



## Theta Kappa Phi

*Founded at O.U. in 1934*

Kappa chapter of Theta Kappa Phi was formally installed into the national brotherhood on January 4, 1934. It developed from a local Catholic fraternity on the University campus. There is a striking similarity between the growth and advancement of Kappa chapter and the national fraternity. The beginnings of the national also were made only with a supreme amount of perseverance and initiative of the individuals involved.

Subsequent to its installation, Theta Kappa Phi at the University of Oklahoma expanded into one of the most prosperous chapters in the nation. From the small handful of Catholic men who had become members in 1934 there grew an adequate membership of 35 by the time fall of 1938 had rolled around.

Theta Kappa Phi had also been gaining prestige and prominence on the campus. Such members as Bill Elias, who was elected president of the Ruf-Neks, Wilfred Coleman, engineer from Newfoundland, Oran Buck, an outstanding leader, and many

others gave to the fraternity the leadership it so greatly needed. The house was well on its way to real success when the disaster of Pearl Harbor hit the United States in December of 1941.

As other fraternities on the campus, Theta Kappa Phi went inactive in 1942 because of the drain of the armed services. The house, which was then located at 535 South Boulevard, was generously offered to the U.S. Navy for their use by the Rev. Eugene J. McGuiness and the Rev. Francis C. Kelley, bishops of Oklahoma City and Tulsa. The house was returned to the fraternity in the spring of 1946, and the chapter was reactivated the following fall.

A tremendous organizational problem faced the lone member, Thomas E. Getchius, who returned to the campus after hostilities had ceased. It was due mainly to his efforts along with the encouragement and financial assistance of a faithful alumnus, Mr. John W. Delaney of Oklahoma City, that the

chapter was able to regain its feet. It was Getchius who laid the firm foundation upon which a nucleus was built. In the fall of 1946 and the ensuing semester only fourteen men were accommodated. However, due mainly to the unceasing efforts of those fourteen the fall of 1947 found the chapter with a membership of twenty-five.

The organization now has many plans for the future. All schemes are pointed towards one goal, the re-establishment of Theta Kappa Phi as a growing dynamic group at the University of Oklahoma.

The following is a brief summary of the ideals, purposes and objectives of Theta Kappa Phi. It is an organization for Catholic men. Its objective is three-fold, religious, social and scholastic. Theta Kappa Phi believes that a practical solidification of these attributes into a vibrant brotherhood will result in a man in which the honor and ideals of college training are preserved.

litical faults and foibles that brought criticism upon him. Governor Phillips retired from office unpopular and with little political influence. A later generation doubtless will forget his faults and will remember only his constructive service for the state.

Since President Bizzell's administration of University affairs was soon to come to an end this seems a good time to say something about the accomplishments of his 16 years of office. It might be noted that the library had grown from 65,000 volumes to 225,000 volumes, besides 12,000 pamphlets and 8,000 volumes of uncataloged government documents—these, in addition to several thousand volumes in the Law Library. (In passing it must be stated that the official name of the University library is now the William Bennett Bizzell Memorial Library.) It is not possible to sum up in the same way the advances made in 16 years in physical equipment—laboratories, collections and buildings for university use, but the changes were equally great.

When President Bizzell took over, the enrollment in residence was a little over 5,000 with 325

in the Graduate School and by the end of his administration the total enrollment, in spite of ups and downs, had increased 50 per cent and enrollment in the Graduate School had increased 500 percent. An even better idea of the growing importance of the University in the development of the state may be gained when the number of degrees conferred is considered. Bizzell, during his 16 years as president, conferred 18,206 degrees in comparison with 5,259 degrees conferred in the 33 years together of Presidents Boyd, Evans, Monnet, Brooks and Buchanan.

As has been mentioned already, 1,403 degrees were conferred by the University in June and August, 1939—1,074 on June 5 and 329 on August 1. The 1,403 degrees were distributed as follows: arts and science, 354; business administration, 150; education, 122; engineering, 172; fine arts, 83; law, 85; bachelor of science in medicine, 40; doctor of medicine, 52; nursing, 29; pharmacy, 23; masters degrees, 285; doctor of education, 2; doctor of philosophy, 6.

Many of these graduates have served their country well—some have lost their lives in service—

and many have already begun to make names for themselves in Oklahoma or the nation, but it would hardly be possible to make selections for honorable mention. Here is wishing the best of luck and God's speed for them all.

This is the eighth in a series of nine articles. The ninth and final in the series will deal with the University from 1939 to 1944 (including two new presidents and the impact of world war) and with the class of 1944.

### No Atomic Autos—Yet

Oklahomans needn't expect atomic-driven machines in the near future. That's from a man who knows, Summer T. Pike, acting chairman of the atomic energy commission.

Not that scientists aren't busy. But he debunks what he calls "Buck Rogers ideas" regarding use of atomic energy to operate cars and ships, for example.

He pointed out that the present atomic program serves a double purpose. Bombs can be used for power purposes if they aren't expended. This is the first munition where that has been possible, he said.