

First 40-Year Reunion

Half of Living Members of Class of 1900 Return to Campus for Alumni Day Events

FIRST 40-year reunion ever held by a graduating class of the University of Oklahoma proved a great success last month, with exactly half of all living members of the class present. The Class of 1900 had fourteen members, four of whom are deceased. Five of ten still living were able to come to Norman on Alumni Day June 2.

Members of this class, along with others from the Class of 1905 and a number of interested faculty members, conducted a brief ceremony locating the site of the University's first building and marking the spot where a permanent bronze plaque is to be erected.

And while those who went to school in that first building rallied around for their ceremony, a large group of members of the Class of '10 gathered around the Spoonholder in the middle of the Oval to retell the story of how that campus landmark was erected during the dark hours of a rainy night as a permanent memorial to the Class of '10.

Members of eight graduating classes—all those whose years ended in zero or five—were invited back for this year's Alumni Day, Sunday, June 2. Approximately two hundred persons were present during the afternoon or evening, most of them attending the general reunion dinner in the evening, or the special dinner held by the Class of '20.

Hearty laughter and broad smiles enlivened the halls and meeting rooms of the Memorial Union Building in the afternoon as members of the class reunion groups gathered for their separate meetings. Only it was in the halls and lobbies that most of the visiting took place, instead of in the various special rooms set apart for the individual classes.

Men and women greeting each other for the first time in many years would speak hesitatingly at first, then grin, and in a few minutes would be chuckling with reminiscences of student days.

The classes holding their 20, 25 and 30-year reunions had the largest attendance, numerically. The Class of 1900 ranked highest in percentage. And the Classes of 1925 and 1930 had respectable representations.

The 40-year group gathered in the morning of Alumni Day and went in a body to the Fieldhouse to hear the baccalaureate sermon by Bishop A. Frank Smith, of Houston, Texas. Most of the group had dinner together that noon at

the Copper Kettle. In the afternoon the class had a business meeting and elected Dudley Alexander, Oklahoma City, president, and Alfred Davis, Woodward, secretary, for the next reunion which is scheduled in 1945. It was agreed that members of the class would send out a chain letter occasionally; would collect historical materials to be used in the University's Semi-Centennial Celebration; and each member of the class agreed to write a sketch about his family for the information of the others.

Two dinners were held in the Union the evening of Alumni Day, the general reunion dinner in the Ballroom and the special dinner of the Class of '20 in the Woodruff Room.

Paul G. Darrough, Oklahoma City attorney who was general reunion chairman as well as chairman of the Class of '15 committee, presided at the general dinner. He called on chairmen of the various classes to give brief reports on their separate meetings.

C. ROSS HUME, Anadarko, reporting for the Class of 1900, introduced Dr. Edwin DeBarr, Norman, and Mrs. Grace King Maguire, of Norman, both of whom were on the University faculty forty years ago. Mrs. Maguire read a poem, "Forty Years Ago," and Dr. DeBarr spoke briefly, recalling that he came to the University faculty at a time when the present campus was prairie and cornfields. He was one of the original four faculty members.

Mr. Hume also introduced Mrs. Winona Giles, of Norman, and Mrs. Maguire as members of the University's "Shamrock Quartet" in 1900. Mrs. DeBarr also was a guest of this class.

Clarence Reeds, who lives near Oklahoma City, and Mrs. Maude Ambrister Wyche, Norman, were the two representatives of the Class of '05 present at the dinner.

Chairmen reporting for other classes were R. W. Hutto, Norman, 1910; Paul Darrough, Oklahoma City, 1915; Lee K. Anderson, Oklahoma City, 1925; Lucy Tandy, Norman, 1930; and Ida Sloan, Norman, 1935.

Joe Bentonelli, opera and concert singer and member of the Class of '20, gave several selections and was warmly applauded.

In the few serious remarks of the evening Chairman Paul Darrough urged more general support of the University by the

alumni, and Dr. W. B. Bizzell, president of the University, expressed thanks to the alumni for their co-operation during his administration as president.

The Class of '20 had forty-five persons present, including guests, for its separate dinner in the Woodruff room. The program here was also informal, with various members of the class called on for brief talks. Judge Ben Arnold, of Oklahoma City, was chairman and Wallace Thompson, Houston, Texas, introduced those present. Joe Bentonelli sang for his former classmates.

States represented by alumni attending the class reunions included Texas, Illinois, Michigan, New York and District of Columbia.

From Houston, Texas, came Wallace Thompson, '20, geologist, and Mrs. Thompson (Eloise Reid, '20); from Austin, Texas; Frank A. Herald, '10, chief engineer for the Independent Oil Producers Equity Association, whose daughter graduated in the O. U. Class of '40; from New York, Joe Bentonelli, '20; from Washington, D. C., Dr. Elgin Groseclose, economist for the Treasury Department and author of several novels; from Hoopeston, Illinois, Mrs. Nellie Jane McFerron Littick, '15; from Grand Rapids, Michigan, Frank A. Roberson, '10, inspector for the Nash-Kelvinator Corporation; from Wood River, Illinois, Omar R. Lyon, '20, insurance man; from Centralia, Illinois, John H. Asbury, '00; from Amarillo, Texas, Mrs. Margaret McMillan Johnson, '20.

Guests at the reunion dinner, in addition to wives and husbands of many of the reunion class members, included Mrs. Leon C. Phillips (Myrtle Ellenberger, '12), wife of the governor of Oklahoma. Mrs. Phillips attended with Mrs. Mary Lois Phillips Boorum, '15, of Oklahoma City, sister of the governor.

Mrs. J. L. Rader, of Norman, and Dr. Irving Perrine, of Oklahoma City, who were the "class mother" and "class father" for the seniors of '15 were special guests also.

Alumni attending the reunions had several items of interest to inspect. Ross Hume brought with him a carefully prepared and bound manuscript on "The Beginning of Some Oklahoma University Traditions." The manuscript, prepared for the information of authors of the forthcoming official history of the University,

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Alumni Day

TOP: Gathered around the Spoonholder are some of the members of the Class of '10 who came to Norman for their thirtieth reunion. Members of this class built the Spoonholder thirty years ago as a memorial. Above, right, are the five members of the Class of 1900 who had an enjoyable 40-year reunion. Left to right, Horace A. Sommers, Helena; Alfred C. Davis, Woodward; John H. Asbury, Centralia, Illinois; C. Ross Hume, Anadarko, and Reuben D. Alexander, Oklahoma City.



LEFT: First picture in the four to the left shows Alumni Day visitors from the early graduating classes who met on the site of the University's first administration building (burned in 1903), to hold preliminary ceremonies for the placing of a permanent marker. Second picture shows Frank A. Herald, Austin, Texas (left), R. W. Hutto, Norman (lighting pipe), and Frank A. Roberson, Grand Rapids, Michigan, in a talk session at the Class of '10 reunion. Next below is a picture showing Dr. Lucile Robey, Houston, Texas, and Mrs. Nellie Jane McFerron Litterick, Hoopeston, Illinois, both members of the Class of '15 and both members of Kappa Kappa Gamma. The three men in the next picture are Clyde M. Howell, Oklahoma City (left in picture), and Paul G. Darrough, Oklahoma City (right), general reunion chairman, talking to Dr. M. L. Wardell, assistant to the president of the University.



RIGHT: First picture in the four on the right was made in the Pine Room of the Union and shows Dr. Elgin Groseclose, Washington, D. C., (left), talking with Alumni Secretary Ted Beaird (center), and Elmer Fraker, Mangum, member of the Alumni Executive Board. Both Dr. Groseclose and Mr. Fraker are members of the Class of '20. Second picture on the right shows Frank Herald, of Austin, Texas, member of the Class of '10, with his daughter Hildreth, who graduated from the University exactly thirty years after her dad. Next below is a general view of a conversational group at the Class of '25 reunion. The fourth picture on the right is that of Dr. Edwin DeBarr, Norman, one of the four original members of the faculty, who enjoyed visiting with his former students in the Class of 1900.



BELOW: On the left in the bottom panel is Joe Looney, Wewoka, member of the University Board of Regents who attended the Class of '20 reunion. Next picture in bottom panel shows Mrs. Wallace Thompson (Eloise Reid), of Houston, Texas, and Mr. Thompson, both members of the Class of '20. Leaning over the registration desk to sign his name is Joe Bentonelli, famous tenor from New York, who attended the '20 reunion and also sang at the general reunion dinner and University Commencement exercises. On the right in the bottom panel is Lewis R. Morris, Oklahoma County Attorney and newly elected second vice president of the University of Oklahoma Association, who attended the Class of '15 reunion.



First 40-Year Reunion

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contains chapters on the University's organization in 1892, Mr. Hume's experiences as an undergraduate and as a graduate student, alumni activities, pictures, maps and charts, and a bibliography.

A. K. Dawson brought a time-worn leather envelope containing a batch of chain letters that had been circulated by members of the Class of '10 for years after their graduation.

Oscar E. Harder, '10, assistant director of Battelle Memorial Institute, industrial and scientific research institute at Columbus, Ohio, was unable to attend his class reunion but sent a letter and a group of snapshots of himself and of his family.

The next morning, June 3, the University chapter of Phi Beta Kappa held its annual Commencement breakfast in the Union, honoring the visiting alumni.

Following the Commencement exercises in the Fieldhouse, when the record graduating class of 1,296 heard an address by Dr. Horace Taylor, '21, of New York City, the annual alumni-senior luncheon was held in the Union Ballroom.

Hicks Epton, '32law, Wewoka, president of the University of Oklahoma Association during the last year, presided at the luncheon and introduced the numerous distinguished guests.

Principal address was made by Dr. W. B. Bizzell, who made several announcements of particular interest to alumni. One was that he hopes to raise approximately \$250,000 in gifts from alumni of the University during the Semi-Centennial Celebration, the money to be used for construction of a building on the campus. He pointed out that gifts averaging about \$10 from each alumnus would be needed to reach this goal.

He also announced that the work of writing a comprehensive history of the University had been assigned to Dr. Roy Gittinger, Dr. M. L. Wardell and Dr. E. E. Dale, the history to be published as one of the events of the Semi-Centennial.

"I want 1942 to be a wonderful year for the University," Dr. Bizzell said. "We want to have a great academic program and bring to Norman four or five of the greatest scholars in the world. We also expect to have one of the nation's outstanding football teams come here for a game that year."

Discussing the plan to ask alumni for gifts to the University, Dr. Bizzell said "I think you should have something here to symbolize your loyalty, and what the University has meant to you."

The president of the University also expressed appreciation for the conscientious work done by members of the Board of Regents. He paid a personal tribute to Alumni Secretary Ted Beard with the

statement "Here sits the most efficient alumni secretary in the country."

Lloyd Noble, '21ex, of Ardmore, president of the Board of Regents spoke briefly for the board and expressed appreciation for the co-operation of alumni with the Board of Regents. Speaking to the newly graduated members of the Class of '40, he declared "You seniors aren't really educated until you become philosophers. You ought to be able to learn something from every man with whom you come in contact."

Other members of the Board of Regents who were present as special guests at the luncheon were Joe W. McBride, '28bus, Anadarko; Joe Looney, '20, '22law, Wewoka; E. P. Ledbetter, '14law, Oklahoma City; E. C. Hopper, Jr., Eufaula; and Dr. Claude Chambers, Seminole.

Final alumni event of the Commencement schedule was the annual business meeting of the Executive Board of the Alumni Association, which was held the afternoon of June 3. Details of this meeting are reported on Page 5 of this magazine.

Members of the reunion classes who registered are:

1900

John H. Asbury, chief scout Shell Oil Company, Centralia, Illinois; Alfred C. Davis, post master, Woodward; Reuben D. Alexander, consulting engineer, Oklahoma City; C. Ross Hume, attorney, Anadarko; Horace A. Sommers, druggist, Helena.

1905

Clarence Reeds, farmer, Route 5, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Maude Ambrister Wyche, Norman; and Mrs. Charles H. Phelps (Carrie Warren, '05ex), Oklahoma City.

1910

R. W. Hutto, bank president, Norman; Mrs. Pearl Goodrich Porter, Tulsa; Guy Y. Williams, head of chemistry department in the University, Norman; A. C. Reeds, contractor, Oklahoma City; P. W. Swartz, teacher at Oklahoma City University; Frank A. Roberson, inspector for Nash-Kelvinator Corporation, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Mrs. Mary Frances Simpson Rader, Norman; A. K. Dawson, produce merchant, Tulsa; Frank A. Herald, chief engineer, Independent Oil Producers Equity Association, Austin, Texas; Charlie W. Wantland, oil man, Edmond; Mrs. Charles T. Hocker, Norman; Dr. Jessie D. Newby, professor of Latin, Central State Teachers College, Edmond; Mrs. Jeannette Reed Klingsmith, Tulsa; Mrs. Blanche Belt Shead, Norman; Mrs. Ruth Thompson Hughes, librarian, Oklahoma City.

1915

Paul Darrrough, attorney, Oklahoma City; Elmer Capshaw, deputy oil and gas conservation officer, Norman; John P. Toberman, florist, Norman; James J. Hill, librarian, Norman; Dr. W. K. West, surgeon, Oklahoma City; Lewis R. Morris, county attorney, Oklahoma City; Harry L. S. Halley, district judge, Tulsa; Florence McClure, teacher of foreign languages, Central High School, Oklahoma City; Charles B. Steele, secretary State Land Office, Oklahoma City; Hiram Impson, postmaster and publisher, McAlester; Neil R. Johnson, cattleman, Norman; William J. Crowe, attorney, Oklahoma City; Clifford R. Loucks, hardware dealer, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Jennie Erickson Loucks, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Nellie Jane McFerron Littick, Hoopston, Illinois; Blanche Hayes Davis, Oklahoma City; E. L. Howell, professor of physics, Central State College, Edmond; John Blake Mitchell,

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state representative for Laidlaw Brothers, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Mary Lois Phillips Boorum, Oklahoma City; Clyde M. Howell, secretary Oklahoma Education Association, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Edna Cash Newby, Oklahoma City.

1920

Mrs. Reaves Alford Salter, Norman; Ben Arnold, district judge, Oklahoma City; Elmer L. Fraker, superintendent of schools, Mangum; Wallace C. Thompson, geologist, Houston, Texas; Mrs. Eloise Reid Thompson, Houston; Omar R. Lyon, insurance, Wood River, Illinois; R. H. Brett, attorney, Ardmore; Joseph H. Benton, singer, New York and Norman; Elgin Groseclose, economist in Treasury Department, and novelist, Washington, D. C.; Earl A. Brown, attorney and postmaster, Ardmore; Carl H. Kunsemuller, manager Social Security Board, Oklahoma City; W. A. Kitchen, assistant superintendent Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Ruth Moore Memminger, Atoka; Dr. H. A. Mercer, physician, Arkansas City, Kansas; Mrs. Catherine Herrington Cooley, Norman; Willard Miller, geologist, Oklahoma City; Fannie Glenn, teacher, Hugo; Carl L. Brattain, automobile business, Lamont; Dr. W. T. Mayfield, physician, Norman; Grace Ray, University faculty, Norman; R. F. Danner, general superintendent Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company, Oklahoma City; Dr. Fred R. Hood, physician, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Margaret McMillan Johnson, Amarillo, Texas; Joe Looney, attorney, Wekoka.

1925

Lee K. Anderson, secretary Oklahoma High School Athletic Association, Oklahoma City; Jimmie Prater, teacher, Oklahoma City; Bernice Paton, library assistant, Norman; J. Bart Aldridge, attorney and oil producer, Wewoka; Sam A. McReynolds, musician, Oklahoma City; Charles P. Green, University faculty member, Norman; Richard T. Pendleton, attorney, Norman; Hal Whitten, attorney, Oklahoma City; Winifred M. Burke, teacher, Norman; Dr. Laile G. Neal, physician and surgeon, Ponca City; Dr. J. H. Robinson, physician, Oklahoma City; Dr. Charles R. Rayburn, Central State Hospital staff, Norman; Dr. L. P. Smith, physician, Marlow.

1930

Lucy Tandy, assistant director of correspondence study, University of Oklahoma; Golda Barnett, librarian, Norman; Helen Armstrong, medical social worker in Kansas City, Missouri, on leave of absence to attend O. U. Graduate School; Mary E. Stith, editor for Economy Publishing Company, Oklahoma City, home in Norman; Leonard H. Savage, attorney, Oklahoma City; Vera McNees Pearson, teacher of music, Grandfield; Albert G. Kulp, attorney, Oklahoma City; Mary Evelyn Potts, University Library staff, Norman; Mary Hewett Bailey, teacher, Chickasha; Brunette Shanklin, secretary University dean of men's office, Norman; Robert Duncan, special agent for Eberle & Co., Oklahoma City.

1935

Ida Sloan, newspaper reporter, Norman, Mrs. Lucile Johnston Hickman, homemaker, Oklahoma City.

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New Bridge

The State Highway Commission has approved plans for a new bridge over the Canadian River southwest of Norman during the present year, according to State Senator James C. Nance of Purcell. A bridge is needed to give Norman a convenient outlet to Chickasha and all southwestern Oklahoma. Traffic is now forced to detour any time there is a rise in the river. The bridge is to be a joint state-federal project with an estimated cost of about \$600,000.

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