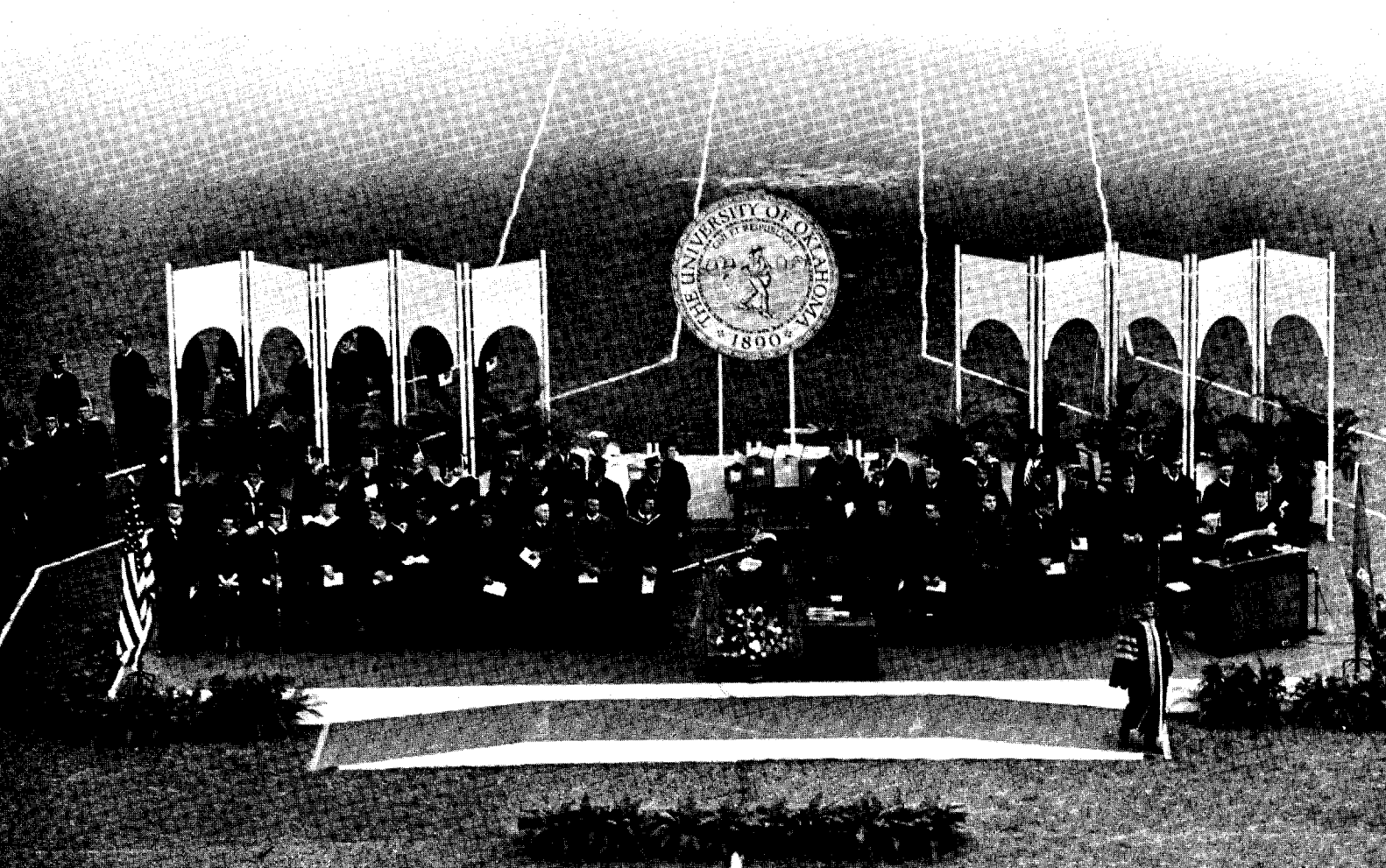


COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND

19



Of Honored Alumni and the DSC

It had rained for several days prior to commencement weekend, and the campus was in the grips of the annual jitters over whether it would be dry for ceremonies in the stadium.

Those coming back to the campus many years after their own graduation found the proceedings little changed. There were new faces on the platform; there were more faces among the graduates, but the long, solemn procession held the same majesty, and it was difficult to believe that beneath the caps and gowns was such a divergence of political opinion, such a welter of feelings that only days before the campus had been the scene of a strike movement and noisy mass meetings.

For the Honored Alumni it was a special weekend—a time to remember, a time to renew, a time to wonder. Twenty-five members of the Class of 1920 came back for their fifty-year reunion to a university that must have seemed far removed from the one they attended.

The 1920 alumni registered at the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education—relatively new and built on land that had been endless prairie grass fifty years ago. They held their Friday dinner meeting in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, a building they dreamed about as students but never had.

At the dinner there was a panel discussion on "What Was Plenty in 1920." From a sheer reverent standpoint there couldn't have been three better panel members than Emil Kraettli, secretary emeritus of the University; Gertrude Phillips, one of the founders of Chi Omega social sorority, and Joe Benton, whose career as teacher and opera singer have taken him all over the world.

The weekend was filled with a guided bus tour of the campus and of Norman, a picture taking session, Don Walker's hospitality hour, and of course the nostalgic luncheons and dinners.

Robert S. Gordon, president of the 1920 class, was there along with William F. Absher, Claude Barber, R. F. Danner, Paul C. Dean, Pauline Eagleton, J. S. Farmer, Elgin Groschlose, Bennie Henry, W. T. Huff, Elizabeth Johnson, W. R. Johnston, Reuben W. Keller, Richard B. Knight, C. Z. Logan, Omar R. Lyon, Ruth M. Memminger, Grace Ray, Robert M. Sayre, Mrs. L. H. Sexton, Tom Sorey, Wallace C. Thompson and Lucile C. Wilkinson.

Another twenty-three alumni, all of whom graduated more than fifty years ago, were on hand to welcome the 1920 graduates to Honored Alumni status.

Heading the list was the Rev. Charles A. Long, OU's oldest living alumnus. Reverend Long graduated in 1905 when eight students received bachelor's degrees, two got master's degrees and 15 received pharmacy certificates. Those were the very early days when Parrington Oval was just a dot on the forty-acre campus south of Norman. The days when there was no housing, no paved roads or sidewalks. Days when only 450 people were enrolled at OU and half of those were taking high school work preparing for collage.

At 89 Reverend Long probably viewed this particular reunion with more nostalgia than usual. On June 20 he moved from his home in Ardmore to Fullerton, California.

Other Honored Alumni Club members at commencement were Everett C. "Hap" Parker, president of the club; Marjorie Brainard, John A. Bryan, Roy and Carrie Cox, Glenon W. Faris, C. W. Gittinger, Harry L. S. Halley, Edgar L. Harris, R. W. Hutto, Dave Logan, Nellie Jane Littick, Ruth Morris, Jesse T. Owens, A. C. Reeds, Charles L. Roff, Lois K. Scott, Alfred Stevenson, Fred E. Tarman, Harrell Trimble, Louise Wilkonson and Myrtle Wilkonson.

At commencement ceremonies the University conferred 1,941 bachelor's degrees, 518 master's degrees, and 146 doctorates. Among the oldest graduates was Mrs. Beth Dwight Teeple of Oklahoma City. Like many people, Mrs. Teeple had found life a little dull in retirement. She had worked at Wesley Hospital in Oklahoma City and found time stretching out in a rather dull manner. In 1963 she enrolled in the University's bachelor of liberal studies degree program, the plan whereby students earn a degree through a combination of independent study and on-campus seminars. And so it was that on May 31, 1970, Mrs. Teeple received her first college degree at age 83.

Special honorees for the weekend were the Distinguished Service Citation recipients. Winners of the citation, the equivalent of OU's honorary degrees, are selected by an anonymous faculty-alumni committee. Recipients are chosen for their "positive contributions to human progress through devotion to enduring values and unselfish and sustained services to mankind."

Provisions of the award specify that only five citations will be given each year. This year there were six. The 1970 awards went to Althea (Mrs. John) Bass, historian, novelist, poet and literary critic, Norman; Harvey Everest, chairman of the board of Liberty National Bank and Trust Co., Oklahoma City; Glenn

Faris, executive vice president of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center, Oklahoma City; Emil Kraettli, secretary emeritus of the University and its Board of Regents, Norman, and Leonard Savage, president and chairman of the board of Standard Life and Accident Insurance Co., Oklahoma City.

The sixth recipient, W. W. Keeler, chairman and chief executive officer of Phillips Petroleum Co., Bartlesville, was presented a 1969 citation. This unprecedented turn of events came about because the DSC cannot be awarded in absentia, and at the last minute Keeler had been unable to attend the 1969 ceremonies.

An alumnus of the University of Kansas, where he has served as president of the alumni association, Keeler went to work for Phillips Petroleum before he finished college. He held positions as chemist, process engineer, night superintendent, refining manager, vice president for refining and subsequently became vice president of the executive committee, a member of the board of directors, a member of the executive committee and finally chairman and chief executive officer of the company.

Keeler has been involved in Presidentially appointed committees to study poverty and economic development and has been a devoted worker in Indian affairs.

Althea Bass, widow of John Harvey Bass of Enid, received a master's degree from OU in 1921. Vitaly interested in history, and particularly Indian history, she has written short stories, essays and poems for *American Heritage*, *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, *The Colophon*, *Harper's*, *The New Republic*, *Scholastic*, *Sewanee Review*, *Saturday Review*, *Today*, *Woman's Day* and many other periodicals.

Her list of books includes "Cherokee Messenger," "Now That the Hawthorn Blossoms," "Young Inquirer," "A Cherokee Daughter of Mount Holyoke," "The Thankful People," "The Story of Tullahassee," and "The Arapaho Way."

In keeping with her literary interests, Mrs. Bass has been active in a number of history and literary organizations including the Association on American Indian Affairs, the English-Speaking Union, the Oklahoma Ornithological Society and the Oklahoma Anthropological Society. She is a life member of the Cherokee National Historical Society, the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Alumni Association.

Harvey Everest is chairman of the board of two magazine distribution companies, raises cattle in Osage

County, serves as chairman of the board of trustees at Phillips University, Enid, is a founder and executive committee chairman of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, is a director of The Frontiers of Science Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc., and now serves or has served on the boards of many other organizations and charities.

Born in Kansas in 1895, Everest has lived in Oklahoma since 1899 and attended OU. During World War II, having had no previous military duty, he applied for a Navy commission at age 46, received it in Arizona, served briefly in Virginia and was stationed the remainder of the time at the Naval Air Station at Norman.

Everest was president of Liberty from 1955 to 1967 before becoming chairman of the board. He also serves as an advisory director of the May Avenue Bank and Trust Company and the American National Bank of Midwest City.

Glenn Faris has been a guiding force behind development of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center. He became involved in bringing the center to Oklahoma City while he was executive secretary of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce.

Faris went to work for the Chamber in 1923 as a bookkeeper. He served as office manager, manager of several divisions, assistant manager and finally 12 years as executive secretary before his retirement in 1962.

He has been a faithful backer of the annual 4-H and FFA Livestock Show and was a leader in organizing the Sirloin Club of Oklahoma and the Southwest American Livestock Foundation, two of the livestock show sponsors.

Faris, a native of Iowa, came to Oklahoma in 1903. He received a bachelor's degree from OU in 1919.

To many people, Emil Kraettli is as much an institution as the University of Oklahoma itself. He served six of OU's eight presidents between the time he came here in 1913 as stenographer in the secretary-registrar's office and his second retirement in 1969. His first retirement came in 1962, but the Board of Regents prevailed on him to stay on, which he did for seven more years.

In his 56 years of service at OU, Kraettli kept painstaking records of regents' meetings, cross referencing all proceedings in what is probably the best chronicle available of the institution's history.

As University secretary and right hand man to the president, Kraettli handled many chores that subse-

quently became full fledged departments in their own right. One of these was the financial aids program which had its beginnings in 1918 in a \$200 gift from President Stratton D. Brooks.

Kraettli was born in Nebraska in 1890, went to school in Kansas and attended two years of business college in Quincy, Illinois, before coming to OU.

Leonard Savage founded Standard Life 24 years ago and has built it into one of the largest of its kind in the nation. He is president and/or chairman of the board for the parent company in Oklahoma City as well as for Standard Title Insurance Co. and National Guaranty Insurance Co. in Oklahoma City, Standard Life and Accident of California in San Diego and of Union Bank in Tucson, Arizona.

Savage is a director of Liberty National Bank and Trust Co., Southwest Title and Trust Co., Liberty Corporation, Reserve Petroleum Co., radio station KOFM, television station KOCO-TV, all in Oklahoma City, and Palomar Mortgage Co., San Diego; Delta Mortgage Co., New Orleans, and Rio Grande Savings and Loan, Harlingen, Texas. He also serves as a director of the Chamber of Commerce in Oklahoma City and Tucson.

From 1955 to 1963 he was an OU regent and he now is a trustee of Phillips University, Enid.

Born in 1906 in Blanco, Savage received bachelor's and law degrees in 1930 from OU.



Bass



Everest



Faris



Kraettli



Savage

The President's Address

We meet here in a respite—in a quiet period—a quiet period in our time of trouble—to reward, to initiate and to commemorate those who have completed their courses of study.

We meet here to dignify with diploma the end, and to signify with ceremony the beginning.

We meet here in the name of the university, an institution 700 years or so old, two and one-half times as old as the United States. It is rich with tradition reaching back to the beginnings of the church and of our society.

The university is an institution that has undergone little change in its 700 years of history.

The university has been strong enough, at least until recently, to survive against the state, against the church, against the mob, against the dictator, and against all those who oppose free inquiry or who oppose reason and learning about man.

It is a place where man may search for truth, whether about the world in which he lives or about himself—and all truth is not written in books nor taught in courses; much comes from within ourselves and our personal experiences.

The university is a place where young people find new perceptions, where they rebel against the teachings of the past—there are always new things under the sun.

The university is a place where different people of different backgrounds associate with the common interest of learning or obtaining a degree or learning a trade. It's a different world from the world of the family, a different world from that of the society generally, though it is a part of that society.

The university is not a place from which civil authority or external force may be barred. It is not sanctuary. It deserves to be a sanctuary if—and only if—it lives in peace.

The university is a place where too often there is unyielding authority on the part of those who teach or administer.

The university has become, in recent years a place where students are manipulated, card-filed, mutilated, punched and sometimes graduated.

The university has become a place where young people begin to ask not only the question, "What do I know and what can I learn?" but also the question