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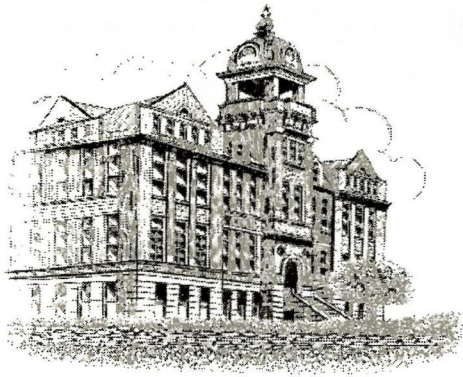
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The Normal

Southwestern Oklahoma Territorial
Normal School
(1903-1907)

Weatherford, O.T.

Vol 1 No 1

Fall 1997



**J.R. Campbell Named
First President of
Southwestern Normal**

James Robert Campbell, born August 17, 1848, was a native of Cambridge, Ohio where he graduated from high school. He attended nearby colleges at New Concord (Muskingdom College) and Antrim (Antrim College). He also attended the Cambridge Normal Institute for his teacher certification. He received the A.B. degree from Antrim in 1879. (1,2)

He spent most of his early professional career in Kansas where he served as Superintendent of Schools at Garnett,

Hutchinson, and Newton. He was also admitted to the Kansas Bar and practiced law for five years. He served as Probate Court Judge at Newton, 1886-87. (3) He left Kansas for two years to assemble research materials in the western states for Hubert H. Bancroft's *History of the Pacific States*. His assignments included the Colorado Sand Creek massacre of 1864. (4) When this project was completed, he returned to Kansas to accept the position of Fredonia Superintendent of Schools. (5)

Campbell came to Oklahoma Territory in July, 1898, when he was appointed School Superintendent for the capital city, Guthrie. (6)

He was appointed the first President of the Southwestern Normal in 1903. (7) During his tenure (1903-1907), he assembled an outstanding faculty whose teaching one student later described as "... a series of exciting adventures among masterpieces." (8) Louis Alvin Turley, a recent graduate of Harvard College, was recommended by Professor of Philosophy, William James. Turley was appointed Chair, Department

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Normal to Open Sept 15

The birth of the Southwestern Normal School was not easily accomplished. (1) Following the passage of legislation which established the school March 8, 1901, two site selection committees appointed by two territorial governors recommended two different townships to the Territorial Board of Education. (2,3) The politics and legal maneuverings played out by competing interests delayed opening of the school by at least a year. (4) The contest was thought to be settled in favor of the town of Weatherford over Granite with the decision of the Territorial Supreme Court, June Term, 1902. (5) When the Legislature convened the following January, an effort was made by Granite supporters to repeal the act which established the school. This action was defeated by a one vote margin in the Territorial Council in early February 1903. (6,7)

With this result, the Territorial Normal School Board of Regents could accept bids for construction of the school in Weatherford, Custer County. (8) The contract for a building and heating plant was awarded to H.J. Vandenburg,

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The Normal

J. A. Hibler, Publisher

M. A. Kerley, Editor

Telephone 28

The Normal is offered each semester to promote an interest in the historical development of Southwestern with special emphasis on the early years when the institution functioned as a normal school. *The Normal* was printed by the University Press and was issued by Southwestern Oklahoma State University as authorized by Dr. Joe Anna Hibler, President of the University. A total of 1,000 copies have been printed at a cost to the taxpayers of the State of Oklahoma of \$300.00.

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Town Items

"A number of our business houses have agreed to close at 7:00 PM except on Saturdays to give the clerks a few hours much deserved rest."

Custer Co. Republican
June 11, 1903

"North Custer Street is going to have some cement walks and North Broadway vitrified brick walks."

Custer Co. Republican
April 2, 1903

"A natatorium will be built west of the ice plant with hot water furnished by the same. The pool will be 20' x 60' and from 3 to 8 feet in depth. A gymnasium will also be built adjacent to the pool."

Custer Co. Republican
April 16, 1903

First Faculty Selected Southwestern Normal

The Territorial Board of Regents for the Normals at Alva, Edmond, and Weatherford has approved faculty and staff appointments for 1903-04 for the Southwestern Normal. The following appointments (monthly pay indicated is for 10 months) were recommended by President J. R. Campbell:

Belle F. Barker (\$75.00)
Northwestern University
(Chicago)
Chair, Dept. of Vocal Music

Guy W. Bohannon (\$110.00)
B.S. Western Illinois State
Normal (Bushnell), 1899
Chair, Dept. of Science

Daisy D. Ferguson (\$75.00)
L.C. Kansas State Normal
(Emporia), 1889
Director, Dept. of Teacher
Training

John A. Ferrell (\$120.00)
B.S.C.E. Northern Indiana
Normal and Business Institute
(Valparaiso), 1897
Chair, Dept. of Mathematics

LeRoy B. Greenfield (\$100.00)
A.B. University of Oklahoma,
1903
Chair, Dept. of English

Thomas B. Kendrick (\$110.00)
No information
Chair, Dept. of Languages

Elizabeth King (\$40.00)
L.C. Central Oklahoma
Territorial Normal (Edmond),
1902
Secretary and Librarian

Robert N. Linville (\$100.00)
B.S.D. Northeast Missouri
State Normal, 1898
B.A. Drake University, 1902
Chair, Dept. of History and
Civics

Sarah A. Paine (\$72.00)
A.B. University of Michigan,
1891
Chair, Dept. of Geography and
Orthography

Mary P. Rice (\$65.00)
B.A. Kingfisher (Oklahoma
Territory) College, 1903
Assistant, Dept. of English

Alvin W. Roper (\$60.00)
No information
Chair, Dept. of Instrumental
Music

Roxie E. Seevers (\$72.00)
B.L. Southwest Baptist College
(Bolivar, Missouri), 1902
Chair, Dept. of Expression and
Physical Culture

Austin E. Wilber (\$110.00)
L.C. Michigan State Normal
(Ypsilanti), 1898
A.B. University of Michigan,
1903
Chair, Dept. of Education and
Drawing

John W. Beck (\$40.00)
Superintendent, Building and
Grounds

President Campbell's salary for
12 months will be \$2,200.00

References (please see page 6)

Normal Envelopes

"Don't use anything but envelopes with the Southwestern Normal School picture and a return card printed on them. Only 10 cents a package at this office."

Custer Co. Republican
August 6, 1903

Houses

"A good four room cottage near school, nice lawn, city water, fruit and shade trees, price \$750."

Custer Co. Republican
August 6, 1903

Normal Notes

"Professor J.R. Campbell has written us that he expects to be here about the middle of June to find a place to live. He will attend teachers' institutes and meetings this summer in order to advertise the Normal."

Custer Co. Republican
May 21, 1903

"Elizabeth King, Normal Secretary and Librarian, has arrived in Weatherford to handle the correspondence regarding the opening of the Normal."

Custer Co. Republican
August 6, 1903

"Anyone who can use student labor for board or room should inform Professor Linville as he has inquiries from students who will come if they can work."

Custer Co. Republican
August 6, 1903

"John Beck, Normal Building Superintendent, proved up his claim before the probate judge at Cordell Tuesday of this week."

Custer Co. Republican
June 18, 1903

"Professors Campbell and Linville are attending teachers' institutes at Taloga, Grant, and Cheyenne this week."

Custer Co. Republican
August 13, 1903

Promote the Normal

"...there is nothing better for a young man or woman than a good education and it is only to be regretted that so many do not avail themselves of the opportunities offered. Tuition in this school will be absolutely free..."

Custer Co. Republican
June 25, 1903



Architect's Drawing of Proposed Southwestern Normal Building

Normal to Open

(continued from page 1)

Guthrie contractor, for \$34,873. (9,10) The bid was based upon Guthrie architect J.H. Bennett's specifications. (11,12) Concurrent with these proceedings, an appropriation of \$25,000 for operating expenses had been passed by the Legislature. (13) Forty acres, supplied by city water, and \$5,000 for landscaping had previously been provided by Weatherford as part of the application to the Site Selection Committee. (14,15) The property deed showed the title transfer from Mr. and Mrs. Beeks Erick to the Territorial Board of Education involved the sum of ten dollars. (16)

Work began with the arrival in Weatherford of a landscape gardener from the Stillwater Agricultural Experiment Station and a surveyor. (17,18) Excavation, which began in late March, was delayed when the water mains had to be relocated west of the building site. (19,20) Campus beautification began with a contract awarded to John Beck for planting 3,000 trees north of the building site. (21,22)

James R. Campbell, Guthrie School Superintendent, was appointed President of the school. (23) Interviews began for faculty and staff appointments in Guthrie. (24,25)

Considering the late start in construction and delays in obtaining materials, the Board of Regents realized that the building would not be anywhere near completion by the start of school in September. President Campbell was then directed to seek classroom accommodations in the City of Weatherford. (26,27)

Four vacant single room businesses, located on the north side of Main Street between 7th and Broadway Streets, were available. (28,29) Three of the buildings were donated for school use rent free. (30) These structures were approximately 24x40 feet with windows in the front and rear. (31) The buildings, with saloon signs and fixtures in place, were owned by the Anheuser - Busch Brewing Company of St. Louis and had been vacant for several years since the Choctaw, Oklahoma, and Gulf Railroad had extended its tracks west to Amarillo, Texas. (32,33)

The fourth building was rented locally for \$20.00/month. This building would house the President's Office in the rear with the front area reserved for classroom use. Of the other three buildings, two were used for classrooms and one was designated for instrumental music. All four buildings required repairs and the purchase or lease of heating stoves, chairs, blackboards, etc. (34) The buildings were located adjacent to saloons which were open for business. (35)

In addition, the local Opera House, located at the northwest corner of 7th and Main Streets, and the Congregational Church on Custer Street were made available. (36,37,38) The church served classes in physical training and vocal music. (39)

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Normal to Open

(continued from page 3)

While the renovation of these temporary quarters was being completed, the business of the school was carried out in Guthrie. Miss King, the Normal Secretary, began work June 1. (40) Professor Wilber reported July 1 and began work on course descriptions and the ordering of supplies. (41) Professor Linville, who had resigned his position as Minister of the Weatherford Christian Church, began work June 1 recruiting students by horse and buggy. He visited farms in Custer as well as all of the contiguous counties. (42,43, 44,45)

Work on the Normal building had progressed to the point that the cornerstone could be dedicated July 4. The ceremonies were conducted by the Weatherford Masons and Odd Fellows with the Welcoming Address offered by Professor Linville. Items placed behind the stone included a history of the Southwestern Normal. The granite slab, obtained from quarries at Granite, was placed in the middle of the building in the second story. (46,47)

In early August, a temporary office for President Campbell had been provided in the Weatherford Exchange Bank building in time for early enrollment which began August 10, 1903. (48,49) By the first week in September, interior work on the Normal building was well underway with window installation and wall plastering. (50)

"... the new institution had finally reached fruition ..."

References (please see page 6)

Campbell

(continued from page 1)

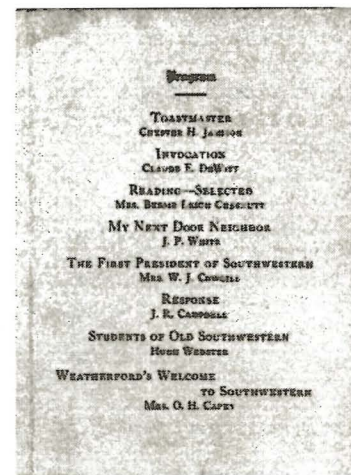
of Biology, Physiology, and Natural Science in 1907. (9) He left this position after only one year to establish the Department of Pathology and Bacteriology at the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine. (10) Over the next 16 years, Turley established four additional basic science departments in the medical school. (11) He was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1950 in recognition of his role in shaping the early growth and development of the medical school. (12)

Roy Temple House, also a later Oklahoma Hall of Fame inductee, was Chair of the Southwestern Modern Languages Department, 1905-10. In 1927, while at the University of Oklahoma, he founded *Books Abroad*, a journal devoted to international literary comments. He was a candidate for the 1948 Nobel Peace Prize. (13)

Campbell set an example for scholarship during the first year as evidenced by his enrollment in a six-weeks summer course at the University of Chicago in 1904. (14)

Campbell's leadership was brought to a close with statehood. Both he and the president of the Normal School at Alva were dismissed in December, 1907, because of their Republican Party affiliation. (15,16) One local newspaper editor remarked, "where will things end if every time a new governor takes his seat the heads of educators, not in accord with the political machine, must fall." (17)

Campbell was determined to remain in Oklahoma rather than



Program of Last Banquet
Honoring James Robert Campbell

seek certain employment out of state. (18) It was reported that he was seeking the appointment of Weatherford Postmaster. (19) When the Arapaho (Custer County Seat) School Superintendent resigned to accept a position at the Southwestern Normal, Campbell was appointed to fill the vacancy. (20) Campbell remained at Arapaho until 1915 when he was appointed School Superintendent at nearby Thomas. (21) While at Thomas, he completed the requirements for the MA degree at the University of Oklahoma at the age of 68. (22)

During the summer of 1917, a temporary vacancy occurred at the Southwestern Normal. President James B. Eskridge named Campbell the Acting Director of the Training School for the Summer Term. (23) A few months later, he was offered a permanent position as Professor of Education. (24,25,26)

From 1917-21, Campbell taught courses in History of Education, Philosophy of Education, Psychology, and Pedagogy. (27)

(continued on page 5)

Territorial Items

Special to the Kingfisher Times
June 4, 1903

Enid, O.T., June 3 - Further evidence is at hand that the man who died here last January and who was supposed by some to be John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Lincoln, was really that man. He has been identified by Junius B. Booth, his nephew, and others who knew John Wilkes during the war.

After the death of the man here certain papers found upon his person led to the opinion that he was the fugitive assassin supposed to have been killed thirty-three (sic) years ago and the body was embalmed to await a thorough investigation. It has been in an undertaking house ever since, and all possible efforts have been made to verify the remarkable claim made by the dead man's lawyer who came from Memphis and asserted that his client was none other than the slayer of President Lincoln.

St. Louis, Mo., June 3 - A special (report) from Enid, Oklahoma, says Junius Brutus Booth, the actor and nephew of John Wilkes Booth, (and) the assassin of President Lincoln, has fully identified the remains of the man known as David E. George as his uncle.

George or Booth committed suicide here January 4 last and in his effects was found a letter directed to R.L. Bates of Memphis, Tenn. Mr. Bates came here at once and fully identified the body as John Wilkes Booth. He then went east and had obtained positive identification of the remains from the dead man's nephew and from J. Jefferson, Miss Clara Morris, and a score of others known by him in his early days. According to his (Mr. Bates) story, he had acted as Mr.

Booth's confidential agent and attorney for nearly 40 years. After Lincoln was shot, the assassin escaped to Garrett Plantation in Virginia. According to Mr. Bates, the man who was killed was named Ruddy. Being warned, Booth left Garrett's and was taken care of by friends in southern Kentucky. He later settled at Glenrose, Texas, where he conducted a store for several years as John St. Helen.

Booth at El Reno

Prior to his arrival in Enid Booth or George worked as a house painter in El Reno. His landlady related how Booth told her of his escape and how friends had rowed him down the Potomac River to a ship departing for Europe.

He also resided at the El Reno Anstine Hotel where he was remembered for his theatrical manners and interest in theater publications. Following these revelations, federal representatives removed the Anstine Hotel registry page containing George's signature.

("A History of El Reno," Edna May Arnold Archives, Public Library, El Reno, Oklahoma)

Campbell

(continued from page 4)

When President Eskridge was appointed President of the Oklahoma A&M College at Stillwater in 1921, one of his first recommendations was that a Correspondence School be established. (28,29) Following regents approval, Campbell was recommended for Director of Correspondence and Associate Professor of Education. (30) Campbell accepted this appointment and served as Director until 1923 when he assumed full-time teaching duties. (31,32) It was noted that "the stature of Professor Campbell

gave credence to the newly formed correspondence school and facilitated preparation of courses to be offered by mail." (33)

Campbell returned to Southwestern for the last time in May 1929 when he gave an address as a special guest at the dedication of the new Library Building. (34) The following fall, he appeared tired at the annual banquet which had been held in his honor by his colleagues and students of the Territorial Normal. (35,36) He continued teaching until a few days before his death in Stillwater, November 30, 1929, at the age of 81. (37,38)

A special memorial service was arranged at Southwestern for the morning of December 4. Robert N. Linville, the principle speaker, remarked that Campbell "... had that unnameable quality which won his students to him, gained their confidence, and inspired them with a desire to be and to do ..." (39) "The great work for which J.R. Campbell will be known and remembered throughout the ages yet to come is the organization and building of this institution ." (40)

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Supported by a Special Organized Research Award to M. A. Kerley by the SWOSU Office of Sponsored Programs

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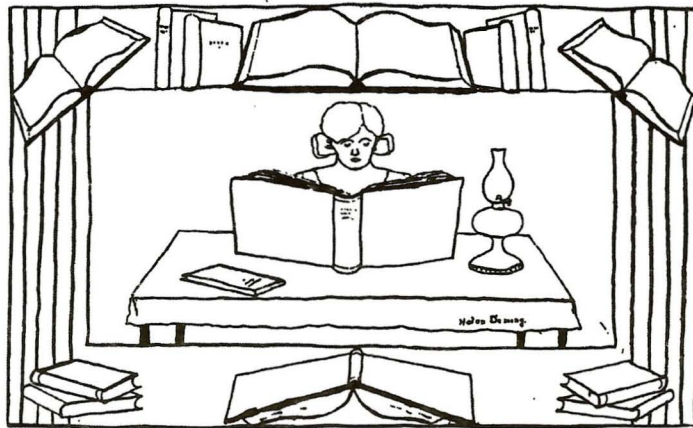
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Southwestern Normal School

The mission of the Southwestern Normal School is ". . . to prepare young men and women to become efficient teachers and thereby to make full return to the Territory for all the money expended in its support."

- First Annual Yearbook, Southwestern Oklahoma
Territorial Normal School



Sketch by Mary Helen Deming
Southwestern Normal Oracle, 1907