Playhouse) was not completed, even when needed for the program of the first class to be graduated in it, our class of 1903. It was filled to overflowing with people to witness the first commencement in the new auditorium. The building was so incomplete that when the Board of Regents, the faculty, and the graduates had to march to the graduation platform which then was on the north, they had to march single file through the northwest exit, across a bending, very heavy timber, similar to walking across a "footlog." Of course, some of the girls screamed and giggled and some had to be kept from falling. They marched into the southeast entrance of the new auditorium, then down the narrow sloping east aisle to the platform. The Board of Regents and the faculty sat on the west side and center of the platform, twenty of our 1903 class sat in two rows at the rear of the east side of the platform, and Jessie Morrow, Morton House, and Florence Walker sat in three chairs in a row in front of the class. They were the speakers for the home ec, engineering, and chemistry departments, graduating that day. Their speeches were entitled, "The Nineteenth Century in

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THE COLLEGE PAPER

**Jarrell--Hartman**

The marriage of Miss Mary W. Jarrell, of Stillwater, Okla., and Mr. Thomas J. Hartman, of Deer Creek, Oklahoma, was celebrated at the home of the bride's parents on Wednesday morning, October 14, at six o'clock. Rev. Virten Williams, the bride's closest friend, were present. After a beautiful wedding breakfast Mr. and Mrs. Hartman left on the morning train for an extended wedding tour through the Pacific states. They will be at home to their friends at Deer Creek after December 15.

Both of these young people are well and favorably known in the college and city. Mr. Hartman is a graduate of the A. and M. College of the class of '98, and is now cashier of the Grant County Bank at Deer Creek. He is also a member and treasurer of the Board of Regents of the A. and M. College, and is known over the entire territory as a young man of sterling worth and ability. Mrs. Hartman is also a graduate of this institution, having graduated last June. She is well known to our students as a most charming young woman, who will bring sunshine and happiness to the home of her husband. The College Paper joins a host of friends from both the city and the college in wishing them a long and happy life.

\* \* \* \* \*

**TWO MORE OF "OUR BOYS"**

It is a matter of constant gratification that the graduates of the A. and M. College so soon succeed, almost without exception, in winning responsible and promising positions for themselves. Nothing could possibly speak so loudly for the efficiency of the work done in the institution.

Robert H. Kerr, of the class of 1903, has recently been elected as assistant agricultural chemist of the experiment station of the Maryland Agricultural College. Mr. Kerr made a brilliant record all through his college course here, and was

"Mechanics" by Morton House, "The Education of Women" by Florence K. Walker, and "The Value of Doubt" by Jessie E. Morrow.

What a day! What an experience! Twenty-three of us had worked our ways through college and were now graduating with college degrees! And what a heartache followed! After four years of wonderful, clean, friendly association, our class had to separate, never to meet again! And for many days the most challenging thought which filled my mind was, how could that faculty, that wonderful group of men, with all their training



particularly strong in his specialty, chemistry, in which he did three years' work. He will succeed in his new position beyond a doubt.

Arthur C. Lewis, of the class of 1901, has been accepted for appointment as Scientific Aid in the Department of Agriculture, Washington. Since his graduation Mr. Lewis has been Dr. Shaw's assistant in botany here in the college, and has diligently used every spare moment in research work and post-graduate studies. It is particularly gratifying to the college that his college course was accepted in the department at 100 per cent, and his thesis at 95 per cent, thus indicating that the standing of the institution there is all that it should be.

Four of our graduates already have positions there: Mr. Stiles and Mr. Rector in the bureau of animal industry, Mr. Miller in the bureau of forestry, and Mr. Caudell in the division of entomology.



### THE CLASS OF 1903

W. E. Kinder is principal of the Cushing city schools.

Miss Lila Nelson is employed as a teacher in the Stillwater public schools.

Robt. H. Kerr is assistant agricultural chemist at the Maryland Agricultural College.

George W. Hoover is laboratory assistant to Professor Holter in the department of chemistry.

Miss Jessie Morrow is assistant to Miss Gardiner in the department of domestic economy at the A. and M.

H. S. Gulick spent a month during the past summer with a bridge construction crew on the Cloctaw railroad, but is now an engineer's assistant in the maintenance of way department of the same road.

Miss Esther North is spending the winter at her home in Stillwater.

Henry J. Lincoln is working in the Santa Fe machine shops at Topeka, Kansas.

Miss Bertha Kuhl is teaching the eighth grade in the Ann-darke public schools.

Miss Florence Walker is employed in the auditing office of Mr. J. E. Sater, of this city.

Ransom S. Kenyon and H. Floyd McHride are employed by the General Electric Company, of Schenectady, New York.

After an extended wedding trip Miss Mary Jarrell (Hartman) will preside over the destinies of her home at Deer Creek, Oklahoma.

John J. Brown and R. Morton Howe are in the work shops of the Westinghouse Electrical Manufacturing Company at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Charles E. Morrow and "Puck" Robinson are attending the Kansas University. "Jack" is taking the course in law, while Charlie is taking special work in engineering.

Miss Stella Nelson, Miss Mary Neilsen, Miss Nina Hurst, Miss Mamie Houston, Miss Maud Miller, and Cyrus Nelson are teaching in different parts of the county.



and knowledge be so blind as to think that I, yes I, knew enough to be granted a college diploma!

We started with ninety-five freshmen, forty-six girls and forty-nine boys, in 1899, and added five along the way. Only one of our class died in the four years we were together, and twenty-three of us girls and boys graduated June 3, 1903, the largest class from the beginning of A & M until 1908 after statehood.

Five of that wonderful class of 1903 are still living [in 1966]: Mary

Jarrell Hartman, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Nina Hurst Nichols, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico; Mary Nielsen Taylor, Perry, Oklahoma; Bertha Ruble Warren, Kansas City, Missouri; R. Morton House, Stillwater, Oklahoma. After sixty-eight years, at reunion time, these five can still be heard proudly giving their class yell:

Cream and Crimson, Who are WE?

Sumus, Sumus, Populii!

Cream and Crimson, Who are WE?

AUSGEZEICHNET, NINETEEN THREE!

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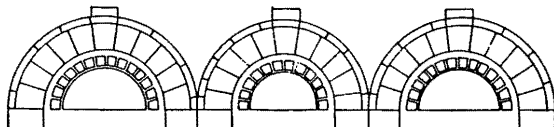
Dr. Berlin B. Chapman, Professor Emeritus, OSU

History Department

Dr. Theodore Agnew, Chairman Publications Committee,

Payne County Historical Society

who so graciously shared their time and information to make this issue possible.



## PAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Officers

Lawrence Erwin, *President*  
Bill and Virginia Thomas, *Vice President*  
Peggy McCormick, *Secretary*  
Doris Scott, *Treasurer*

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Doris Dellinger, *term expiring 1987*  
Winfrey Houston, *term expiring 1988*  
Frank Eckhart, *term expiring 1988*

Payne County Historical Society is organized in order to bring together people interested in history and especially the history of Payne County, Oklahoma. The Society's major function is to discover and collect any materials that may help to establish or illustrate the history of the area.

Membership in the Payne County Historical Society is open to anyone interested in the collection and preservation of Payne County history. Membership dues are: annual individual, \$10.00; annual family, \$15.00; annual contributing, \$25.00; institutional, \$20.00; sustaining, \$50.00; life, \$100.00 paid in one year. Membership applications and dues should be sent to the treasurer.

All members receive copies of the *Review* free. In addition, the Society sponsors informative meetings in September, December, March, and June. Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month that a regular meeting is not held. All members are encouraged to attend.

**Payne County Historical Society**

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