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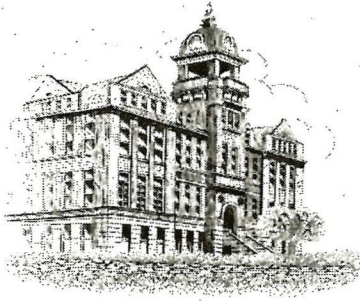
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The Normal

Southwestern Oklahoma Territorial

Normal School

(1903-1907)

Weatherford, O.T.

Vol 2 No 2

Spring 1999

Southwestern Normal Holds First Commencement

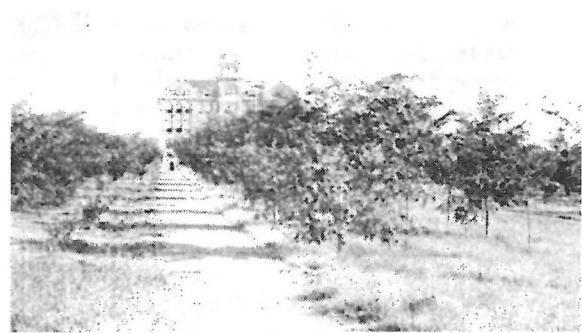
The Southwestern Normal held its first annual commencement the week of May 29 through June 1, 1904. (1) On Friday morning, May 27, the closing exercises of the Training School Kindergarten were held for the parents of 23 children. The program included the singing of motion songs, reciting, and the performing of several plays. Each child was presented a packet of their year's work by their teacher, Miss Daisy Ferguson. (2,3)

The commencement week was organized as follows (4):

Sunday AM, May 29
Baccalaureate Services
Monday PM, May 30
Essay Contest (Silver Medal awarded by the Probieren Club)
Tuesday AM, May 31
Oratorical Contest (Gold Medal awarded by Dr. J.J. Williams and R.C. Everts)
Tuesday PM, May 31
Declamation Contest (Gold Medal awarded by O.B. Kee)
Wednesday AM, June 1
Commencement
Wednesday PM, June 1
Literary Society Contest (Silver Cup awarded by the Normal Faculty)

There were no regular Normal course of study graduates as no students had transferred sufficient credits in order to complete the program during the first year. However, the following four students

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(1907 Oracle, SWN Yearbook)

Campus Beautification

The following trees, ordered from Kingfisher, were planted on the Normal grounds during spring 1904:

1400 Elm (5-7 ft)
100 Elm (4-5 ft)
200 Box Elder (5-7ft)
700 Soft Maple (5-7 ft)
25 Sycamore (5-7 ft)

In addition, 700 feet of Chandler brick walkways were laid and grounds for an athletic field (football and track), tennis courts, a baseball diamond, and a basketball court were marked. (1,2,3,4) The grounds near the building were filled, graded, and sowed with grass seed. When completed "... and the flowers in bloom, there (will) be no prettier lawn in town." (5)

References (continued on page 2)

The Commencement Program supplement follows the style and format of the Southwestern Normal Third Annual Commencement Program. (SWOSU Library Southwestern Room)

The Normal

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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 \$200.00.

Supported by a SWOSU Office of Sponsored Programs Grant.

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References - Campus

Beautification

(continued from page 1)

1. Second Quarterly Report, Board of Education Papers for Southwestern Normal School A68 Folder Series 20 - Quarterly Reports, The Oklahoma Collection, Library, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
2. Custer County Republican (newspaper, Weatherford, Oklahoma), Dec 24, 1903
3. Weatherford Democrat (newspaper, Weatherford, Oklahoma), Mar 17, 1904
4. Weatherford Democrat, Mar 24, 1904
5. Weatherford Democrat, May 5, 1904

"Smoke the Southwestern Normal cigar. It is the best 5 cent cigar out."

Custer County Republican
October 8, 1903



(1906 Oracle, SWN Yearbook)

Biographical Sketch:

Guy William Bohannon Southwestern Normal (1903-1914)

Professor Guy Bohannon was a native of Chesterville, Illinois, where he was born August 13, 1870. (1) He began his teaching career in the rural schools of Illinois in 1891. After two years of teaching, he enrolled in the Western Normal College (Bushnell, Illinois) where he graduated with the B.S. degree in 1899. (2) He also completed coursework at Blackburn University (Carlinville, Illinois) and Eastern State (Illinois) Normal School at Charleston. (3,4,5)

Bohannon came to Lincoln County, O.T., in 1901 where he taught in the rural school system. (6,7) In 1902, he accepted the position of Superintendent of the Newkirk, O.T., Public Schools. (8) The following year, he was appointed a member of the newly established Southwestern Normal School in Weatherford, O.T., as Chair of the Department of

Science. (9)

Bohannon offered the following classes in science during the Southwestern's first academic year (1903-04):

Fall Quarter

Zoology (5 students)

Winter Quarter

Botany (5 students)

Spring Quarter

Botany (5 students)

Physiology (23 students)

Physics (7 students)

In addition, he taught courses in mathematics, commercial law, and penmanship. (10)

In general, his students were able to accomplish much in spite of the downtown Weatherford classroom accommodations except for the class in physiology where he observed that some of the students were "... rather immature for the grade of work required and will need a more thorough review." (11) A student impression of Professor Bohannon was stated, "One characteristic of Mr. Bohannon is this; he always closes his speech when the bell rings. Even if he has spoken the first syllable of a word, he stops, and we won't hear the last syllable until next time." (12)

During December of that first year at Southwestern, Bohannon married Callie Washburn of Newkirk. (13) Following the 1904 commencement exercises, the Bohannans visited the St. Louis World's Fair for a well deserved vacation. (14) Upon their return, Bohannon left for Comanche County, I.T., where he conducted a teacher's institute. (15)

Bohannon continued as Science Department Chair through the 1904-05 academic year. The following year, the department

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Normal Commencement

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with transfer credits were able to complete the requirements for the two year Commercial (Business) Program Diploma (5,6):

Ray Vivienne Campbell
Ora Maude McQuown
Elizabeth Columbia Owens
Alma Collins Roland

All of the graduates were from Weatherford with the exception of Miss Owens who was from Boone, Colorado. (7) Mrs. Roland's work in the Fall Quarter Stenography class was of such quality that she was asked to team teach the course with Miss King during the Winter Quarter. (8)

With the completion of the first commencement " . . . the people of the town and surrounding country realize more fully what it means to have secured (this) institution of higher learning." (9)

References

1. Custer County Republican (newspaper, Weatherford, O.T.), June 2, 1904
2. Ibid.
3. D.D. Ferguson, Board of Education papers for Southwestern Normal School A68 Folder Series 21 - Miscellaneous Reports, The Oklahoma Collection, Library, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
4. Custer County Republican, May 26, 1904
5. E. King, Board of Education papers for Southwestern Normal School A68 Folder Series 21 - Miscellaneous Reports, The Oklahoma Collection, Library, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
6. Custer County Republican, June 2, 1904
7. 1903-04 Catalogue of Students, Southwestern Normal School Second Annual Yearbook, 1904-05, pg. 69-75
8. E. King, Board of Education papers for Southwestern Normal School A68 Folder Series 21 - Miscellaneous Reports
9. Custer County Republican, June 2, 1904



President's Office (SWN Catalogue, 1904-05)

Normal Notes

"President Campbell of the Southwestern Normal is on a tour in company with the presidents of the other Normal Schools inspecting the schools of . . . " Kansas, Iowa, and other states.

Custer County Republican
May 12, 1904

"The opera chairs for the chapel and the other necessary furniture to fit the building arrived from Grand Rapids, Michigan, and (is) being rapidly put into place."

Custer County Republican
May 5, 1904

The following papers were presented at the April 1904 Custer County Teachers' Association by Southwestern Normal faculty and students:

Austin E. Wilber
"The Place of Industrial Training in our Educational System"

Daisy D. Ferguson
"The Training Department of the Southwestern Normal"

Berlin B. Bone
"Consolidation of Rural Schools"
Custer County Republican
April 7, 1904

An elocutionary and musical recital of Tennyson's *Enoch Arden* was presented by Normal faculty members Belle Barker and Roxie Seevers in both Weatherford and El Reno.

Weatherford Democrat
May 5, 1904
Custer County Republican
May 19, 1904

Professor Alvin Roper recently presented his original piano composition entitled "The Dying Year" in El Reno.

Custer County Republican
May 19, 1904

Art Exhibition

In keeping with President Campbell's goal to enrich the cultural experiences of the Normal students, he has arranged the loan of Edison's Art Exhibit of carbon photographs, photogravures, and engravings of 190 masterpieces from European galleries. The exhibit also includes Greek sculpture, Egyptian art, and American historical works.

The collection will be displayed for public view February 23-26, 1904, in the vacated Main Street classroom buildings.

Custer County Republican
February 18, 1904



Outdoor basketball court,
(1911 Oracle, SWN Yearbook)

G.W. Bohannon

(continued from page 2)

was reorganized into the Department of Physical Science (Physics, Chemistry, Geology, and Astronomy) with Bohannon as Chair and the Department of Natural Science consisting of Biology and Physiology. (16,17) Tillman Leroy Noblitt, M.D., was appointed Chair of Natural Science. (18)

When John A. Ferrell, the first Chair of Mathematics, resigned in 1906, Bohannon was assigned to this position from 1906-1908. (19, 20)

In the Fall 1908, he was again reassigned with the appointment of Chair of Astronomy, Geology, and Geography. (21) This department and the Department of Chemistry and Physics were created from the Department of Physical Science established in 1905. (22) Bohannon experienced some difficulty with this assignment as he was stricken with typhoid fever in August. (23,24) However, by December he was sufficiently recovered to present a paper at the State Teacher's Association held in Shawnee. (25) This department served the school from 1908-1911. During this appointment, Bohannon also taught at least one German class. (26)

In 1911, further realignments involving the school's departmental structure resulted in a new assignment as Chair of Agriculture and Geography. (27) New surroundings also came with the appointment as the department was allocated space in the new Science Hall completed in 1910. (28,29)

This was Bohannon's last position at Southwestern. He offered his resignation in May 1914 effective the end of the summer term. (30, 31) He was the last remaining faculty member from the school's first year. (32) One of his last service contributions was the commencement address delivered at Olustee, Oklahoma. (33) He was present for the first South-western Interscholastic Meet (SWIM) established by President Ulysses S. Griffith and held April 17-18, 1914. (34,35)

Following the conclusion of the 1914 summer session, the Bohannans left Oklahoma for Washington state where he had accepted the position of Principal of the Steven's School in Wenatchee. (36) The next year, he was named Superintendent. He held this position until 1919 when he left the teaching profession for a position with the Rex Spray Company, a Wenatchee chemical business specializing in insecticides for the local apple industry. (37,38) He retired in 1940 and died in Wenatchee, December 24, 1945. He was survived by his wife and son, John. (39,40)

References

1. Guy William Bohannon Obituary, The Wenatchee World (newspaper, Wenatchee, Washington), Dec 26, 1945
2. Bulletin, Southwestern Normal School, Jul 1910, pg 65
3. Ibid.

4. G.W. Bohannon, Board of Education Papers for Southwestern Normal School A68 Folder Series 21 - Miscellaneous Reports, The Oklahoma Collection, Library, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
5. Guy William Bohannon Obituary, The Wenatchee World
6. The Southwestern (newspaper, Southwestern Oklahoma State University), Jan 9, 1946
7. Custer County Republican (newspaper, Weatherford, Oklahoma), Aug 1, 1907
8. The Republican News Journal (newspaper, Newkirk, Oklahoma), May 9 and May 15, 1902
9. Custer County Republican, May 28, 1903
10. G.W. Bohannon, Board of Education papers for Southwestern Normal School A68 Folder Series 21 - Miscellaneous Reports
11. Ibid.
12. Custer County Republican, Dec 31, 1903
13. Custer County Republican, Dec 31, 1903
14. Custer County Republican, June 2, 1904
15. Ibid.
16. Minutes, Oklahoma Territorial Normal Schools Board of Regents, journals 14-15, Record Group 18, Series 43, Archives and Records Department, Oklahoma State Department of Libraries, Oklahoma City
17. Faculty of Southwestern Normal School, Southwestern Normal School Yearbook, 1905-06
18. Custer County Republican, Jun 16, 1905
19. Custer County Republican, Sep 6, 1906
20. Faculty of Southwestern Normal School, Southwestern Normal School Yearbook, 1907-08
21. Bulletin of the Southwestern Normal School, 1908-09, pg 51 and 88
22. Ibid.
23. Custer County Republican, Aug 13, 1908
24. Custer County Republican, Sep 10, 1908
25. Custer County Republican, Dec 17, 1908
26. Custer County Republican, May 5, 1910
27. Bulletin of the Southwestern State Normal School, 1911-1912, pg 7
28. Weatherford Booster (newspaper, Weatherford, Oklahoma), March 10, 1910
29. Weatherford Booster, Feb 16, 1911
30. Bulletin of the Southwestern State Normal School, 1913-1914, pg 5
31. Weatherford Booster, May 7, 1914
32. The Southwestern, May 1914, pg 6
33. Weatherford Booster, May 7, 1914
34. Weatherford Booster, Apr 16, 1914
35. Weatherford Booster, Apr 23, 1914
36. Guy William Bohannon Obituary, The Wenatchee World, December 26, 1945
37. Ibid.
38. Personal communication, Mr. Bruce Mitchell, Wenatchee, Washington, local historian, January 23, 1998. Mr. Mitchell was a Bohannon family acquaintance and boyhood friend of the Bohannon's son, John
39. Guy William Bohannon Obituary, The Wenatchee World
40. The Southwestern, Jan 9, 1946