



A Tradition Is Revived

Twenty-five years ago Frank Buttram, '10ba, '12ma, who since has served as president of the O. U. Board of Regents and who now is a member of the State Board of Regents for Higher Education, visualized the fun and good Sooner fellowship that could be realized from a pre-Homecoming party for alumni on the eve of annual Homecoming football games. He suggested that Oklahoma City would be the logical site for such an affair and that the Oklahoma County alumni would be the logical hosts.

From the start, in 1922, the pre-Homecoming party has been a success. A total of 40 old grads constituted a good and lively attendance in that early year. The lobby of the old Huckins Hotel in the City was the meeting place. It echoed a few brief pep talks then fairly rang with the strains of "Boomer Sooner." That was about all there was to it—except the old and familiar "Hi Ricketty," twice slow, twice fast!

The annual function grew in size and importance, becoming one of the state's outstanding fall social functions, until 1942 when the war interfered. The reunion year before had been the largest of all, with 1,083 alumni assembling in the Silver Glade room of the Skirvin Tower.

The disactivation was only temporary, however; for with the return of near normal living, the clamor for more pre-Homecoming parties began. Conditions for a revival of the event were not satisfactory until this year, when the Oklahoma County Club, headed by President Grover Strother, started planning early for another gala affair.

The tradition was reborn on October 31 in the Biltmore Hotel. Despite the hotel's limited accommodations and the banquet of the Oklahoma Bar Association, composed mostly of O. U. law graduates, which fell on the same night, more than 400 attended the reactivated pre-Homecoming dinner-dance. It was fun talking over old times and eating plenty of golden fried chicken before the dancing began.

When Homecoming, 1948, rolls around, the Oklahoma County alumni hope to entertain 2,000 former students and grads. They already are planning for a record attendance and an ideal reunion party.

The pictures here were taken by *Sooner's* photographer who was on hand for this year's festivities.

The top cut (1) shows a cross section of alumni participants, while another shot (2) catches approximately the same group but from a different angle. Many prominent alumni and guests may be identified in the two cuts, including: Dean G. A. Turley, of the O. U. School of Medicine, Oklahoma City; Russ Johnson, '22law, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Earl Foster, '30ma, Oklahoma City; Roy Spears, '14ba, McAlester; Errett R. Newby, '07bm, '08ba, Oklahoma City, and Bill Eagleton, '14ba, '19law, Tulsa.

The three alums chatting at bottom (3) are, from left to right, Frank Buttram, Oklahoma City, who originated the pre-Homecoming party idea; Lloyd Noble, '21, Ardmore, current president of the O. U. Board of Regents, and Joe McBride, '28bus, Anadarko, past Regents president and

