



Class of '40

By E. T. Hoberecht

AT least until next June, the Class of '40 can claim the honor of being the largest graduating class. This seems to be a habit at the University—a record class each year. But long after this record has fallen, other distinguishing marks of the class will remain. These 1,296 students from thirty-one states and five foreign countries have made their share of Oklahoma history.

There will be memories of that morning in the Fieldhouse at commencement when Wayland McCarty, Quinland, blind for many years, received a law degree.

And there will be memories of the student political fights. Sweet memories for John V. Whelan, Piedmont, president of the senior class and also head of the Men's Council. Less sweet memories for John Caldwell, Oklahoma City, president of the Good Government League.

Then the annual R. O. T. C. rows. This year a straw vote showed that students favored compulsory military education, 3 to 2.

Football, too, will be a pleasant thing for the Class of '40 to recall. These 1,296 students were on the campus the year Oklahoma went undefeated and to the Orange Bowl—that was their junior year—and they watched the Sooner grid machine plow undefeated almost all the way through another sensational season. They witnessed one of the greatest eras in Sooner sports.

What about Now or Never Week? The Class of '40 saw that popular week come into existence in observance of Leap Year. What more pleasant memories could the boys have than of those dates that the co-eds paid for?

Naturally there is a chance for less pleasant memories, but they will soon fade

away. Not to be forgotten are the sacrifices made in getting that degree. Many of the graduates either worked their way through school or worked to help with expenses. This applies to many co-eds as well as men students. "But it all sweeter in retrospect," Bishop A. Frank Smith, Houston, Texas, told the class at Baccalaureate.

He told them that never before had there been a college generation going into a world more filled with confusion. While not very encouraging, this at least gives the class a distinction no other ever held!

Dr. Horace Taylor, University alumnus and Commencement speaker, from Columbia University, urged members of the Class of '40 to rid their minds of slogans, and warned them against over-generalized formulas and easy explanations.

Being a Sooner he should know that students here go in for explanations and have as their motto the word "search" just as did the great French historian, Coudanges.

Always in on the ground floor of any new development, members of this class were the first to enroll in the first flying course offered by the University in cooperation with the Civil Aeronautics Authority. These were the fellows who kept the sky over the campus buzzing with the training ships as they learned the initial steps and later soloed.

Education is all right, but by tradition, college is composed of much more. And when two certain seniors of 1940 begin to reminisce, they will probably be thinking about the Halloween they were each fined \$1 for letting air from the tires of a parked car.

There were the Celebrity Series and its

celebrated entertainers, and the Sooner Revue. *Serenade to an Heiress* brought its authors \$1,500 as a scholarship award from the American Society of Authors, Composers, and Publishers. They were two seniors, James Emery, Shawnee, and Charles Suggs, Ardmore. There is a possibility that their musical comedy will be produced on Broadway.

Eleanor Lain, Tulsa senior, made history this year by becoming the first co-ed to edit the *Covered Wagon*, the campus monthly humor magazine.

Still in the publication line, two more seniors won laurels as editors. As editor of the *Oklahoma Daily* for the first semester, Bill Brinkley, Oklahoma City, put out a paper that became noted for its intelligent experiments in makeup, and sound editorial policies. The *Daily's* editorial leadership during the second semester under Carter Bradley, Norman, won attention for its liberalism.

Preston Nibley, Portland, Oregon, was named as the outstanding senior in the College of Engineering. And in connection with the festivities of the green shirt boys, Nick Tinker, Pawhuska, was chosen to be St. Pat.

Memories of '40 will include the University's budget troubles, with a number of faculty members resigning to take better jobs. And outstanding among all the resignations remembered will be that of President Bizzell, who announced that he would vacate the office in 1941.

It must have been a wonderful year for the senior girls. Statistics for the entire University show that during the past year there were 4,788 men on the campus and 2,147 co-eds—or 2.06 escorts per girl.

Getting into more statistics and breaking them down into colleges and schools, the College of Arts and Sciences led the list in the number of degrees granted. It had a total of 366.

The College of Engineering was next with 211 and was followed by the College of Business Administration with 179, the Graduate School with 153, the School of Medicine with 99, the School of Law with 92, the College of Education with 77, the College of Fine Arts with 68, the School of Nursing with 33, and the School of Pharmacy with 19.

That gives an idea of what the members of the Class of '40 thought was worth studying and what they intend to do with their lives. And many of them went directly from the Commencement exercises to jobs.

Selected to act as marshals for the entire class during Commencement were Margaret Davis, Norman, and Ed Livermore, Hobart.

But above all things, perhaps, the Class of '40 will never forget that it was during this year that watchmen were placed around the South Oval, the modern-day lovers' lane of Soonerland.