

# The President Speaks

By DR. GEORGE L. CROSS

Homecoming activities and the improvements in University facilities during the past year receive the attention of Dr. Cross this month.



This is being written on Monday following the Homecoming week end. Our homecoming activities this year were among the best that I have seen. Saturday was a beautiful day—clear, bright, and warm enough to be comfortable without a topcoat. The parade, though perhaps not as impressive as the one of 1948 and a doubtful quality in spots, was enjoyed by some 35,000 spectators who lined the streets of the campus and the City of Norman.

The football game with Iowa State College in the afternoon gave the University of Oklahoma an opportunity to chalk up its sixteenth consecutive win, but not without considerable difficulty. The Iowa State team was aggressive, well coached, and included in its roster the best passer and pass receiver that I have seen in action this season. The crowd at the game numbered nearly 40,000—the largest group to see a homecoming game in the history of the University. The new stadium and press box were quite adequate for the occasion, and countless visitors expressed great satisfaction with these new facilities.

Several meetings of considerable importance were held on the campus the morning of homecoming, and during the luncheon hour. The annual meeting of the Executive Board of the University of Oklahoma Association with Mr. Joe Curtis of Pauls Valley, President of the Association, presiding was held immediately after the parade.

A committee of legislators made a rather complete inspection of the University's physical facilities during the morning to obtain information which will be helpful at the time the Legislature divides the 36 million dollars which will be made available for capital improvements at state institutions during the next few years. Several student legislators, not members of the committee, participated in the tour in order to familiarize themselves with the University's needs. This was a source of great personal satisfaction to me for it indicates that members of the Legislature are seriously interested in determining accurately the needs of the various institutions and in solving their problems on an objective basis.

At noon on Homecoming Day the Regents of the University and past Regents held their fifth annual reunion in the Woodruff Room of the Oklahoma Union. This annual luncheon meeting provides an opportunity for past Regents to return to the campus, renew old friendships, reminisce, and keep informed concerning developments on the campus. Included among the former Regents who attended the reunion luncheon were: Harry Diamond, '12Law, Holdenville; George L. Bowman, Kingfisher; H. L. Fogg, El Reno; Earle T. Miller, '13, Tulsa; Mont F. Highley, Oklahoma City; John Rogers, '14Law, Tulsa; William Casper Kite, '16ba, Oklahoma City; Joe C. Looney, '20ba, '22Law, Wewoka; Breck Moss, Oklahoma City; Eugene P. Ledbetter, '14Law, Oklahoma City; Lowrey H.

Harrell, '16Law, Ada; Harrington Wimberly, '24ba, Altus; Claude S. Chambers, Seminole; E. C. Hopper, Eufaula; Lloyd Noble, '23, Ardmore; Erl Deacon, '21eng, Tulsa; and W. R. Wallace, '10, Oklahoma City.

Mr. Don Emery, '20ba, '21Law, President of the present Board, presided at the luncheon. All members of the present Board were in attendance except Ned Shepler, '18, of Lawton and Mr. Kent Shartel of Oklahoma City, who did not attend because of pressing business matters.

After the luncheon I was invited to make a few remarks concerning the "state of the University." A brief summary of the discussion is included in the following paragraphs.

In the year which has elapsed since Homecoming of 1948, the University has completed several capital improvements and undertaken many others. The Women's Quadrangle has been completed and now provides living quarters for 848 girls which will equal in comfort and beauty anything available in the country. The girls live in units of 52 and each unit is supervised by a competent resident counselor.

During the year the University completed also a fine, new, modern power plant building, which will provide heat and light for all the buildings on the campus. The building is not yet ready for operation because not all of the equipment has been installed. But it is expected that the entire project can be completed by June, 1950.

Facilities for track and field sports have been developed immediately east of the stadium, just across Jenkins Avenue. The new nine-lane track is, beyond any doubt, the finest in the entire Southwest.

The new stadium and Press Box, designed to accommodate 55,000 fans, several dozen sports writers, photographers, radio broadcasters, and television operators, is approaching completion. The seats in the stadium are all ready but work still remains to be done in the space beneath and the brick and stone work is not complete on the exterior.

Ground has been broken for an addition to the Union Building which will increase the floor space by 200%.

A fine new eighteen hole golf course is under construction on the northern part of the South Campus.

Work on the first unit of the Geology and Mineral Industries Building will be underway shortly.

By Homecoming Day in 1951 the University of Oklahoma will have spent, or will be in the process of spending, approximately fifteen million dollars for new construction involving the issuance of institutional bonds. The buildings and facilities involved in this expenditure are not, of course, classroom buildings or laboratories. Institutional bonds can be issued only for construction which will provide an income to be used in retiring the

bonds. Such facilities may be called non-academic facilities—that is, facilities not directly associated with classroom instruction.

During the period when we will have contracted for approximately 15 million dollars worth of non-academic construction, we will have expended approximately two and a quarter million dollars from state appropriations for use in building classrooms and laboratories. If we admit that classrooms and laboratories are as important to a university as non-academic facilities such as field houses, power plants, union buildings and student housing, we must admit that our program of construction of classrooms and laboratories is lagging far behind the construction of other facilities. There is little indication that this unbalanced condition will be remedied in the immediate future.

It is true that the people of the state voted in September to issue 36 million dollars worth of bonds for the construction of buildings at state institutions. But when it is realized that the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma A&M College have issued together, or will within the next year or so, institutional bonds totaling almost this amount for non-academic improvements alone, it will be apparent that the state issue of 36 million dollars will not go very far toward meeting the pressing needs of the educational, eleemosynary, charitable, and other state institutions.

Even if the University should receive a substantial amount of the 36 million dollar bond issue, say four or five million dollars, which does not seem likely at the moment, our needs for classrooms and laboratories in terms of present student enrollments could not be met. At the present time we have a little more than 60 square feet per student in classrooms and laboratories at the University. The accrediting agencies have approved 120 square feet per student as a desirable minimum. When the first nine buildings listed in our plan for capital improvements will have been completed, the University of Oklahoma will have about 114 square feet per student providing the student body does not become larger than it is at present.

Due to the fact that our nation's populations of college age will increase during the next ten years from 9 million as of 1949, to 15 million by 1960, it is hard to believe that the enrollment in colleges and universities will not increase, and it seems inevitable that at least 15,000 will be attending the University of Oklahoma by 1960. The prospect for providing classrooms and laboratories to take care of our expanding student body are not bright, although we doubtless will be able to provide sufficient non-academic buildings to meet our needs through our plan of issuing bonds.

Although prospects for an adequate building



## Pi Lambda Phi

*Founded at O.U. in 1922*

Pi Lambda Phi fraternity was founded at Yale University on March 21, 1895, by a group of undergraduate students of various faiths. They desired to create an organization free from prejudice and sectarianism. This concept is best expressed by these words appearing in the Pi Lambda Phi creed, *That no society is endowed with the opportunity and privileges of freedom, that freedom implies tolerance; that tolerance implies the elimination of prejudice; the elimination of prejudice means a better understanding between men.*

Today, the fraternity has over 10,000 men on its rolls. Still maintaining his interest as head of the Pilams is the Honorable Lawrence A. Steinhart, formerly United States Ambassador to Turkey, Sweden, Peru, Russia and now Czechoslovakia. Other members of national note are Louis B. Mayer, M. G. M.; Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein, II, of *Oklahoma* and *Carousel* fame; Bennett Cerf, publisher and author; Arthur Garfield Hayes, internationally known lawyer; Arthur

M. Loew, president of Lowe's International, Inc., and Tony Martin, movies and radio star.

Iota chapter was founded at Oklahoma in 1922. Until the outbreak of World War II, 300 men were initiated. Of these, 188 were in service during the war. Major Fred Sklar made the supreme sacrifice as a volunteer on a reconnaissance mission, after twice winning the Silver Star for bravery.

Pi Lambda Phi has always been one of the perennial campus leaders in athletics, scholarships and other extra-curricular activity. Two Pilams have been the recipients of the coveted Letzeiser award. Charles Axelrod was awarded the gold medal in 1946 and Howard Friedman won the silver medal in 1947. Pi Lambda Phi is the only fraternity which has won both the plaque and the certificate for one hundred per cent participation in intramural sports. The chapter also has permanent possession of more scholarship cuts than any other fraternity on the campus.

The fall semester of 1947 found Pi Lambda Phi

making a clean sweep of the scholastic honors when both the house and pledge average topped all others on the campus. Recognition has been received by Pilams in Phi Beta Kappa, Tau Beta Pi, and Phi Eta Sigma.

Pi Lambda Phi has pioneered in many fields toward the strengthening of the chapter and the national organization. Among these steps were: founders of the tutorial system; annual humanitarian award to the individual who has gained worldwide recognition as an exponent of humanitarianism and brotherhood; permanent endowment fund for creating of under-graduate scholarships; new horizon program, a foundation development of civic consciousness and leadership qualities. New Horizons has been nationally acclaimed for the maturity and progressiveness of its approach.

Iota chapter has also pioneered in the founding of a chapter library which has grown and is now one of the best equipped fraternity libraries on the campus.

program are not encouraging, the improvement in the quality of the faculty during the past year provides a bright note.

An especially impressive array of talent was added to the faculty in September of this year. Included were four new deans, each nationally known in his field and selected with the specific problem of his school or college in mind. Included also was our first full time Director of the University of Oklahoma Research Institute, and a dozen or more professors of extraordinary ability and promise.

Our full time faculty now numbers approximately 600, and we are no longer losing our best men to competing institutions as was the case a few years ago. We suffer an occasional loss, of course, but a far greater number remain with us despite lucrative offers from other colleges and universities.

The state of the University is excellent in most respects. The most serious problem at the moment is the shortage of classroom and laboratory space and buildings of permanent construction. The fact

that we must use temporary facilities on the abandoned naval bases is costing the University in maintenance almost the price of a new building each year.

### Little Jennifer—Some Talker

Jennifer Moore, 4, is a linguist of some note. She is about to add another language to her repertoire—bringing the total to five.

Her fifth language will be added as the result of the transfer of her father, Warren S. Moore, Jr., '40ba, from vice consul at Geneva, Switzerland to Sofia, Bulgaria as second secretary and vice consul.

Recently the Moore's visited Warren's parents in Oklahoma City. Jennifer was a little confused with her languages then. While in Switzerland she spoke English to her parents and French to anyone outside the family. She couldn't quite understand why the Oklahoma grocers and cleaners failed to understand her French.

### Math Department Trusts Grads

The department of mathematics of the University feels that it sends its graduates out well trained. Evidence of this fact is the recent appointment of three graduates to serve on the faculty of the department.

Gene Levy, '37ba, '48ma, is one of the newly appointed faculty members. Levy has been head of the department of mathematics at the College of the Ozarks, Clarksville, Arkansas, for the past two years. And in 1946 and 1947 he was an instructor in mathematics at the University.

Charles S. Williams, '48bs, '49ma, last year was a graduate assistant in electrical engineering at the University. From 1942 to 1946, Williams was in the army doing work in photo-topography, meteorology and fighter direction.

Harold G. Shaklee, '49ba, has been a graduate assistant in mathematics at the University since graduation. He attended Oklahoma A&M two years and spent two years in the navy.