

Concluding—A Vision Is Fulfilled

The history of the Alumni Association and of its presidents for the first 50 years is completed. But the vistas opened by these years and men have made the

Horizons Unlimited

By Paul A. Andres, '50ba

Heading into the back stretch of this history, we will consider the development of the Association through the past decade.

1940-41 For the first time in seven years, the University of Oklahoma Association had a president who wasn't a lawyer.

Strangely enough, the last non-lawyer president of the Association was, like the newly elected one, an oil man. It was in 1933 that Chester H. Westfall, '16ba, oil man then living in Ponca City (now Tulsa), was named to head the Association at a critical period in the history of the University.

Then there followed a series of attorneys serving as the head of the Association—Lewis R. Morris, '17Law, Earl Foster, '13Law, Lowrey H. Harrell, '16Law, Charles Memminger, '33Law, and Hicks Epton, '32Law.

But the "Man from Madill" struck the lawyers out in 1940-41 and, as he crossed home plate similar to the way he used to do it while a member of the varsity baseball team, the Association cheered as they recognized their new leader as NORMAN BRILLHART, '17ba.

"Brill," as many of you know him, was already on the Association's executive board when he was elected, having previously been named to serve as a member-at-large. As a board member he took an active part in committee work, particularly during the 1939 session of the Legislature.

He came to the president's chair with a varied background as geologist, oil producer, banker, civic leader and student.

During the period 1919 to 1930 he was geologist for the Empire Gas and Fuel Company, Bartlesville; Reiter-Foster Oil Company, Tulsa; Simms Oil Company, Dallas and Cranfill-Reynolds Oil Company, Cisco, Texas. He was named president of the First National Bank of Madill in October, 1942. He is now an independent oil production geologist.

Although he points out with a grin that most of the companies with which he served as a geologist have since lost their identity and have been merged into other firms, the fact remains that he has had considerably more success than the average in the highly competitive oil business.

After studying geology at the University of Oklahoma, and learning it sufficiently well to become an assistant laboratory instructor in his senior year, he received the McGraw Fellowship in Geology at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and enrolled there in the fall of 1917.

He withdrew from school, however, before the end of the semester to enlist in the army and serve during the World War. He became a second lieutenant in the 63rd Engineers and served with the A.E.F. in France.

As a student he was a charter member of Alpha chapter of Phi Gamma Delta and won varsity baseball letters in 1915, '16 and '17. His interest in Sooner sports has continued through the years and

he is thoroughly at home around the Fieldhouse or the Stadium. He is a member of Phi Tau Delta and Phi Kappa Pi, geology fraternities, and also Pick and Hammer.

His interest in the School of Geology also has continued through the years and, in the spring of 1940, he established an annual scholarship award to be presented each spring to the outstanding



NORMAN BRILLHART
1940-41

senior student in the School of Geology. The award consists of a set of technical reference books, to be selected by the winner. Recently he donated to the University land on which a permanent biological experiment station will be built. The land is located near Lake Texoma.

Although the nature of his work has required that he travel frequently, Brillhart has found time to take an interest in the affairs of his community. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge and American Legion, member of the Baptist Church and a former Rotarian. In August of 1941 he was named county air warning officer by the Marshall County defense committee on civil protection.

Brillhart is married to the former Mildred Colby, '22fa, and the couple have one child, Ellen Rowe Brillhart, who was graduated from the University in June 1949 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

It might be said quite truthfully that "Brill" was the type of president who could be called at any time of the day or night to cheerfully serve the interests of the alumni. As alumni prey he was very active in rompin' over the Sooner Range with Range Rider Ted Beard and visited with many of the alumni groups throughout the Southwest. His chief interest as president was in the expansion of Association membership and, as his file full of telegrams and letters will bear witness, he kept in constant contact with the alumni office at all times.

One of the tense moments the Association and the University experienced during this period was the resignation of Dr. W. B. Bizzell, president of

the University. Bizzell, you will recall, announced his intention of resigning in June of 1940, to be effective July 1, 1941. In his annual report in June of 1941, Brillhart stated the official sentiment of the Association when he wrote that "Concerning the problem of selection of a man to be president of the University, this being the official duty of the Board of Regents, your Association, fully realizing the deep sincerity and earnest desire of the Board of Regents to choose the right man, officially withheld all comment though often urged to take a definite stand for or against some individual."

He thus kept the Association out of politics and preserved the principles upon which it was founded—that of service to the State of Oklahoma and to the University of Oklahoma.

He was able to report an increase of 137 Life Memberships during the year which brought the grand total of "Lifers" to 543.

One of the highlights of his report was the announcement by the American Alumni Council that *Sooner Magazine* received honorable mention for its coverage of sports news, and honorable mention for the letters department. It was the third consecutive year in which *Sooner Magazine* was mentioned at least twice in the magazine contests conducted by this national alumni organization.

Brillhart also reported a very important step forward in the field of public relations. A daily alumni broadcast from 12 noon to 12:15 p.m. over station WNAD was inaugurated.

Another event of importance was the Legislative Forum conducted by the Extension Division of the University with the assistance of the Alumni Association. This forum, which has been continuous from that date was declared to have been very instructive and resulted in a better feeling toward the University and its problems in legislative and public circles.

1941-42 "Unhappily this administration has seen the outbreak of a war which will make our first experience seem as if it were a scrimmage in preparation for the Homecoming game."

Thus FISHER MULDROW, '22, began his report to the executive board of the Association in June of 1942.

Besides the beginning of World War II, there are two other "firsts" which characterize this administration. They concern two individuals. Fisher Muldrow has the distinction of being the first president of the Alumni Association who was not a graduate of the University of Oklahoma. The other first was the appointment of Joseph A. Brandt as president of the University. His appointment marked the first occasion of an alumnus president.

Many other things were accomplished that stand out as credits to Muldrow's foresight and leadership. Two thousand, six-hundred dollars were invested from the Life Membership Trust Fund in defense bonds and provision made for the investment of all payments made on existing life mem-

membership pledges and payments on new life memberships for the following six months would also be invested in defense bonds. Arrangements were made to send *Sooner Magazine* to men overseas and an alumni directory was published.

In addition to the many scholastic and professional honors received by Fisher Muldrow, he can also claim with great pride that his family is a loyal Sooner family.

His father, H. L. Muldrow, is a former president of the Board of Regents and the Dads' Association; a brother Hal Muldrow Jr., '28bus, and another brother, Alvan Muldrow, '33Law, are among several Muldrows who have attended and graduated from the University. Mrs. C. E. Reistle Jr., '22, her husband, C. E. Reistle, Jr., '22eng, and Fisher Muldrow's wife, the former Margaret Dannenberg, '30ba, add to the ever-growing list of what might rightfully be called a loyal Sooner family.

"Fish," as he is almost universally called, was a member of the basketball squad, the glee club and the University quartet. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi, social fraternity; Phi Alpha Delta, Jazz Hounds and Checkmate, honorary societies. Muldrow was also active as president of the Y.M.C.A.

His voice is known to thousands of sports fans



FISHER MULDROW
1941-42

through his service as public address system announcer at O.U. athletic events for many years after he left school.

Muldrow has been active in Masonic work and in 1939 was chosen to receive the thirty-third degree in the Scottish Rite bodies. He was district chief for Texas and Oklahoma for Beta Theta Pi fraternity and has served on the executive board of the Association as representative from the third district.

He has never lost interest in the University and during his residence in Ardmore (as assistant district manager of the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company) he spearheaded the Southern Oklahoma activities in behalf of the Alumni Association and the University.

Upon leaving the University, he joined the staff of the Security National Bank of Norman as assistant cashier and six years later he entered the service of the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company at Oklahoma City where he served as an accountant for five years. He was also a salesman for the Minneapolis Mutual Life Insurance Company for three years. He now is owner-manager of the National Transit Mix Concrete Company of Seminole.

Fisher Muldrow has one more first that I believe appropriate to mention. In 1940 he was elected president of the Chickasaw Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He was the first president that this organization had that was a former Scout. He also served as Scoutmaster.

1942-43 The department adjutant of the State of Oklahoma division of the American Legion took over the command of the association succeeding Muldrow. Long an O.U. rooter, ELMER R. FRAKER, '20ba, '38ma, recalls that his term of presidency "was a rather strenuous year with Ted Beaird, '21ba, off to the wars and Roscoe Cate, '26ba, present financial vice-president of the University, pinch hitting as alumni secretary and editor of the magazine. Anyway, we managed to make it through and to show considerable membership and financial advances in the Association.

"I would say that the highlight of the year I served as president came with the adoption of the plan for the association to sponsor University of Oklahoma Association Clubs throughout the nation and the world. Roscoe and I made a considerable survey of the chartering of clubs by other university alumni associations. From our findings, I presented the plan to the Board of Directors and it was favorably received and adopted. Since that time charters have been issued to O.U. Alumni Clubs throughout the country."

Personally your writer will vouch for the activity of the association during the presidency of Fraker. The minutes for the year 1942-43 total 38 single spaced typewritten pages and, dear readers, I might also vouch for the fact that I'm about three-fourths blind after reading the many resolutions, motions, amendments to the Constitution and the lengthy but very interesting reports of committee after committee.

The Association spared nothing in its effort to assist the alumni in the service even going to the extent of providing free magazines to the officers' clubs of twenty large posts and camps where most of the alumni on active duty were stationed. One issue of the magazine (the May issue) was sent to all alumni on active duty, the cost being taken care of largely through contributions from a number of interested alumni.

In a report signed by Roscoe Cate it is stated that "we would like to send the Magazines every month to every man in the service, but the cost of this would run into thousands of dollars a year and it is simply out of the question. We have done the next best thing and established a special price of two dollars per year for 12 issues of the Magazine, for any relative or friend who wants to send the Magazine to a man on active duty."

The Association also did an enterprising thing by sending V-mail letters personally to every alumni in the service every three months.

In thumbing through the countless files that constitute a large part of the research that has of necessity gone into this article, I have run across thousands of telegrams concerning an equal number of topics. None of these have been more expressive of the spirit of patriotism and loyalty than one received on November 14, 1942 bearing the



ELMER FRAKER
1942-43

signature of Captain T. M. Beaird, U. S. Army Air Corps. It reads:

"Greetings on this the 1942 Homecoming meeting. Problems in all walks of business and professional life this Homecoming are multiplied due to our keen desire to be of every possible aid in an all out war effort. On behalf of the thousands of O.U. alumni scattered world wide who are making their contributions by serving in the armed forces, may we wish you success in your deliberations of the hour, and together may we in future months establish a firm foundation for our country, our homes and our institutions in free America."

Excerpts from Fraker's annual report are also indicative of the times and the work of the Association. He states:

"The difficulties of travel imposed by war conditions has curtailed some of the association activities for this year and has forced others to be carried on by telephone and mail correspondence. One of the activities that was eliminated in this year's program was the usual five-year class reunions. However, members of the reunion classes were invited to write letters to the *Sooner Magazine* for publication in the June issue as a "Reunion by Mail" feature.

Another event that was considerably modified



TOM BENEDUM
1943-45

because of war restrictions was the annual Homecoming program. Instead of the usual alumni banquet in the Union, a box luncheon was held on Homecoming day, and a rather elaborate radio program was broadcast from the Fieldhouse concerning the activities."

Fraker further states, in getting down to basic principles and ideals that "The end which all loyal alumni of the University of Oklahoma should have in mind for this Association is the creation of conditions in this state whereby our children and our neighbors' children may have the same, or better, advantages as did we, of securing higher education in the University of Oklahoma. Equality of opportunity for all certainly includes equality of opportunity for all in securing higher education. How can it be said that the youth of Oklahoma have equality of opportunity for a university education, unless the University of Oklahoma is maintained as the peer of any other university in our nation? *It is the duty of the University of Oklahoma Association to grow in strength and influence to where it will be an overwhelming force in securing these things for the youth of Oklahoma.*"

Many other things were done by the Association as it took steps in this war year to serve its alumni in every way conceivable. This year is not only notable, but the president of the association is too. Upon receiving his bachelor of arts degree in 1920, Fraker immediately stepped in to the job of principal of Marshall highschool. From

1923 to 1925 he was principal of Cherokee high-school and in 1925, he headed the department of English at the Chickasha highschool—a position which he held until 1927 when he succeeded to the principality of the school.

Holding this position until 1927, Fraker then went to Mangum where he became president of the Mangum Junior College and Superintendent of Schools until 1945. Since that time he has held the position of department adjutant and editor for the American Legion, Department of Oklahoma. He edits the *Oklahoma Legionnaire*.

While attending the University, he was a member of Sigma Nu social fraternity and belonged to the Athnean Debating Society, the Men's Glee Club and the Sooner Quartet. He also took an active part in several annual minstrel shows at the University.

During World War I, Fraker served as a second lieutenant of infantry and at present is a member of Rotary International, Knife and Fork, I.O.O.F. and the Masons. From 1943 to 1945 he was a member of the state pardon and parole board. Fraker has also written three highschool history work books.

In 1938 he again returned to the Sooner campus to receive his master's degree through a study of the Populist Movement in Oklahoma.

1943-45 Another lawyer! THOMAS RICHARD BENEDUM, '28Law, succeeded Fraker and himself as he became one of that small group of past presidents to serve two continuous terms.

It wasn't long after Benedum picked up the president's gavel that things began to happen. In November of 1943, Joseph A. Brandt, '21ba, resigned from the presidency of the University contending inadequate legislative financial support. His resignation was to be effective January 1, 1944, and that left the better part of two months for editorial ink to flow onto the pages of state newspapers.

Among these many editorials is one which I'm sure will recall memories to most of you. Richard Lloyd Jones, editor of the *Tulsa Tribune* devoted two columns to his viewpoint that Oklahoma had not properly appreciated the importance of higher education. He added an "s" to words and they became veritable "swords" as he wrote:

"Two years ago, when the Regents were casting about for a president for the University of Oklahoma they got the idea that our state university was now old enough to have among its own graduates one who would bring back to the campus the loyalties and devotion of an alumnus. That thought focused all eyes on Joe Brandt who graduated 20 years before. The Regents found him enjoying full professorial rank in charge of the Princeton Press at New Jersey's ancient capital of culture. A joyous job.

"The invitation to accept the presidency at Norman was pressed upon him as a challenge, as a duty to his Alma Mater. Doctor Brandt was acquainted with the turbulent history of Oklahoma. From the day of the lawless Sooner it has been dominated by unenlightened, yipping and unthinking office-seeking Democrats. To attempt to lead such shallow politicians into the light that would give our state university the support it should have was certainly not an alluring prospect. Life was more agreeable on the shady campus at Princeton than it could ever be with the kind of legislative folks he would have to deal with here.

"Doctor Brandt was bringing to the campus competent men. Brandt did not fail. It was the legislature that failed.

"So it appeared to President Brandt, and with full propriety and logic, that his best service to his state and to his Alma Mater came in this opportunity to make the state government's dereliction of duty apparent. And this could in no way so effectively be done as to resign."

With editorials like this rolling off the presses, the Alumni Association was naturally pressed for comment. Benedum, as the prexy of the organized alumni, said that Brandt resigned to accept the directorship of the University of Chicago Press. The decision as to the selection of a new president was left up to the Board of Regents. The Alumni Association didn't like to get mixed up in anything that even hinted of politics.

It is interesting to note that on January 1, 1943, Sue Starr (Mrs. Richard Virtue, '43ba,) became field representative of the Association. I have to smile a bit when I notice remarks being made about attendance at local alumni meetings increasing as this recently graduated example of Sooner feminine pulchritude traveled 3,100 miles and visited 34 different cities.

Under Benedum's leadership Life memberships increased twenty-five percent and an overwhelming four-hundred percent increase was recorded in annual memberships.

A charter club plan was put into effect at the beginning of Benedum's administration and St. Louis topped the list with charter number 1 as ten clubs were formed within a few months. In the few months that followed the initiation of the charter club plan, the world wide scope of the Association is well illustrated. Clubs were formed at St. Louis, Wichita, the Fiji Islands, Altus, Oklahoma City, Honolulu, Hawaii, Wewoka, Washington, D. C., Okmulgee and Chicago. During the war, clubs were chartered all over the globe and at one time the total reached an impressive 53. At this writing there are 27 active clubs operating in the United States.

Other incidents included in this action-packed period was the promotion of Captain Ted Beard to the rank of major. Roscoe Cate, '26ba, who assumed the executive-secretary job while Beard was in the service resigned to accept an appointment as financial vice president of the University and Sue Starr was appointed as assistant executive-secretary. This was indeed a unique situation because the then Miss Starr had no one to be assistant to, yet she held the title of assistant executive-secretary. Range Rider Beard remedied the situation after a few months when he reined his Sooner Stallion in to the alumni headquarters camp on October 1, 1944.

The Association underwent a mass exodus one summer day during 1944 when it was moved to its present location in the Pine Room of the Union Building.

On May 14, 1944, president emeritus William Bennett Bizzell passed away after directing the University's affairs for the last third of its first half century.

It was truly an eventful two years for Benedum and the Association's main business from the time Beard returned to the completion of the 1944-45 term of office concerned itself with the creation of an appropriate memorial in honor of one of the best-loved presidents any University has ever had.

Benedum was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity for three years while attending school. He is a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association, the American Bar Association, Chairman of the Legal Institute and the County Bar Organizations Committee of the Oklahoma State Bar and a member of the Legal Advisory Committee of the Oklahoma Savings and Loan Association. He is also a past president of the Norman Rotary Club and, while an undergraduate, belonged to both business and law school honor societies. After finishing law school in February of 1928, Benedum entered the practice of law in Earlsboro, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma. At present he is a member of the firm of Williams and Benedum, Norman. 1945-46 Principal, superintendent and instructor

of academy, school and institute—that's the story of GEORGE DALE HANN, '36m.ed.

Hann, who for the last 11 years has been superintendent of schools at Ardmore, has a record in the field of education which dates back 33 years.

From 1916 to 1917 he served as principal of the Academy of Oklahoma Baptist University and, after serving two years in the army, became principal of the highschool at Rocky, Oklahoma. From 1920 to 1921 he was superintendent of schools at Cowden, Oklahoma. In 1922 he went to Cordell to head its



GEORGE HANN
1945-46

highschool and, in 1923, became superintendent of schools at Retrop, Oklahoma. From March to September of 1923 Hann served as a math instructor at the Southwestern Institute of Technology at Weatherford. During 1924 and 1925 he was principal of the Clinton highschool and later became superintendent of Clinton schools. Hann moved to Ardmore in 1939 to assume the post of superintendent of schools, the position he now holds.

Any article written about Hann might do well to carry the headline "Oklahoma's Wandering Educator." His interests are definitely in the field of education—and what is more important is that he is interested in the education of Oklahoma youth.

Hann graduated from the Southwestern Institute of Technology at Weatherford in 1915. In 1918, he attended the University of Oklahoma in the Student Army Training Corps and, in 1936, received his master's of education degree. He also received the bachelor of arts degree from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1917. His wife, the former Irene Eliza Argabright, attended the University in 1926.

Hann's record is impressive all the way around. Although his undergraduate days were not spent at O.U. his Oklahoma Baptist University record shows that the University of Oklahoma would have profited much from his earlier attendance. He was captain of both the football and basketball teams his senior year at O.B.U. and has the distinction of making the first touchdown that school ever officially made. He also was elected president of his senior class at O.B.U. in 1917.

He is a member of Rotary International, the Masonic Lodge, the American Legion, the National Guard, the Field Artillery Association, the Oklahoma Education Association and the National Educational Association.

Under Governor Holloway, Hann was a member of the Text Book Commission and under Governor Marland, he served as a member of the State Board of Education. In 1935, he was president of the Oklahoma Education Association. Hann was also president of the Association of School Administrators in 1945.

The first meeting (Homecoming, 1945) at which George Hann presided as president was at-

tended by a lot of "brass." President Cross as well as 14 past presidents of the association, the complete Executive Board and the members of the State Advisory Council were in attendance.

Many notable things were accomplished at this meeting and the ones to follow. Under Hann's leadership, the beginnings of the University of Oklahoma Achievement Day Awards were planned. Special citations to outstanding alumni and state citizens, modeled after the plans of the universities of Kansas and Ohio, were slated and the net



WILLIAM COX
1946-47

result produced Achievement Day which began in 1948 under the sponsorship of both the University and the Board of Regents. A complete list of the winners of this award to date include such notable Sooners and alumni as: Everett L. DeGolyer, '11 ba; A. S. "Mike" Monroney, '24ba; Lynn Riggs, '23; Gen. Raymond S. McLain and Gen William S. Key. The winners for 1949 include: Dr. Forrest Pitt Baker, Ben G. Owen, Frank Phillips, Lew Wentz and Muriel H. Wright, '20.

Tom Benedum, the immediate past president of the Association, was named to attend the Regional American Alumni Council president's panel discussion in Kansas City and represent the University of Oklahoma Association.

The awarding of a most excellent tribute to Jack Harts of Los Angeles (the first Sooner football mentor) was provided with the motion privileging the Los Angeles Alumni Club to present the "0-50" award blanket to the Athletic Council. The occasion was the 50th anniversary of the first Sooner gridironers.

1946-47 First things sometimes do come last!

We're nearing the end of this series of articles but there are still a number of first things that the recent past presidents have added to the ever-growing list.

The occasion this time is COL. WILLIAM V. Cox, '21ba, '24ma, superintendent and co-founder of Ponca Military Academy, Ponca City. He is the "first" man to become president of the Association who has held any military rank. At the time of his election he was a major. Many of the past presidents served in the armed forces of the United States, but none have been inaugurated with a military rank pinned on their collars. Oddly enough, Cox's successor, HAL MULDROW, JR., '28bs, is the commanding general of the division artillery of the 45th Division. Looking at the close succession of these two officers, it might be said that military men do stick together. At any rate, both men called the Association to attention and paraded it with honor across the field of progress.

Bill Cox is a native Oklahoman. He attended Carmen highschool and was graduated from the University of Oklahoma with two degrees. He was principal and coach of the school at Helena in 1921-22, and at Carmen in 1922-23.

Cox, who received three basketball and four baseball letters at O.U., was freshman coach and received his master's degree in 1923. He then became head coach and instructor at Henryetta.

In 1926 he began his work with military schools as director of athletics and instructor at the Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, Missouri. He worked there until 1936, when he accepted a similar position at the Missouri Military Academy in Mexico, Missouri. He founded the Ponca Military Academy in 1940.

It was back in 1926 that Cox transferred his coaching allegiance from the Henryetta highschool in his native Oklahoma to the Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, Missouri. His Henryetta high had won the Oklahoma state championship the year before and Bill Cox was pretty hot stuff as a coach. He proved that by remaining at Wentworth nine years, turning out splendid teams and building a wide circle of friends around Lexington.

Bill Cox learned his football under Bennie Owen and he still points with pride to the great triumvirate of sportsmen that ruled athletics at Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas State in those days. He was referring to Owen, Chet Brewer and Mike Ahern.

"I never was a regular player under Bennie," Cox once said. "I was a sub quarter and end but I learned a lot of football because Ben would send me in with information and then pull me out after two or three plays. You learn a lot going in and out that way, with the coach telling you what to do."

Cox was the "first" paid freshman football coach at Oklahoma. In the seasons of 1923 and 1924 he succeeded Ed Meacham, '14ba, as freshman instructor at \$55 a month. Meacham, a member of the faculty after his graduation and now dean of the college of arts and sciences had served as freshman coach without pay.

"That \$55 a month helped me get my master's degree," said Bill Cox. "I picked up some money on the side by officiating and I got through all right."

As an undergraduate, Cox was a member of Sigma Nu social fraternity, Mystic Keys, Jazz Hounds, captain of both the varsity baseball and basketball teams and a member of the Alfalfa County Club. During World War I, he was a first class petty officer and held a reserve commission until 1936. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary International, the Masons and a life member of the Association.

The minutes of the year Cox served the Association as its president are seen to evidence a very definite spirit of co-operation. The Association and the Dads' Association planned joint projects, while the alumni, in co-operation with the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents, President Cross and the Athletic Council co-operated to settle disputes over the Dallas football ticket situation and the critical housing program that was a major Sooner headache at the time.

Final arrangements for Achievement Day were made and the machinery set in motion for the first celebration the following year. The Association in a special resolution dated June 2, 1947, also distinguished itself by endorsing the University of Oklahoma Foundation which is proving to be of much worth to the University.

Bill Cox signed the minutes of the last meeting of his administration and smiled as—

1947-48 came along and Brig. Gen. HAL MULDROW, JR., '28bs, took over. A Norman insurance man and commanding general of the Oklahoma National Guard's 45th Infantry Division artillery, Muldrow was a special instructor on the faculty of the College of Business Administration during the spring semester of the school year 1947-48.

His civilian and military records are evidence

of not only his great personal ability and leadership, but also of the outstanding men which have been attracted to the presidency and service of the organized alumni.

During World War II, Muldrow was a lieutenant colonel commanding the 189th field artillery battalion of the 45th Infantry Division in Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. He spent a total of 27 months overseas and earned six campaign stars plus the Silver Star and also the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster.



GRADY HARRIS
1948-49

He was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action with the 45th Division in Sicily in September of 1943. The Citation accompanying the award stated:

"When communications with his forward observers was lost, Lieutenant Colonel Muldrow took a radio set and went forward to where contact was re-established and relayed data to his battalion. In spite of enemy infantry patrols, covered by artillery fire, infiltrating to cut off his withdrawal, he remained at his post for more than six hours, continuing to relay firing data, and so effectively directed the fire that it assisted in a large measure to force the enemy to retreat and our forces to advance. The actions of Lieutenant Colonel Muldrow reflect great credit upon himself and the armed forces."

His file in the alumni office is literally crammed full of clippings from the *New York Times* and many Oklahoma papers telling the quite colorful story and exploits of this man who not only brought credit to the armed forces, as the citation reads, but also has brought considerable amount of esteem and prestige to every activity he has entered—especially the University of Oklahoma Association.

For many years previous to this time both alumni and students had registered complaints relative to the inconvenience of attending the Texas-O.U. game at Dallas. Muldrow's administration considered this problem seriously and recommended to President Cross in a lengthy resolution that, in view of the "deplorable disturbances that occurred at the October 11, 1947 Cotton Bowl, such as the throwing of bottles during the game by some of the fans and the physical violence between the Dallas police force and other fans," . . . the additional traffic hazards created by increased enrollment at both institutions . . . inadequate facilities due to the Texas State Fair crowds . . . and in the interest of sportsmanship and good relationships between the two institutions . . . that President Cross "take such steps as reasonably appear to be necessary to discontinue the scheduling of the annual football game between such two schools until it can be arranged on a home and home basis."

This resolution had plenty of teeth in it and resulted in the calling of a special meeting in Dallas of representatives of both universities. After this

meeting, President Cross reported to the Executive Board that he had decided to continue the game in Dallas.

More work was done by both Kenneth Harris, '39ba, '49Law, and Muldrow on the Achievement Day and proposed Distinguished Service Citations to be awarded five outstanding alumni and/or Oklahomans. The fee for the annual membership in the Association remained three dollars while the Life Membership fee was set at eighty dollars. The Association again heartily endorsed the University of Oklahoma Foundation. This organization was set up to accept gifts for the University.

Muldrow's student activities include membership in Phi Kappa Psi, Checkmate, Scabbard and Blade, honorary military fraternity, and Bombardiers, of which he was one of the founders. Muldrow was also a member of Beta Theta Pi social fraternity, past president of the Stadium-Union, a member of the varsity football team from 1925 to 1927, Cadet Colonel of the ROTC, a member of the Student Council for two years and a member of Alpha Kappa Psi.

His fine record does not end there though. He is a past president of the Norman Rotary Club, past president of the Norman Chamber of Commerce, a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of the Presbyterian Church and a life member of the Alumni Association.

1948-49 You don't have to graduate from college to become president of a bank!

At least, GRADY D. HARRIS, '18, president of the First National Bank of Alex, Oklahoma, didn't.

Harris holds two immediate distinctions. He is the second president of the University of Oklahoma Association who did not complete his work for a degree, and he is the fiftieth president of the Association.

Attending the University only one year, Harris did not have time to accumulate the impressive undergraduate records of many of the previous presidents. His record, both civic and professional, illustrates however that it really wasn't necessary for him to be too active in campusology while at the state University.

As a banker for the past 29 years, Harris has served as cashier, vice president and president of the Alex bank. He also serves as a director of the First National Bank, Blanchard, Oklahoma, and is the major stockholder in both Alex and Blanchard banks.

From 1928 to 1931, he was a member of the



HAL MULDROW
1947-48



Joe W. Curtis, '20ba, '22Law, Pauls Valley, president of the University of Oklahoma Association and Ted Beard, '21ba, executive secretary-manager of the Association, read over some business notes.

Alex School board and also served his community in the capacity of town clerk. He has been mayor for the past 12 years and served as president of the Alex Chamber of Commerce for the past three years. He has served the Methodist Church as chairman of the Board of Stewards for the past 12 years. Harris is serving as president of the Grady County Good Roads Association and, in 1946, served as chairman, representing district I of the Oklahoma Bankers Association. The following year he was a member of the executive council of the Oklahoma Bankers Association.

Harris, as a member of the Dads' Association, has represented his district as a vice president for several years. He was elected president of the University of Oklahoma Dads' Association for the year 1949-50. Well, we've traveled a long distance. a member of Kiwanis.

After leaving the University, Harris attended Hills Business College, Oklahoma City, and completed the course of instruction in 1920.

Early in his administration, Harris received a letter from George D. Hann, '36m.ed, past president of the Association, and, at the time, president of the Dads' Association, suggesting that Harold Keith's book, *Oklahoma Kickoff* be placed in every highschool library in the State of Oklahoma. Realizing that this book was not only a treatise on Oklahoma football but also a moving history of the University, Harris promoted the idea to its conclusion. Another accomplishment of his administration was the establishment of a Bond Day in Norman, designed to attract high-school bands from all over the state.

The minutes reveal that improvements on the Achievement Day Program were discussed and approved by the Executive Board upon the recommendation of Kenneth Harris, '39ba, '49Law, senior assistant in public relations. The Alumni Development Fund and the University of Oklahoma Foundation reported their progress and reports were made on the accomplishments being made on the building program of the University.

During the progressive year of Harris' admin-

istration, the Association was proud to report that its members were scattered through every state in the union and in 41 nations of every continent on the globe. The home state led the nation in number of University alums with a total of 16,522, followed by Texas and California. In June of 1949, Harris welcomed 2,032 graduates into the ranks of the Association. This was the largest graduating class in the history of the University.

1949-50 Well, we've traveled a long distance. The ball has been passed from year to year with a minimum of fumbles and a maximum of successful completions.

In June of 1949, the ball was centered to the man with the biggest hand I have ever had the pleasure of shaking. He's tall, handsome and the owner of two valuable assets—a strong handshake and a confident smile.

His name is JOE W. CURTIS, '20ba, '22Law. He's a good "Joe" too.

Graduating over two decades ago, Curtis has been a member of the law firm of Curtis and Blanton, Pauls Valley, almost 24 years.

While an undergraduate at the University, he was a member of Sigma Nu social fraternity, Phi Alpha Delta, honorary law society, Chi Chi Chi, Battle Axe, the Ruf-Neks and the inter-fraternity council. He also worked as a student assistant in the general library of the University.

Before arriving in Soonerland, Curtis served in the U. S. Army where he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the field artillery in 1928. In 1922, he served with the U. S. Veterans Bureau, Dallas, as district manager of district 14.

As a professional man and as an alumnus of the University, Curtis has gained distinctions which rate him as outstanding in both capacities.

For many years he has served as a member of the Examination Board of the State Bar Association—having been appointed for several 3-year successive terms by the Supreme Court. He is also a member of the Rotary Club, the American Legion, the Chamber of Commerce and the Masons.

His work with the Alumni Association has also

been praiseworthy. Curtis served as second vice-president of the Association in 1946—a job which, in the words of Ted Beard, is “one of the treasured jobs which will not burden you to death.” Today he serves as president of the University of Oklahoma Association and as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Oklahoma Foundation and the Board of Governors of the Oklahoma Memorial Union. He was an annual member of the Association from 1922 until 1945 when he became a Life member. He is married to the former Lois Blanton, '21ba.

Curtis' record and story as head of the Association is one that will have to be finished by another writer at another time. His term of office ends in June of this year and it is regrettable that this concluding part of the *Vision* will be the only part which goes to press *Un-Fulfilled*.

The accomplishments of a man like Joe Curtis could never be finally written while he is living. They just keep adding up. Many never reach the headlines or find their place in the minute books.

Those that have been recorded, however, are taken from the annual homecoming meeting held in the “Y” Lounge on the third floor of the Union, October 29.

The meeting was conducted with all the casual formality of informality. A lot was accomplished—in fact, you'd have to be present to realize the amount of work that can be accomplished in just one hour of what I will call “Curtis-ism.”

The past presidents of the Association were introduced. Among them, with their year as president in parenthesis, were: Dean Roy Gittinger, '02ba, Norman, (1903-04); Fred E. Tarman, '10ba, Norman, (1915-16); Tom B. Matthews, '16ba, Tulsa, (1921-22); Dave McKown, '21geol, Oklahoma City, (1922-23); Hal Muldrow, Jr., '28bs, Norman, (1947-48) and Grady D. Harris, '18, Alex, (1948-49).

After this introduction and at the invitation of the Association and Mr. Curtis, the board heard the welcoming and progress report of President Cross and Grady D. Harris, '18, Alex, who was recently elected to the presidency of the Dads' Association spoke for a few minutes to urge the support of the Dads' scholarship fund. Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37Law, director of the Alumni Development Fund and the University of Oklahoma Foundation reported on the activities of his group. Kenneth Harris, '39ba, '49Law, reported on the program and awards of the Achievement Day committee.

Quickly dispensing with old business, the board proceeded to new business and made provisions for sending out of a mail ballot to determine the election of alumni to fill the unexpired terms of Harry Hughes, '29ba, '48m.ed, District VII, and J. Phil Burns, '27ba, District VIII. The two seats were vacated because the two executive board members had moved out of their respective districts. Hughes moved from Weatherford to Enid thus moving into the district left memberless by Burns and was elected to represent that area. Burns moved from Fairview to Oklahoma City. David Gish, '37fa, Frederick, was chosen to represent District VII.

The meeting was over almost before it started. The immediate business of the association had been taken care of. Everybody was happy too, because, as is traditional, the meeting was followed by the annual homecoming luncheon for the board members, officers, past presidents and their wives.

Thus ends the 51-year history of the University of Oklahoma Association—with a full stomach.

It's a proud history and it's a great history—it's your history. It is indeed the story of the Fulfillment of a Vision.



New York Club Meets

By Mrs. Ken M. Robinson

The New York Alumni chapter held its annual meeting January 2 at 113 East 30th Street in the American Field Service Building. Ninety members from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Long Island gathered to view the 1949 Sugar Bowl films and give a vote of thanks to Coach Bud Wilkinson and his victorious squad.

The following officers were elected for the current year:

Russell R. Black, '42ba, president; Allan C. Duncan, '21geol, vice president; and Moris T. Haggard, '35-'36, secretary-treasurer.

The executive committee, in addition to the president, vice president and secretary-treasurer, is composed of the following:

Dr. Robert P. Calvert, '09ba, '10ma, Betty German Pettit, '44journ, Paula Howard, '47fa, Doak Stowe, '41Law, Dr. Bettis A. Garside, '13ba, Ken M. Robinson, '38ba, '38Law, Dr. Sterling W.

At the left are pictured officers of the New York Alumni Club. Top, Moris T. Harrard, secretary-treasurer; center, Russell Black, president, and bottom, Allan C. Duncan, vice president.

Brown, former professor of psychology of religion at O.U., Margaret Stephenson, former counselor of women at O.U., Elmer Million, '35Law, Merle Montgomery, '24fa.

The entertainment committee for this year will be: Moris T. Haggard, secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Ken M. Robinson, Doak Stowe, '39Law, Bill Schubert, '46-'47, Jane Douglass White, '39fa, and Pauline Butler, '30ba, '30ma.

Plans are being formulated for a spring get-together. The date of the affair will be announced in the *Sooner Magazine*.

Stolen Thunder

Oklahomans may not realize it, but a Czechoslovakian is stealing their thunder. Dr. Paul Garvin, University professor of anthropology, is learning how to talk the language of the Wichita Indians.

More than that, he's finding out how individuals differ from each other in their speech and how much Wichita speech has been influenced by English. It's all part of a research project to determine the acoustic composition of Indian speech.

A pioneer in analyzing Indian dialects, Dr. Garvin uses modern experimental instruments such as the sound spectrograph in his work. This instrument automatically analyzes speech sounds. Subjects talk into a microphone and the machine produces a tracing of the frequency, amplitude and intensity of sound waves.

“The primary objective is to get an idea of individual variability,” Dr. Garvin says. He has conducted similar research with the Ponapean tribe of the Eastern Caroline islands. Master of a dozen European languages, Dr. Garvin already can converse with the Wichitas. He began the study 18 months ago and expects to complete it by May.

Garvin has studied at Charles University, Prague, and Stockholm University, Sweden. He holds a degree from the Sorbonne-in-exile, and received his Ph.D. at Indiana University in 1947. He joined the O.U. faculty in 1948.