

THE HISTORY OF THE OKLAHOMA CROP
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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Review of History: The history of the Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association is reviewed, beginning with the organizing of the Kay County Corn Grower's Association in 1904. In 1909 this county organization was reorganized on a state-wide basis and was called the Oklahoma Corn Club. In 1912 this organization changed its name to the Oklahoma Seed Grower's Association. This was due to the increasing demand for improved seed and information on various other crops besides corn. The name of the group was changed to Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association in 1922.

The Association was officially incorporated under the laws of Oklahoma in 1930. At that time the Association underwent a major reorganization, adopting a new set of by-laws which are still in use today.

During 1937 the Oklahoma State Certification Seed Law, Housebill No. 513, was passed by the Legislature. This provided for the certification of seed and plant parts intended for sale or for propagation. The authority for such certification was placed with Oklahoma A. & M. College or its legal representative. The Association was appointed by the College as the legal organization to certify crops in Oklahoma.

In 1939 the Association began the Approved Origin of Alfalfa program. This program was set up because Oklahoma alfalfa seed had been unjustly ruled ineligible for payments in the north-central region by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Oklahoma had developed a good market in this area for its alfalfa seed and to lose out would have been a serious blow to Oklahoma alfalfa producers. However, Oklahoma seed was declared eligible for AAA payments following the submission of a petition to the AAA by the Association. Through this approved origin program the Association was able to establish a stable financial system.

In 1949 the Foundation Seed Stocks, Inc. was established for the purpose of controlling the propagation and distribution of foundation seed stock. This is a separate organization from the Association but the two work very closely together.

ADVISER'S APPROVAL _____

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PREFACE

The Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association has been an active organization since its origin as a state group in 1909. This year celebrates the 50th year of the Association. During this time much has happened of historic value, but no one has actually put these events down on paper so as to preserve them for the future.

Their history, as it is recorded here, was taken primarily from the secretarial notes accumulated through the years. However, some of the material was passed on by word of mouth.

The purpose of this study was to put down on paper the important events during the first 50 years in the life of the Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association.

Indebtedness is acknowledged to Edward Granstaff for his assistance in locating and collecting these materials; and to Frank Davies, Ralph Matlock, Maurice Haag and George Church for their valuable guidance and assistance in preparing this material.

A list of the Presidents and Secretary-treasurers of the Association may be found in Appendix A.

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THE ORIGIN OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association, as it is now known and organized, is the outgrowth of what was once a county organization. The earliest history of the organization dates back to 1904 when a number of corn growers in Kay County organized The Corn Grower's Association. Their purpose was to promote the production and sale of improved varieties of corn. This organization existed until 1909. William Howard Phillips of Ponca City was one of the early organizers.

1909 In January of 1909 this county organization was merged into the Oklahoma Corn Club and elected Campbell Russell as president and George Bishop as vice president. Bishop was on the editorial staff of the "Oklahoma Farmer", a leading farm paper of that time.

The objectives of the Oklahoma Corn Club were: (1) to create an active interest in the improvement of corn; (2) to induce the members to plant a small amount of regular field corn and make better field preparations; (3) to stimulate the exchange of ideas and make an attempt to solve the problems which are now confronting the Oklahoma growers; (4) to assemble facts concerning cultures which are employed by the more successful growers and keep records on the findings so reports could be made to the members.

This club lasted only two years. During this time Campbell Russell, who had been a member of the State Legislature, had gotten a bill passed

establishing demonstration farms in each county of the state. Those demonstration farms were to be under the control of the State Board of Agriculture, and the demonstrator of each farm was to plant 40 acres of seed which was to be furnished by the State Board of Agriculture. The seed was to be improved or better than average seed. Mr. Russell was appointed as Superintendent of the farms.

The problem came up as to where the farmer could get the seed which would be of better quality. Generally the State Board of Agriculture furnished the improved seed which the growers would use in production of commercial seed. In some counties the farmers were very successful. It seemed as if all the papers promoted the program, telling the public of the increasing amount of better seed which was becoming available. This, of course, helped the farmers sell their crop.

OKLAHOMA SEED GROWER'S ASSOCIATION

In the beginning, the Oklahoma Corn Club met in Stillwater for its annual meetings during the Farmer's Week, held in January of each year. In 1912 the Oklahoma Corn Club was reorganized into the Oklahoma Seed Grower's Association. By this time there was a demand for all improved seed produced. No history could be found of the early organization or its officers from 1911 through 1916.

ORGANIZATION SPONSORED BY A. & M.

1916 History finds George Bishop, Oklahoma City, president, Harold Robinson, Sumner, vice president, and Professor M. A. Beeson, Stillwater, secretary - treasurer of the Oklahoma Seed Grower's Association. It appears that the organization was sponsored jointly by

the Extension Service and the Department of Agronomy. Here the first record of activities of this Association is found. Beeson reported that the crop year, 1916, had been a bad one with drought and green bugs destroying most of the small grains. The chinch bugs and drouth took practically the entire sorghum and corn crop.

At this time the Association was not promoting certified seed but was doing all it could to develop improved seed. The organization's desire was to increase the yield of standard cereal crops from five to ten bushels per acre and cotton from five to fifty pounds of lint per acre. It was pointed out that Oklahoma crop yields ran below the average for the United States.

The Association said that by increasing the yield of corn by five bushels per acre on the four million acres of the crop in Oklahoma, state farmers could increase their income over 10 million dollars. By increasing wheat yields three bushels and oats five bushels, farmers would put another 9 million dollars in circulation. An increase of 25 pounds of cotton lint per acre, the Association said, would add another 7 million dollars to Oklahoma's economy. Urging improved seed quality, the Association said all this would add up to 26 million dollars per year to the value of Oklahoma farm crops.

Under the rules of the Association, each member growing seed for sale was required to make a full report to the secretary of the Association as to the variety, when and where procured, how long grown on his farm since coming from the original grower, and what had been done to maintain purity. He was also required to furnish a sample of seed to the Board of Directors.

Members having seed which they proposed to offer for sale notified the county agent or secretary of the Association. At this time the secretary made arrangements for the county agent, in the company of the district agent, secretary or assistant secretary of the Association, to visit and inspect all fields of growing seed which was to be harvested and sold for improved seed. It was necessary for a seed sample to be tested for purity and germination.

Seed growers were advised to adopt a system of crop rotation so as not to deplete any soil of its fertility and thereby inhibit the growing of improved seeds. The recommended rotation included a legume. It was recommended that a liberal coating of barnyard manure be applied to the fields annually.

The Agronomy Department, realizing there was very little pure seed in the state, started pedigreed strains of wheat, oats, barley, rye, kafir, corn, peanuts and cotton. From this seed, growers were furnished pedigreed seed to use in multiplying plots.

It was hoped that the introduction of pedigreed strains would lead to the establishing and growing of good pure varieties of each crop for each section of the state which had different climatic and soil conditions. Thus the seed of a section would be standardized and all the farmers would be growing only one variety of each of the crops. This is evidently the first attempt to establish the one-variety community.

During 1916 the Directors decided to change the name of the seed show, which had been established in 1909, from "Grain Show" to Oklahoma Pure Seed Show." This show was a most important asset to the Association, for it allowed the members to study and examine the types of seed of different crops. There were 380 exhibits furnished by the seed growers in

1916 compared with 135 in 1915.

The Board of Agriculture gave the Association \$500 which was used to give cash prizes to the top grain-judging teams and individuals.

The Board of Directors authorized the printing of shipping tags to be used by members of the Association. All approved seed sold by members of the Association was to have the appropriate tag attached. The tag showed the analysis of the seed and the class to which it belonged.

WAR BROUGHT ONE-VARIETY COMMUNITY

1917 The Government called for a large production of wheat and rye in order to meet the demands of the war. To aid in this need for increased production, M. A. Beeson, secretary of the Association, spent most of the summer studying the seed condition in wheat sections of Oklahoma and aiding the extension service in securing and furnishing improved seed to the farmers. Some 2 million dollars of improved seed was purchased and planted by the farmers.

Through this effort many communities limited their plantings to one variety of wheat. Yields were excellent, ranging from 25 to 30 bushels per acre on the improved wheat varieties.

Two reasons were advanced for the establishment of one-variety communities: (1) to keep the crop free from mixture with other varieties, and (2) to secure a premium for the extra quality of improved seed. Millers were interested in the one-variety system because it meant that, when a good milling variety was located, it could be bought in carload lots more easily. This made the milling much easier since all the wheat milled alike.

To promote the sale of the improved seed the Secretary put out two

seed lists containing an aggregate of 600 names. Not all farmers on the lists were members of the Association. Due to the war, farmers could sell all the seed they had without any trouble and therefore did not feel the necessity of joining. However, the membership had increased to 50 members representing 35 counties.

By this time, the administrative and organizational work had grown to where a full-time seed specialist was necessary. Through the cooperation of the Miller's Association, Extension Service and the Agronomy Department, F. F. Ferguson was hired. The main purpose in hiring a new employee was to have a full-time man available to inspect fields of improved small grains.

A good deal of confusion prevailed at the State and County Fairs because of the different standards in judging and variations in exhibits. To correct this situation the Agronomy Department, in cooperation with the Association, decided to give an examination to applicants who wished to qualify as judges of various crops. The Association felt that a provision should be made in the constitution for the examining and certifying of judges.

The records show that George Bishop was re-elected president for several successive years. Professor Beeson served as secretary-treasurer of the organization until August 1921, when he resigned and was succeeded by W. J. Green, who was appointed extension agronomist about that time.

THE NAME "OKLAHOMA CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION" ADOPTED

1922 At the annual meeting of the Association in 1922, the name of the Oklahoma Seed Grower's Association was changed to Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association. G. C. Gibbons succeeded W. J. Green as

extension agronomist and was elected secretary-treasurer of the Association. He served in that capacity until the time of his resignation in the fall of 1924.

Mr. Gibbons, in his 1923 report, made the following statement:

"The extension agronomist acts as secretary of the Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association and through the county agents and cooperation of the Department of Agronomy and the Southwestern Wheat Improvement Committee, 7,000 acres of small grains were inspected before harvest, totaling more than 50,000 bushels of threshed grain."

In 1923, W. A. Conner of the editorial staff of the "Oklahoma Farmer" was elected president and Clarence Roberts of the "Oklahoma Farmer-Stockman" was elected vice-president.

During the annual meeting held August 24 and 25, 1923, the Association members heard an address by H. C. Rather, secretary of the Michigan Crop Improvement Association. An outline was given showing the method by which the Michigan association operated. It was an expensive venture on the part of the Association to bring a visiting speaker such a great distance, but it was felt that the expense was extremely worthwhile. Many of the suggestions offered by this representative furnished a basis for the future operations of the Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association.

REORGANIZATION OF THE ASSOCIATION

1925 In 1921, when active direction of the certification work was taken over by the agronomist of the Extension Service, an effort was made to develop the Association on a State-wide basis and to place the control of the organization in the hands of farmers themselves. However, it was not until a reorganization in 1925 that farmers, and not

agricultural workers connected with farm papers or with the college, were elected officers and directors. A meeting to bring about the reorganization of the Association was called on August 4, 1925, at Stillwater. All members of the Association had been notified of the meeting and were duly advised that the reorganization would be considered.

Following a brief review of history of the Association W. A. Connor, president, advised the members present that a new constitution had been prepared and was ready for submission to the Association members, if they so desired. M. W. Plettner of Newalla moved and W. J. Green seconded that the proposed constitution be read by the acting Secretary.

When the question was advanced for a vote, it was found that no membership dues had been paid in 1925 and that only 25 members present had paid their dues in 1924. Mr. Bishop suggested that since the Association was considering an entirely new organization the people present, who were interested in the organization, should be allowed to vote.

After the constitution had been reread and considered section by section, Mr. Plettner, with a second by L. C. Merritt of Chelsea, moved that it be accepted in principle. This motion was approved. To get the Association underway a committee of five was appointed to nominate temporary directors who would serve until such time as a director's meeting could be called in accordance with provisions in the constitution for nominating permanent directors.

The chairman appointed the following committee: Walter Jessee, Supply, chairman; L. C. Merritt, Chelsea; Ben Allison, Cherokee; Hi Staten, Ardmore and G. C. Gibbons, Henryetta. This committee met and nominated the following members as directors:

<u>Director</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>District</u>
L. C. Merrit, Chelsea	Rogers	Northeast
C. N. Nunn, Porter	Wagoner	East
Glen Briggs, McAlister	Pittsburg	Southeast
O. W. T. Henderson, Amorita	Alfalfa	North
Lee Cole, Shawnee	Pottawatomie	Central
Hi Staten, Ardmore	Carter	South
Walter B. Jessee, Supply	Woodward	Northwest
G. C. Miller, Elk City	Beckham	West
George Bishop, Cordell	Washita	Southwest
Earnest Slocum, Elmwood	Beaver	Panhandle

These men were the first elected directors of the Association.

The following day O. W. T. Henderson, Amorita, was elected president and C. N. Nunn, Porter, was elected vice-president. L. W. Osborn, who succeeded G. C. Gibbons as extension agronomist, was appointed secretary-treasurer.

At the time of the reorganization the Association was not Incorporated and had no legal status.

FIRST MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Following the reorganization of the Association a "Memorandum of Understanding" between Oklahoma A. & M. College and the Association was prepared by Dr. Bradford Knapp, president of the College. This memorandum provided that part time services of the extension agronomist should be loaned to the Association. He was to act as secretary-treasurer and undertake active supervision of the seed certification and improvement work. This memorandum was adopted August 2, 1926. No specific provisions were

made for the employment of a stenographer or bookkeeper to take care of the various office activities of the Association.

The Secretary represented the Association at the annual meeting of the International Hay and Grain Show in December, 1925. The Association was invited to join the International Crop Improvement Association, and a short time afterwards the necessary action to become a member was taken.

BASIS OF PRESENT ORGANIZATION LAID

1926 On April 23, 1926, the executive committee met at the Ketchum Hotel, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Following the meeting in August, the Association had received some 25 applications for membership. This was a good indication that the Association was a growing concern and that a lot of interest was being created throughout the state.

Several applicants were members of corporations. The executive committee felt that corporations or companies, where more than two members joined the Association, should join the Association rather than the individuals and that the corporations should be represented at the meetings by one person appointed by that organization. This plan was adopted to keep any organization or group of organizations from gaining a large membership and thereby controlling the Association.

It was agreed that when any group of farmers sold certified seed as a unit under the Association name they were entitled to join the Association as a single unit, paying only the \$4.00 per year membership fee. However, in case of a local county or community seed association in which the members sold individually under their own names, such individuals were to join the Association individually rather than as a part of the local Association.

During the year the Secretary began publishing a monthly news letter which was sent to all members and prospective members of the Association, county agents and vocational agriculture teachers. This was carried for a few years but eventually was discontinued.

An application blank for membership was worked out and approved by the Board of Directors. This provided the Association with a better knowledge of the people desiring to join. Also it was a better way of screening and becoming acquainted with the new members.

The 1926 secretarial report pointed out that the cooperation given to the Association by the Oklahoma A. & M. College was exceedingly generous. Mailing room facilities of the college were at the disposal of the Association, together with stenographic services and secretarial service.

During the executive committee meeting held on August 13, 1926, the discussion of tags was brought up. It was decided to use a blue tag for registered seed and a yellow tag for certified seed.

The year of 1927 found the Association cutting its dues from \$4.00 to only \$1.00 and the county agents becoming associate members of the Association without payment of dues.

It was decided and agreed upon that the secretary should take steps to obtain a suitable trademark for the Association. This trademark was then to be placed on all tags and literature used by the Association. A committee was named to help the secretary develop a desirable trademark.

The annual meeting of 1928 was held on August 4, at Oklahoma A. & M. College, Stillwater, during Farmer's Week. The committee which was set-up to study the trademarks developed by the Association's secretary reported that a trademark had been approved. The committee stressed the importance of having the trademark copyrighted. Later the trademark was

copyrighted. It is believed that the trademark accepted and adopted at that time is the basic trademark used to this day.

SECOND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

1929 At the annual meeting Dr. N. E. Winters, agronomy professor, discussed in great detail the work of the Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association and the importance of close cooperation with the Oklahoma A. & M. College. He suggested that the Department of Agronomy would welcome a plan of cooperation in which the work of the Association would be more fully correlated with the activities of the department. A committee was appointed to confer with the directors of the experiment station and the extension service, to obtain closer cooperation with the college.

The last annual summer meeting of the Association was held on the campus at Stillwater in August 1929. At this time election of officers and directors was postponed until a winter meeting held in Oklahoma City. Members attending the summer meeting were of the opinion that sufficient time was not available during the Farmer's Week program for conducting the necessary Association business. Business of the Association had grown to such an extent as to warrant holding a winter meeting at some convenient point, possibly away from the campus.

The period of 1926-29 was one of prosperity in the agricultural history of the state. During this period membership in the Association increased from 43 in 1926 to 258 in 1929. The secretary of the Association found himself unable to maintain the records of the Association in a satisfactory manner. A request was made for additional help in the office so that the rapidly growing work, required for the operation of the Associa-

tion, could be taken care of and the records kept in a satisfactory manner. Consequently, on September 13, 1929 an Association Director's conference was held with officials of the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station and Oklahoma Extension Service, and a second "Memorandum of Understanding" was drawn up.

The new "Memorandum of Understanding" differed from the first one, formulated in 1926, in that it provided for the employment of a full-time stenographer and bookkeeper. It also approved the plan of financing Association activities from fees charged Association members. It likewise provided for joint cooperation of the members of the Agronomy staff of the Experiment Station in conducting field inspections. The Association once more agreed to conform to the recommendations and standards of the Agronomy Department of the Oklahoma A. & M. College in seed certification work.

Another provision included in the 1929 memorandum stated specifically that neither the College nor employees of the College, under any circumstances, would become financially interested in the production, ownership or marketing of any seed produced, handled or recommended by the Association or its members.

INCORPORATION OF ASSOCIATION

1930 The first annual winter meeting of the Association was held in late January at the Wells-Roberts Hotel, Oklahoma City. This meeting was announced as the First Annual Pure Seed Convention of the Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association.

One of the important things coming out of this meeting was the question of incorporation. Some Texas cotton seed growers had made threats

against the Association, and the convention delegates were reminded that the organization had no legal status. As a matter of protection to the Association directors and members, the Board of Directors, in a meeting just prior to the convention, decided to recommend that the Association become incorporated. Earl Browne moved and C. N. Nunn seconded the motion that the Association make plans to incorporate as soon as possible.

It was decided to incorporate the Association under the laws of the State of Oklahoma.

A director's meeting was called on July 14, 1930 at Oklahoma City for the purpose of discussing and approving or rejecting the Articles of Incorporation as outlined by the committee. The committee consisted of C. R. Donart, C. N. Nunn and W. H. Taylor.

The Articles of Incorporation were read to the directors by the secretary, L. W. Osborn. A question arose as to whether it would be better to leave the name of the Association as it was or change it to Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association, Inc. Mr. Donart made the statement that from a legal standpoint it was not necessary to change the name. Mr. Lowen pointed out that in many cases business concerns use the "Inc." to business advantage, but the Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association was not being incorporated for the purpose of bettering its business. The incorporating was to protect the officers and members of the Association in case of a lawsuit. It was moved and passed that the name remain as it had previously been.

The Articles of Incorporation were presented to the Secretary of State, and a charter showing the incorporation was received.

REORGANIZATION

On August 1, 1930 a meeting was held on the Oklahoma A. & M. College campus for the purpose of reorganizing the Association. The object was to discuss and adopt a new set of by-laws by which to govern the Association. The new by-laws were in accordance with the Oklahoma state law governing cooperative agriculture associations. Only members in good standing were considered eligible to vote on the proposal. In order to determine those eligible a roll call was taken. The by-laws were read and discussed step by step. Following this they were voted on and passed by a unanimous vote. These by-laws are still in force. Only minor changes have been made since their adoption.

1931 The Second Annual Pure Seed Convention was held in the offices of the Oklahoma Cotton Grower's Association, Oklahoma City, on January 15 and 16, 1931.

During 1931 the Association attempted to use its influence to gain appropriations for the Oklahoma State Plant Board. This was created by the twelfth Oklahoma Legislature, under the provisions of house bill No. 50, the Oklahoma State Seed Law. The board is an important part of Oklahoma agriculture and is particularly important to the Association due to its protective powers.

The state plant board had power vested in it to promulgate rules, regulations and quarantines; to prevent the introduction and dissemination of plant seed or plant parts and to provide for the control and eradication of dangerous insect pests and plant diseases. It also provided a system of field inspections and certifications, which enabled farmers to qualify for interstate shipment of products.

Clarence Roberts, editor of the Oklahoma Farmer-Stockman, and W. J. Lackey, state seed analyst, emphasized the value of the state plant board to the agriculture of Oklahoma. They called upon the Association to do everything possible to obtain adequate support from the legislature to maintain the board.

Seeing the importance of maintaining the board, the Association decided to send a duly appointed committee to interview and petition the Governor, Honorable W. H. Murray, and the members of the State Senate and House of Representatives. All this was apparently for no benefit because the state plant board was abolished in 1933.

The depression which began in 1930-31 was still continuing in 1932. It was apparent that sales of certified seeds would be low and that many Association growers would abandon the certification program unless every possible effort was made to maintain the grower's interest. To do this the inspection fee was lowered from \$3.00 to \$1.00 for members who had applied for and obtained certification the preceding year.

When the inspection fee was cut the money available for the Association activities was somewhat lessened, but then the overhead was not as high due to less expense in field inspections.

1933 During the year, the financial policy of the Association was given a great deal of study. Since the "certification for nothing" plan had gone into effect in 1932 the Association had practically no funds to use for operation expenses. L. W. Osborn, secretary, visited the business manager of the International Harvester Company seeking professional advise regarding adopting new policies pertaining to the finances of the Association. The manager's opinion was, if the International

Harvester Company reduced its cost rates the company could never be a financial success. Therefore, a customer was given a discount and allowed to go ahead and purchase the product or service. The Association decided to try this procedure. It gave a forty-percent discount on acreage tax and then another discount for cash if the acreage tax was paid by a certain date. This brought in a considerable amount of money on old debts.

The Association also used a barter exchange system for settling accounts, whereby members could exchange grain in payment of fees. This method was not used too extensively.

The Association Secretary attended a number of meetings of the International Crop Improvement Association and found that the members were putting a great deal of stress on roguing fields. He felt that an attempt should be made to arouse the Association members to an awareness of the value of roguing. Such a practice would be important and valuable to the entire Association.

The Secretary further pointed out that the Association attempted to add the certification of new crops. One step toward doing this was the purchase of twenty five bushels of Turkey wheat which was put out to growers on a two for one exchange basis. He emphasized that through experience up to that time the Association had found it could maintain foundation stock seed in this way and keep its hands on the pure seed at the same time.

The Association decided to petition the Honorable Governor Wm. H. Murray to reestablish a state plant board. Their first step toward this was to set up a committee composed of C. P. Blackwell, E. E. Scholl and Hi W. Staten. The committee was to investigate and obtain information

regarding the plant boards of other states and prepare a plant board bill to be approved by the Board of Directors.

A new policy for getting new members, restricted membership, was placed in effect in 1935. This meant that when an application was received it was evaluated and if the applicant was felt to be a good farmer with good recommendations he was allowed to become a member. The new member was asked to plant a foundation seed block with seed furnished by the Association and return two bushels of grain for each bushel given him by the Association. This served two purposes: it better prepared him to handle crops to be certified in the future and it was a way of increasing foundation seed stock for the Association. In nearly every instance the Association received its seed back.

An arrangement with the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station was made in 1936 to grow foundation stocks. It was necessary to make this step forward in foundation seed due to the increasing competition with Kansas and Texas. Oklahoma needed to provide more foundation seed than it had been able to supply. Two of these first foundation stocks received from the experiment stations were Tenmarq wheat and Acala 8 cotton.

A special meeting of cotton seed growers was called because of the great concern over the large quantities of cotton seed being shipped into Oklahoma. The members felt the College should be asked to cooperate in a program of developing foundation stock which could be multiplied by growers of certified seed. The Association felt that it was imperative that the College undertake cotton breeding work, cooperating with growers, in order to develop dependable strains adapted to Oklahoma growing conditions.

The Association also felt that a cotton breeding station in south-

western Oklahoma should be established. Southwestern Oklahoma was fast becoming a cotton-producing region in Oklahoma, and it was considered that a station located in that area was absolutely necessary to the success of the crop. A research farm was established at Tipton in 1938. Later, the Oklahoma Cotton Research Station was established at Chickasha.

SEED CERTIFICATION LAW PASSED

1937 During the year of 1937, the Legislature passed House Bill No. 513, which is better known as the Oklahoma State Seed Certification Law. It provided for certification of seeds or plant parts intended for propagation or sale. It authorized certification of such seeds or plant parts through the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Agricultural Extension Service of the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, or its designated agents.

The Association wished to become the designated agent to handle certified seed in Oklahoma. On June 4, 1938, an agreement was reached between the Association and the Oklahoma A. & M. College as to the appointment of the Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association as the legal organization authorized to certify seed and plant parts. An "Acknowledgement of Appointment" was signed by the two groups on that date. This same binding contract still exists and is in force today with only minor revisions having been made since the original agreement.

On July 1, 1938, L. W. Osborn resigned as secretary of the Association. He had served as secretary since 1925 and had resigned to devote full-time to the job of extension agronomist.

Following Osborn as secretary was L. H. Brannon. Due to the Association's newly acquired responsibility, as legal agent in handling seed

certification, it was felt that a full-time man was necessary so Brannon was named as the first full-time secretary.

The Association was faced with the problem of out-of-state residents applying for certification on farms they owned in Oklahoma. The question of the responsibility and liability in such a case seemed to be the main point of conflict. However it was decided that when out-of-state individuals applied for certification the Board of Directors would have to pass upon them before they would be accepted. Each case was considered separately.

APPROVED ORIGIN OF ALFALFA PROGRAM

1938 Oklahoma had become quite a producer of alfalfa seed by 1938.

But for several years, alfalfa seed grown and produced in Oklahoma had been unjustly discriminated against in the open market. The discrimination had gotten so bad that a discount, on the market price, of four to eight cents a pound was placed on Oklahoma-produced seed. This was supposedly due to the seed not being winter hardy in the north central states. The north central area was a good market area for alfalfa seed and Oklahoma supplied much of the alfalfa planted there.

Nothing had been done about this problem in the alfalfa market until the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, under the date of February 26, 1938, issued a tentative bulletin, #NCR-201, addressed to the north central region of the United States, stating that all Oklahoma alfalfa seed, except that grown in certain named counties, consisting of the two northern rows of counties in Oklahoma, was excluded from the AAA program in the north central region of states. This meant that all seed from all but the northern counties in Oklahoma was considered not adapted to the

north central states and no AAA payments would be made to the growers using such alfalfa seed.

Growers and dealers of Oklahoma knew that genuine Oklahoma alfalfa seed was hardy and would not winter-kill in the north central region of the states. Actual experience had proven its adaptability to that region, and the area had become the principal established market for alfalfa seed from the entire state of Oklahoma.

A petition was submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture and the AAA requesting that an amendment and supplement to the official ruling be made. The Board of Directors requested that it be allowed to verify the origin of alfalfa seed used to establish fields of alfalfa from which seed would be harvested. That service was to be performed under the direction of the Association for the county associations of alfalfa seed producers, community groups of alfalfa seed producers and individual alfalfa seed producers. This was done upon application to the Association by the grower or growers involved. This service was performed for producers without any requirement of membership in the Association by the producer.

Oklahoma Approved Origin Alfalfa seed was declared eligible for award payments in the north central states by the AAA in 1939. The alfalfa growers of Oklahoma won a great battle when Oklahoma seed became eligible for government subsidy payments in the north central region. Through its activity in bringing about a change in the AAA program, the Association was able to gain many new and well qualified members as well as improving the finances of the organization.

The details of the 1939 Approved Origin of Alfalfa program were drawn up and adopted by the executive committee and made a part of the official

acts of the Association. The material discussed and approved in the "Procedure for the Conduct of the 1939 Alfalfa Approval of Origin Program" was sent to participating counties under the date of April 29, 1939. This document was a contract between the county participating in the Approved Origin of Alfalfa program and the Association.

The Association also drew up another document, "The Oklahoma Approved Origin of Alfalfa - Rules to follow in Producing, Handling, Cleaning and Processing." This document set forth all the necessary rules for the producing, handling, cleaning, and processing of all Approved Origin of Alfalfa seed. This handbook is still used today.

During the year of 1939, there were 978 certificates issued to Oklahoma farmers for approved origin alfalfa. In a few cases the alfalfa growers were members of the association, but for the main part this figure represented a group of farmers with whom the Association had not had a direct contact in the past. Fifty-two thousand acres of alfalfa were approved as to origin and some 2 million pounds of seed moved into the consumer channels of trade.

In 1940 the Association again conducted the approved origin program in the same areas as it had been conducted in 1939.

COLORED TAGS ADOPTED

1940 Wesley Chaffin was hired as the new secretary-treasurer of the Association on February 1, 1940. He succeeded L. H. Brannon, who was appointed to the job of extension agronomist. Mr. Chaffin attended a meeting in Shreveport, Louisiana, in February, 1940, where recommendations regarding uniformity in seed certification standards and tag colors were discussed. He recommended that the Association adopt the color stand-

ards recommended by the group attending the meeting so that all states would be using the same colored tags for the same class seed. Those colors were: registered seed - purple; certified seed - blue; and recertified seed - red. The Association decided to adopt these color recommendations.

During the year of 1940, the alfalfa program was enlarged from the previous year. The program was carried on in 29 counties, and Approval of Origin certificates were issued to 1,091 farmers. The farmers harvested 60,263 acres of alfalfa, which produced 4,176,000 pounds of approved origin seed.

By this time, an interest in vegetable seed production was appearing, and the Association had received requests for certain vegetable crops. At a special meeting of the Board of Directors in February, 1941, the Association revised policies, regulations, requirements and procedures for seed certification. Prior to this time, vegetables had not been on the certified list, and it appeared consideration should be given them. The Association extended the certification to include watermelons and other vegetable crops and instructed the secretary to proceed with the establishment of standards for certification of these crops.

The secretary was also instructed to determine the cost of certifying all vegetable and truck crops for which certification might be requested in the near future. This was a new field of service for the Association and information concerning it had not previously been accumulated.

At a Board of Directors meeting in 1942, the directors voted to continue the Approved Origin of Alfalfa program as long as it seemed advisable for the benefit of the alfalfa seed industry in the state. Prior to this time, it was necessary to take action on the alfalfa program each year.

The alfalfa program developed into a beneficial program both for the

Association and the alfalfa growers of Oklahoma, and the Association had accumulated a quantity of money in its treasury. Since this money was lying idle, the organization felt that it should be invested in United States Defense bonds. The Association regarded the buying of bonds, at that time, as a patriotic duty.

During 1941 and 1942, the alfalfa program grew to include 1,357 farmers and 75,656 acres of alfalfa were certified for approval.

COTTON PLANTING SEED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

On November 6, 1942, a special meeting of the directors was called to give the directors an opportunity to study the Cotton Planting Seed Improvement Program which had just been announced by the Secretary of Agriculture. The directors were to study the new program with the idea in mind of the Association sponsoring this program. After discussion, the directors voted to cooperate with the Agricultural Marketing Service in sponsoring the new program, which would begin in 1943.

The regulations governing the Cotton Planting Seed Improvement Program, hereafter to be called the cotton program, provided that it would be administered in part by a committee to be known as the State Cotton Planting Seed Committee. The regulations required that the committee be composed of cotton growers and ginner-growers. The directors decided that the regular directors of the Association could compose this committee, with perhaps a few additions.

In 1943 the demand for certified seed of all crops far exceeded the supply which was available. There had never before been so great a need for high-quality seed. The Association urged the members to grow more good certified seed and help remedy this shortage.

One of the advancements the Association felt necessary was the campaign to get more counties to purchase seed cleaners as an aid in preparing good common seed for planting. It was important to improve common seed since all farmers would not have certified seed available.

Also it was suggested that the Association should consider the certification of native grass seed, cowpeas, soybeans, vetch, mungbeans and lespedeza. Oklahoma was not certifying any of these seeds. The membership felt that the Association would make a great step forward in prestige if it made certified seed of these crops available.

On July 1, 1943, Hugo Graumann was appointed secretary of the Association. He succeeded Wesley Chaffin who was appointed extension agronomist.

EXPANSION DURING WORLD WAR II

1944 In 1944 the general certification standards for several crops were revised or drawn up for the first time. The new crops approved for certification included mungbeans, cowpeas, soybeans and weeping lovegrass. Emphasis had been placed on all of these crops the previous year.

The Association decided that it needed a certification manual which would be distributed to active and prospective growers of certified seed. Some 5,000 copies of such a manual were printed and distributed.

The total acreage approved for certification in 1944 was the largest on record of the Association up to that time. The members had done a good job in the time of war. There was a substantial increase in the total amount of seed certified for wheat, oats, cotton and sorghums as compared with 1943. There were 27,528 bushels of certified sorghum seed produced representing the greatest quantity for this crop in the history of

the Association.

The alfalfa program was again conducted in 1944. The program was carried on in 32 counties, and certification of approval, covering 100,645 acres of alfalfa, was issued to 2,450 farmers. This represented an increase of 40 percent in membership as compared with 1943 and the greatest participation experienced during the seven years the program had been in operation. Approximately 6,500,000 pounds of seed were tagged by growers.

The Cotton Improvement Planting Seed Program, was offered for the second time in 1944. The Association provided the necessary funds, audited claims and made payments to the 3,194 Oklahoma farmers who participated in the program. Total participation more than doubled that of 1943 and a much greater percentage of growers purchased and planted the higher class (class A) seed.

The 1944 audit showed that the Association's net worth had increased to \$10,613.39. Some \$2,500 was credited to membership dues, but approximately 80 percent of this growth was attributed to the alfalfa program and the cotton program.

In July 1945, E. S. Oswalt was employed as assistant secretary-treasurer of the Association. He was in charge of handling the alfalfa program and assisted Mr. Graumann, the secretary, in the regular certification activities. This was a further expansion of the Association in personnel.

Again in 1945 the alfalfa program out-produced the previous year. With 32 counties participating, 143,321 acres of alfalfa were approved. This was for 3,304 growers and included the tagging of approximately 7,000,000 pounds of seed.

On February 1, 1946, Russell Pierson was named secretary-treasurer

of the Association. Pierson replaced Hugo Graumann.

The hybrid corn certification program was instituted for the first time in 1946. Rules and regulations relative to the program were necessary, and the Association set up and adopted the necessary ones to establish the new program.

ACREAGE TAX PLAN ADOPTED

1947 In 1947 the Association decided that close pedigree corn hybrids be accepted for certification, provided that the pedigree was supplied in confidence to the office of the Association, in order that adequate inspection for certification could be made by the secretary.

The Association had two plans by which growers paid fees to the Association, one was the "acreage tax plan" and the other was the "inspection fee and sales tax plan." It was decided in 1947 that the "acreage tax plan" should be discontinued and that the "inspection fee and sales tax plan" be in effect for all growers.

The Association established the policy of placing the analysis of seed on the processor's certified seed tag. This was brought about by some seed processors altering the expected contents of the certified seed bags.

On May 21, 1947, the executive committee met with the vice-director of the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, Dr. L. E. Hawkins, for the purpose of making plans for the financing of the Association for the coming year. The financial standing of the Association was discussed, and records of receipts and expenditures for the years 1940 and 1946 inclusive were reviewed. The executive committee proposed that the assistant sec-

retary's salary be paid from experiment station and extension service funds in a manner similar to the way the secretary was being paid. This proposal did not find approval with the vice-director of the experiment station or the director of the extension service due to the present substantial reserve of funds in the treasury of the Association. Consequently the proposal was dropped. At the time of this event, the Association had around \$35,000 to \$40,000 in United States saving bonds.

NEW AGREEMENT ESTABLISHED

The future relationship between the Association and the experiment station and extension service was also discussed in this meeting. V. L. Hughes, chairman of the executive committee, recognized a motion made by Glenn Dill that the president of the Association be directed to sign a new cooperating agreement with the experiment station and the extension service similar to the one in effect at that time. It provided that such an agreement would be self-perpetuating until terminated by written notice of withdrawal of participation by any of the three participating agencies. Notice of withdrawal was to be filed with the secretary of the Association not less than six months prior to the end of the Association's fiscal year. A copy of such notice was to be sent to the heads of the other two participating agencies.

This plan to stabilize relationships between the College and the Association was passed. Virtually the same plan is in effect today, bonding a better relationship between all concerned. The certified seed processing plan, which was offered Oklahoma seed firms for the first time in 1947, was a plan whereby seed processors could process and sell seed which had been properly field-tested and approved. There was little partici-

pation on the part of seed firms the first year of operation. This was due to the need for a price incentive to growers. The growers and dealers needed to meet each other halfway on the price. In time the price was established and both the processor and grower shared in the increase from certified seed.

It was felt at this time that the processing system could be improved. The improvement came from permitting the processor to move the seed out of his plant more promptly, after processing, by permitting the processor to run his own analysis on the processed seed or by sending a sample directly to the State Department of Agriculture for an analysis. At that time a second sample would be sent to the Association for an analysis, which would be regarded as the official report. In case of a significant difference between the two analyses on the lot of seed, the official one would be the only one regarded. The analysis was to be placed on the bags of seed of the lot tested. If a processor flagrantly tagged seeds in violation of standards of the Association two times, he automatically was to be dropped from the list of approved processors.

The International Crop Improvement Association found itself in some financial stress at this time and asked an additional fee of \$80.00. per year from each association, in addition to the regular dues of \$20.00. This money was needed to finance printing, office supplies, paying expenses of officials and numerous other necessary expenditures. The Association placed a high value on the work of the International association, and its membership gladly supported the spending of the additional funds.

ASSOCIATION ADVERTISES PRODUCTS

Personnel of the Association felt that advertising the products of

certified seed growers would be of educational value to the general public, and of financial value to the certified seed growers. With this in mind, throughout the year attractive displays of certified seed were made at every farmer's meeting where it was conveniently possible to do so. Displays were made at the Oklahoma 4-H and FFA Fat Stock Show in Oklahoma City and in September displays were made at each of Oklahoma's three state fairs, Tulsa, Oklahoma City and Muskogee.

Exhibits were likewise made at several county meetings, which were attended by large numbers of farmers. This was an attempt to put and keep certified seed before the farmers of Oklahoma.

Two 1947 crop lists giving sources of Oklahoma certified seed were printed. A total of more than 19,000 copies were distributed to farmers, seed merchants, county agents and others having contact with farm people. Through the cooperation of the Public Information office of the College, numerous articles featuring various phases of Oklahoma's certified seed program were publicized. This publicity, along with radio programs, did much to increase the interest of Oklahoma farmers in certified seed.

As the Association grew, its need for advertising its products also increased. In 1948 the Secretary was given authority to run advertising in the Farmer-Stockman at least four months of the year. In addition to this he was to check further into the possibilities of using outdoor signs as well. The Association desired to get its products before the people and was eager to find the proper avenues in which to do this job.

At a Directors' meeting in November of 1948, the Secretary presented the possibility of the Association doing advertising on paper plates. These would be used by Clay Potts, head, A. & M. Short Course Department, in feeding groups at farm meetings and College functions throughout the

State. Under the plan worked out, the Association would buy the plates. The plates were to carry both certified seed and Oklahoma A. & M. College advertising. The group using the plates would pay the cost of unprinted plates, leaving the Association paying only the cost of the printing. This idea was received very enthusiastically and was quickly given the directors' approval. The Association has continued this arrangement with cups used by Clay Potts, but no longer uses the plates as a medium of advertising.

It was decided that one of the best ways to keep certified seed ads in front of the farmers was to supply it in the form of billboard match advertising. By having a match cover cleverly dressed up to advertise certified seed, people would constantly be reminded of the Association.

The Board of Directors felt that perhaps a Foundation Seed Stocks Organization to supply foundation seed for Oklahoma Certified Seed growers was needed. The Secretary was asked to make a check on the trend of thinking and to make a report at the next meeting.

Tagging of certified seed had never been uniform and in a joint meeting of a committee from the Oklahoma Seedsmen's Association and the executive committee of the Association, certain standards were discussed and later established. It was felt that tagging should be done under supervision and that certain locations on the bags for the tag were better than others. The most convenient place for the tag was in the center of the seam at the top, bringing both ends of the bag together for sealing. It was also felt that all tags should be filled out in full before they were sent out to the processors.

By 1948 the Association's membership had grown to 585 members exclusive of the Approved Origin of Alfalfa seed members. Of this number, 478

were active members in the production of certified seed.

The alfalfa program was beginning to fall off in its activity. This was attributed to the extremely low seed price in 1947 and the anticipation of another bad year in 1948. Farmers anticipating another low price year let their alfalfa go to hay or plowed it up due to poor stands. Many fields were getting too old to be productive.

The need for a seed-testing laboratory at the College, for both instructional work and for service to certified seed growers, was recognized by the Association. In a Board of Directors meeting in May 1949, O. H. Holman made a motion that the Secretary be authorized to invest the Association's funds, up to \$4,000, in equipment to be used in a seed testing laboratory to be operated by the Agronomy Department. The Association wanted to buy the equipment but keep title to it and loan it to the Agronomy Department. However, this equipment was never purchased for the Agronomy Department and in 1951 an additional \$2,000 was added to the fund to set up a laboratory at the Association's office.

FOUNDATION SEED STOCKS, INC. ESTABLISHED

1949 The systematic production of large quantities of foundation seed had become a very important and essential part of the Association's Program. This resulted in the formation of the Oklahoma Foundation Seed Stocks, Inc. in August, 1949.

It had long been realized that the limited supplies of breeder seed of adapted varieties of field crops were inadequate to meet the requirements of the Oklahoma certified seed program. The need for a definite plan to increase foundation seed and make it available to certified seed growers for renewing their seed stocks was recognized. To meet this need,

it was obvious that an additional agency was necessary to fill the missing link between the plant breeders and the certified seed producers.

The new agency was organized to operate under the joint supervision of the experiment station and extension service. The Oklahoma Foundation Seed Stocks, Inc., was incorporated as a non-stock, non-profit corporation. The activities of the organization are governed by a Board of Directors. Those members are the following:

Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station
Director of the Agricultural Extension Service
Head of the Agronomy Department
Head of the Horticulture Department
Extension Agronomist
Chairman of the Seed Certification Board
Secretary-Manager of the Association

The experiment station and extension service appointed a secretary-manager to carry out the activities as directed by the Board of Directors.

The Association was anxious to see the Foundation Seed program get under way in Oklahoma. At the Association's Board of Directors meeting, September 10, 1949, the directors voted to offer a loan not to exceed \$12,000 at 4 percent interest. The Foundation Seed Stocks would use this money to purchase Foundation Buffalo alfalfa seed to be redistributed for production of Registered Seed. The charging of the interest was to be dependent upon the income-tax status placed on the Association. It was not known whether the Foundation Seed Stock would be interested in such a loan, but the Association felt that the loan would be a way of preliminary financing for the organization. Later the Foundation Seed Stock borrowed \$4,300 rather than the \$12,000 offered by the Association.

Due to the rapidity with which noxious weeds were becoming established along highways, roads and railroads, the Association desired to go on record favoring legislative control of Johnson grass, bindweed and goatgrass.

The Association desired to create in the farmers an interest in helping combat the noxious weeds. The Association worked with representatives and other public officials for a law to control noxious weeds.

1950 In January 1950, the Association found itself without an assistant-secretary. E. S. Oswalt had been promoted to secretary-manager of the Oklahoma Foundation Seed Stocks, Inc. Mr. Oswalt continued to work with the Association because of the nature of the two organizations. In the event that Oswalt was not present and Mr. Pierson, Secretary of the Association, was, Mr. Pierson took care of the necessary work, and likewise when Mr. Pierson was absent, Mr. Oswalt actually carried on the work of both organizations.

In December 1950, Kenneth Fitzgerald was employed as assistant-secretary by the Association. He had previously been employed by the Association as a part-time helper while a student at Oklahoma A. & M. College.

The Association lost the services of E. S. Oswalt in January of 1951. Mr. Oswalt had been with the Association for four years as the assistant-secretary and for a year as the secretary-manager of the Foundation Seed Stocks, Inc. His new job was as the superintendent of the Cotton Research Station at Chickasha. Oswalt was replaced by N. B. Thomas of the Agronomy staff. Thomas had previously been working with corn breeding at the College.

NEW BUILDING AND LABORATORY

A seed analytical laboratory was finally established in the new Association building. The new building was just off of the College campus

and was built by the College to house the Association and its equipment. The new building had been built with space for the necessary testing equipment.

Up to this time, the \$4,000 which had been set aside for a laboratory for the Agronomy Department had not been used. Another \$2,000 was authorized and added to this fund to outfit the new laboratory properly. In 1952, an additional \$1,500 was authorized, making the entire laboratory cost \$7,500.

Additional personnel was needed to supervise the seed improvement work, particularly the Approved Origin of Alfalfa Program activity. The Secretary was authorized to hire a fieldman to assist in such work. The salary was not to exceed \$3,600 per year.

The Association, in 1950, received word that one of its early members and workers, L. W. Osborn, had died. Mr. Osborn had been secretary for the Association from 1925 until 1938.

The Association wished to have a part in the fund-raising campaign to build a memorial for the late president of Oklahoma A. & M. College, Henry G. Bennett. In a meeting in January, 1952, the directors voted to make a grant of \$1,000 to the Bennett Memorial fund. They felt this was only a small token of thanks to the man who had done so much for the College, Oklahoma, United States and the entire world.

The Association, realizing the importance of keeping the newly organized Foundation Seed Stocks, Inc. in an operative condition, voted again in 1952 to authorize a loan of up to \$12,000 annually to that organization. This was for the purpose of purchasing breeder's seed and for the purpose of paying contract growers for producing foundation seed. This action of the Board of Directors was to be authorized annually for that same amount

until the authorization was revoked by the Board of Directors. The loan was to be made to Foundation Seed Stocks, Inc. without an interest charge.

By the annual meeting time of the Association in 1952, the Secretary, Russell Pierson, was able to make the following report to the Association members: "Except for certain salary and travel funds provided by extension and experiment stations, the Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association continues to operate on a self-supporting basis, with seed growers and seed processors assuming financial responsibility for its operation. During the 43 years of its operation the Association had earned an overall worth which then stood at a little under \$80,000. About \$16,000 of that money was in a bank account to take care of monthly operating expenses and the rest was invested in equipment used in carrying on the work of the Association, supplies, which were kept on hand to serve members of the Association, and U. S. Saving Bonds." The Association had just a few over 600 members in 1952.

1953 Russell Pierson, who had been secretary of the Association since 1946, resigned as secretary to enter partnership in the Earl Nichols Company and Nichols Seed Company of Oklahoma City, effective March 10, 1953. Mr. Pierson's resignation was accepted reluctantly by the board, as he had served faithfully in his seven years of service to the Association. Edward L. Granstaff was elected as the new secretary-treasurer.

In 1953 serious setbacks, due to the drought, lowered the seed production in Oklahoma. In comparing the 1952 records with the 1953, it was found that 200 fewer certified seed growers applied for field inspections and 73 percent as many acres were inspected with only 68 percent as many

being approved. The total yield of certified seed was only 50 percent of the 1952 yield.

In 1952 outstanding seed yield were produced in the two major crops, wheat and alfalfa, whereas in 1953 they suffered severely. For example in 1953 only 14,201 acres of wheat were approved for certification, producing a total of 146,188 bushels of certified seed. This represents a 57 percent drop in the total production of certified seed of that crop as compared with the previous year.

This was a direct result of the extended drought together with intermittent and untimely showers. The alfalfa program suffered because of the shortage of hay which prevailed over most of Oklahoma. Thus the growers harvested hay crops rather than a seed crop.

In other crops a fifty percent or more decrease in production occurred.

In spite of old mother nature's crippling blow to the seed production program, the financial status of the Association continued to advance. The report of the annual audit showed that the Association was worth a net of \$92,387.23.

In 1953, Hub Carter was appointed assistant-secretary of the Association.

1954 In September the first Oklahoma Certified Seed News was published. The Secretary, Ed Granstaff, began publishing the bi-monthly news letter and it is still being published. The mailing list had grown to include some 7,500 readers.

The Association hired Bob Harrison, graduate of Oklahoma A. & M. College, as a full-time seed analyst. The need for a full-time analyst had

been brought about by the increasing number of seed samples being received.

CHANGE FROM TAG TO CERTIFICATE

At the annual meeting in 1954, Hub Carter, assistant secretary, proposed changing from the grower's tags to certificates in the alfalfa program. Several dealers, county agents and others working with the alfalfa program had suggested that the Association work out a plan whereby a certificate could be used instead of the grower's tag. This request was made due to the extensive time required to fill out each tag for each bag of seed. Many times the seed was delivered to a processor in bulk and the entire lot of tags turned over to the processor and never attached to the alfalfa at all. Also, it was found that many times the grower requested too many tags and those not used were still required to be filled out in advance by the county agents.

Under the new certificate plan the grower would file the inspector's report, thresherman's report and the production report in duplicates in the county office where alfalfa certificates were issued. Upon receipt of the Dealer's Certificate of delivery the county agent would fill out in triplicates the grower's Certificate of Approval. The grower would take the second copy to the dealer to whom he sold his lot of seed. The county agent would keep on file the third copy and send, along with the grower's alfalfa sample, the original copy to the Association office.

The new plan allowed the grower to secure one Certificate of Approval for each lot of seed he would sell. The seed must have been produced in fields that passed the field inspection.

1955 At the Board of Directors meeting in 1955 Ed Granstaff presented

in extensive detail, the two-tag system versus the one-tag for labeling certified seeds. The merits of placing the analysis on a separate tag were as follows: (1) places the labeling responsibilities directly on the grower or shipper of the seed; (2) makes it possible for the shipper to tag the seed to comply with other state seed laws in interstate shipment; (3) eliminates detaching certified seed tags from bags after the expiration date for germination; (4) eliminates reprinting of tags which in turn is additional expense to the owner of the seed.

Questionnaires were sent to several states concerning their using a separate tag for showing the laboratory analysis. All states surveyed were found to be quite satisfied with the two-tag system.

The two-tag system was given careful study by the Board of Directors and then sent to the certification board for their recommendations. Later, upon the recommendation of the certification board, the two-tag system was adopted.

In a previous meeting, the directors voted to order some 100 cases of bill board match covers carrying a certified seed advertisement. These were placed in seed stores and other places of business where growers could take advantage of them.

The Board of Directors voted to order 10,000 window decals which were to be used as advertising on Association member's cars and trucks.

At the annual meeting in 1955, the Secretary stated that the certified seed situation had never been more critical than it was at that time. The year 1954 had been a poor year for crops and the shortage of good certified seed continued. There had been 7,700,000 pounds of alfalfa seed harvested from 69,610 acres of alfalfa in the alfalfa program.

The Association's financial status continued to advance. The report

of the annual audit showed that the Association had a net worth of \$98,860.27. This was an all-time high for the Association to that time.

The extension service developed a 4-H Club certified seed production program for Oklahoma and the Association decided it would sponsor the program. Members felt that it was a fine opportunity for the Association to place the name of certified seed before many of the future farmers of Oklahoma.

Bob Harrison was appointed assistant-secretary of the association on May 10, 1955.

The Association was approached about sponsoring a Hi W. Staten Scholarship in the honor of the late Hi W. Staten. Staten, a long time member of the Association and Agronomy staff, had given much time to advance agriculture in Oklahoma and throughout the entire world. The scholarship would be awarded annually to some outstanding Agronomy student majoring in field crops. The Association accepted this opportunity to be of further service and approved an annual \$300 scholarship. Details were to be worked out with the proper College officials.

In 1955 there were 37 seed firms, as compared with 28 the previous year, inspected and approved by the Association to process certified seeds. According to records received, more than 1,670,425 pounds of certified seeds were processed by those firms that year. The previous year slightly over one million pounds had been processed.

Dr. Marlow Thorne, head of the Agronomy Department, asked the Association to study a plan to award two outstanding Agronomy graduates, one in field crops and one in soils, with gold wrist watches annually. Each watch would be inscribed with the name of the Association and the student to whom it was awarded. The directors voted to make this award.

The year of 1956 left the Association at its all-time high in finances. The report of the annual audit showed the Association had increased to a net worth of \$105,276.84.

N. B. Thomas, secretary-manager of the Foundation Seed Stocks, Inc., resigned his position effective November 10, 1956, to become agronomist and general manager of the Smith-Lee Farms located in Bryan County. He had been with the Association and Foundation Seed Stocks since 1951. Robert L. Harrison, assistant secretary-treasurer of the Association, was appointed to succeed Thomas as secretary-manager of the Foundation Seed Stocks, Inc.

1957 At a Board of Directors meeting, January 24, 1957, the directors appointed Bill Carlson as assistant secretary and Scottie McMillin was appointed in charge of the testing laboratory.

There was much to be desired in the seed improvement program for 1957. The total acreage approved for certification in 1957 amounted to 25,578 representing only 58 percent of that approved in 1956. Decreases in acreage approved for certification were experienced for all crops except cotton, oats, peanuts and native grasses. Wheat suffered the greatest reduction in acreage approved. The crop amounted to 13,326 acres approved in 1956.

An average of 28.1 percent of the small grain acreage inspected for certification was rejected. Varietal and other crop mixtures accounted for well over fifty percent of the rejections. Poor field conditions as a result of excessive rainfall accounted for another large percentage of the rejections.

The Approved Origin of Alfalfa program followed the same trend as

that for all alfalfa seed in Oklahoma. It was fast deteriorating but at a more accelerated rate. For example, this class of seed represented 38, 30.9 and 25 percent of the total alfalfa seed produced for the respective years 1955, 1956 and 1957. The production of all alfalfa seed declined 22 percent in 1956 and by 1957 the yield was only 47 percent of that of the 1955 yield.

Robert Harrison resigned as secretary-manager of the Foundation Seed Stocks, Inc., and James Echols was appointed to succeed him, effective July 1, 1958.

1958 The crop year 1958 will no doubt go down in history as one of the best ever experienced in Oklahoma. It could not have come at a better time due to the near-complete failures in 1956 and 1957 crops. The Association had a good year in the production of certified seed; however, its growth was limited in terms of acres applied for certification due to the after-effects of the previous two years. The total acreage approved for certification in 1958 was 28,276, which represents a 10 percent increase over the previous year.

Ample certified cotton seed was available for planting in 1958 due to the one-variety cotton gin which had been established in Elk City, Oklahoma. It was established for the purpose of ginning registered and certified Western Stormproof cotton seed exclusively and making it available for general planting. In order to supply adequate quantities of certified cotton seed to plant Oklahoma's allotted acreage, it would be necessary to increase the 1958 acreage from 5,544 to 30,500 acres.

A significant factor in the Association's history is the continuous drop in recent years in the Approved Origin of Alfalfa program. The

acreage of this program had decreased from 69,752 applied for in 1955 to 22,231 applied for in 1958, a reduction of 69 percent. The major acreage drop occurred in 1956, a loss of 50 percent as a result of extremely dry weather and a serious outbreak of spotted alfalfa aphids.

Three separate meetings were called in the spring of 1958 for the purpose of discussing the critical situation which existed in Oklahoma in the inadequate production, marketing and utilization of Oklahoma Certified seed. The first meeting was called by the Director of experiment station, involving officials of the University and seedsmen. The second was by the president of the Association, involving certified seed producers and University officials. And the third, called by the Association, involved certified seed producers, representatives of the seed trade and officials of Oklahoma State University.

From these meetings it was generally agreed among the groups concerned that there were four major problem areas. They are availability, quantity, price and consumer demand for certified seed. The Association was in hopes of these meetings helping to arrive at a solution to correct these major problems.

The Association approved 54 seed firms for processing certified seed in 1958. This, no doubt, has resulted in bringing about a closer understanding between the producer and processor and has aided in getting more certified seed on to the farms.

APPENDIX

Appendix A

Presidents of the Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Home</u>
1909-15	Campbell Russel	Warner
1916-22	George Bishop	Cordell
1923	W. A. Connor	Oklahoma City
1924	George Bishop	Cordell
1925	W. A. Connor	Oklahoma City
1926-27	O. W. T. Henderson	Amorita
1928-30	John W. Loewen	Watonga
1931	Earn Estill	Sand Springs
1932-33	C. N. Nunn	Porter
1934-35	C. C. Miller	Elk City
1936-38	L. F. Carroll	Newkirk
1939	Tollie Collins	Konawa
1940-43	Glenn E. Dill	Okemah
1944-45	G. B. Neely	Geary
1946-52	Clarence Reed	Oklahoma City
1953-55	Lee Autrey	Greenfield
1956-57	Eugene F. Nicholson	Oriente
1958-	Thomas C. Miller	Elk City

Secretary-treasurers of the Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>
1909-15	Mr. Morehouse
1916-21	M. A. Beeson
1922	W. J. Green
1923	G. C. Gibbons
1924	M. A. Beeson
1925-38	L. W. Osborn
1938-39	L. H. Brannon
1940-43	Wesley Chaffin
1943-45	Hugo Graumann
1946-53	Russell Pierson
1953-	Ed Granstaff

VITA

Paul Clyde Donovan

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Report: THE HISTORY OF THE OKLAHOMA CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Major Field: Agronomy

Biographical:

Personal Data: Born at Larned, Kansas, June 13, 1931, the son of Edward E. and Pauline R. Donovan.

Education: Attended grade school in Belpre, Kansas; graduated from Belpre High School in 1949; received the Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State University, with a major in Field Crops, in May, 1956; completed requirements for the Master of Science degree in May, 1959

Professional experience: Entered the United States Army in October, 1953 as a 2nd Lt. and was discharged in September, 1955 as a 1st Lt. Is active in the United States Army Reserves. Has been employed as an Agricultural Editor in the Department of Agriculture Information, Oklahoma State University since June 1956.