Eugene Paul Schoch

Eugene Paul Schoch (1871-1961) taught chemistry and later chemical engineering from 1894 until 1953. He was another who cared for students and even played with them. He organized and became the first director of the University Orchestra and then later organized the Longhorn Band and served as its director for nineteen years. Throughout his entire professional career, Dr. Schoch had the capability of inspiring young men and women to do better things. "Dr. E. P.'s boys," as they fondly called themselves, became leaders in their chosen areas. They initiated the E. P. Schoch lectures in chemical engineering in his honor. As a teacher, he was both vigorous and effective. He took particular delight in teaching freshman classes.

Source:

DISCOVERY: Research and Scholarship at The University of Texas at Austin, Vol. 14, No. 4 (1997): 32
The Building

The building in which the Department of Germanic Studies is housed is the onetime Chemical Engineering Building (completed in 1942), in 1969 named after Eugene Paul Schoch, the "father of chemical engineering in the southwest." But his professional and personal lives remain interesting for more than chemical engineering, and he may have been pleased that the Department of Germanic Studies and the Anthropology Department moved into a completely refurbished "Schoch Labs" in 1989, since articles around his retirement stressed that he was a Doctor of Philosophy with a great humanity and range of interests outside the lab.

Gene Schoch (16 October 1871-15 August 1961) was born to Oscar and Jenny (Fink) Schoch in Berlin. His parents had moved back to Berlin in the late 1860s, after they had become naturalized US citizens. Schoch had three years of elementary school in Germany, and then, after returning to Texas at age 10, one more year in Boerne. Of Texas German farmer stock, and not rich, he even took part in cattle drives when he was young. Eventually he married Clara Gerhard (14 June 1902), and had two sons and one daughter. A Daily Texan article (12-5-1941) reported that he spoke "with an accent which reminds one slightly of the old world."

He was a student at UT between 1891 and 1896, and was the University's first graduate (1894) in Civil Engineering; his MA in Chemistry fell in 1896. He took his PhD from the University of Chicago in 1902, taking one year off (and summers) from his UT instructorship to do so (1897-1905). He was an Adjunct Professor between 1906-1909; Professor of Chemistry, 1911-1918; and Professor of Chemical Engineering and Physical Chemistry, 1918-1938 (he founded the major, which gave its first BS degree in chemical engineering in 1919); Graduate Professor of Chemical Engineering, 1938-1953, when he turned emeritus. Between 1933 and 1955, he turned out 34 PhDs, including some names known on the campus today.

He was primarily responsible for establishing the Bureau of Industrial Chemistry, and was its director from 1914-1953; it was consolidated with the Bureau of Engineering Research on his retirement. His most remembered achievement in chemistry was a process that converted petroleum gasses into acetylene using electricity; and he also figured out how to save the natural gas that had been burned off of oil wells. A lecture series was established to honor him on his retirement; the name change for the one-time Chemical Engineering Building was approved in May, 1969, and implemented on 17 October 1969 amidst general festivities.

What he may be better remembered for is a 1900 deed: Schoch and another professor, H.E. Baxter, went to Jackson's Pawn Shop and spent about $150 of his own money to purchase musical instruments for an organization he was getting together: the Longhorn Band, of which first Baxter, then he was director. In 1892, he had founded the Men's Glee Club; he fiddled for the "B Hall Stag Dancing Club" in the most famous dormitory of the age (now under the Computation Center); and he played handball into his 70s. And he went down in another kind of history in 1903, when, as member of a quartette in a campus minstrel show, he sang a little ditty for the first time ever. The tune
was "I’ve been working on the railroad," and the words were written by another student, John Lang Sinclair, using a quotation from then University President William L. Prather: Schoch "helped introduce 'The Eyes of Texas' to the world."

The Eyes of Texas

(The Eyes of Texas are upon you
All the livelong day,
The Eyes of Texas are upon you,
You cannot get away
Do not think you can escape them
At night or early in the morn --
The Eyes of Texas are upon you
Till Gabriel blows his horn.

John Lang Sinclair (1903)
"Finding love is not easy on today's campus," or at least that's what some University students are saying. They cite the long hours in class, the unending mountain of homework, a part-time job, and even the time required to walk from class to the nearest student parking lot as reasons for not having a date Saturday night. "It was a lot easier to meet people when UT was smaller." Well, maybe. But getting a date on the Forty Acres at the turn of the century had its own problems.

When the University first opened in 1883, entertainment for students was limited. Vaudeville acts and other shows could be found in the theaters downtown, and day hikes to Mount Bonnell for a picnic were popular. Student dances were also regular events, but since the University didn't have the proper facilities, dances were held in a large room at the state lunatic asylum. Of course, to get a date, one first had to know how to dance.

By the 1890s, a student dance club known as the "Centipedes" was popular on the campus, though its membership consisted mainly of students who could afford to join fraternities and sororities. Residents of Brackenridge Hall, the first men's dorm, were from less affluent backgrounds and not welcome. Undaunted, the B. Hall "barbarians" were determined to become more learned in the social graces.

A search of the hall found two residents who knew how to waltz. They were promptly made dance instructors. As for music, someone noticed that Eugene Schoch, BS 1894, kept a fiddle in his room. A committee called on Schoch and inquired about the fiddle, to which Schoch protested that he did not possess a "fiddle," but rather owned a "violin."

Furthermore, he only played classical, not dance, music. Schoch received a second visit by a larger committee, and after some "convincing," he agreed to serve as both orchestra leader and orchestra. From then on, for an hour after dinner each evening, the newly founded Rhizopods practiced their steps.

After B. Hall was expanded in 1899, the Rhizopods met in the fourth floor assembly room. Seniors were recruited as dance instructors for awkward freshmen. There was reportedly some toe-smashing, limping, and groaning during the first few sessions, but after some practice, the new-comers tried their skill at public dances held at Scholz Garten or fire company balls around town. When they had passed this test, the freshmen braved a University dance for their final exam: A waltz with a campus co-ed.

As for the groups first orchestra leader, Schoch became a chemistry professor at the University, was a pioneer of chemical engineering studies at Texas and throughout the South, and founded the University (now Longhorn) Band.
Did You Know?
by Joshua D'Agostino and Erin Morgan
SOURCE: The Daily Texan, Thursday, 18 April 1998: 4

William L. Prather, the third president, elected in 1899, was an alumnus of Washington College, later changed to Washington and Lee. He was dedicated to improving the academic environment of the University. During his enrollment there, Robert E. Lee, an infamous Confederate general, served as president, often stating, "The eyes of the South are upon you." Prather took Lee's catch-phrase and transformed it to meet the University's needs. His addresses to students often concluded with "The eyes of Texas are upon you." Prather truly believed in the superiority of UT, and he used this phrase to inspire that same belief in his students.

However, Prather repeated the phrase on countless occasions to the point of overuse. One night in 1903, during a benefit for the track team at the Hancock Opera House, John Lang Sinclair, the campus poet, quickly composed a song poking fun at Prather's constant inclusion of the phrase in his daily speech. Sinclair wrote the song moments before the University quartet (of which he was a part) sang it. Here is the song in its entirety:

I once did know a president
Away down South, in Texas.
And always, everywhere he went,
He saw the Eyes of Texas.

The Eyes of Texas are upon you
All the livelong day,
The Eyes of Texas are upon you,
You cannot get away.
Do you not think you can escape them
At night or early in the morn --
The Eyes of Texas are upon you
Till Gabriel blows his horn.

Sing me a song of Prexy,
Of says long since gone by.
Again I seem to greet him
And hear his kind reply.
Smiles of gracious welcome
Before my memory rise,
Again I hear him say to me,
"Remember Texas' Eyes."

The song was a great success, and the quartet sang several encores. In fact, it instantly was dubbed the official alma mater of UT. When Prather died in 1905, "The Eyes of
Texas" was played at his funeral, and on the Tower carillon when Sinclair passed away in 1947.

Over the years, "The Eyes of Texas" has served as the symbol of greatness for UT. In 1930, it was translated into ten different languages, and in 1969, it traveled to the moon with Texas ex Alan Bean. That copy is currently on display in the Alumni Center. . . . Hook 'Em Horns!

One Hundred Eyes of Texas
by Jim Nicar

Lewis Johnson (L.LB. 1903, BA 1904) played tuba for the Varsity Band, directed the University chorus, and became the student manager for just about all of the musical performances on the campus. He was also a man with a mission. Students in Cambridge sang "Fair Harvard," Princeton had its "Old Nassau," but UT students had no song to call their own. In the early 1900s, the most popular tunes heard on the Forty Acres were "Love Nobody but You, Babe," and "The Hamburger Show," but these weren't truly Texan. Though he wasn't a composer himself, Johnson was determined to create a song for the University of Texas.

Johnson contacted alumni known to have literary talent, hoping one would volunteer to write a University song, but received only polite refusals. Not one to give up, Johnson turned to fellow student and band member, John Sinclair. Editor of the Cactus yearbook and a regular contributor to the University Literary Magazine, Sinclair was known as the"campus poet." He resisted the idea at first, but Johnson continued to ask.

One evening in the spring of 1902, Johnson and Sinclair were returning from a comic opera performance in downtown Austin, when they stopped at Jacoby's Beer Garden, just south of the campus. The topic of a University song arose once again and, perhaps with the help of Mr. Jacoby's ales, Sinclair finally acquiesced to Johnson's requests. They went to Sinclair's room on the third floor of B. Hall (the men's dorm), stayed up all night, and finished the verses for "Jolly Students of the Varsity." The Jolly Students was introduced at a student variety show in May, and was instantly popular with UT students. But Johnson felt the song lacked a distinct Texas identity, and the following spring prodded Sinclair to try again.

A few weeks later, while Johnson was in the University Post Office in the old Main Building, Sinclair arrived, grinned, handed Johnson a folded scrap of brown
laundry paper, and left. On it, scribbled in pencil with scratched-out lines and corrections, was the first draft of a poem.

Before Johnson read the last line, he knew Sinclair had produced something for the University that would last long after their time as students had passed. With the chorus set to the tune "I've Been Working on the Railroad," Johnson and Sinclair prepared the rest of the song so it could be performed by the Varsity Quartet at the next variety show in May. As the work progressed, the two decided to make the song a joke on University President William Prather, and Sinclair made some significant revisions to the words.

Prather, who became the University's president in 1899, had attended Washington College in Virginia (now Washington and Lee University), and often heard its president at the time - General Robert E. Lee - tell the students, "Remember, the eyes of the South are upon you." Prather particularly liked this phrase, and decided to end his inaugural speech on the Forty Acres with the words "the eyes of Texas are upon you."

Because the speech was so well received, Prather began to end all of his talks the same way. The students, of course, picked up on it immediately, and it became an ongoing campus joke to chant "Remember, the eyes of Texas are upon you!" at sporting events, concerts, and just about every social occasion. Prather took the good-natured kidding as it was intended. He knew that, at least, the students were listening to him.

The Varsity Variety Show was scheduled for Wednesday evening, May 12, 1903, in the Hancock Opera House on West Sixth Street, and was packed with music, dances, skits, and even a tumbling act. Proceeds from the show would pay for the track team to attend the All-South Track and Field Competition in Atlanta. The fourth piece listed on the printed program was cryptically labeled a "Selection" by the Varsity Quartet.

The Eyes of Texas

I once did know a President
A way down South, in Texas.
And, always, everywhere he went,
He saw the Eyes of Texas.
The Eyes of Texas are upon you,
All the livelong day.
The Eyes of Texas are upon you,
You can not get away.

Lewis Johnson, above left, was the grandfather of UT Parents' Association Co-Chair Diane Boddy. On November 7, 1953, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the song, Johnson presented a copy of the original
Do not think you can escape them
At night or early in the morn -
The Eyes of Texas are upon you
Till Gabriel blows his horn.
Sing me a song of Prexy,
Of days long since gone by.
Again I seem to greet him,
And hear his kind reply.
Smiles of gracious welcome
Before my memory rise,
Again I hear him say to me,
"Remember Texas' Eyes."

"Eyes of Texas" manuscript to Franklin
Spears, right, president of the Students'
Association at the time. In his right hand,
Lewis holds the original piece of brown
laundry paper on which the song was written
(below). Upon Johnson's death, the original
manuscript was placed on permanent loan by
the Johnson family to the Ex-Students'
Association. It is displayed at the Etter-Harbin
Alumni Center.

With President Prather sitting in the audience, four students: Jim Kivlehen, Ralph
Porter, Bill Smith and Jim Cannon, accompanied by John Sinclair on the banjo, took the
stage and unleashed Sinclair's creation. Before the first verse was finished, the crowd was
in an uproar. By the end of the song, the audience was pounding the floor and demanding
so many encores that members of the quartet became hoarse and had to sing "We're Tired
Out." The Varsity Band quickly learned the tune, and the following evening included
"The Eyes of Texas" on its weekly Promenade Concert around the campus. The
University of Texas had a song it could call its own.