

EMIL R. KRAETTLI

By Emil R. Kraettli

Emil R. Kraettli was Secretary of the University of Oklahoma and Secretary of the Board of Regents at the time of his retirement. He was born in Sterling, Nebraska, on May 7, 1890, the son of Jacob J. Kraettli and Mary Meyer Kraettli. There were nine children in the family, 5 brothers and 4 sisters. His father came to the United States in 1869 from Switzerland. He first located in St. Louis, Missouri, and worked at several occupations, a dairy, tin shop, general labor. He was licensed to preach in the German Methodist Church in 1872. He was married in 1880 and as a minister they were transferred to various churches in Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas. He retired from the ministry in 1903 after 31 years. Kraettli's mother's parents also came from Switzerland and his mother was born in Sumner, Iowa. His father died October 31, 1918, and his mother died December 13, 1927.

Kraettli graduated from High School in 1909 in Clay Center, Kansas, his parents having moved to a farm at Clay Center, following his father's retirement from the ministry. In the fall of 1909 Kraettli entered the Gem City Business College, Quincy, Illinois, for two years, and received his diploma in the spring of 1911. He was employed in Kansas City, Missouri, as a secretary several months and from there went to Hobart, Oklahoma, where he was employed as Secretary-Bookkeeper for the H. C. Wey Hardware and Implement Co. His sister, Mrs. Lilie Geis lived in Gotebo, Oklahoma, and it was through her he learned of this position. After several months in Hobart he met Eva Lillian Lowe, who became his wife in 1912.

On a trip to Oklahoma City he learned of a position at the University of Oklahoma in the office of Errett R. Newby, Secretary-Registrar, and Secretary to Dr. Stratton D. Brooks, President. Kraettli and his wife made a trip to Norman on the first interurban between Oklahoma City and Norman. Following a conference with Mr. Newby he was employed as secretary beginning November 14, 1913.

Oklahoma University grew and expanded rapidly under Dr. Brooks' administration and Kraettli was appointed Secretary to Dr. Brooks, in July, 1916.

The Legislature in 1919 created a separate Board of Regents for the University of Oklahoma and Kraettli was given the additional responsibility of Secretary of the Board of Regents effective April, 1919. Mr. Newby resigned January, 1920, to join his brother-in-law, Frank Buttram, in the oil business. Mr. Newby's position was divided, Dr. Roy Gittinger of the history department was appointed Registrar and Kraettli was appointed Secretary of the University which position he held until the date of his retirement in 1969, 59 years. He served under the following presidents:

	Enrollment:	
	Beginning	End of Term
Dr. Stratton D. Brooks, 1912-1923	723	3,684
Dr. James S. Buchanan, 1923-1925	3,684	5,008
Dr. William Bennett Bizzell, 1925-1941	5,008	7,054
Dr. Joseph Brandt, 1941-1943	7,054	5,842
Dr. George L. Cross, 1943-1968	5,842	19,127

Dr. W. J. Hollomon, who succeeded Dr. Cross requested that Kraettli remain on a part-time basis for a year, to July 1, 1969. Enrollment increased to 21,642, during this time.

In Kraettli's position he acquired a number of offices, and some are listed below, not necessarily in order, or term of service:

- Secretary, Administrative Council
- Secretary, O. U. Dad's Association
- Secretary, O. U. Student Loan Aid Association
- Secretary, Trustees Lew Wentz Foundation
- Secretary, O. U. Housing Authority
- Secretary, Family Life Institute
- Member, Trustees, Stadium-Union Corporation

He was a Charter member of the Oklahoma University Dad's Association. He holds membership in the following: McFarlin Memorial Methodist Church and served both as chairman of the official board and a trustee. Norman Lions Club since 1923 and served as president during 1928-29; Deputy District Governor under Dr. Eugene Briggs, State Governor of Lions Clubs. A Life Member of the Oklahoma University Alumni Association, Cert. #48.

A permanent Kraettli Scholarship by the Oklahoma University Dad's Association was authorized in 1968. He received Honorary appointments as follows:

- Honorary Colonel by Lt. Governor James E. Berry
- Honorary Colonel by Governor Roy J. Turner
- Honorary Colonel by Governor Johnston Murray
- Honorary Colonel by Governor Raymond Gary

The Apartment Complex on the South Campus was named Kraettli Apartments as a memorial.

Mr. and Mrs. Kraettli's family consists of a son Kenneth Lowe of San Diego, California, and a daughter, Virginia Evelyn Gasaway. Her husband is Harold Gasaway, Attorney in Enid, Oklahoma. They are both graduates of Oklahoma University. They have three children, Charles, Allen and Jim. Charles is a student in Veterinary Medicine, College Station, Texas. He is married to Carolyn Muir Gasaway, both graduates of Oklahoma University, and they have three children, Juliann, Tommy and Deborah. He was in service for five years. Allen is married to Julia Benson Gasaway, a graduate of Oklahoma State University, and they have two daughters, Lisa and Lori. He entered service while a student at Oklahoma State University, and is now attending Northwestern State College, Alva, Oklahoma. He was in service 3 years in Japan, 3 years in

Germany, 1 year in Turkey, and some time in various bases in the United States for a total of 9 1/2 years in service. Jim, the youngest son of Harold and Virginia Gasaway is a junior in Oklahoma University.

The real highlights of this report on Kraettli's service at Oklahoma University came at Commencement in May 1970, when he was awarded the DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATION, which is the highest honor that may be conferred at the University.

On January 24, 1971, he became an honorary member of OMICRON DELTA KAPPA, "in recognition of his conspicuous attainments and service in collegiate activities."