



1890 - 1990  
THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION  
of the  
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

# ***A YEAR TO REMEMBER***

*December 19, 1989, to December 19, 1990*

**T**ributes poured in from all corners of the country. Well-wishers dropped by to pay their respects. Gifts from family and friends bore testimony to the high regard in which the honoree was held. Accented by flashes of color and excitement, the party ebbed and flowed for more than a year, with events of suitable pomp and ceremony; moments of exuberant good humor; sessions of serious, searching inquiry; times for reflection, nostalgia and over all a sense of pride.

On December 19, 1990, the University of Oklahoma was 100 years old. Such an occasion could not pass unnoticed. In a land still young enough to remember and revere the frontier, the significance of a centennial was more than enough to bring out the faithful, renew commitments, and yes, recruit a new following. Perhaps a *Tulsa World* editorial by Alex Adwan put it best:

### **Happy Birthday and Love**

"For a hundred years, University of Oklahoma degrees have been the key to the Good Life for thousands of Oklahomans. But direct benefit to students was only a secondary purpose when the University was established. Educating individuals was a means, not an end. The main goal was—and is—nothing less than the advancement of civilization. And OU's influence on this little corner of civilization called Oklahoma would be hard to exaggerate.

"Much of the state's culture, its business climate, political attitude and social consciousness flow directly from the Norman campus and its satellites around the state.

"The governor of Oklahoma is an OU product as are one in four members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives. It is a fair guess that one in three of the state's outstanding lawyers is from OU. The same could be said of bankers, artists, executives, leading educators and other shapers of culture and opinion.

"The alumni rolls include best-selling authors and movie stars, tycoons and scientists.

"The University, of course, has its own culture and atmosphere, a reflection of things that set Oklahoma apart from other places, like a great sense of fun and humor and a touch of frontier rowdiness—and an orgasmic fervor for football. . .

"The University of Oklahoma has frequently been near the bottom of the list of major state universities in terms of public financial support. But it has soldiered on. It has planted civilization on the Old Frontier. Today, it opens new frontiers in science, art and thought. Happy Birthday, old girl!

"And may all Oklahomans in your next 100 years resolve\* to treat you with respect, to better appreciate your priceless gifts to us and to love you even more."