

Association Progress

MEETING time for University of Oklahoma alumni attending the annual convention of the Oklahoma Education Association at Oklahoma City will be from 5 to 7 p. m. Friday evening, February 13, in the Mirror Room of the Biltmore Hotel, T. M. Beard, executive secretary of the alumni association, has announced.

Association officials decided to hold a reception instead of the usual dinner, as a war-time step to conserve time and money for the teacher alumni attending the convention. Only light refreshments will be served.

All Sooner alumni in the Oklahoma City area, as well as members of the O. E. A., are invited to attend the reception to visit with O. U. friends.

More Life Members

Number of living Life Members reached 589 last month, Secretary Beard announced.

The five new ones are:

Dr. J. R. Hinshaw, '19bs, '21med, Norman physician, and Mrs. Lucile W. Hinshaw, '20ba, '21ma.

Alford J. Barron, '39ma, and Mrs. Leona Stamps Barron, '39ma, both teachers at Burbank.

Kenneth Taylor, '40ex, flier with the U. S. Army in Hawaii who won the Distinguished Service Cross for his effective defense work against the Japanese in the sneak raid on Pearl Harbor.

Joe C. Looney, '20ba, '22law, Wewoka attorney and president of the University Board of Regents, started a fund made up of \$1 contributions to purchase a complimentary Life Membership for Lieutenant Taylor, in appreciation of his achievement.

In accordance with a decision of the trustees of the Life Membership Trust Fund, all money paid in on Life Memberships before next July 1 is to be used to buy Defense Bonds for the trust fund. This includes money paid on existing pledges, and on new Life Memberships.



Planning the Semicentennial

By PRESIDENT EMERITUS W. B. BIZZELL

THE Alumni of the University, I am sure, will be interested to know that plans for the Semicentennial are going forward and several committees are busily engaged in formulating the program and considering the numerous details that such an undertaking naturally involves. A meeting has been held recently with the chairmen of all committees for the purpose of co-ordinating all aspects of this undertaking.

The war situation has made it necessary to change somewhat the objectives of the Semicentennial, but there is no thought of abandoning the program. The fact is, the new problems that the war situation has created make it more imperative that educational institutions give concerted consideration to the new problems that confront us.

The University has already entered upon a vast program of war activities and due to the rapid shifting of war planning by the Government our colleges and universities will need to make many new adjustments as time goes on. In the face of this situation the committee on program, of which Dr. C. C. Rister is chairman, contemplates placing emphasis on the con-

tribution that institutions of higher learning may be able to make to the prosecution of the war and reconstruction after the war is over.

It is contemplated that the speakers who are invited to participate in the Semicentennial will be selected on a basis of their special knowledge and interest in some aspect of the critical war situation and the problems and issues that grow out of it. We hope, therefore, that the actual difficulties and uncertainties that now exist may make the Semicentennial of even greater importance than if it had been held in normal times.

I am glad to give alumni full assurance, therefore, that plans are definitely and vigorously under way for the Semicentennial and that every possible effort is being put forth to make the occasion one of great significance and importance to higher education. Remember the dates: December 2-5, 1942, and make your plans even this far in advance to be present. I will welcome any suggestions that may occur to you concerning this program. Be assured that everything possible will be done to make this landmark in the history of your Alma Mater as significant and as important as possible.

phases of defense work on the campus at Norman.

A 12-member committee headed by J. S. Walton, professor of chemical engineering, is conducting war research projects in such important fields as high-octane gasoline, synthetic rubber, Oklahoma mineral resources, explosives, petroleum, hydrocarbons, plant and animal resources and medicines. Others on this committee include William C. Bednar, J. Rud Nielsen, Charles Whitmer, O. J. Eigsti, Bruce Houston, A. C. Shead, J. Teague Self, C. G. Lalicker, Ralph A. Bienfang, Mark R. Everett and Homer L. Dodge.

Efforts are being made to accelerate college training to give young men a maximum of education before they go into military duty. Oklahoma college presidents met with John Oliver, administrative officer for the State Regents for Higher Education, and agreed to try to give students four years' work in three by encouraging them to attend summer sessions. It was agreed that a uniform calendar for all the state colleges should be adopted, and that vacations should be largely eliminated. It was suggested that the two winter semesters be divided at Christmas time, making the fall semester start several weeks earlier. It was agreed that the often-discussed quarterly schedule for state colleges could not be adopted until more funds are provided, either by the state or federal government.

University students are being registered by a special committee for volunteer defense activities. These will include special non-credit courses in fields like first aid, home nursing, simple nutrition, water safety, and so on, and participation in knitting and sewing, motor corps training, entertainment for military posts, general office work, and other similar projects.

Attention of students is being called to various credit courses in the regular curriculum which have special value in war time.

Many students are expected to receive training that will qualify them to act as instructors in defense courses in their home communities next summer.

The University Short Course department, headed by R. Boyd Gunning, is shaping its program around the defense situation and will be prepared to conduct short courses in whatever fields group training is needed.

The Lecture and Entertainment Bureau, directed by J. F. Malone, is working on organization of forum discussion groups in state communities, and is prepared to furnish leadership or speakers for such programs.

Herbert Scott, director of the Extension Division, is well qualified to serve as coordinator of the University's complex and rapidly developing program. Because of

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