

Brillhart Alumni President

[Association Progress]

NORMAN BRILLHART, '17, oil man whose home is in Madill, was elected president of the University of Oklahoma Association at the annual business meeting of the Executive Board held in the Union Building Commencement Day.

Mr. Brillhart already was a member of the board, serving as a member-at-large. He has taken an active part in association affairs and served on several important committees.

Mrs. Kitty Shanklin Rountree, '23, Oklahoma City, was re-elected first vice president. Lewis Morris, '15, '17law, Oklahoma County attorney and former president of the Alumni Association, was named second vice president. J. C. Karcher, '16, Dallas, was re-elected honorary vice president for Texas and Mrs. Richard Ellegood (Elizabeth Ann McMurray, '35), who operates McMurray's Book Shop in Dallas, was named honorary secretary for Texas.

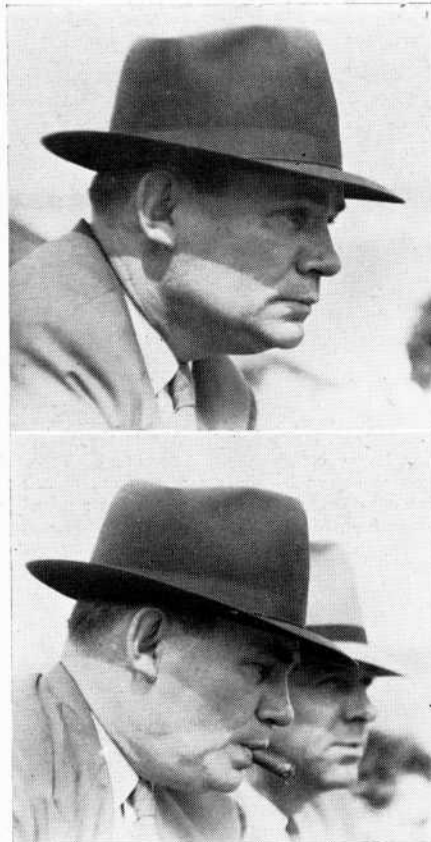
The board re-elected Ted Beaird, '21, as secretary-treasurer and executive secretary of the association, and reappointed Roscoe Cate, '26, as editor-manager of *Sooner Magazine*.

Mr. Brillhart takes over the presidency from Hicks Epton, '32law. Mr. Epton remains on the board, both as Fourth District representative and in his ex officio capacity as immediate past president.

Six new members of the board took office at the Commencement meeting, when the report of Mrs. Naomi Howard, of Norman, as chairman of the election committee was approved. The new board members are Mrs. Jewell Risinger Ditmars, '19, Muskogee, and Charles H. Fawks, Jr., '19, Snyder, members-at-large; Mrs. Dollie Radler Hall, '20, '21ms, Tulsa, First District representative; Hal L. Muldrow, Jr., '28bus, Norman, Fifth District; Finley McLaury, '16law, Snyder, Seventh District; and E. H. Black, '19, Bristow, Ninth District.

Tentative budget for the association's fiscal year beginning September 1, 1940, providing for an increase of about \$600 over the budget for the present year was presented and approved.

The board endorsed preliminary plans for a series of parents' institutes to be conducted over the state during the next school year by the Alumni Association with the co-operation of the University. Secretary Beaird explained the plan is to take a group of University staff mem-



Two views of the new president of the Alumni Association, Norman Brillhart, '17, one by himself and the other taken with Alumni Secretary Ted Beaird as they sat in the bleachers watching a Sooner baseball game

bers into each district of the state and invite the parents of University students or the parents of young people who expect to attend O. U. some day, to attend the meeting and ask questions about any phase of student life or educational opportunities at the University.

"The programs will be based on what the people want to know," Secretary Beaird explained. "We can set up the meetings through the district members of the Executive Board, the district officers of the University Dads' and Mothers' Associations, and the Alumni Association's County Advisory Councils."

In accordance with annual custom, the board nominated six alumni for the three alumni positions on the University Athletic Council, three of the six to be chosen by the president of the University to serve on the council for the next year.

The Executive Board discussed the recent resignation of Dr. W. B. Bizzell, president of the University, which takes effect July 1, 1941, and authorized the president of the Alumni Association to appoint a committee to prepare a resolution outlining the policy of the organized alumni toward the selection of the next president of the University.

President Brillhart appointed a committee composed of Fisher Muldrow, Mrs. Kitty Shanklin Rountree, John Pearson, Hicks Epton, and Elmer Fraker.

This committee prepared the following resolution in accordance with the views expressed in the board meeting, and copies of the resolution were sent to members of the Board of Regents:

Be it resolved by the Executive Board of the University of Oklahoma Association that:

1. The organized alumni recognize that the sole responsibility covering the appointment of a new president for the University of Oklahoma rests with the Board of Regents. The Executive Board members further realize that it would be improper for the alumni as an organization to recommend or sponsor any individual for this important position.

2. The organized alumni desire to officially express confidence in the members of the Board of Regents and encourage them in their present determination to keep the University of Oklahoma free from state politics and educational factionalism.

3. The Executive Board of the Alumni Association is in thorough accord with the members of the Board of Regents in their efforts to carefully survey the entire nation in their attempt to secure an outstanding educator and administrator as president of the University of Oklahoma.

4. The Executive Board of the Alumni Association wishes to reiterate the policy of the organized alumni to give any assistance to the Board of Regents, but does not desire to sponsor any individual for the presidency of the University in 1941.

5. We heartily approve the recent action of the Board of Regents concerning the voluntary retirement of President W. B. Bizzell which becomes effective on July 1, 1941. We furthermore commend the Board for its action in honoring Dr. Bizzell as president emeritus. Alumni leaders have the utmost confidence in the members of the Board of Regents and appreciate their efforts in their attempts to build and improve the University and to keep it entirely free of the handicap of political and factional affiliations.

Mr. Epton presented a detailed report on Association activities for the last year, which stated in part:

At the conclusion of one of the most eventful years in the history of the University of Oklahoma I am bringing to you a brief resume of the activities of the association of which you are officers, of what we have accomplished, together with some suggestions for the future.

Due to the fact that the University of Okla-



Mrs. Kitty Shanklin Rountree, '23, has been re-elected first vice president of the Alumni Association. Second vice president is Lewis R. Morris, '17law

homa Association deals in what we might call "intangibles" it is necessarily hard to set out in cold type the accomplishments during the year. However, these intangibles have a very vital and definite bearing upon tangible results. Further, and in this connection we re-emphasize that this Association is not one vested with any legal authority or possessing any ambitions to rule or control the University.

Rather is it a vital organization of the forces sincerely interested in the welfare of the University and deeply concerned that it render the greatest service to the State of Oklahoma. All of our efforts are directed to accomplishing these purposes.

The Association has always emphasized these objectives rather than the aggrandizement of any individual or group of individuals. It is a job for the whole team and the quarterback is no more important than any other member of the team. With these things in mind let us briefly review the accomplishments of the last year.

MEMBERSHIP

The annual membership has increased over June 1, 1939, by sixty-six new members.

We now have 406 Life Members. You will recall that a year ago we set as a possible goal the securing of fifty Life Members for this year. Thanks to your untiring efforts this goal was passed and we have had an increase of Life Members of 54.

I recommend most emphatically the continuation of efforts to secure Life Memberships and feel that the goal for next year should be fifty new Life Members.

ADVISORY COUNCILS

During the last year there have been created forty-one new advisory councils. This is approximately double the number created during any other year. In this connection more than a thousand personal letters have been written to the County Advisory Councils and to individuals through the world in forming new councils and adding new members to old councils. This setup of advisory councils is vital. It is the bloodstream of the University. It should be strengthened and spread wherever Sooners live.

PERSONAL CONTACTS

During the last year your officers and particularly your executive secretary, Ted Baird, have contacted personally, and by actual count, approximately eighty per cent more alumni than in any other previous year. Alumni in twenty-

one different states have been met personally by your board members and officers and reported upon as shown by the summary from month to month in *Sooner Magazine*. This has resulted in a new high of enthusiasm. You who were present at the Dallas meeting can fully appreciate this.

SOONER MAGAZINE

Sooner Magazine, competing with 244 college and university alumni units was, at the last meeting of the American Alumni Council, awarded first place for the most outstanding and original features, gaining and sustaining alumni interest. The magazine is on a thoroughly sound financial basis and its editorial policy has been kept at its usual high standard. Credit for that work is due particularly to Roscoe Cate. The publication of the Medical Directory last year created unusual interest, and arrangements for publishing an Engineer Alumni Directory were started early this year.

PUBLIC RELATIONSHIPS

Of course it is difficult to appraise results in this connection, but judging from the press notices concerning the University it is certain that we have received at least fifty per cent more press notices than in any previous year. Practically all are favorable. I invite your attention to the group of clippings.

On February 20, 1940, one of the most unusual meetings ever held in Oklahoma was sponsored by the Association. Leaders in the Legislature and hundreds of other interested Sooners gathered in Norman for a discussion of the subject "The Place of the University in the Future Development of Oklahoma."

Many persons not actively connected with the University were, for the first time, given an insight into its problems; many of those actively connected with the University were, for the first time, confronted with the problems of the state generally.

This conference can be summarized briefly by quoting from an editorial in the *Oklahoma City Times*: "But bringing the troubles out in the open for all of the taxpayers to see should start some sound thinking, and enough thought along safe and proper lines usually leads to the right solution. We suggest many of these forums should be held."

The surface has barely been scratched in the field of public relations of the University. But a good beginning has been made toward selling O. U. to Oklahoma as a necessity. I personally hope the time comes when every town and vil-

lage in the state will know intimately some faculty member or some group of students from the University. I know this contact takes time and energy, but it is the only way to completely sell your University to the state.

CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION

As many of you know, President Bizzell has for some time coveted the privilege of voluntary retirement under such circumstances as would not open the floodgates of political activity around the University. With the accomplishment of that hope I know you are all familiar. Certainly I would not claim for this Association the full credit for that thoroughly satisfactory transition, but on the other hand I would be unfair to you if I did not state frankly that I believe if it had not been for the efforts of this Association that the transition could have been detrimental to the University. In this connection and for the record I want it understood that during all these negotiations and conferences not one single time have we called on any of you or any of those Sooners off the board for any sacrifice of time or travel but what the call was answered cheerfully.

Further, I want it understood that at all times we had courteous and respectful hearings from the governor of this state, and the members of the Board of Regents.

The work of the Association is illustrated most forcefully by the efforts in this connection. The entire job was one requiring patience, tact and infinite hard work without any recognition on the part of those who worked. Their only reward was the knowledge of a job well done.

CONCLUSION

I want to express my personal and deep appreciation for the fine loyalty and untiring efforts shown by each of you toward the Association this year. Ted Baird and Roscoe Cate have slaved as few men would on a private job. Without their efforts nothing could have been accomplished. To mention any other names of the scores who have worked faithfully this year would be to forget and exclude others equally worthy. These accomplishments which I have enumerated are yours and the Association's and not those of any individual.

Appointments

New member of the Executive Board's advisory council from recent classes is Alfred Naifeh, of Norman, appointed to represent the Class of '40 on the council. Mr. Naifeh has made an outstanding scholastic record in the Law School and is a member of numerous honorary and professional societies. He recently was awarded a \$1,200 scholarship for graduate study at the University of Michigan.

The advisory council from recent classes consists of representatives from the last ten classes, and is designed to give recent graduates active participation in alumni affairs. The other members of the council and the classes they represent are: Kenneth Harris, Norman, '39; Earl Westmoreland, Jr., Evansville, Indiana, '38; William H. Miley, Oklahoma City, '37; James C. Hamill, Oklahoma City, '36; J. Bruce Wiley, Norman, '35; Joe Fred Gibson, Oklahoma City, '34; Neil Keller, Norman, '33; Herbert L. Branan, Muskogee, '32; and Kenneth H. Abernathy, Shawnee, '31.

New Life Members

The steady increase in the number of Life Members of the Alumni Association

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 31)

Wiley Thomas McCollum, Gallinger Municipal Hospital, Washington, D. C.

Wm. George McCreight, New Rochelle Hospital, New Rochelle, New York.

Wm. David Maril, Mercy Hospital, Denver, Colorado.

Robert Harold Mayes, The Wichita Hospital, Wichita, Kansas.

George Emery Meador, Jr., Orange Memorial Hospital, Orange, New Jersey.

Robert Montgomery Mench, Madison General Hospital, Madison, Wisconsin.

Ralph Warren Morton, Garfield Memorial Hospital, Washington, D. C.

Iron Hawthorne Nelson, Ravenwood Hospital, Chicago, Illinois.

Elder Dunham Padberg, St. Anthony's Hospital, Oklahoma City.

Clara Frances Palmer, University of Minnesota Hospitals, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Fowler Border Poling, The University of Iowa Hospitals, Iowa City, Iowa.

Warren Edward Richard, Mercy Hospital, Denver, Colorado.

Elmer Ridgeway, Jr., Touro Infirmary, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Kenneth N. Roberts, Kings County Hospital System, Brooklyn, New York.

Rene Schobelen, State of Wisconsin General Hospitals, Madison, Wisconsin.

Milton H. Sebring, The Hamot Hospital, Erie, Pennsylvania.

Frederick Victor Shadid, Oak Park Hospital, Oak Park, Illinois.

Leland F. Shryock, University Hospitals, Oklahoma City.

Frank Herbert Sisler, The Medical College of Virginia Hospitals, Richmond, Virginia.

Willard Haynes Smith, Grady Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia.

Lal Duncan Threlkeld, Syracuse University Affiliated Hospitals, Syracuse, New York.

Claude Williams, St. Louis City Hospitals, St. Louis, Missouri.

Russell H. Wilson, A United States Public Health Service Hospital, Seattle, Washington.

George Wm. Winkelman, University Hospitals, Oklahoma City.

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Association Progress

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

continued during the last month when four more names were added to the roster. This brings the total to 410.

The Class of '33 registered twice when Life Membership applications were received from Joe W. Myers, '33bus, chief clerk and liquefied petroleum gas sales manager for the Westoak Gasoline Company at Sayre, a subsidiary of the United Carbon Company; and Millard G. (Pat) Sinclair, '33law, an attorney at San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Sinclair is a former business manager of *Sooner Magazine*.

Two other new Life Members are Tessie M. Rudell, '25fa, in voice, music teacher at Tulsa; and Helen Hadley, '38, who operates a shorthand reporting service in Oklahoma City.

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Population of the city of Norman—exclusive of the University student body—was set at 11,433 in the 1940 census, a substantial gain from the 1930 figure of 9,603.

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