

The prince of Oklahoma toastmasters, Walter Ferguson, '07ex, of Tulsa (left) and George C. Smith, '08as, of St. Louis, one of America's leaders in intelligent industrialism, both helped make the annual alumni luncheon not only memorable but the most successful ever held at Norman. The rapier wit of Mr Ferguson and the provocative address of Mr Smith, the speeches of former President Brooks and of President Bizzell and of Regent Looney, the presence of Sooners from everywhere, all welded into a Commencement that was a Homecoming

To eat is to rejoice

FROM the first class to graduate in the university to the latest, alumni from New York to Texas overflowed the Oklahoma Union ballroom for the most successful alumni Commencement-Homecoming luncheon in history, June 5.

Walter Ferguson, '07ex, vice president of the National Bank of Tulsa, was the genial maestro who wielded a magic baton over an enthusiastic assembly which included two great men who have and are guiding the destinies of the university, the president of one of America's greatest oil companies, the vice president of one of the great railroads of the country, the directing spirit of the greatest liberal chain of newspapers in the nation, the vice president of the state's largest bank, several of the most successful farmers of the state (for about one in six graduates of the university come from farm homes and some go back there)—in fact, it was a cross section of Soonerland.

Stratton D. Brooks, beloved of thousands of Sooners who attended the university when he was president, was there—in fact, all but one of his family was there, for it was a joyful occasion for him, since his daughter Betty had just received her master's degree from Oklahoma.

President Bizzell, who took over the perilous direction of the university when lightning struck back in 1923, and Mrs Bizzell, must have had some reward from that stormy ovation they got from standing Sooners. And those same Soon-



ers giving a standing, cheering ovation to Prexy Brooks.

President Westfall (who previously had slipped off the stage at Commencement to work on the Executive Board program) relinquished the toastmasting (*Time*, this is our time!) to Mr Ferguson. And Mr Ferguson, who had been having a thoroughly enjoyable time with those reprobates who undoubtedly caused President Boyd some sleepless nights and who are now pillars of society (beware when you carelessly condemn the young collegian—always remember Shelley), arose to the occasion as no previous toastmaster has.

"Had I known," Mr Ferguson lamented, "when I was in school that I was ever going to preside over an alumni luncheon, I'd have completed the course!"

Then, turning an accusing finger at Deke (it is a major question this, whether the spelling is "Deke" or "Deak," so we follow the phonetic method) Parker, he lifted the veil from the Dim Past.

"I suppose now that Deke Parker's Phi Beta Kappa key will take the place of the corkscrew on his watchchain nicely!"

Mr Parker, coatless in Oklahoma's torrid summer, but thoroughly happy, grinned broadly. Then he took the applause of the house.

Deft Mr Ferguson then introduced the "Sweet Adeline of 1908," none other than Adelaide Parker. And gracious Mrs Parker received an ovation the equal of modest, genial Deke Parker.

After James Forrest West, '33mus, had sung "Collette," Mr Ferguson lit a flare which burned brightly. "May I present the best reason why the college of engineering should not be moved, the most distinguished man of science graduated from the school, Everett DeGolyer." And the president of the Amerada Petroleum Corporation, of Montclair, New Jersey, was cheered.

"And now may I introduce the most distinguished man of letters the university has produced—John Joseph Mathews, of Pawhuska." And the distinguished member of the Class of '20, the author of a Book-of-the-Month, was cheered.

President Bizzell, warmly praised by Mr Ferguson for his courageous and intelligent handling of the university during these troubled times, was given a standing ovation by the alumni auditors.

Doctor Bizzell expressed his appreciation for the many letters and telegrams of encouragement he has received from alumni during the past few months. He said, "I am just doing my dead-level best at this job now and it has been a hard one this year. I went through the war with a college and now I look back on those days and regard it as a bright spot in my life." He said that it has been a great comfort to know that although many difficulties and anxieties were still ahead, that the permanence of the institution itself and the spirit of the people backing it, helped him realize how very temporary such worries were.

"No student body or faculty group
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istic quarter of a century in all modern time. Individual acquisitiveness has been the code. Wealth for wealth's sake instead of wealth as a symbol of a world-wide social purpose—that has been the watchword. And see where it has brought us!

We have been witnessing within the last few days how that code has been applied. We have seen a momentous investigation into the use of wealth under a creed that contends that the thing which is legal must therefore be ethical. How wealth, directed and organized and regimented by such a creed perverts itself and taints the taker of it is today being exposed. And the class of 1933 can read if it will its graduation lesson in the lines of that testimony in Washington which reveal how the money changers of the generation that is passing have polluted the temple.

And you can read more of the same lesson in the new type of leadership that is appearing in public under the pressure of this crisis. The substitution at the helm of the ship of state of the so-called brain trust for the practical politician is not an accident. It is a significant sign of the times.

One of the worst consequences of our materialistic tradition has been the tendency that has grown up within us to look with scornful and distrustful eye at men who work with theories. In the minds of too many of us there has developed an association of ideas between a high IQ and a low income. We have been wont to esteem the intellectual man less than the man we call practical. But practicality, and its first vice-president, greed, have had their day. They have been weighed and found wanting. And so, upon the scene, born of the misery of a system that has failed, appears, exalted unto high estate, the idealist.

The cue for a new act in the human drama is being called. It happens that it is sounded at a time when you too are to take your place upon the stage.

Let us who are on our way to the wings see how you can play your parts.

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TO EAT IS TO REJOICE

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anywhere has ever shown the same appreciation of a difficult situation as we have had here. The loyalty and good judgment of 5,000 student and 300 faculty members who have been kind and helpful in the past year, have touched my heart.

When Senator J. C. Looney, '21 law, of Wewoka, who is now a member of the Board of Regents, was introduced he commended President Bizzell heartily on his co-operation with the Board in attempting to restrict expenses at the university. He said, "Your board of regents with its three new members have

done their best to maintain a great university here for the benefit of the people of our state and with your support and the friends of the university scattered throughout the country, I believe that no action will be taken by the board which will affect adversely the welfare of the institution."

Stratton D. Brooks, former president, made an enjoyably humorous, short talk in a delightfully serious manner. He said, "I could not run the university now. When I was president my duty was to decide how high the salaries of the faculty members should be raised. I could not take Doctor Bizzell's place today. I would have no way of knowing how to run a university in reverse! I extend my most sincere sympathy to President Bizzell. In the beginning, when I left the university, I felt sorry for him for I thought I was leaving him a wreck. I felt that when I left many things would fail to operate. I found that the captain can go down, but the ship goes on. Doctor Bizzell is right when he says that these difficulties and anxieties are only temporary beside the permanence of such an institution.

"The Indian tribe which roamed these plains had a problem that is still facing us today. Their job was to train their young to hunt and to fight or they would have gone out of existence. We must train our young people to find themselves and their work in these complicated times. This university is our way of doing that very thing. And they must be taught to fight for the right. They are going to have to fight to keep the ideals of this university before the people of this state. Have the alumni of this state the integrity and courage to stand behind this university? Are you going to stand by the ideals of higher education?"

Doctor Brooks ended his talk with a remark which created an uproar. He said that in the sandwich of presidential history, Doctor Bizzell and Doctor Boyd had been a couple of pieces of dry bread, while he was the meat in the middle.

Wilda Griffen, '27 voice, who has studied for the past few years abroad and who is returning to France this year, sang "Mimi" from *La Boheme*. Mr Ferguson had asked Mr West, a few minutes before, if he was going to sing in English. When Miss Griffen came to the piano she turned to Mr Ferguson and apologized for singing in Italian. Mr Ferguson answered that that was perfectly all right because he was familiar with one Italian number, the "Sextette from Lucia."

The principal speaker of the luncheon, George C. Smith, general traffic manager of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas

Railroad, made a plea for a dismissal of the old "rugged individualism" built on competition. He asked that a new future for the country as a whole be built, even at the cost of losing some present comforts.

"While on a scholarship at the University of Wisconsin," he said, "I was asked to do some teaching in economics. In the space of a few short weeks the class attendance grew and grew. We had to move to larger and larger class rooms until I was quite impressed with the ambition of the Wisconsin students. I grew curious about just what they were finding in my lectures and after getting acquainted with a few of the boys, asked them to tell me why they thought so many were attending. One of the answers I got was, 'Why Smith, we never heard any of this Southwest slang up here before!'"

Speaking of why he studied in the East, Mr Smith told the following tale. "One of my good friends suggested that I go East in search of polish in order to get more enjoyment out of life. Well, do you know, the most enjoyable thing I did while in the East was show Deke Parker Coney Island! I found that polish is a mythical thing which can't be found in any certain section of the country and I came back to the West to the country I love the best."

"In examining the state constitutions of some of the early colonies, such as Virginia," Mr Smith continued, "one finds that provision was made for state universities and among the reasons for such provisions was stated the purpose of making those states more respected among the other states. I wonder if this university has done its bit toward making the state of Oklahoma respectable? Can you sit here and feel that you have devoted your life fully toward aiding this institution in following the ideals set up for it?"

"America is undergoing a revolution now. She has been in the process since 1917. Since then the government has been passing measures to try to improve the unemployment situation and form some kind of scientific improvement in production. . . . But there is something America must learn. It is to use her leisure time in such a manner that socializing problems may be worked out. . . . The whole American attitude of competition must also pass through this revolution. America has learned to use her leisure time in golf. She has turned it from play to work. She has made a science of it. But outside of golf nothing has been developed to help the average working man of America find a constructive pleasure for his leisure hours. . . . A fraction of our production process takes care of the wants of our na-

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Patronize the hotels which
patronize you!

tion. Distribution in America has seen less than 15 per cent of the development it may see. . . . Because of our competitive system in America when things begin not to run so well we turn to the government for a solving of our problems. We haven't learned to socialize our activities in such a way that we can work them ourselves.

"Isn't it about time that the American youth learn to know that the years in college have been false years; the comforts of the frat house and the pleasures of the associations there are not his when he leaves the campus. Isn't it time for us to teach him that he is facing the realities of life and that these socializing instincts must be carried into the business world?"

"There is a new place for women in the social scale. The woman understands a great deal more about socializing things and does it naturally and graciously. Out of development of woman suffrage we opened the door for the educated woman to her place in socializing the industry of America.

"If we can find work for all the people in America on a shorter hour, shorter day, shorter week basis then that is the thing we must put our hands to doing."



OUR CHANGING VARSITY

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try since 1803," and the official abstract of the thesis follows:

The problem involved in this thesis has been to show how the settlement and development of the Red River Valley has influenced the history of the Southwest and of the Nation. Special attention has been given to the controversies that have arisen over the river itself as an international, and later an interstate boundary line.

Some attention has been given to geographic features. The fertility of the soil has produced a great agricultural development along the lower reaches of the river where there is abundant rainfall, while the semi-arid plains of the upper valley are given over largely to grazing. The valley was explored and claimed by both Spain and France and the river early became a highway of trade between the French in Louisiana and the Spanish settlements in Mexico. This brought about a few settlements and the region eventually became a sort of "middle kingdom" between French Louisiana and Spanish Texas.

After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 the river was further explored by the United States and in the period from 1820 to 1840 the Choctaws and Chickasaws were removed to this region. The wild tribes already inhabiting the valley resented the coming of these more civilized Indians with the result that military posts were established to protect the white settlers and prevent strife among the Indians. Trading posts also grew up. These later became permanent settlements connected by roads and trails which were also extended to the settled region farther east.

During the Civil War the Red River Valley became the theater of important military operations and also furnished a home for the Indian refugees among the Southern sympathizers

of the Five Civilized Tribes. After the close of the war the population of the valley steadily increased. The extension of settlements up the river at last caused the "Greer County Case" between the United States and Texas which in 1896 was decided in favor of the former.

Red River has been considered the northern boundary of Texas ever since the Spanish treaty of 1819 for the purchase of Florida. Whether the boundary line followed the main channel or the south bank was not considered important, however, until the discovery of oil beneath the river bed. This brought on the famous "Red River Case" by which it was decided that the boundary was the south bank of the river.

The discovery of oil helped to increase very much the population and wealth of the valley. Eventually, however, still another controversy arose with respect to the Red River. This was the so-called "bridge war" between Texas and Oklahoma in 1931.



Senior arch completed

Workmen laid the final bricks the week of June 12 on the Class of 1933 Arch, which is on Brooks street entrance to the campus. Fred Newton of Cushing, senior class president, continued the fine tradition set by Bob Feemster and Frank Ittner last year when the Class of 1932 revived the tradition of leaving class memorials.



Faculty

Johannes Malthaner, instructor in German now on leave, has arrived with his family at Heidelberg, Germany, to do graduate work there for two years.

Maurice A. DeVinna, jr., teacher of university extension classes in French and art in Tulsa, has been awarded a Carnegie scholarship to study art in Paris this summer.

Biographies of Dr. Charles E. Decker, professor of paleontology, and Dr. Charles N. Gould, consulting geologist in Norman, are to be published in an approaching issue of the *Oil and Gas Journal* of Tulsa. Geraldine Speyers, journalism sophomore, was requested by the editor of the magazine to write the sketches.



Soonerland in brief

New president-elect of Theta Sigma Phi, women's journalism fraternity, is Martha Jane Dowell, of El Reno. Other officers are Nan Reardon, Ardmore, vice-president; Nell Drennan, Medford, secretary; Hazel Lee, Guthrie, treasurer; and Geraldine Speyers, Norman, keeper of the archives.

William Patterson, Norman, has been re-elected president of Alpha Chi Sigma, professional chemistry fraternity, for 1933. New initiates are Brooks Veiland, Horn; Verden Wilson, Noonan, North Dakota; Scott Reeburgh, Oklahoma City; and Walter Ainsworth, Camden, Arkansas.

The Whirlwind, university humor magazine, is planning to follow the new trend of *College Humor*, by taking over the features of the former *University of Oklahoma Magazine*, literary production, next year.