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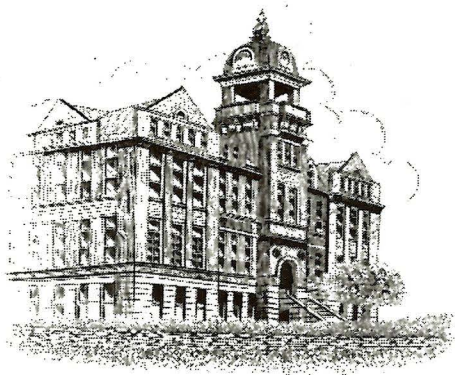
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The Normal

Southwestern Oklahoma Territorial
Normal School
(1903-1907)

Weatherford, O.T.

Vol 2 No 1

Fall 1998

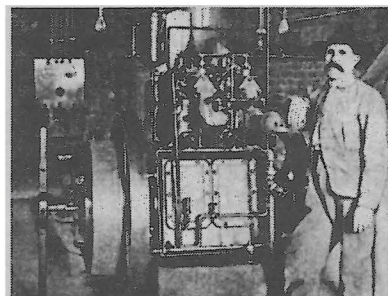
Normal Building Completed

With the completion of almost two quarterly terms of school in temporary facilities scattered about the town of Weatherford, the students and faculty of the Southwestern Normal were more than ready for the move into the new Normal Building. Many construction problems had delayed occupancy. The presence of dirt in the city water supply had damaged the heating system. This unforeseen event forced the school to dig its own well. The frustration with water, whose availability was one of the requirements for securing the location of the Normal in Weatherford, was further aggravated when the shipment of the gasoline engine to operate the well pump was delayed. In addition, the windows were not securely fitted nor were screens installed. The seemingly constant wind driven dust required the building to be swept, the windows washed, and the grounds watered daily. The student wage of \$1.50 per day, needed for this additional maintenance, was an unanticipated expense. Moreover, the sweeping aspect was made even more challenging as the flooring had not been properly jointed. (1,2)

In spite of these and other construction problems delaying the building opening, much had been accomplished by the Southwestern Normal. The Athenian Literary Society was organized the evening of October 16, 1903, at the Congregational Church. Forty students approved a constitution and meetings were held every other Friday evening. (3)

A competing organization, the Aurora Literary Society, was formed the following December in a vacant store building in downtown Weatherford. It had as its theme, "perfect eloquence clothes a man with kingly power." (4)

A band was organized at the beginning of the Winter Term by Professor Ferrell who made available his personal collection of instruments including one tuba, one tenor and three alto saxhorns, one cornet, and two drums. Each member was assessed a \$1.00 fee to help defray costs associated with obtaining music stands and other instruments. The students planned to eventually purchase their own instruments with proceeds from providing entertainment for various town



John Beck, Custodian, in Building Engine Room (1906 *Oracle*, SWN Yearbook)

and school functions. The band consisted of thirteen students who practiced daily. (5)

The move to the new building began Saturday, February 6, 1904. The student maintenance employees began unloading and assembling the newly arrived desks, chairs, and library tables. While moving items during the evening of Monday, February 22, it was suggested by Mr. Beck, the Building Supervisor, that all of the school's furnishings being utilized in the Main Street quarters should also be moved since the building was essentially ready for occupancy. President Campbell agreed, and unknown to most of the

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M. A. Kerley, Editor

Telephone 28

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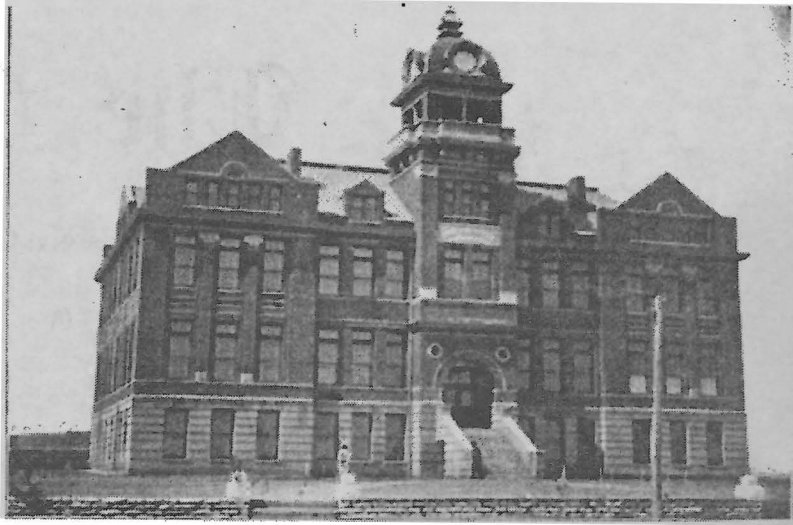
Town Items

"Many newcomers doubt very much in their Oklahoma days of infancy that this is an excellent country for swine raising. But it takes only a very short time to change their opinions in this case."

Custer County Republican
December 3, 1903

The street commissioner ought to take a trip around town and see to it that the sidewalks in the residence part are kept up, the weeds cut out, and all obstructions such as wire, wagons, etc., are removed. There are a good many places where you have to take the middle of the road on account of the sidewalk being blocked."

Custer County Republican
November 5, 1903



Recently Constructed Normal Building (Southwestern Normal School Second Annual Yearbook, 1904-05, facing title page)

Normal Building

(continued from page 1)

faculty and students, three drays were secured to move the remainder of the school's inventory to the new building. The move was finished by 9:00PM even though the building had not been accepted by the Territorial Board of Regents. (6)

Professor Bohannon was hurriedly placed in charge of organizing suitable ceremonies for the following morning. Edgar Evan Norman, a student from Weatherford, was asked to carry the flag at the head of a faculty and student procession. In addition, the mayor of Weatherford and several other townspeople were recruited to offer appropriate remarks. (7,8,9)

The following morning at 8:00AM, the delighted faculty and student body posed for pictures in front of the now vacant Main Street classroom buildings. Following the photo session, a two by two line was formed with Professor Ferrell and the Normal Band at the front followed by the flag bearer. The procession

marched north on Custer Street to the cheers and applause of bystanders. Upon reaching the building, the procession was seated in the top floor auditorium for the regularly scheduled morning Chapel exercises featuring the special program. The usual seating arrangements were maintained with female students occupying seats north of the center aisle with male students seated on the south side. With the conclusion of the special program, students reported to their first class in a suitable educational environment for the first time. (10, 11)

During the evening, some of the students celebrated by building bonfires. This celebration, along with the hope of an annual tradition, was promptly extinguished by the Fire Department. (12)

The Territorial Board formally approved the building the following Monday at their meeting in Weatherford. (13)

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1903-04 Football Team (Southwestern Normal School
Second Annual Yearbook, 1904-05, facing page 50)

Blue and White Football

A football team was organized within a few weeks of the opening of school in September, 1903. Games were scheduled to coincide with the Weatherford Horse Races held October 13-15. The Normal players were guaranteed a sufficient percent of the admission proceeds to purchase jerseys. (1) These were ordered, but due to the short notice, the supplier could only deliver colors of navy blue and white. When it was later determined that these colors were not those of any other territorial school, they were adopted by student vote in one of the morning assemblies. (2)

The individual most responsible for encouraging the formation of a football team, John Clarence Livingston, a student from Ft. Scott, Kansas, also served as player and coach. (3) Professor Bohannon was the faculty advisor. (4)

The first game, held the week before the races, was played against the Weatherford city team, October 7, at the local fairgrounds. The contest ended

in a scoreless tie. (5) The second game, played October 13 during the races, was won by the city team 11-0. (6) Games scheduled for October 14 and 15 did not take place as the Normal team failed to take the field claiming that an ineligible player (one not from Weatherford) on the city team participated in their second game defeat. (7)

The next game against a Thomas, O.T., city team was scheduled for Saturday, October 24, in Thomas. (8) Most of the faculty and many students showed their support by making the four hour buggy trip for the 2:30 PM kickoff. Cheers for the visiting team were evident thanks to Professor Linville's cardboard megaphone. It was noted by one observer that the Thomas team, which "... scarcely resembled 'boys'," was much heavier than the Normal team whose average weight was 160 pounds. (9,10) The game ended at 5:45 PM with the home team winning by the score of 15-6. The Normal points resulted from Livingston's 55 yard touchdown run. (11,12)

Although the Normal team was

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Normal Notes

A \$1,275.00 Steinway Grand Piano was ordered by Professor Roper.

Custer County Republican
December 31, 1903

"President Campbell, Professor Ferrell, Mrs. Barker, and Mr. Roper will take part in the Territorial Teachers Association at Oklahoma City during the (Christmas) recess."

Custer County Republican
December 17, 1903

"Miss Paine, Miss Ferguson (Normal faculty members), and Mrs. Craig spent Sunday at the Seger Indian School (the Colony, O.T.)."

Custer County Republican
November 5, 1903

"George Dunn, Jr., a Normal student, spent Saturday and Sunday on his claim near Swan, and visited with folks near Thomas."

Custer County Republican
February 4, 1904

"Normal View derives its name from the beautiful view which one has of the Southwestern Normal at Weatherford. It is in the fertile valley between Deer Creek and Five Mile Creek."

Custer County Republican
February 18, 1904

Emerson Dudley, a Normal student from Grant, Day County, was thrown from his pony and kicked in the head. He was riding the pony bareback and without a halter. Mr. Dudley has been working his way through school doing chores at the Farmer's Wagon Yard. Although seriously injured with a skull fracture, he is expected to fully recover.

Custer County Republican
January 14, 1904

Football Team

(continued from page 3)

not officially a member of any territorial athletic association, appreciation of their efforts was demonstrated with a banquet honoring the team at the home of President Campbell the evening of October 26. (13,14)

A blue - white intrasquad game was played November 9 between a sophomore and freshman team with few in attendance. (15) The season ended with a 23-0 loss by the Normal second team to the Weatherford High School. (16)

The Normal did not field a football team the following Fall, 1904. (17) This may have been due to the loss of the leadership of John Livingston in that he did not enroll for the 1904-05 academic year. (18) However, in February 1905, the Southwestern Normal was elected to membership in the Oklahoma Territorial Association of Colleges which enabled all school organizations to compete with the other schools on a formally recognized basis. (19) Accordingly, Southwestern's football tradition commenced with the 1905-06 team. (20)

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2. Walter S. Campbell, "The Athletic Association," *The Oracle* (Southwestern Normal student annual) Vol. 1, 1906
3. Custer County Republican, October 1, 1903
4. Ibid.
5. Custer County Republican, October 8, 1903
6. Custer County Republican, October 15, 1903
7. Ibid.
8. Custer County Republican, October 22, 1903
9. Custer County Republican, October 29, 1903
10. Diary of Walter S. Campbell, October 24 and 26, 1903, Botany Notebook, Box 157, Campbell Collection, Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma, Norman

11. Ibid.
12. Custer County Republican, October 29, 1903
13. Ibid.
14. Diary of Walter S. Campbell, October 26, 1903
15. Custer County Republican, November 12, 1903
16. Custer County Republican, December 24, 1903
17. Walter S. Campbell, "The Athletic Association"
18. 1904-05 Catalogue of Students, Southwestern Normal School Third Annual Yearbook, 1905-06, pg. 76-86
19. Custer County Republican, May 11, 1905
20. Weatherford Democrat (newspaper, Weatherford, O.T.), November 30, 1905

Normal Building

(continued from page 2)

The Normal Building offered conveniences not often seen in Oklahoma Territory. It was equipped with steam heating and a septic system which served restrooms equipped with showers. An electric bell system was operated by a large clock in the second floor hallway for signalling class change times. Long distance telephone connections were available.

The building's lower three floors housed seventeen recitation rooms, music rooms, science laboratories, a library, reading rooms, and the President's Office with an adjoining reception room. The top floor auditorium also served as the gymnasium. (14)

This first school building served Southwestern until it was destroyed by fire which began during the late evening of June 27, 1939, shortly after the close of the Summer Commencement Exercises. (15) The last saloon/classroom building on the corner of Weatherford's Main and Broadway Streets was demolished in 1924. (16) Removal of its floors exposed dried corn stalks from the original Weatherford 1898 plat once described as " the prettiest

cornfield you ever saw." (16, 17)

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9. Echoes from the Hill (Southwestern Oklahoma State University Alumni newsletter), September 1977, pg. 2
10. Diary of Walter S. Campbell, February 23 and December 5, 1904, Box 157, Campbell Collection
11. Custer County Republican (newspaper, Weatherford, O.T.), February 25, 1904
12. Diary of Walter S. Campbell, February 23, 1904, Box 152, Campbell Collection
13. Custer County Republican, March 3, 1904
14. 1904-05 Southwestern Normal School Second Annual yearbook, pg. 14
15. Weatherford News (newspaper, Weatherford, O.T.), August 3, 1939
16. Weatherford News, September 4, 1924
17. Echoes from the Hill, September, 1977, pg. 2

For Rent

A two room house near school house, \$6.00.

A three room house, good for office room, on North Broadway, \$8.00.

Custer County Republican
November 12, 1903