

# Reunions

## Nostalgia Revisited

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For the Class of 1921 returning to OU for its fifty-year reunion the changes must have been nothing short of astonishing.

There were familiar sights—the administration building, chemistry, law, the buildings that until a few months ago housed the art facilities. But in 1921 some of them had different uses, and in 1921 Parrington Oval and an extension to the east were all there was of the campus.

Reunion activities were designed to promote nostalgia beginning with the Friday night dinner when the honor classes of 1921 and 1931 and the members of the Honored Alumni Club met to hear Snorter Luster, football captain in 1920 and later coach, talk on "Football in the Good Old Days or They Don't Hang Effigies Like They Used To."

And indeed they don't. Football in 1921 was a total of eight games that resulted in OU's taking the Missouri Valley Conference championship in its first year in the conference. The season began October 9 and ended November 25 with no losses and one tie.

The schedule included the opener with Central Normal (now 50 years later it too is a university), the Boomers (an intra-squad game) and then went into the conference schedule with Washington University of St. Louis, Missouri, Kansas, the Aggies (from Stillwater), the Kansas Aggies (who tied the Sooners 7-7) and finally Drake, which lost 44 to 7.

The team was filled with legendary names in OU football: Snorter Luster, Jap Haskell, Deke Deacon, Big Bill McKinley, Potts Johnson, Skivy Davis, Dutch Hill, Dow Hamm, Tarz Marsh, Phil White, Sol Swatek,

Little Tub Tyler, Gus Edmondson, Soupy Smoot, Ram Morrison, Poncho Ogilvie, Fat Cullen and Puny Ross.

It was when Ben Owen was head coach aided by Grover C. Jacobsen, Sam D. Burton and Edgar D. Meacham and games were played on Boyd Field.

Saturday morning reunion activities included a bus tour of the campus—both the well remembered and the relatively new. There must have been some mixed emotions, but there had to be pride. People attending the reunion remembered when OU was fighting to stay alive as a University.

In the 1921 yearbook they had commented on that fight: "Like many of the older institutions it (OU) suffered many difficulties in the beginning, when both political and denominational forces held sway over the institution, making its future doubtful, to say nothing of progress. As a result of these unfortunate circumstances financial support was a thing not to be expected, confidence in the institution was rapidly vanishing, and its standing in the educational world was little more than a bit of sarcasm . . . Factionalism was eliminated, we hope forever, and today, the University of Oklahoma has a standing among the educational institutions of the North, the South, the East and the West that is unquestioned."

In those days the enrollment was growing at the rate of about 440 per year, but probably few of them ever looked toward a day when more than 18,000 students would be attending classes at one time as opposed to the nearly 4,000 that were here in 1921.

In those days the University consisted of a small graduate school headed by A. H. Van Vleet, for whom



Above, Charles Roff, Q. D. Gibbs and Ed Harris talk over old and new times while below perpetual host Don Walker chats with President Emeritus and Mrs. Cross



Roy Cox presides at Honored Alumni Club proceedings during Reunion weekend

the south oval is named; the College of Arts and Sciences with J. S. Buchanan as dean, and within the college the schools of journalism, public and private business, and social service. There was the School of Fine Arts headed by Fredrik Holmberg; the College of Engineering under the deanship of J. H. Felgar; the law school with Dean J. C. Monnet; the pharmacy school directed by D. B. R. Johnson; the School of Medicine under LeRoy Long; the School of Education which had just left the College of Arts and Sciences to become a separate school under W. W. Phelan.

The 1921 Sooner Beauty was Margaret Bradbury with Florence Hills as second queen. Presiding over the annual Freshman Friday students was Edna Stuard, and Queen of the May Fete was Dorothy Arnold. Iris Leadaman was Engineer's Queen.

A fellow named Joseph A. Brandt was editor of the Oklahoma Daily, a man who later became director of the University Press and subsequently president of the University.

The University was publishing a magazine edited by Grace E. Ray, and theatre got a boost with the formation of the Drama League.

Debate and literary societies were going full tilt with questions being debated like: "Resolved, That a parliamentary form of government should be adopted in the United States"; "Resolved, That the several states should establish courts of industrial relations similar to that of Kansas"; and "Resolved, That Congress should pass a law making strikes on railroads illegal."



Helen Berg Kline receives her HAC membership certificate

to a national social fraternity as had the pharmacy group Phi Delta Chi. Alpha Tau Omega had a new chapter, and Delta Sigma Delta, founded at OU in 1919, was petitioning Delta Tau Delta.

Among the earlier established sororities were Kappa Alpha Theta, Delta Delta Delta, Pi Beta Phi, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Phi, Delta Gamma, Gamma Phi Beta, Alpha Gamma Delta, Chi Omega, a new sorority called Achoth, a two-year-old organization of Xi Delta which was petitioning Alpha Xi Delta.

In today's world of high speed transportation, the Class of 1921 still has something to boast of. In their day at OU the interurban was providing hourly service between Norman and "all points north, east and west." The last car left Norman just after midnight and the company advertised "close connections with all steam lines at Oklahoma City, Guthrie and El Reno . . . No Smoke, no dust; plenty of heat in winter; plenty of air in summer."

Everybody had his picture made at Truby Studio, ate walnut taffy at the Green Frog Confectionary, met at the Varsity Fountain, saw movies at the Campus Theatre "home of Paramount pictures," saw big time vaudeville and road attractions at Oklahoma City's Orpheum, and carried on in wild abandon at The Teepee, "the loafers paradise" where one could get "everything that the student wishes or desires."

On Saturday of 1971 reunion weekend Don Walker, '15, of Tulsa again hosted his famous hospitality hour and at the Honored Alumni Club dinner that night members of the class of 1921 received their fiftieth anniversary awards and were inducted into the honor club group.

There was no doubt it was a sentimental journey. Distance kept many people away, but Ruth G. Getgey and her husband, John, came from Cincinnati for the occasion, and Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Woltering came all the way from Delray Beach, Florida.

Other members of the 1921 class here for the reunion included Claude Barber, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Coffey, Mr. and Mrs. John Jameson, Mr. and Mrs. Dewey H. Neal, all from Oklahoma City; Mrs. Jesse

Churchwell, Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Gaither, Mrs. Froma Johnson, Homer McLaughlin, Vida H. Meyer and husband, Clifford, Mr. and Mrs. George Nolan, and Russell Smith, all of Norman.

There were Carney O. Dean, Chandler; George L. Fox, Rozell, Kansas; Iris L. Freeman, Heavener; O. D. Gibbs, Okmulgee; Helen Berg Kline, Muskogee; Miriam White Lee, Stockton, Kansas; Dr. E. O. Martin, Cushing; William E. McInnis and his wife, Anna Armstrong McInnis, Wichita; A. M. and Fern Meyer, Shawnee; Mr. and Mrs. John M. Morrow, Shawnee Mission Kansas; William Ritzhaupt, Edmond; Mr. and Mrs.



F. F. Gaither was among the honorees

Hugh Southwick, Garber; Dixie Young, Chickasha, and Sallie Marvin Gruwell, Tulsa.

Here from the Class of 1931 were Mr. and Mrs. John Raymond Cooper, El Dorado, Kansas; Galen Byren, Oklahoma City; Elizabeth K. Burnett, Sapulpa; Ed Mills, Gary, Indiana; George C. Wight, Chicago; W. O. Wethington, Nash, and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest E. Rapp, Oklahoma City.

In the annual Honored Alumni Club election, Dave Logan, '16, Okmulgee, was elected president. Others here for reunion activities included Bess A. Moore, '17, Norman; V. E. Monnet, '12, Norman; Hap Parker, '14, Ardmore; C. W. McFerron, '11, Oklahoma City; William P. Lively, '16, and his wife, Guthrie; Mr. and Mrs. Earl D. McBride, '12, Oklahoma City; Miss Bennie Henry, '20, Stillwater; J. J. Hill, '15, and his wife, Norman; Robert M. Sayre, '20, Fort Worth; Mrs. Gladys Martin, '30, Cushing; Virginia White Parks, '24, Tulsa; Luther White, '14, Fort Worth; Orlando F. Sweet, '19, Guymon; Wade H. Loofbourrow, '19, Boise City; Charles A. Long, '05, Fullerton, California; Roy W. Cox, '14, Blackwell; Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Truman, '23, Bridgeport, Connecticut; Charles L. Roff, '17, Durant; John A. Bryan, '11, Antlers; C. Z. Logan, '16, Tulsa; Ed Harris, '08, Norman, and Gertrude Phillips, '20, Norman.



William H. Ritzhaupt and Gladys Martin at the Reunion luncheon