

Homecoming Celebration "Best Ever"

SOONER alumni from as far away as the Canal Zone and from eleven states and the District of Columbia came swarming back to Norman November 12 for what was unanimously declared to be the best Homecoming Soonerland ever enjoyed. From the time that a record crowd of 750 persons gathered in the Silver Glade Room of the Skirvin Tower Hotel in Oklahoma City for an enthusiastic dinner-dance and pep-rally, until visitors packed the Union Building for an hour and a half after the football game in the annual Homecoming reception, every phase of the celebration could be described by the two words, "best ever."

The Sooners' 21-0 victory over Missouri was witnessed by a record Homecoming crowd of 22,000; the attendance of 750 at the dinner-dance, sponsored by the Oklahoma City Alumni Club, was several hundred more than the previous records; and 600 alumni—also a new record—took time to register at alumni registration headquarters in the lobby of the Union on Homecoming Day. Visitors packed into the Union Building so fast immediately after the game that it was impossible to estimate accurately the number attending the Homecoming reception, but it was just about as large a crowd as the main floor of the Union would hold.

So much for statistics. The Homecoming celebration started off on a note of enthusiasm at the Oklahoma City dinner-dance staged under the general direction of Hal Whitten, '25law, president of the Oklahoma City Alumni Club. The crowd arrived at the Silver Glade Room already steamed up by the Sooner football team's sensational record this year, and was in the mood for blowing the lid off.

The brief program had a football flavor throughout, and even Dr. M. L. Wardell, '19, assistant to the president, who represented the University, frankly admitted that a winning football team is a pretty substantial asset to the public relations of a state university. Dr. Wardell quoted President Bizzell as saying that in all his thirty years as a college and university executive he had never had a coaching staff in which the staff members worked with more harmony or better spirit than that which has existed this year in the Sooner coaching staff. Dr. Wardell spoke in place of President Bizzell who was in Chicago to attend a meeting of the National Association of State Universities of which he was the president last year.

Sooner Coach Tom Stidham and Missouri Coach Don Faurot were the principal speakers and each of them expressed a wholesome respect for the prowess of the other's team.

Members of the football teams of

twenty and forty years ago were introduced to the dinner crowd and were given special recognition. Two members of the 1898 team—C. C. Roberts and Harvey Short, both of Oklahoma City—were present. Members of the 1918 squad who were introduced are Roy Swatek, Dr. Phil White, Roy (Soupy) Smoot and Paul Johnston, all of Oklahoma City; Myron Tyler, Bristow; Page Belcher, Enid; and Lawrence (Jap) Haskell, Norman.

Another group receiving special attention consisted of five Oklahoma City men, none of them an alumnus of O. U., who originated the Downtown Quarterbacks Club in Oklahoma City which has done a great deal to promote Sooner football among Oklahoma City sports fans. The five men are: Glenn Kiley, Dudley Taylor, Bus Ham, C. O. Burnside and Earl Jones.

THERE were two entertainment numbers on the program. One was a well received humorous talk by Frank Lorince, of Enid, who appeared under the name of Tony Baloney, as a foreigner who is describing his first football game. Musical numbers were given by the Debs in Swing Trio from the Kappa Alpha Theta chapter at Norman. Members of the trio are Ruby Jane Douglas and Betty Larimore, of Oklahoma City, and Babs Lawton, of Bartlesville.

Special guests present for the dinner-dance included such notables as Eugene Ledbetter, '14law, of Oklahoma City; Lloyd Noble, '21ex, Ardmore; Lowrey Harrell, '16law, Ada; and Joe W. McBride, '28bus, Anadarko, all members of the University Board of Regents; Charles Memminger, '14, '33law, of Atoka, president of the University of Oklahoma Association; and many members of the Alumni Executive Board.

Dr. Wayman J. Thompson, '29med, physician, was introduced as the new president of the Oklahoma City Alumni Club for the next year. Other new officers of the club are Joe Fred Gibson, '36law, first vice-president; Ed Vaught, Jr., '36law, second vice-president; and T. J. Woodmansee, '22, secretary and treasurer.

More than one hundred persons were present from Norman, including many faculty members, and there were alumni present from nearly every large city in the state.

While the alumni were whooping things up in Oklahoma City, the University Indian Club was starting its annual Homecoming ceremonies at Norman, with pledges beating tom-toms all night to

brighten the Sooner football team's prospects for victory the next day.

The Sooner band and pep clubs held an enthusiastic pep rally on the campus with a bonfire and a program, part of which was broadcast.

The annual Homecoming parade Saturday morning was widely praised as perhaps the most interesting and colorful ever staged, with floats representing forty-seven campus organizations and seven out-of-town bands making up a spectacular procession two miles long. Grand prize in the competition for the most outstanding float was won by the School of Drama. First place in the fraternity division went to Phi Delta Theta, and in the sorority division, Phi Mu was the winner. The Independent Men's Association placed first in the division for organizations other than fraternities and sororities. The Sooners' remarkable football record for the year furnished the idea behind many of the outstanding floats, but the parade contained the usual pleasing assortment of drum majors, prairie schooners, cowboys and beautiful sorority queens.

The winning float entered by the School of Drama presented six girls dressed in costumes of the Gay '90s, each girl holding a lasso tied to a stuffed tiger. The girls were in the scoop of a giant steam shovel, and on the side of the float was a sign reading, "On Our Way to Dig 'Em Under." Above was a picture of the Rose Bowl with a sign reading, "Why Not?"

The parade this year was in charge of the Ruf Neks, and Max Cook, president

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In the Homecoming photomontage on the facing page you can find if you look carefully enough: '18 football players at the dinner-dance, left to right Jap Haskell, Page Belcher, Paul Johnston, Soupy Smoot, Dr. Phil White, Myron Tyler, Roy Swatek; two members of the '98 team, C. C. Roberts passing the rolls to Harvey Short; The speakers' table at the dinner-dance; Coach Tom Stidham and Coach Don Faurot of Missouri giving each other a pre-game grin; the Phi Mu float that was first in the sorority division of the Homecoming parade and the Drama School float that won the grand prize; the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house which judges found best decorated for Homecoming; an action shot of the Missouri game with McCarty carrying the ball around the end; Governor-Elect Leon C. Phillips, '16law, with Mrs. Phillips, in the crowd at the Stadium; and just for atmosphere, the pep rally bonfire and a slightly synthetic pose of a Ruf Nek having a blow-torch shave at the hands of Homecoming Queen Marydel Strawn.



Homecoming "Best Ever"

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of the pep order, deserves much credit for the success of the parade.

The committee of University alumni appointed to select the fraternity or sorority house with the best Homecoming decorations found so many clever and elaborately decorated houses that it had difficulty in making the final selection of the prize winner. The award was made to the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house which had colorful banners on the front of the house and a variety of exhibits in the front yard carrying out the idea of Oklahoma's football greatness.

Nearly forty persons attended the meeting of the Alumni Executive Board at 11 o'clock, including members of the board, the Advisory Council, and chairmen of the County Advisory Councils. A report on this meeting is given in the Association Progress department of this magazine.

The Union ballroom was filled to capacity at noon when Governor-elect Leon C. Phillips, '16law, gave an address to the joint meeting of the Association of School Administrators and the Department of Secondary School Principals of the Oklahoma Education Association. Mr. Phillips declared school men need have no fear of political retaliation if they stick to their jobs. He also declared that there are too many state teachers colleges; that more co-ordination is needed between colleges and high schools and that probably many young people are going to college who should not do so; that department and institutional heads who spend money beyond their appropriations are inefficient and that any such report should be accompanied by resignations; and that he desires the counsel of school men in attempting to solve the educational problems of Oklahoma. He asked each of the persons present at the luncheon to write him a one-page letter giving suggestions for solving some of Oklahoma's educational problems.

Another Homecoming event at noon was the annual reunion luncheon of the law class of 1930 which was held in the Union Building.

Although rain threatened the morning of Homecoming Day, the skies cleared by noon, and even the weather was ideal for the highly satisfactory (to Oklahoma) football game that was the high point of Homecoming Day. In scoring a 21-0 victory over the Missouri Tigers who had been rated by competent observers as about the toughest opposition the Sooners would meet, Coach Tom Stidham turned on the full power of a so-far all-victorious Sooner team and gave the Homecoming crowd an impressive display of rugged, powerful football that delighted the spectators.

After the game, alumni and former students and faculty members swarmed

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into the Union Building for coffee and tea and an hour and a half of hand-shaking and visiting. Compliments and praise came thick and fast as alumni of past years visited the large new pine-paneled recreation room added this year on the main floor of the Union, or visited the beautifully furnished lounge room which is only a year old.

Refreshments were served to the reception crowd by a committee headed by Mrs. Lewis Salter (Reaves Alford, '20, '23ma). Mrs. C. T. Langford (Janet Allen, '18) was general chairman for the reception. Herbert H. Scott, '26, headed the registration committee which stayed on duty all day in the lobby of the Union to greet the visiting Sooners. Dr. Leonard Logan, '14, was chairman of the committee of fraternity and sorority co-operation for Homecoming. A student committee appointed by the dean of men and dean of women had an active part in welcoming visitors at the Union and guiding them through the building to see the recent improvements.

The Homecoming registration cards showed that alumni were present for Homecoming from South Carolina, Kansas, Missouri, Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Tennessee, Virginia, Illinois, California, Washington, D. C., and the Panama Canal Zone. The alumna from the Canal Zone was Gladys Kimbro Knox, '24ma. From California came Perry Hettel, '21ex, who drove from Los Angeles, and according to the Oklahoma Daily, made the trip "just because I got homesick to attend Homecoming." He hadn't seen a Sooner football game since 1922. From Washington, D. C. came Paul A. Walker, '12law, who is a member of the Federal Communications Division and chairman of the O. U. Alumni Advisory Council in the national capitol. From Memphis, Tennessee, came J. L. Highsaw, '11, who had not been on the University campus a single time since his graduation twenty-seven years ago. Others from outside Oklahoma who registered are:

Illinois—Betty Love Jones, '38, Mattoon.

Kansas—Dale Brown, '36, Delphos; G. C. Cooper, '35, El Dorado; Mrs. F. S. Hathaway (Ruth Ann Parks, '15), Lucille Hodgson, '38, and Maudean Miller, '36, all of Wichita; and R. R. McCornack, '30law, Arkansas City.

Louisiana—C. C. Clark, '10, Shreveport.

Missouri—Helen Armstrong, '30, and E. H. Skinner, '23, both of Kansas City; Ed Gerkey, Jr., '30 Joplin; and Cecil L. Hunt, '26law, St. Louis.

New Mexico—John H. Black, '38ed.m, Portales; Elizabeth Klein, '34, and Virginia Klein, '35, both of Clovis; and Wayne D. McKowen, '34, Albuquerque.

South Carolina—Mrs. F. A. Hoshall (Mercedes Erixon, '26), Charleston.

Tennessee—Walter L. Berry, '18ex, and Mrs. Walter L. Berry (Clover Gorton, '18ex), of Memphis.

Texas—Don Bailey, '30, Joseph J. McConnell, '12ex, and Mrs. McConnell (Bess Brewer, '12ex), all of Dallas; W. S. Carper, '16, Cleburne; A. R. Douglas, '33, Electra; C. J. Duncan, '24, Burkburnett; M. T. Endicott, '34, and William C. Patterson, '35, both of Port Arthur; L. B. Holland, '18, Hereford; Charles F. Jones, '34, and Mrs. Charles F. Jones (Pauline Wynn, '34ex), of Phillips; Tom Losey, '33, and Mrs. Tom Losey (Janet Comfort, '32), Houston, and C. H. (Chuck) Newell, '09ex, Austin.

Virginia—Robert E. Wood, '30, Arlington.

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Campus Review

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the dries' meeting to order when the convention in one breath gasped at the sight of four young men, one of whom was drinking from a flask-shaped bottle, staggering down the aisles. Behind them followed a newspaperman and a photographer.

With the meeting temporarily in wild disorder, one dry official shouted, "This is wet propaganda," and promptly summoned police.

Taken to the police station, the invaders identified themselves as University students publicizing *The Drunkard* and offered their flasks as proof their actions were harmless. The flasks contained coffee, and the W. C. T. U. members, after receiving an apology and serving milk to their uninvited guests, were satisfied.

So were Playhouse officials, who reported a "good" audience, including the W. C. T. U. delegates.

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Bentonelli in celebrity series

Every young man dreams of the time when he can tear away from home ties and go off to distant places to gain fame and fortune, and then return by way of the brass band route.

No brass band was awaiting Joseph Bentonelli, '32, when he arrived in his home town of Norman November 7, because his visits are too frequent for that, but his arrival was something in the nature of a triumph for the Chicago and New York opera star. Hundreds of his friends demonstrated they still appreciate Bentonelli's remarkable tenor voice by turning out to hear him open the 1938-39 season of the University Celebrity Series.

It was Bentonelli's first formal concert presented to a University audience since he jumped into the nation's spotlight two years ago as a new star in the Metropolitan Opera Company.

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Covering the campus

Sooner alumni who occasionally had business at the old court house in Norman will be pleased to learn that a bond issue has been approved for erecting a \$210,000 new court house building for Cleveland