

NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

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SILVER SERVICE SET FROM THE U.S.S. *Oklahoma* TO BE ON EXHIBIT
IN THE MUSEUM IN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The silver service set from the U.S.S. *Oklahoma* has been received from the Navy Department for exhibit in the Museum of the Oklahoma Historical Society, through the efforts of Mrs. John R. Williams, Chairman, and Judge Robert A. Hefner and Doctor Charles Evans, members of the special committee appointed by Judge Robert L. Williams, President of the Board of Directors, to find out what became of the silver service set from the U.S.S. *Oklahoma* sunk at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.¹ Upon investigation, it was learned that the silver set was removed from the great battleship before December, 1941, and stored as "strip-ship" material at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington, from which place it was recently sent to the Historical Society.

This beautiful silver service will be one of the most unique and interesting exhibits in the Museum. The set consisting of more than twenty-seven pieces specially designed and decorated with Oklahoma historical scenes and motifs, under the direction of Walter Dean of Oklahoma City, was made to order by Gorham Silversmiths, an appropriation of \$7,500 having been provided for the purpose by the Fourth State Legislature in 1913. In behalf of the State, Governor Lee Cruce, Benjamin F. Harrison, Secretary of State, and Robert Dunlop, State Treasurer were authorized under the act of the Legislature to select, purchase and present the silver service to the Battleship *Oklahoma* at the time it was commissioned in the U. S. Navy.² The *Oklahoma* was christened by Miss Lorena Cruce, daughter of Governor Cruce, on March 23, 1914, at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.³

¹ See Minutes of the Board of Directors published in *The Chronicles*, Vol. XXIV, No. 2 (Summer, 1946), p. 245.

² State of Oklahoma, *Session Laws of 1913*, pp. 312-13.

³ "The U. S. S. *Oklahoma* and Its Flag," *The Chronicles*, Vol. XXIII, No. 1 (Spring, 1945), pp. 73-4.

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