

## A Few Distinctions

It is a rare day in the life of Dr. M. L. Wardell, '19ba, that doesn't bring some new award in the field of education or bring an appointment to another society or association.

Dr. Wardell is a David Ross Boyd professor of history at the University and author of several books. And he is regarded as an outstanding teacher and student of history. His career as an educator spans some 40 years in Oklahoma, beginning as a teacher in Woods County in 1908. Before joining the University faculty in 1925, he served as principal at Geary, Guymon and Pawhuska and for three years was a member of the faculty at Tulsa Central high school.

He received a bachelor of arts degree from the University in 1919, later received a master of arts degree from Harvard and in 1936 was granted a doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Chicago.

In 1939-40 he was one of six selected by the Carnegie Corporation to study problems in higher education in the United States and abroad. He is currently listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Directory of American Scholars*, *Leaders in Education* and *Who's Who in American Education*.

However, these are only a few of the distinctions to which he can lay claim. He is a member of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Mississippi Valley Historical Society, Society of American Archivists and Oklahoma Division of American Cancer Society. And he is member, faculty sponsor and national historian of Phi Eta Sigma freshman scholarship organization. And he can name many more! He's an active member of the Lions Club, Norman Chamber of Commerce, Blue Key and others.

In addition to his many civic and educational duties, he has found time to write several books. He is author of *A Political History of the Cherokee Nation*, co-author of *History of Oklahoma*, author of *Outline and Reference for Medieval and Modern History*, and the *History of the First Presbyterian Church of Norman*.

That doesn't tell the complete story of his various activities. Besides being a member, he is on the board of directors of the American Cancer Society, Oklahoma Division. And he is a member of the board of trustees of the First Presbyterian Church of Norman and has served for some 20 years as national historian of Phi Eta Sigma. Also he can boast of membership in Phi Beta Kappa national scholarship fraternity.

Dr. Wardell was born in Lawrence County, Illinois, and was married in 1920 to Jesse Alma Bardin, a graduate of Texas Christian University. The Wardells have two children, Margaret Ann Wardell Dulin and Melissa Alice Wardell.

► Dr. F. R. Hunter, associate professor of zoological sciences, attended meetings of the American Society of Zoologists in New York City December 27-31.

► Dr. A. Richards, professor of zoology, attended the convention of Beta Beta Beta and meetings of the American Association for Advancement of Science in New York City December 22-January 3.

► Eight professors from the school of law attended meetings of the Association of American Law Schools in Chicago December 26-30. They were Dean Earl Sneed Jr., '34ba, '37Law, Dr. Victor H. Kulp, Dr. O. L. Browder Jr., George B. Fraser Jr., Samuel Mermin, E. D. Phelps, H. H. Foster Jr. and Dr. M. H. Merrill, '19ba, '22Law.

► Dr. W. N. Peach, professor of economics, attended the annual meeting of the American Economics Association in New York City December 26-30.

## Fifth in a Radio Series

# The Class of 1924

BY ROY GITTINGER

In the two Commencements in 1924, 690 degrees were conferred by the University. During the year 1923-24 the enrolment was over 5,000. These numbers are more than double the corresponding numbers for 1918-19. The income of the university had more than doubled and the faculty was about 20 per cent larger, but the physical plant had changed little in the five-year period. The appropriation for support and maintenance for the year 1923-24 was over \$900,000. The faculty numbered a little over 200 in addition to about 50 assistants and other full-time employees. The only new building was the Genetics Laboratory, which housed also the university print shop, occupied for the first time in September, 1923.

Through the fall of 1923 and the year 1924 two new buildings authorized by the ninth legislature in 1923 were in the process of construction—the Engineering Building and the Medical Building on the Norman campus (now the Pharmacy Building).

At the opening of the first semester of 1923-24 the School of Business was organized as an independent school covering the work of the junior and senior years. Dr. Arthur B. Adams who had been director of the subordinate school since 1917 became the first dean of the School of Business. Its name has since been changed to the College of Business Administration.

The senior year of the June graduates of this class had a somewhat disturbed beginning. In January, 1923, a new governor, John Calloway Walton, better known as Jack Walton, took office with a very theatrical inauguration. It soon became clear that the new state administration would not be as friendly to the University as had preceding administrations. President Brooks had a strong position in the state and he probably could have continued in the presidency. He had the loyal and vigorous support of several men who were considered as the governor's trusted advisers, but President Brooks did not feel that it would be advantageous either to him or to the University to remain in the face of opposition. This decision was made easier for him by the fact that the Regents of the University of Missouri had recently offered him the presidency of that institution. He had declined the offer tentatively, but suddenly toward the end of the school year after Governor Walton had removed five members of the Board of Regents and had appointed as many new members he reconsidered and accepted the new position. He presented his resignation to the Regents of the University of Oklahoma effective July 1 and moved from Norman to Columbia. The university was about to begin a new era in its development, but at the time the future seemed uncertain.

James Shannon Buchanan, who had been dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for fourteen years, became acting president of the university on July 1, 1923. An acting president usually is not able to do more than mark time, but President Buchanan's administration was exceptionally successful. He was fortunate in having the wholehearted support of two new members of the board, Charles J. Wrightsman, of Tulsa, and Frank Buttram, class of 1910, of Oklahoma City, as well as the confidence of George L. Bowman, of King-



ROY GITTINGER, '02BA

fisher, the only member of the old board permitted to remain in office. It will be recalled that five members of the board had been removed and new members appointed. The sixth new member had been appointed to fill a vacancy. No revolutionary changes were introduced, and during President Buchanan's incumbency the university continued to make good progress. Samuel Watson Reaves, who had been head of the department of mathematics since 1905, succeeded as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Since under state law of the time the governor could remove members of the Board of Regents at will, there was some uneasiness on the campus early in the fall of 1923, especially as Governor Walton was beginning to consult only with the radical members of his official family and was freely using his power to call out the militia to enforce his orders. After a series of maneuvers too complicated to explain in this brief space the state legislature convened in extra session later in the fall. The House of Representatives promptly impeached Governor Walton and the Senate as promptly removed him from office. Lieutenant Governor Martin E. Trapp became governor. Governor Trapp was very friendly to the University and at once replaced one or two members of the Walton Board of Regents. The newly constituted board under Governor Trapp invited President Brooks to return to the University as president. It was understood at the time that this was intended only as a gesture since President Brooks was naturally obligated not to leave the University of Missouri at the time. Acting President Buchanan was enabled, however, to continue with his work knowing that he had the complete support and sympathy of the Board of Regents and the authorities of the state.

Among the accomplishments of the adminis-



## Acacia

*Founded at O.U. in 1924*

The original chapter of Acacia was begun by a group of Masons at the University of Michigan in 1904. The Oklahoma chapter was founded as an outgrowth of the University Masonic Club through the efforts of Dr. Edwin E. DeBarr in 1924. The fraternity strives to carry on the high principles of the Masonic organization. Masonic contact, however, is not necessary for membership.

During the war years, the fraternal system on the Oklahoma campus was inactive. With the cessation of hostilities and the reactivation of the fraternal system in the spring of 1946, the Oklahoma Chapter of Acacia was reopened.

The beautiful old English style house is adjacent to the west side of the campus at Elm and Cruce streets which has become the center of the fraternity district. The house affords comfortable living accommodations and generous space for dancing and recreation.

The primary emphasis in Acacia is academic. A quiet study atmosphere is provided. Every assist-

ance is given by the upper classmen and, when necessary, by special tutors. Almost every year since the fraternity was founded Acacia has had the highest scholastic standing of all national social fraternities.

The fraternity prides itself in a strong varsity and intramural athletic participation. Every Acacian is a member and an active participant in some extra curricular activity other than sports. The fraternity is represented in almost every campus activity open to it.

The social calendar of the Oklahoma chapter is full and well planned. There are at least two formal dances given by the organization every year, as well as house parties built around every seasonal theme. Some outstanding Acacian is the honor guest and speaker at the annual Founders' Day banquet. A portrait of Lew Wentz, deceased publisher, industrialist and philanthropist, and Dr. William B. Bizzell, Acacian and former president

of the University of Oklahoma, was presented to the chapter by the alumni at last year's banquet.

The traditional Oriental Ball is one of the most beautiful and outstanding costume affairs in the southwest. A Christmas party is planned each yuletide for the orphans of some state institution, with each member and pledge being host to a child. In August of 1947, the Oklahoma Chapter was host to the Regional Conclave of Acacia at which all midwestern chapters were represented.

Acacia, like all college social fraternities, proposes to give its members that intimate, beneficial fellowship with good men, so necessary to their full development, and to supplement their cultural and professional education with training in those qualifications for citizenship and leadership which are not definitely or directly part of the University function. A balanced program of study, athletics, society and fraternal life is the constant goal of Acacia Fraternity.

tration was the reestablishment of the Oklahoma Geological Survey. As one of the spasmodic efforts of the Walton regime to reduce state expenditures, the survey had been discontinued at the end of June, 1923. It was revived in March, 1924, with Dr. Charles N. Gould as director. It will be remembered that Dr. Gould was the first instructor in geology at the University and was the first director of the survey, serving from 1908 to 1911.

Two who are now deans of important schools of the University were brought to the campus in Acting President Buchanan's administration. Dr. Mark R. Everett came to teach biochemistry in the first years of the medical school then, and until September, 1928, conducted at Norman. After 23 years of university service, Dr. Everett became dean of the School of Medicine in November, 1947. The other important arrival at the time was that of Mr. W. H. Carson who came to teach mechanical engineering but who has been dean of the College of Engineering since September, 1937.

Those who received degrees in 1924 numbered 690—541 on June 3, 149 on July 29. The 690 degrees were distributed as follows: Bachelor of

Arts, 271; Bachelor of Arts in Home Economics, 2; Bachelor of Science in Bacteriology, 1; in Chemistry, 10; in Geology, 18; in Home Economics, 38; in Business, 23; in Education, 58; in Engineering, 28; Bachelor of Fine Arts, 18; Bachelor of Music, 11; Bachelor of Laws, 44; Bachelor of Science in Medicine, 44; Doctor of Medicine, 21; Graduate Nurse, 11; Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy, 3; other degrees in pharmacy, 39; Master of Arts, 42; Master of Science, 5; Master of Science in Physics, 1; Master of Science in Education, 1; Civil Engineer, 1.

The class of 1924 is especially noteworthy in one respect—two members of the present Oklahoma delegation in Congress were members of this class. A. S. "Mike" Monroney, ba, Representative from the fifth or Oklahoma City District for several years, is one of the ablest and most respected men in public life. W. F. "Dixie" Gilmer, '24Law, Representative from the first or Tulsa District, is serving his first term in Congress. He had made a notable reputation in the state as a devoted public servant. Harrington Wimberly, '24 ba, was for a time a member of the University

Board of Regents and held other important positions in Oklahoma and is now a member of the Federal Power Commission in the nation's capital. As important as either of these three is Henry G. Bennett, '24ma, president of Oklahoma A.&M. College at Stillwater. Dr. Bennett became president of the A.&M. College in 1928. At the time it was a struggling and little-known agricultural college and in 21 years he has made it one of the best-known educational institutions in the United States.

Four of this class are now members of the faculty at Norman. Two who received the master's degree are Henry D. Rinsland, an authority on school measurements, and James E. Belcher, an unusually successful teacher of chemistry. (Mrs. Belcher, formerly Blanche Martin, also received the master's degree at this time.) Two who received the degree of Bachelor of Arts are able teachers of mathematics—John A. Brixey and Raymond Dragoo. Seven members of the present faculty of the School of Medicine received degrees in 1924; Dr. Charles P. Bondurant, who received

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## A Vision Is Fulfilled

"No official action of any kind was taken, as it was decided that none was called for. Nevertheless, the unofficial conferences and correspondence and visits crystallized sentiment among the better informed alumni.

"It can be said that this sentiment is substantially as follows:

"1. The great majority of alumni feel affection and respect for President Bizzell and believe that he has made an outstanding record in developing the University and raising its standards.

"2. Alumni leaders feel that sole responsibility for retaining Dr. Bizzell as president or appointing a new president rests with the Board of Regents and that it would be improper for the organized alumni to make any suggestions or recommendations in a situation like the present, unless invited by the regents to counsel with them.

"3. The alumni are very definitely opposed to any change in the presidency that would involve the University in state politics, or in factionalism within state school circles. Any such move would be fought strenuously by alumni.

"4. Alumni leaders believe that when the time comes that Dr. Bizzell desires to retire from the presidency (which he has indicated he would like to do before many more years as his present responsibilities are a serious burden on his health), the entire nation should be carefully surveyed to secure an outstanding educator and administrator who as president of the University could continue to build and improve the institution entirely free of the handicap of local political or factional affiliations.

"This description of alumni sentiment is unofficial, but it is based on a representative cross-section of opinions from alumni leaders in various professions, in various parts of the state, in different age groups, and in different political camps. The non-political administration of the University is an issue on which they can get together regardless of how different their opinions might be in other walks of life.

"Alumni leaders have not let themselves be stamped by unconfirmed rumors.

"But the published reports, along with the whole changes made in state college presidents, have made University alumni increasingly vigilant. They are working quietly, but no one should make the mistake of assuming that they would stand idly by when any threat is made against the University's hard-won reputation for staying out of politics.

However, in his final report, Epton was able to make a definite official statement of policy. Dr. Bizzell had announced his intention of voluntarily retiring and Epton, speaking to the Board of Regents and the alumni, stated:

"We heartily approve the recent action of the Board of Regents concerning the voluntary retirement of President W. B. Bizzell which becomes effective July 1, 1941. We furthermore commend the Board for its action in honoring Dr. Bizzell as president emeritus. Alumni leaders have the utmost confidence in the members of the Board of Regents and appreciate their efforts in their attempts to build and improve the University and to keep it entirely free of the handicap of political and factional affiliations."

The above was the main event of the year 1939-40. But much other progress was made by the Association.

A national distinction came to *Sooner Magazine* during the summer of 1939 when it received a first place award in the annual magazine contest of the American Alumni Council. It received the first place award, in competition with 244 college and university alumni units, for "the most outstanding and original features gaining and sus-

## Hal Muldrow, Jr.

'28

Insurance of all Kinds  
Bonds

Security National Bank Bldg.

Norman

taining alumni interest in the magazine."

Another great step forward was also made in the promotion by the Association of a program designed to sell O.U. to Oklahoma as a necessity. This program led to the formation of the present public relations department of the University and much of the credit that goes with this department can be given to Mr. Epton whose desire it was—"that every city and town in the state be made University conscious, and a closer relationship with the University be developed."

(Continued Next Month)

## Dean Gittinger Speaks

his degree in medicine at this time; Dr. George H. Kimball, Dr. James R. Reed, and Dr. Fenton A. Sanger, who each received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Medicine; Dr. Coyne Campbell, Dr. C. C. Fulton, and Miss Fay Sheppard, who each received the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

Dr. Loyd Harris, '24ms, was for several years a member of the faculty, first in pharmacy, then in chemistry, and is now at Ohio State University, Columbus. Anna Mae Dearden, now Mrs. Baynes, '24ba, was assistant registrar. Other recent members of the teaching staff are: Oren Stigler, ma, Winifred Johnston (now Mrs. Perry), ba, Grace Forrester (now Mrs. Studyvin), ba, Mary Elizabeth Simpson (now Mrs. Itner), ba, Ruth Holzapfel, ma, Goldia Cooksey, bm.piano, W. A. Meyers, ba, and Tod Downing, ba, who served for ten years on the University faculty and later made a national reputation as a writer of detective stories. We must here pay tribute to three former members of the faculty no longer living. All were able and popular teachers: John W. Hybarger, ba, who served from 1927 until his death in July, 1932; Helen Hamill, ms, who served from 1924 until her death in March, 1945, and Catherine Holman, ba, who served from 1925 until her death in January, 1947. Here also must be mentioned Scott P. Squyres, Law, who passed away three years ago. He was at one time national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and also held high office in a national music fraternity. This class has provided several who have been and still are prominent in educational administration in the state. Three of these who received the degree of Bachelor of Arts with this class are Harry Simmons, Lester M. Doughty, and James R. Frazier. Two who received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Education are George Spraberry and John B. Stout. Two who received the degree of Bachelor of Arts have played an important part in the development of the junior-college system in Oklahoma—Reed Collier and Gordon Paine. Lewis Solomon, ma, is an active and important member of the faculty of the Oklahoma Baptist University.

Attention must now be given briefly to some others. Virgil Alexander, ba, and Don Schooler, ba, are active and prominent in religious circles in the state. Bruce Potter, ba, who later completed the requirements for a law degree and whose home is in Blackwell, has made an enviable reputation as a public servant. Three prominent alumni who live in Oklahoma City must be mentioned next. They not only take part in civic activities at home but give of their time and energy to the University and the Alumni Association—Coleman Hayes, '24ba, (later to receive a degree in law), Hubert Bale, '24bs, in Geology, and Walter D. Snell, '24bs, in business.

So many others of this class should be mentioned, but we can take time to name only a few: Holly Anderson, Harvey Andrus, Elizabeth Ball (now Mrs. Carr), Harold Cooksey, James R. Eagleton, Bernice English (now Mrs. Eastman),

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Dr. Colvern D. Henry and his wife, Dr. Mary Mitchell Henry, Ted R. Hoefler, Mildred Holland, Harry Revelle, Gordon Shelton, Ashley Sills and Mrs. Amber Deane Sills, Odeal Locke, Gladys Van Vacter Been, Anna May Sharp, Tom Garrett, Ernest Lippert, Neal A. Sullivan, Sidney Groom and Mrs. Caro Clark Groom, Enoch Ferrell, Ross Gahring, Ronald Cullen and Anna Mabel Weir Cullen, Adelaide Paxton (now Mrs. McCrimmon), Edna Stuard (now Mrs. Fletcher), C. E. Herring and Mrs. Hattie Jones Herring, Katherine Fleming, Dr. Lloyd Boatright, Evert Crismore, Bertha Corbin, Travis F. Cash, and Travis R. Cash, no kin. One citizen of Japan was a member of this class—Yoshiro Hiraki. We do not know what has become of him.

This is the fifth in a series of nine articles based on radio broadcasts by Dean Gittinger. The sixth article deals with the class of 1929.

► Dr. Laurence H. Snyder, dean of the graduate college, attended meetings of the A.A.A.S. and related societies in New York City December 26-January 1.

► Dr. Carl Ritzman and Dr. John W. Keltner, department of speech, traveled to Chicago to attend a business meeting of American Speech and

Hearing Association Convention December 25-January 1.

► Carl Mason Franklin, executive vice president went to Chicago to attend Law Association Meetings December 27-January 1.

► Dr. Earl Clevenger, '46d.ed, assistant professor of accounting, attended the National Business Teachers Association in Chicago, December 27 to January 1.

► V. H. Schnee, director of the research institute, represented the University and the research institute at the Southern Association of Science and Industry, January 21-26.

► Dr. William T. Penfound, professor of plant sciences, attended at convention of the American Society of Range Managers in San Antonio, January 11-15.

► Helen Gregory, associate professor of physical education for women, is going to Dallas to present a program to the National Convention of American Association of Health, Physical Education, April 20-21.

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