

The New University Regent

ATTORNEY, oil man, soldier, civic leader and sincere friend of the University of Oklahoma is Lowrey H. Harrell, of Ada, the 1938 appointee to the Board of Regents.

He graduated from the University School of Law in 1916, and so can view the institution's problems from the viewpoint both of an alumnus and as a citizen of Oklahoma.

Although a successful oil man and soldier, he now devotes his time to general law practice as a member of the Ada law firm, Busby, Harrell and Trice. The firm's business is largely for oil and gas companies and Mr. Harrell's specialty is Indian land titles.

The road to success in law and business was no easy one. Like Joe McBride, '28, who was the 1937 appointee to the Board of Regents, Mr. Harrell worked his way through the University. He was forced to rely on his own work to pay all his expenses and he ran a laundry agency, got himself elected treasurer of the student association for three years, and was treasurer of the athletic association. Those jobs were elective and paid fairly good salaries, so it may be deduced that he acquired a practical knowledge of politics at an early age.

During the summer terms he worked in the University treasurer's office, and he spent twelve months in the year on the campus during his college years.

He was a member of Kappa Sigma social fraternity and was a charter member of Phi Alpha Delta, law fraternity.

After his graduation from the Law School in 1916, he practiced law for a time in Yale, Oklahoma, but the following April he entered the first Officers Training Camp at Fort Roots, Little Rock, Arkansas. He was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Field Artillery at the close of the training course, and was assigned to the 87th Division. He was instructor in field artillery and equitation in the third Officers Training Camp for a time, but later was released from that duty and served overseas for eight months. During his service he was promoted to the rank of captain in the Field Artillery.

When discharged from the army in April, 1919, Mr. Harrell returned to his home town, Ada, and began practice of law with Orel Busby, '14law. This partnership continued until Mr. Busby was elected district judge.

Only last August, the firm was reformed following the resignation of Mr. Busby as member of the State Supreme Court. Al-



Lowrey H. Harrell, '16, new regent

bert Trice, '12ex, of Hugo, also became a member of the firm.

Until last year, Mr. Harrell was an active oil man as secretary and treasurer of an oil company that had extensive holdings in the Fitts field near Ada and in East Texas. In 1937 he and his associates sold out and he retired from the oil business, devoting all his time to his law practice.

He was active in the National Guard for a number of years, entering it as a captain in '21. He had the rank of lieutenant colonel when he resigned in 1932 because of the pressure of his business affairs.

Although always known as an unusually hard worker, Mr. Harrell has found time to be a Rotary Club member and to participate in civic affairs. He is president of the Ada Chamber of Commerce for 1938, and although he gives all the credit to the various campaign committees, it is worthy of note that the organization more than raised its budget this year and the membership has about doubled.

He is on the executive board of the \$360,000 Valley View Hospital now under construction at Ada as a community project—a project that has attracted national attention. He is also a member of the Baptist church.

A man this busy has little time for sports and amusements. He plays golf a little. If he had plenty of time, he would like to do some horseback riding—a

throwback to his army days—but he hasn't had time for that in many years.

During the last year Mr. Harrell has devoted much time to affairs of the Alumni Association, in his capacity as president. It was an eventful year, which saw the Association give up its salary budget aid from the University and become financially independent, and also the establishment of the County Advisory Council units in most of the counties of Oklahoma.

As a member of the Board of Regents he has already indicated that he will study the University's problems carefully and take an active interest in the institution's welfare. He is especially interested in the University's Semi-Centennial program and the endowment plan.

Speaking as an alumnus at a recent meeting of the University chapter of the American Association of University Professors, Mr. Harrell spoke frankly of some of the criticisms heard about the University over the state. Deliberately caustic in his remarks in order to emphasize his points, he declared that some Law School graduates are "ward heeler" politicians and that many graduates of other schools are deficient in professional ethics. He also declared that, although a student should be thoroughly grounded in basic knowledge of his profession, he should come out of school with a feeling of humility rather than an expectation of taking a place at the top immediately.

Favoring more selectivity in students accepted by the University, he urged higher standards for graduation, to the end that any graduate of the institution will be readily accepted as a high type educated person.

He emphasized to faculty members that they are being judged by the people of the state according to the graduates they turn out, and he advised the faculty members not to "tear down the ideals of the public."

Mr. Harrell suggested special institutes in all departments of the University to keep alumni up to date in their professions and vocations, and also urged that the University offer more courses for adults interested in self-improvement without working for degrees.

There is enough of the soldier in Lowrey Harrell that he speaks plainly, even bluntly, when he believes that it is his duty to do so in order to reach an objective. At the same time, he is enough of a lawyer to recognize both sides of a question. The combination should prove a good one for the University.