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The Normal

Southwestern Oklahoma Territorial
Normal School
(1903-1907)

Weatherford, O.T.

Vol 4 No 3

Special Centennial Edition

Spring 2001

Normal Building Opens with Parade

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.

The move began Saturday, February 6, 1904. 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 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 p.m. even though the building had not been accepted by the Territorial Board of Regents.

Professor Bohannon was hurriedly



Southwestern Normal 1904 Band
(1904-05 Southwestern Normal Yearbook)

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.

The following morning at 8 a.m., the delighted faculty and student body posed for pictures in front of the now vacant Main Street classroom buildings.

(continued on page 2)

Normal Band

A band was organized at the beginning of the 1903-04 winter term by Professor Ferrell who made available his personal collection of instruments including one tuba, one tenor saxhorn, 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 and school functions. The band consisted of thirteen students who practiced daily.

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.

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Parade

(continued from page 1)

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.

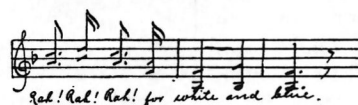
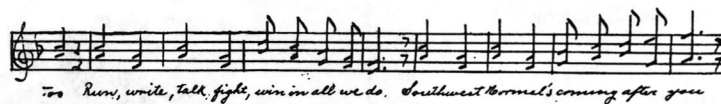
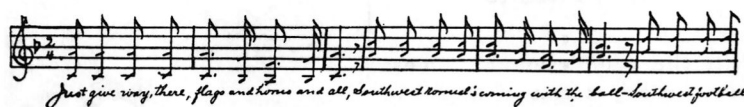
During the evening, some of the students celebrated by building bonfires. This celebration, along with the hope of an annual tradition, was promptly extinguished by the Fire Department.

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

References

1. The lead story for this special edition reprints portions of the article "Normal Building Completed," published in the Fall 1998 issue of *The Normal*.
2. The Normal Song date of first appearance, *Custer County Republican*, October 19, 1905.
3. The purpose of this special edition is to serve as background information for the planned parade reenactment to be held on SWOSU Centennial Day, March 8, 2001.

Normal Song.



Heads down, mouth shut, wonder where you're at,
Southwest Normal's coming to the bat,
Southwest pounds the leather hard and true,
Sorry that we must beat you.

Chorus.

Crunch, crunch, crunch, crunch, take a seat in back,
Southwest Normal's coming down the track.
Big blue S. comes first in running, too,
Second's all that's left for you.

Chorus.

Heap big speech, you're weak on every page,
Southwest Normal's coming on the stage.
Southwest talk can win the medal, too,
Awful sad for Y-O-U.

Chorus.

—Pease.

The Normal Song, written and composed by Prof. Rollin Pease, was first presented to the SWN student body on October 13, 1905 (1909 Oracle, SWN yearbook, page 70)