

The Class of 1929

BY ROY GITTINGER, '02BA

With the two Commencements in 1929, 1,028 degrees were conferred by the University. It should be noted that for the first time the graduates of any one year numbered over 1,000. The number of students enrolled in residence during the year 1928-29 was over 7,000. In all, over 9,000 persons received instruction in the classroom and through extension classes or correspondence study. The increase in the number of members of the faculty was commensurate with the increase in the student body. The five-year period between the Commencements of 1924 and the Commencements of 1929, the year under special consideration in this article, was probably the most fortunate period in the history of the University. Political activity in the state did not affect the progress and growth of the University. Governors and legislatures were friendly. In the main, business was good and appropriations for the support and maintenance of the University, as well as appropriations for the maintenance and development of the physical plant, were generous. This five-year period covered the last year of Acting President Buchanan and the first four years of President William Bennett Bizzell, as will be brought out later.

The appropriation for salaries and maintenance for the year ending June 30, 1929, exclusive of revenue for the State University Hospital and the Crippled Children's Hospital, was approximately \$1,400,000. The two hospitals together received \$500,000 a year for maintenance. The area of the Norman campus increased 58 acres in the five-year period and accordingly it covered 175 acres. The eleventh legislature had appropriated \$500,000 for a new University library which was in the process of construction during 1929 and also \$130,000 for a student infirmary, now known as Ellison Infirmary, which was completed and occupied in September, 1928.

In addition there were appropriations of \$250,000 for a medical building in Oklahoma City and \$350,000 for the Crippled Children's Hospital, both occupied in 1928. In the five-year period three other buildings had been completed or partially completed and occupied:—the Memorial Union; the Liberal Arts Building, now known as Buchanan Hall; and the Physical Education Building, usually known as the Field House. During the spring and summer of 1928 construction was finished on the east wing of the Memorial Stadium (the west wing had been finished and ready for use in October, 1925) and the completed stadium was first used at the beginning of the year 1928-29. The tenth legislature had authorized the construction of two women's residence halls, Hester Hall and Robertson Hall, which were completed and ready for occupancy in the fall of 1928. It must be noted here that the Memorial Union and the Memorial Stadium as well as the two residence halls were not financed from state appropriations but must be paid for out of income derived either from the contributions of alumni and friends of the University or from student fees. Unfortunately this often places the University at the disadvantage of higher student fees.

The year 1928-29 is particularly noteworthy for two other reasons closely connected. First, the *Sooner Magazine* was established in October, 1928, as the official publication of the University of Oklahoma Association. Second, the University of Oklahoma Press had its beginning January 1, 1929, as

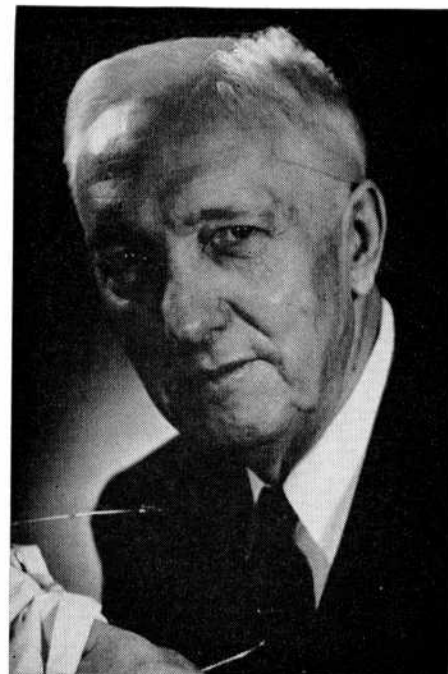
the publishing division of the University. The University had for years maintained a printing plant for the publication of its bulletins and to provide supplies for the departments. In the establishment of the University Press a larger project was in mind:—the publication of worthy books, both those of general interest and those written as a result of higher specialized scholarship. The Press was planned as an agency to further the activities of the University and to supplement the work of the classroom.

It is not possible to mention here the persons who have provided important contributions to literature and science or to name the authors of importance who have co-operated in making the University Press one of the leading organizations of its kind. It was the first among University presses to achieve the distinction of having a Book-of-the-Month Club selection. At this point, time must be taken to note that the first director of the University Press was Joseph August Brandt, class of 1921, who had been a Rhodes scholar from Oklahoma and who came to the campus in September, 1928, to be editor of University publications. One of the most important tasks of the University Press was the publication of *Books Abroad*. The first issue of this quarterly had appeared in January, 1927.

Books Abroad was founded by Professor Roy Temple House and edited by him with the assistance of other members of the department of Modern Languages. This magazine, devoted to the discussion of new books published in languages other than English and planned to be a means of acquainting the people of America with the literature of other countries, was first distributed free. Soon it became necessary to charge subscriptions. *Books Abroad* has brought the University world wide fame. Wherever men read there are some who know *Books Abroad* and accordingly know of the University of Oklahoma. In spite of difficulties due to conditions brought about by the Second World War, the magazine has continued and still continues to be an important publication.

At the beginning of 1928-29 the work of the first two years of the School of Medicine was transferred to Oklahoma City and the four-year curriculum in medicine was given on one campus. It will be remembered that the new medical building as well as the Crippled Children's Hospital had just been completed and that the State University Hospital had been in use for nine years. Doctor LeRoy Long had been dean of the School of Medicine since 1915 and was to continue until 1931. The faculty of the School of Medicine numbered nearly 100. As already mentioned earlier in this series, the medical building on the campus at Norman was turned over to the School of Pharmacy and is now known as the Pharmacy Building. In June, 1929, 39 candidates received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Medicine and 38 the degree of Doctor of Medicine.

It will be remembered that degrees were conferred on the class of 1924 by Acting President James Shannon Buchanan. President Buchanan remained as head of the University until July 1, 1925. At that time William Bennett Bizzell became president. He had been president of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas for 11 years and



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before that he had been president of the Texas State College for Women for four years. Accordingly, he came to the University with successful administrative experience. Those interested in higher education in Oklahoma welcomed him with enthusiasm.

The Commencement held on June 4, 1929, the thirty-seventh annual Commencement, was especially noteworthy in one respect. For the first time in the history of the University the degree of Doctor of Philosophy was conferred. Mary Jane Brown, a member of the faculty of the Oklahoma College for Women, Chickasha, was the recipient. Miss Brown's major subject was zoology and the title of her thesis was, "Comparative Studies in the Animal Ecology of Oak-Hickory Forests in Missouri and Oklahoma."

Probably the best known member of the graduating classes of 1929 is Savoie Lottinville, who at that time received the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He has been director of the University of Oklahoma Press for eleven years succeeding Joseph A. Brandt, who was mentioned a moment ago as the first director. Mr. Lottinville is one of the best known publishers of books in the United States. As one evidence of this, it may be mentioned that this year he is the national president of the Association of American University Presses.

Other members of the University staff as well known on the campus are: Hurschel Vernon Thornton, ma, (government); James Earl LaFon, ma, (mathematics); A. M. de la Torre, ba, (modern languages); Bruce Drake, bs, (physical education); Ralph Dorsett, ba, (mathematics); Merl D. Creech, bs, (mechanics); Cecil Brite, bs, (University publications); and Opal Gladys Carr, bs, (library science). At this commencement also Dr. James A. Hood received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Medicine and two years later the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Dr. Hood has been for three years director of the Student Health Service which has now been in operation 30 years. Nine graduates of this class are members of the medical faculty at Oklahoma City: Doctors E. G. Ferguson, LeRoy H. Sadler, Delbert G. Smith, O. A. Watson, Neil W. Woodward, Jess Duval Herrmann, John F. Kuhn, Jr., James P. Luton, and C. Donovan Tool. The first five of these received the degree of Doctor of

Medicine in 1929, the other four the bachelor's degree.

Three others who received the degree of Bachelor of Science at this time with a degree of Doctor of Medicine later and are engaged in medical practice in the state are Doctors James L. Haddock, Claude L. Reeves, and Fred E. Woodson. Among those who received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1929 and are well known physicians in the state are Doctors Waymond J. Thompson and Delbert G. Willard. Three prominent members of this class who received the degree of Bachelor of Laws and are or have been active in state affairs are D. W. Bushyhead, Carmon C. Harris, and Haskell Paul. Weldon C. Ferris, who received the degree of Bachelor of Arts at this time, is a prominent jurist of the state. Elbert L. Costner, ba; James Henry Hodges, ms, in Education; Stanley J. Bryant, bs, in Education; Don Garrison, bs, in Education; Ray L. Six, ms; Guy C. Chambers, ma; and Max Chambers, ms, in Education, are prominent school administrators or teachers in Oklahoma. The work of Max Chambers has been recognized recently by his selection as president of the State Teachers College at Edmond. Ruth Malcolm (now Mrs. Sanders) ma, and Martha Veal, bs, in Education, have played an outstanding part in the development of junior colleges in the state.

We have space only to mention a few others of these classes: Roger Fenn, bfa, Rothwell Stephens, ma, Thomas Wright, bs, in Business, John M. Ashton, ma, Ben B. Blakeney, ba, Frank L. Dennis, ba, Granville Norris, ba, and Robert L. Britten, ba. Finally, two women who graduated in this class will be sure to come to mind because of their interest in life and their consideration for others: Mex Rodman (now Mrs. Frates) and Joyce Saunders.

Spunk and Courage

In September of 1949 doctors told James L. Powell, '38ba, not to look forward to a merry Christmas. He was going to be blind.

Powell was a senior in the University law school. Suffering from a rare type of eye disease, his eyes were dimming fast. If the doctors' predictions were correct, he would be blind before he could take the state bar examination.

But a letter to Thomas L. Gibson, supreme court justice, brought prompt permission to take the bar examination before he received his degree. With the aid of a stenographer and a special fluorescent desk lamp equipped with a powerful magnifying glass provided by the Veteran's Administration, he began studying for the exam.

While his wife Ann, a nurse at the University infirmary, kept her fingers crossed, Powell began his arduous task of memorizing the intricate points of law. Then on September 29, he and his stenographer went to Oklahoma City. There the State Bar Association granted him permission to dictate his answers rather than write them as the other applicants do.

He took the examination and then followed days of nervous waiting for the announcement of whether he had passed. A few days later the papers announced that the game airforce veteran had beaten blindness to the punch—he had passed.

After the successful examination Powell underwent an operation that removed one of the cataracts. Now he is planning to have another operation that will improve the vision of his other eye. He is enrolled in the University law school finishing the requirements for his law degree. And his spunk and courage are constant reminders to his less stout-hearted fellow students.



It is doubtful if many people have had to face greater odds than James L. Powell, '38ba. He is seen studying with the aid of a stenographer and two magnifying glasses prior to taking the bar examinations.

SPORTS

Baseball Drills Begin

Led by Jack Shirley, who both pitches and catches (but not simultaneously), Oklahoma's baseball bat-trymen have reported for 1950 practice.

Shirley, who as a sophomore twirled the Sooners to two victories over the Oklahoma Aggies last year, and finished with a 5-1 record, was used by Jack Baer, '42ed, as a catcher last summer while playing with the Clinton, Jaycees, and looked good.

However it is doubtful if Shirley will catch for Oklahoma in 1950, despite the fact Bill Sims, '49bus, regular receiver, has graduated Graydon "Sheik" Sheen, Sims' alternate, is back. Charles Pugsley, outfielder in 1947, also caught four games for Clinton last summer and could be drafted if necessary. Cecil Shaw, a big rookie, is also available.

Baer must rebuild his 1949 Oklahoma club that finished second to Kansas in the Big Seven conference race. He lost his entire starting infield except Shortstop Bob Stephenson, his entire starting outfield save Russell Hill, and also Sims, his starting catcher, and Elton Davis and Danny Burrell, pitchers.

Stephenson, crack shortfielder who led the club in hitting last year, returns and seems headed for a fine season.

Jim Kirk, junior pitcher who developed sensation-ally with Baer's Clinton team last summer, will be a mound mainstay. Sheen, who hit .285 and threw well, seems the man to beat for the catch- ing job.

Tulsa Captures General Jack

"General" Jack Mitchell, '49, former Sooner quarterbacking wizard, has taken over the back- field coaching slot for Tulsa University. He moved

into this job after a successful year as coach at Blackwell highschool.

Using the complicated split-T formation, the "General" led his spirited youngsters to the district 8-A championship. In 1948 he led the Sooner team through a great season climaxed by a Sugar Bowl victory over North Carolina. He was voted the most outstanding player in the Sugar Bowl that year.

Mitchell boasts quite a string of football laurels. In '48 he was on All-Big Seven, All-Midwest and All-American teams. Two records he established at O.U. still stand. He gained more yardage on kick returns and had the highest percentage of pass completions in Sooner football history.

Spectators will have a chance to view his skill as a coach in the coming year at Tulsa. If his coaching is as cunning as his quarterbacking, Tulsa will be the team to watch.

All-American Merchant

Paul Merchant, Oklahoma basketball guard and skillful ball-handler from Tulsa, has made an All-American basketball team selected by Sid Fried-lander's 10-man team including besides Merchant, Sherman White of Long Island, Bob Cousy of Holy Cross, Chuck Share of Bowling Green, Paul Unruh of Bradley, Ed Warner of CCNY, John Azary of Columbia, Chet Giermak of William and Mary, Dick Dickey of North Carolina State and Paul Arizin of Villanova.

Friedlander saw Merchant score 20 points dur- ing Oklahoma's brilliant December conquest of Coach Nat Holman's all-victorious CCNY quintet before 16,000 in Madison Square Garden in New York City, and also shine defensively and with left passing direct the Sooner offensive that earned so many lay-up shots.