

Second In a Radio Series

The Class of 1909

By ROY GITTINGER

Dean Gittinger's remarks concerning the class of 1909 was a portion of the radio series Dean Gitt presented on radio station WNAD, Norman. All of the classes the series covers were reunion classes which met last June—D. B.

Forty years ago on June 10, the class of 1909 of the University of Oklahoma received diplomas. The class had spent its senior year in the University at a difficult time. There were two reasons for this period of depression. First, accommodations for students on the campus—classroom, library, and laboratory were very unsatisfactory. The explanation of this will be given briefly in a moment. Second, the admission of Oklahoma as a state and the resulting shift in the control of the university had led to a shake-up in the university faculty and administration that was revolutionary—almost catastrophic it seemed at the time. Accordingly the year 1908-09 was a period of readjustment and reorganization. As the clock will permit, the story of happenings at the beginning of the year 1908-09 will be recounted.

First will be a statement concerning the serious lack of classrooms and the great need for laboratory and library space. The second main building had been destroyed by fire on December 20, 1907. (It will be remembered that the first main building burned in January 1903.) The first state legislature late in the spring of 1908 had made an appropriation for a new administration building, but because of delays for one reason or another this structure, now known as the Administration Building, was not completed and ready for occupancy until the spring of 1912. In the meantime the university was housed in Science Hall, first occupied in September 1904, and the Carnegie Library (now the Education Building) occupied in January 1905. The old wooden gymnasium erected in 1903, (razed this fall) and three or four very temporary laboratories were the only other structures on the campus.

Next, time must be taken to say something about the revolutionary reorganization of the university in the summer of 1908. Oklahoma became a state on November 16, 1907. The new commonwealth had four times as many inhabitants as any other state had had at the time of admission. No other state had been formed out of two separate political units—one the organized territory of Oklahoma—the other the unorganized Indian Territory.

The citizens of the old Indian Territory were not altogether pleased to find the university and five other educational institutions already in operation in the other territory, that is the western half of the new state with *none* in their half. The new Board of Regents set up by state law believed that the University should have a new beginning as a state university and accordingly President David Ross Boyd and about half of the members of the old University faculty were induced to resign or were dropped, including, sad to relate, Professors Vernon L. Parrington and Lawrence W. Cole.

The new president and many of the new faculty members were either residents of the old Indian

Territory or had influential friends who lived in that area. The new president Arthur Grant Evans, had been the head of a small Presbyterian college in the Indian Territory, one that has later grown into the University of Tulsa. President Boyd had been at the University of Oklahoma for 16 years and had an enviable reputation throughout the United States with the respect and admiration of educators wherever he was known. President Evans had tried to use his influence for President Boyd and to prevent a shake-up and accordingly he became the favored candidate of Gov. C. N. Haskell, a member, ex-officio, of the Board of Regents who hoped that the selection of President Evans would be a compromise acceptable both to the friends and the opponents of President Boyd. The division of the Board of Regents on this question was in no sense political. At least half of the Democrats on the board, especially those who were experienced in politics, opposed a change, but by a close vote the revolution succeeded.

President Evans was a kindly, earnest man who soon found to his sorrow that he did not have the loyal support of all students or all members of his teaching staff. Many friends of the old University thought that the new president had profited by the removal of President Boyd. The advocates of the change whether members of the Board of Regents or new students or new members of the faculty felt that President Evans had not approved the change and indeed had not whole-heartedly accepted them. With all his goodness of heart he was not political enough to cope with conditions in the newly organized state, starting as he did with the handicap of being Governor Haskell's choice, and his tenure was only three years or until the end of Governor Haskell's term.

It must be admitted that other prejudices and other forces, personal, political, religious, and, above all, sectional contributed to the unhappy results of this period, but these forces alone would have spent themselves without effect except for the tension due to the formation of one state from two previously existing territories.

Conditions at the University during 1908-09 had led to a decrease in enrolment. The total number enrolled during the year 1908-09 was 646, or about 100 fewer than for the year preceding. Six were graduate students, 210 were in the College of Arts and Sciences, 7 in the School of Medicine, 42 in the School of Pharmacy, 57 in the College of Engineering, and 29 of college rank in the School of Fine Arts. This means that 295 were enrolled in the Preparatory School.

On June 10, 1909, at the close of the first year under the new administration, 35 students received diplomas. The degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon 2; Bachelor of Arts upon 16; Bachelor of Science upon 4; Bachelor of Music upon 3; and Pharmaceutical Chemist upon 10. One of those who received the degree of Bachelor of Science had completed the work of the School of Applied Science, now renamed the College of Engineering. The other three degrees of Bachelor of Science were conferred by the College of Arts and Sciences upon students who had completed what were known as combined curricula. In the case of two candidates



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the combination was that of arts and sciences and the first two years of medicine and in the case of the other the combination was engineering and arts and sciences. No summer session was held in 1909 and accordingly there were no graduates in August.

In addition to the thirty-five graduates mentioned, seven students who were graduated from Epworth College of Medicine in 1909 are recognized as alumni of the University of Oklahoma. The Epworth College of Medicine was established in Oklahoma City in 1904 and maintained a nominal connection with Epworth University (now Oklahoma City University) for six years. When the Epworth College of Medicine was merged with the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine in September, 1910, its former graduates were adopted, as it were, by the University of Oklahoma. Counting these seven Doctors of Medicine the class numbers 42 on the roll of the alumni association.

The complete roll of the alumni of 1909 may be said to include forty-four names. As was mentioned in the first broadcast of this series, three persons in all have received from the University the honorary degree of LL. D. The first of these was conferred in 1899, as already told. During the year 1908-09 the Board of Regents conferred an honorary degree upon the president, Arthur Grant Evans, and upon one of its own members, Nathaniel Lee Linebaugh, but the citations were not announced at Commencement.

As has been said, the degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon two candidates in June, 1909. Both these are living and are two of the University's best known alumni:—Arthur Maxwell Alden, a physician in St. Louis and Frank M. Long, an official of the Y.M.C.A. now living at Roanoke, Virginia. Time does not permit deserved statements concerning the careers of these two men.

Of the 16 who received the degree of Bachelor of Arts three are not now living: Mabel Chase (later to be Mrs. Matthews), Orlando C. Culver, and John Truman Horner. I wish that I had time to pay tribute to the memory of these fine graduates. The University of Oklahoma Association has lost connection with four:—Sarah Rood (that is, Mrs. Blue), Nellie Dean, Gaylord Nelson, and Earle Warren Radcliffe. It seems strange that we have

lost touch with these four. We should like to greet them all again. They meant much to the University as students and for years they were active members of the association. The nine others who received the degree of Bachelor of Arts forty years ago are: Yetta Alden, a teacher at Anahcim, California; Harold L. Bowen, a clergyman at Evergreen, Colorado; Robert P. Calvert, chemist, of New York; William J. Cross, known to all on the campus as Bill Cross of the athletic department; J. C. M. Krumtum of Southwestern, Weatherford; Pierce Larkin, geologist, Tulsa; Nellie Robinson (now Mrs. Carl Milam), Great Neck, Long Island; Mac Tracy, business man, Dallas, Texas; and Euline Capshaw (now Mrs. Key Wolf), Emmet, North Dakota. The University had reason to be proud of these graduates.

The four who received the degree of Bachelor of Science include a scientist of note, Charles L. Kaupke, of Fresno, California, and two prominent physicians: Robert H. Riley, of Baltimore, Maryland, and Roscoe Walker, still better known to many of us as Cap Walker, of Pawhuska. The fourth of these is no longer living: Hugh Robinson Shannon.

The three who received the degree of Bachelor of Music include Elva McFerron (now Mrs. C. O. Gittinger) who, while still Miss McFerron, completed the work for the degree of Bachelor of Arts and was for a year a member of the faculty of the School of Music, but is now and has been for many years a teacher in the public schools of Tulsa; Pearl Goodrich (now Mrs. Earle Porter), Tulsa, who like the preceding completed later the requirements for the B. A. degree and taught for a year in the School of Music; and, finally, Nannie Lee Miller, also of Tulsa.

Of the ten who received degrees in pharmacy forty years ago, four are no longer living: Claude Newton Bankston, Robert Lee Hickman, Albert Hollis, and Ella Delanie McCance. The association has lost touch with Guy M. Russell and Floyd Omer Howarth. The four others of this class in pharmacy are Bessie Randell (that is, Mrs. Davis)

of New Mexico; Oscar Carl Felton, Hydro; Blanche Patton (that is, Mrs. Flickinger), Lawton, and Frances Potteiger, Oklahoma City. It would be a pleasure and an honor to pay tribute to many of these passed over so hurriedly.

The seven adopted members of the class, recipients of the degree in medicine from Epworth College of Medicine include four no longer living: William Robert Cate, Gerdy C. Hall, Bedford W. Russell, and Ernest A. Smith. The three living members of this group are: Samuel Harvey Hamilton, of Non, Oklahoma, Charles Ross Hulén of Milo, Oklahoma, and William Smith of Naples, Texas.

Next month the class of 1914 and the University as it was at that time will be considered. The constantly increasing numbers in the graduating class will make necessary a less personal treatment of alumni in the next and later installments.

Alumni Act as Stand-ins

Two University alumni recently acted as representatives of the University at inaugurations of the presidents of Kalamazoo (Michigan) College and Stanford University, Palo Alto, California.

Warren J. McGonnagle, '42ba, instructor at Western Michigan College of Education, Kalamazoo, Michigan, was the University's representative at the inauguration of John Scott Everton as the eleventh president of Kalamazoo College. And Col. J. V. Collier, '34ba, ROTC instructor at Stanford University, was the University's representative at the inauguration of John E. Sterling as the fifth president of Stanford University.

Harkey Harkened to Duty

Paul Harkey, '39, Idabel, state legislator, was called to active duty for two weeks in the bureau of navy personnel in Washington, D. C.

While on duty Harkey worked in the reserve program for an enlargement of the reserve activities where there is no organized reserve.

Chambers Attends Chicago Meet

Dr. W. Max Chambers, '21ba, '29ms, president of Central State College, Edmond, attended the annual fall meeting of the Board of Managers of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers held in Chicago September 28-30, at the Congress Hotel.

Dr. Chambers is president of the Oklahoma Congress of Parents and Teachers and in addition to attending the regular board meeting took part in the state presidents' conference and national chairmen's conference on Wednesday the 28th.

Bingham Completing Education

Capt. Henry T. Bingham, '40bs, Frankfort, Michigan, has recently been assigned by the USAF Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson AF Base, Dayton, Ohio, to St. Louis University at St. Louis, Missouri, for the completion of educational requirements in seismology.

Captain Bingham is one of some 1,400 air force officers currently attending college under a program designed to meet air force requirements for competently trained engineering and industrial management specialists.

Dennis Takes University Post

Frank L. Dennis, '29ba, assistant managing editor of the *Washington* (D. C.) *Post*, has been named to the staff of George Washington University's journalism department.

Dennis, who has been appointed a lecturer in journalism, will teach the class in copying editing and makeup which is being introduced at the University under the expanded program which offers journalism as a major field of study.



This group was snapped at the Speech Educators Conference held September 22-24 at the North Campus of the University. Nan Allen, '46ba, '49ma, instructor in the Oklahoma City Franklin Junior High School; T. W. McCown, '49, Britton High School, Britton; Rowena Green, the former Rowena Snoddy, '48ma, Norman and James Robinson, '32ba, '32Law, chairman of the department of speech at Northeastern State College at Tahlequah, listen to Ruth Redwine, '26ba, instructor in Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee. On the right is William Carr, '37, superintendent of schools, Cushing, president of the Oklahoma Education Association, holding the floor as Catherine Vandament, instructor in Yukon High School, E. J. McClendon, '48, Oklahoma Tuberculosis Association, Oklahoma City; Dora Hobbs, '45ma, of Cushing High School, Charles Overton, '49m.ed, El Reno High School, and E. E. Bradley, '39m.ed, of Panhandle A. and M. listen.