

# Best Reunions Ever

**T**HOUGH collars wilted in the June heat, broad smiles and hearty hand-clasps made the Oklahoma Memorial Union Building a lively place June 7, 8 and 9 as hundreds of alumni came back to attend Commencement events and the five-year reunions of the classes of '01, '06, '11, '16, '21, '26, '31 and '36.

The system of five-year reunions, adopted only a few years ago by the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association, reached maturity for the first time with every one of the eight reunion classes reporting a good attendance.

From the time home economics alumnae started gathering for their annual reunion on Saturday, until the alumni executive board closed its annual business meeting after 5 o'clock Monday afternoon, there was an almost continuous series of events for alumni with the programs highlighted by distinguished speakers and glamorous entertainers.

To attempt to report on the events of the Commencement weekend in any way except in the order in which they occurred would only be confusing. So this report will be given in chronological order.

The home economics alumnae at the luncheon session of their reunion meeting on Saturday elected Thelma Walker, '28 h.ec, '37ms, teacher in Norman High School, as president succeeding Mrs. Frank Morris (Clemmontyne Corbett, '29h.ec), of Norman. Other new officers are Helen Hackett, '28h.ec, '30ms, Norman, secretary, and Opal McNeese, '30 h.ec, Norman, Cleveland County home demonstration agent, vice president.

The crowd of approximately sixty alumnae and faculty members heard a program that included talks by Dr. W. B. Bizzell, president of the University; Dr. Helen B. Burton, director of the School of Home Economics; Dr. E. D. Meacham, '14ba, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Ted Beard, '21ba, executive secretary of the Alumni Association.

Considering various possible projects, the group decided to investigate possibilities for small scholarships in home economics, and also to consider co-operation with the University Y. W. C. A. in the publication of a handbook designed to foster better relations between Norman housewives and women students who work for room and board.

Dr. George W. Truett, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas and former president of the Baptist World Alliance, who gave the Commencement address at the youthful University of Oklahoma in 1901, returned to Norman forty years later to give the Baccalaureate sermon.

He warned the 1941 graduating class of nearly 1,200 seniors that just as a man can be a miser with his money, so can



*Lushanya Mobley, '24, opera and concert star whose singing at the class reunion dinner and the Alumni-Senior Luncheon was an unusual and much appreciated entertainment feature*

educated young men and women misuse their education. Other quotations from his sermon: "You can commit suicide in one night or take 70 years doing it. Don't spend your time living in the past or merely dreaming of the future."... "Knowledge is power and the man who has knowledge has the advantage. The wars of the future are fought on the campuses of the colleges and universities."... "Self centered men and nations are doomed to destruction, and right now some great nations are plunging downward."

Early in the afternoon, members of the eight reunion classes—many of them bringing members of their families—began arriving in the Union Building lobby where they were greeted by a reception committee headed by Ima James, of the University faculty.

Each class had separate headquarters in the Union, where visitors were registered and where they could meet and visit with other members of their classes.

At 3:30 p. m., all gathered in the lobby and lounge to hear the 30-minute reunion broadcast conducted by Ted Beard and Joe Lee, '31ba, of Shawnee. The broadcast went out over all seven stations of the Oklahoma Network and through courtesy of Mr. Lee, a complete recording was made which will be available to present

at alumni meetings in various centers next autumn.

The broadcast program consisted chiefly of informal interviews with representatives of each of the reunion classes, bringing out both serious and humorous reminiscences of college days. President W. B. Bizzell spoke briefly and Dr. Joseph A. Brandt, president-elect and member of the reunion Class of '21, sent the following telegram which was read into the broadcast: "Heartiest good wishes to all reunion classes, especially my own. I'm sorry not to be there in person but I'm with all of you in spirit. I hope happy days are ahead for Oklahoma and for all of us."

Technical arrangements for feeding the program to the Oklahoma Network through WNAD, the University station, were handled by H. H. Leake, '37fa, production manager of WNAD.

Late in the afternoon, older faculty members of the University who had been especially invited to be present, came to the Union Building to visit their former students and there was a pleasant hum of conversation throughout the main floor.

Nearly three hundred persons attended the reunion dinner for all of the eight reunion classes, held at 6:30 o'clock in the Union Ballroom. Each class had a table of its own with the Class of '16—the Silver Anniversary Class—filling a long head table that ran the length of the ballroom. Other special tables were arranged for members of the Board of Regents who were present, and for officials and past officials of the Alumni Association.

The guests enjoyed baked chicken and appropriate accessories and then sat back to enjoy a program of outstanding talent.

First came the presentation of Lushanya Mobley, '24, believed to be the only Indian girl singing in grand opera. In introducing her, Toastmaster Kenneth Kaufman, '16ba, '19ma, chairman of the Class of '16 reunion committee, said in part:

"I grew up in a part of Oklahoma in which there were a great many Indians. Even as a child and long before I was able to formulate my ideas about them, I was aware in some dim inarticulate fashion that Indians possessed something which we Anglo-Americans lacked. I have kept that something in mind through all the years. . . I think I know now what it is which Indians possess, and whose existence woefully few white people even realize. It is a kind of human integrity which comes from feeling perfectly at home in the universe. . . The Indian goes into a new environment and at once makes himself a part of it. . . It is this at-homeness in the world, I think, which spreads on the faces of almost all Indians,

an expression which is often mistaken for stolidity, but which is in reality an expression of peace."

Explaining that he often is riled up by the opinions Easterners have of Oklahoma, Mr. Kaufman commented, "I always want to tell them that Oklahoma Indians have been among the greatest statesmen of our generation; I want to tell them of the great generosity and the great nobility of Indian character, of the poetry of the Indian language and of the heroism of Indian diction, and the love for beauty and the skill in its creation which inheres in all Indians. I should like to tell them the story of Princess Lushanya."

Beautiful Lushanya, who is a popular singer in the concert and opera world and is now under contract with the National Broadcasting Company, gave the dinner crowd a real thrill with an aria from the opera *Tosca* and two encores.

The dinner, incidentally, brought together two Sooner alumni famous in the world of music. The other was Joseph Benton, member of the Class of '21, who is widely known as an opera and concert singer.

In presenting President Bizzell to the dinner crowd, Mr. Kaufman paid tribute to the president's personal characteristics that have endeared him to thousands of alumni and the general public of Oklahoma.

"In all the years I have known Dr. Bizzell, and I have known him pretty intimately, and I have known him during times when the sledding was pretty rough, I have never known him to say an unkind word to or about anybody," Mr. Kaufman said.

"I might go on for a long time telling you things that would set this man apart; but to me his two outstanding characteristics are his love for books and his love for humanity. And it seems to me that if there is any one thing to be required of an educator it is that very gift of bringing humanity and books together."

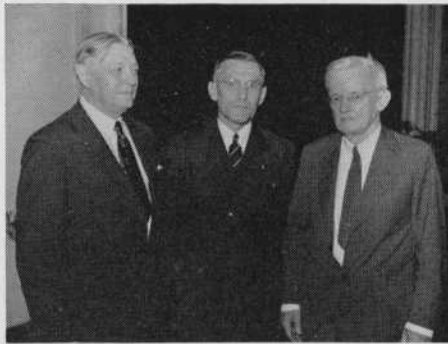
The crowd paid a standing tribute to Dr. Bizzell, and also to Dr. Stratton D. Brooks, former president of the University, who was a special guest.

A message from Dr. Brandt, the president-elect, who does not leave his position as director of the Princeton University Press until August, was read by F. F. Gaither, chairman of the Class of '21. The message was as follows:

I had hoped all along to attend the Twentieth Reunion of the Class of '21, but events have conspired to prevent my attending the reunion of our class. I do want to tell all of our fellow-members how much I regret not being able to attend, and also to convey to each and all my wishes for another happy twenty years.

It seems our class has had to bear quite a lead in the development of a greater Oklahoma. It was Frank Cleckler, of the Class of '21, who was chosen to be the first secretary of the University of Oklahoma Association, when the alumni association was reorganized under that name in 1928. Ted Beaird, of the Class of '21, was chosen as his successor. I fortunately (or unfortunately), was chosen as the editor of the

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**FIRST ROW.** The picture on the left shows Emil R. Kraetli standing between the two University presidents under whom he has served as secretary of the University, President W. B. Bizzell, left, and Former President Stratton D. Brooks. Picture on the right shows William G. Cullen, of Dallas, member of the '16 reunion class, and Mrs. Cullen as they listened to the class reunion radio broadcast in Union Lounge.

**SECOND ROW.** Mrs. Katherine Barr Hill, co-chairman of the '16 reunion committee, is talking with Leon H. Brown, '16law, of Mission, Texas. The picture on the right shows Dr. George W. Truett, the baccalaureate speaker, as he and President Bizzell took their places at the head of the academic procession.

**THIRD ROW.** The new officers elected by the Home Economics Alumnae Association. They are, left to right: Thelma Walker, president; Helen Hackett, secretary, and Opal McNees, vice president. The picture on the right shows Mrs. Fantine Samuels Paxton, '01ba, of Norman, first woman Bachelor of Arts graduate of the University, and C. Ross Hume, '98ba, '00ma, one of the two first men to receive the B. A. degree from O. U.

**FOURTH ROW.** Dr. Frank A. Balyeat, chairman of the '11 reunion committee (left), is visiting with J. K. Warkentin, '11ba, of Marion Kansas. The picture on the right shows Dr. Victor E. Monnett, director of the School of Geology, (left), visiting with Everett DeGolyer, '11, nationally known consulting geophysicist, and Mrs. DeGolyer (Nell Goodrich, '06bm, '07ba), of Dallas.

## Best Reunions Ever

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*Sooner Magazine* and designated to start it, and now I am chosen, much against my better judgment, to be the first alumnus to be president of the University of Oklahoma.

I am confident, as I am sure all of you are, that our University, as well as our state, are going to move forward, and forward in the making of a greater America. Did I not have this faith I certainly would not care to come back. I am relying upon the full support of my classmates and upon the support of all alumni of the University of Oklahoma, to the end that we may achieve a goal for a greater University of Oklahoma all of us hold most dear.

I had hoped until the very last that I could attend the ceremonies of the Twentieth Reunion. Unfortunately—or fortunately—I felt it very important that I attend the Commencement exercises of Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College. I am very glad I did so, but doing so precluded my attending the exercises of my own class.

Dr. John T. Hefley, chairman of the Class of '01, presented the traditional poem "Forty Years Ago," which will be passed on to the Class of '02 to be read at next year's reunion dinner. The poem was written by Mrs. Grace King Maguire, now living in Norman, who was an early-day faculty member of the University.

### FORTY YEARS AGO

I've wandered back to O. U., Tom  
I've sat beneath the tree  
Upon the old school campus,  
That sheltered you and me.  
But few are there to greet me, Tom,  
And few are left to know  
Just where we all have drifted  
Since forty years ago.

Our hearts are just as young, Tom,  
Our spirits just as gay  
As when we went on hayrides  
In the merry month of May.  
And coming back, upon an elm  
You know I cut your name;  
Your sweetheart's just beneath it, Tom,  
And you did mine, the same.

Some heartless wretch has peeled the bark,  
It's dying sure, but slow,  
Just as they died whose names we cut  
Some forty years ago.  
Our "prexy" sleeps beside the sea  
With its restless ebb and flow;  
But Tom he's just as dear to us  
As forty years ago.

### L'Envoi

So when our time shall come Tom  
And the roll is called to go,  
I hope we'll be with those we loved  
Some forty years ago.

Principal speaker at the dinner was Dr. E. E. Dale, member of the reunion Class of '11, head of the University history department and a widely popular speaker and lecturer on the history of Oklahoma.

He spoke on the Speech of the Frontier, and gave choice examples from the picturesque phrases that the frontiersmen devised to bring forth a mental picture instead of just describing something. Although it came at the end of a full day of activities, and on an uncomfortably warm evening, Dr. Dale's address was received by the crowd with obvious appreciation.

Among special guests at the dinner

were Dr. Edwin DeBarr, of Norman, one of the four original faculty members of the University, and Dr. J. W. Sturgis, professor of Latin, oldest present faculty member in point of service.

Some of the visiting alumni attended the annual Phi Beta Kappa breakfast on the morning of Commencement Day, enjoying a pleasant gathering of scholarly people with no speeches or program whatever. Dr. Frank A. Balyeat, '11ba, '18ma, chapter vice president, presided in the absence from Norman of Dr. Lloyd Stow, the president.

Two new members were elected by the Board of Trustees of the Stadium-Union Memorial Fund Corporation at the annual business meeting on the morning of Commencement Day. The two new members are Don Emery, '20ba, '21law, an executive of the Phillips Petroleum Company, and Judge Harry L. S. Halley, '15ba, '17law, district judge at Tulsa. They were elected to fill vacancies left by B. S. Graham, who now lives in Texas, and Dr. Victor E. Monnett, '12ba, director of the School of Geology, who resigned because of a technical disqualification.

Neil R. Johnson, '15ba, '17law, Norman, was re-elected president of the board and other officers were also re-elected.

A crowd of more than six thousand persons gathered in the Fieldhouse and heard United States Senator Josh Lee, '17ba, give a rousing Commencement address, and then watched President Bizzell confer 1,183 degrees upon members of the Class of 1941. Senator Lee's address is reported in detail elsewhere in this issue of the Magazine.

An unscheduled feature of the Commencement exercises occurred when Joe C. Looney, '20ba, '22law, of Wewoka, president of the University Board of Regents, took over the microphone and paid a tribute to President Bizzell, both as a man and as administrator of the University for 16 years.

"Oklahoma is proud of Dr. Bizzell for what he is," Mr. Looney said. "Oklahoma is grateful to Dr. Bizzell for what he has done. He has richly earned from the state of his adoption the righteous verdict of 'well done, good and faithful servant.'"

The entire audience—including the graduating class, faculty members and visitors—rose and warmly applauded as Mr. Looney presented President Bizzell.

Many of the Commencement visitors on the campus took to the highways heading home as fast as possible immediately after the graduating exercises as a heavy rainstorm appeared in prospect. However, nearly 250 persons attended the annual alumni-senior luncheon in the Union Ballroom with Norman W. Brillhart, '17ba, of Madill, presiding in his capacity as president of the Alumni Association.

A selection from the opera *Aida*—her favorite opera—was given by Lushanya

Mobley as the principal entertainment feature of the luncheon. She was accompanied by Lewis Salter, '12fa, '17ba, dean of the College of Fine Arts.

Speakers were Dr. Stratton D. Brooks, discussing the University of the past; President Bizzell, the University of the present, and Mr. Looney, the University of the future.

President Bizzell declared that the change in presidency of the University to take place August 1 is being accomplished with very little lost motion.

"It is a most remarkable thing for the retiring president of a university and the president-elect to sit down side by side at a meeting of the board and counsel together all day on affairs of the university," he said.

"I want to tell you that I won't interfere with the new administration," he said. "I will be glad to help when called upon, but will not volunteer any free advice, and I will not talk to faculty members about how to run the University."

Senator Lee, former head of the O. U. speech department, was introduced at the luncheon.

Annual business meeting of the Alumni Association executive board on the afternoon of Commencement Day was the closing event of the reunion series. Details are reported elsewhere in this Magazine.

A new feature of the class reunions this year was an informal gathering of the men of the Class of '16. The meeting, called by Class President David M. Logan, of Okmulgee, was held at the Biltmore Hotel in Oklahoma City on Saturday night preceding the regular reunion events.

In addition to nearly a score of Oklahoma City members of the class present, the group included Rayburn Foster, Bartlesville; Kenneth Kaufman, Dr. F. T. Gastineau and Malcolm Oakes all of Norman; Roy Cox, Blackwell; T. H. Otteson, Okemah; Howard McCasland, Duncan; George Jennings, Sapulpa; Clarence Logan, Tulsa; and Roy Baines, Hennessey.

The group enjoyed the session so much that tentative plans were made for another meeting this autumn.

Several members of the Class of '16, including Dr. Gastineau; W. C. Kite, of Oklahoma City; Finley McLaury, of Snyder, and A. N. Boatman, of Okmulgee; had sons or daughters graduating in the University's Class of '41.

"Farthest back" graduate present at the reunions was C. Ross Hume, '98, '00ma, of Anadarko, one of the two first Bachelor of Arts graduates of the University. Also present was Mrs. Fantine Samuels Paxton, '01, of Norman, first woman Bachelor of Arts graduate.

Reunion classes reported the following members present:

1901

Dr. John T. Hefley, Norman; C. C. Roberts, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Fantine Samuels Paxton, Norman; T. A. Chesney, Norman.

1906

A. Martin Kingkade, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Merle Newby Buttram, Oklahoma City; John A. Merkle, Norman; Mrs. Ella Thomas Williams, Norman; Mrs. Nell Goodrich DeGolyer, Dallas, Texas; Mrs. Etta Hutchins Ambrister, Norman; Tom B. Matthews, Tulsa.

1911

Dr. Frank A. Balycat, Dr. E. E. Dale, Dorothy Bell and Mrs. Cora Higgins Haskett, all of Norman; Robert H. Wood and Earle S. Porter, both of Tulsa; Darrell C. Jenks, Purcell; John A. Bryan, Nelson; Dr. J. R. McLaughlin, Mrs. Wynn L. Pulley, Richard A. Conkling, Mrs. Margery Paxton Larimore, C. W. McFerron, Frank Whinery, W. King Larimore, Dr. Walter T. Dardis, all of Oklahoma City; E. DeGolyer, Dallas, Texas; J. K. Warkentin, Marion, Kansas.

1916

Kenneth C. Kaufman, Norman; Mrs. Katherine Barr Hill, Norman; L. W. Kitchens and W. C. Kite, Oklahoma City; Roy W. Cox, Blackwell; Paul W. Reed, Sulphur; Leon H. Brown, Mission, Texas; William G. Cullen, Dallas, Texas; Dr. C. P. Chumley, Supply; Mrs. Lillian Ethel White Harris, Helena; Bourke H. Bayless, Claremore; L. H. Harrell, Ada; Andrew R. Castile, Stillwater; A. N. Boatman, Okmulgee; Curt D. Edgerton, Sapulpa; C. Z. Logan, Tulsa; T. Howard McCasland, Duncan; George H. Jennings, Sapulpa; Parthenia F. Gregory, Muskogee; Roy Ambrister, Pauls Valley; Mrs. Jewel Patchell Robbins, Pauls Valley; David M. Logan, Okmulgee; Mrs. Anne McCall Fitzpatrick, Corpus Christi, Texas; Ralph B. Shead, Mrs. Florence Waggner Johnson, Ethel H. Ernst, Dr. F. T. Gastineau, Malcolm C. Oakes, Mrs. Katharyn O. Buchanan, all of Norman; W. J. Armstrong, Oklahoma City.

1921

Dr. Alpha McAdams Williams, Shawnee; Carney O. Dean, Chandler; W. Max Chambers, Okmulgee; Dave E. Hilles, Stillwater; Boyd F. Koepke, Tulsa; Louis G. Hurst, Chandler; Ludwig Schmidt, Bartlesville; William V. Cox, Ponca City; Dewey H. Neal, Dave R. McKown, John Jameson, H. Roy B. Conner, all of Oklahoma City; Dixie Young, James C. Powell, E. O. Davis, F. F. Gaither, Ted Beaird, Joe Benton, Mrs. Orpha Roberts Merrill, Dora McFarland, and Goldia Cooksey, all of Norman.

1926

Mrs. Sceatta Foster Gittinger, Davis, California; Kenneth R. Draper, Morris Head, Jessie L. Daniels, A. J. Urbansky, N. L. George, and C. A. Stoldt, all of Oklahoma City; Mrs. Dollie Smith Connally, Mrs. Dorothea Morrison Brixey, Mrs. Florence Grumich Luster, Mrs. Emma Provost McDermott, all of Norman; Mrs. Ruth Moore Memminger, Atoka; Mrs. Eardean Smith Rector, Frank C. Morris, Herbert H. Scott, W. F. Cloud, Roscoe Cate, Dale Arbuckle, Mrs. Helen Meister Arbuckle, A. M. de la Torre, all of Norman.

1931

Joe W. Lee, Shawnee; James H. Hodges, Tulsa; Doyles Crain, Antlers; Ross G. Hume, Mrs. Walsie G. Howard, both of Oklahoma City; Ben Huey, C. H. Brite, Glenn C. Couch, Maurine Starns, Mrs. Dorothy Ann Manes Shirley, Dr. Curtis Berry, Clyde Kirk, Elizabeth Halbert, all of Norman; Kathleen DeGroot, Muskogee; Florence Graves Miller, Wilburton.

1936

Margaret Redding, Ardmore; J. Price Gittinger, Davis, California; Margaret Behringer, Okemah; N. Ruth Bishop, Oklahoma City; Katherine Rader, Alva; Mrs. Mary Rees Wilson, James Walker, Norman; Mack Campbell, Drumright; B. A. McElyea, Hobart.

### Miskovsky Redskin Coach

An alumnus whose first interests have been on the gridiron since his high school days, John Miskovosky, '38bus, former Sooner end, has been promoted to the position of head football coach at Capitol Hill High School, Oklahoma City.

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