

# The University of Arizona

*By J. Preston Jones, Arizona Alpha '16*

**T**O THE uninitiated, the mention of a university in the state of Arizona often paints "wild and woolly" pictures—one or two adobe shacks in the midst of greasewood and cacti; students clothed in chaps and sombreros, with guns dangling at their hips; an occasional raid from some restless Indian tribe; and perhaps, from time to time, a "shooting up" of the classroom by reckless students. "Unfortunately" the institution offers no such attractions. Perhaps it did in the "olden days," but alas they have passed into history.

Consequently one may be somewhat "disappointed" when he sees sixty acres of land beautifully laid out in parks and drives, and dotted here and there with some sixteen attractive buildings; when he finds in the members of the faculty of the university, high-minded, broad-visioned, energetic men and women; when he recognizes in the student body a modern, cultured, enthusiastic group of young people; and when he realizes that it is a highly developed and progressive state that is loyally supporting its educational institutions.

It is true that there are "rough spots" in Arizona's early educational history. Some of her broad-minded pioneers, who looked far into the future, saw the necessity of an institution of higher learning and in 1885 passed an Act in the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Arizona, which provided for the creating of a university. Then came dissension, and for several years there was grave question as to whether or not this act would ever materialize. One of its provisions was that the people of Tucson should donate forty acres of land to the institution. Despite the fact that the city was mostly desert, there was considerable difficulty in securing a gift. In those days the wealthiest men were the gamblers. Finally, one of them came to the rescue and deeded forty acres of land to the state, and the first building of the University of Arizona opened its doors to students in October, 1891. It was an odd-looking old building, standing "high and dry" in the desert, about one mile from the center of Tucson.

The organization of the university at that time consisted in an Agricultural Experiment Station, a College of Agriculture, and a College of Mines and Engineering. The faculty numbered eight professors and instructors and there was a total of thirty-one students enrolled. Only nine of these were of freshman rank, the remaining twenty-two being cared for in a preparatory department.



A VIOLET-BORDERED WALK

The state continued to grow steadily. Many easterners were attracted by the unusual opportunities it offered in mineral wealth and stock-raising possibilities. High schools were created throughout the state and began to feed to the university. Its enrolment increased encouragingly. The faculty was correspondingly enlarged. New departments were organized and additional buildings were erected. Within the last two years attendance at the institution has more than doubled. Today the University of Arizona is standing firmly upon both feet, looking the educational world squarely in the face, and claiming its rightful place.

Tucson, the city of the university, is located in the southwestern part of the state, on the main lines of the Southern Pacific and the El Paso and Southwestern Railroads, about 300 miles west of El Paso, Texas, and 500 miles east of Los Angeles, California.

The "old-timers" tell us that those early days were filled with hardships. The state was far from whole-hearted in its support, and those ambitious pioneers were compelled to "grit their teeth" and fight against great odds. It is claimed that two members of the original Board of Regents were killed by the Apache Indians.

But the institution held its own and plodded along.

The university campus is about one mile from the center of Tucson and consists of some sixty acres. On every side it commands a view of mountain scenery of remarkable extent and grandeur. In midwinter, snow-capped peaks afford a most beautiful landscape. At all times the many canyons offer attractive picnicing grounds. Carefully laid out in drives, lawns, and gardens, the campus has the air of a well-kept park. Flowers bloom the entire year and even in the midst of winter one can catch the delightful odor of blossoming violets as he passes about the grounds.

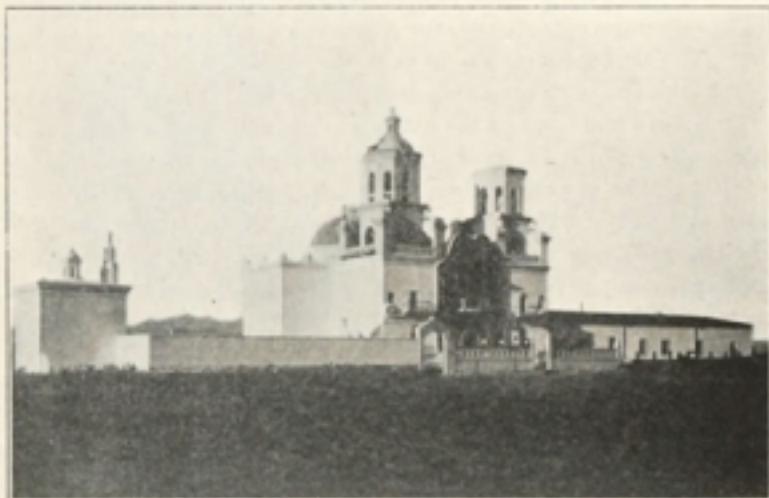
The climate here is unsurpassed anywhere in the United States and affords rare opportunity for outdoor athletic sports the entire year. The tennis courts are in constant use and even in February students use the open-air swimming pool.

The sixteen buildings on the campus are of attractive architecture, their construction is substantial, and their equipment is modern and complete. The newest of these buildings is Agriculture Hall, completed at a cost of \$165,000 and opened to students last year. Construction will soon be started on a new Mines and Engineering Building, to cost \$175,000. A friend of the institution has recently donated \$60,000 for the erection of an Astronomical Observatory. With this new equipment it is predicted that the University of Arizona will rank second among the observatories of the United States. The state legislature, which has just adjourned, appropriated liberal sums for the erection of a new Woman's Building and a Campus Hospital. When all of these buildings have been completed the university will be well equipped for some years to come.

Financially, the institution is unusually strong. Its equipment is valued at more than a million dollars. Support is provided by Federal and state appropriations. For the biennium 1915-1917 the state furnished \$537,000. For the biennium, 1917-1919, the legislature has just appropriated \$665,400. The Federal Government provides \$110,000 annually. For maintenance alone the institution annually receives approximately \$250,000, which is reasonably estimated to be the income from an endowment of from four to five millions of dollars. Furthermore, there have been set aside for the use of the University of Arizona, 700,000 acres of forest land. The income from the sale of timber from this land is deposited in the state treasury as an endowment fund. In a few years this

fund will have acquired immense proportions and will greatly increase the institution's revenues.

Arizona has wisely centralized her higher educational facilities upon one campus. The University of Arizona is the only institution of college rank in the state. At the present time its organization consists in a College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences; a College of Mines and Engineering; a College of Agriculture, including an Experiment station and an Extension Service; A State Bureau of Mines; a State Pure Food Laboratory; and a University Extension



SAN XAVIER MISSION (1692), NEAR TUCSON, ARIZONA

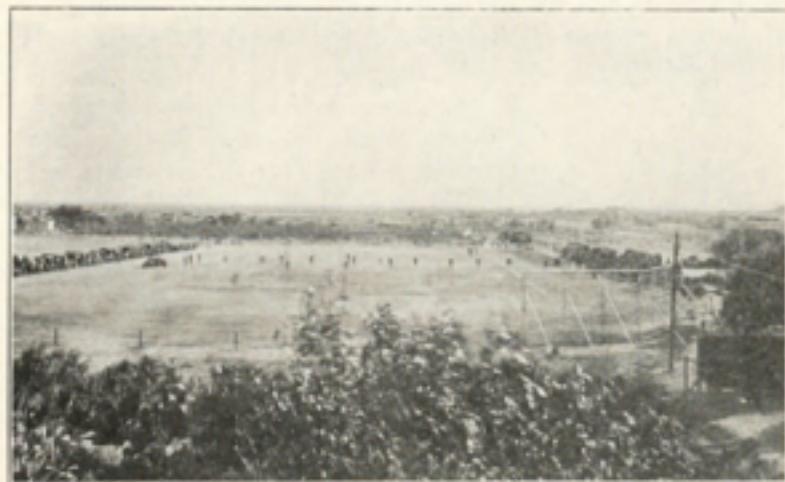
Department. To Arizona has been assigned one of the three Federal Bureaus of Mines and its laboratories are now being installed at the university.

With a faculty of sixty-five, including research workers, and a student body of five hundred and fifty, an unusual opportunity is afforded for individual instruction and personal contact.

Arizona has, indeed, long since grown into a full-fledged and widely recognized institution—young, democratic, progressive, and enthusiastic. Through her various activities she has become closely allied with the institutions of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Southern California. The indications are that before many years

have passed she will be competing with the schools of other states. Arizona has always proved herself a worthy opponent and has won the respect and admiration of all those schools with whom she has competed.

There is a splendid social atmosphere on the campus. The fraternity situation is constantly growing stronger. At the present time Kappa Sigma and Sigma Alpha Epsilon have chapters at the university. There are three local men's societies and three local



ATHLETIC FIELD, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, TUCSON  
The "Wildcats" in Action

sororities. Every indication points to the entrance of other national organizations before many years have passed. Phi Kappa Phi, an honorary fraternity, established a chapter here last spring.

On Sentinel Hill, southwest of Tucson, there rests a huge, white "A," erected by the students of the university and dedicated to Arizona spirit. Construction was begun in the fall of 1915, following a football victory. This letter, built of stone and concrete, is seventy feet wide, one hundred and sixty feet long, and covers sixty-five hundred square feet. With its wide surface shining in the sunlight, it is visible for many miles around. It stands as a splendid monument to a great little institution.

In this western country there is a wonderful spirit of genuine bigness. It permeates the entire state. The University of Arizona is saturated with it. Both faculty and students feel its spell and are influenced by it. One cannot look out across an Arizona desert without recognizing in it a challenge to dare to conquer. This is the spirit which typifies western people and western institutions.

With its splendid equipment, with its abundant financial support, with a faculty both strong and enthusiastic, with a student body that is progressive and alert, there is but one future for the University of Arizona—a high place among the educational institutions of our United States.

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#### Fruit of Mortal Wisdom

The crosses we make for ourselves by a restless anxiety about the future are not sent by God. The fruit of our wisdom is always bitter.—Fénelon.