

Covering the Campus

By BILL SPOHRER, '53ba

Commencement caps and gowns were barely back in the mothballs before the preliminary activities for the 1953 summer term were underway. Freshman orientation began June 9 and first classes started June 15.

This year's commencement exercises, on June 8, took on a new look. There was no address or marathon hand shaking session. Special guest was Dr. Oliver S. Willham, president of Oklahoma A&M, who presented brief remarks. Bachelor's degrees were presented in mass by President Cross to about 1,500 candidates who were presented by the deans of their colleges.

Approximately 500 candidates for master's degrees were presented for mass conferral by Graduate Dean Laurence Snyder. Individual recognition was given to the new doctors of medicine, doctors of education, and doctors of philosophy. The whole program took only about 75 minutes.

However, commencement proper was

but the climax of two days of reunion and graduation events. O.U.'s annual alumni reunion dinner was held in the Union ballroom Sunday, June 7, for the classes of 1903, 1908, 1913, 1923, 1928, 1933, 1938, 1948, and with the graduating seniors as special guests.

Principal speaker for the dinner was Josh Lee, '17ba, former U. S. senator and presently a member of the Civil Aeronautics Commission. Dudley Culp, '34Law, Wewoka, president of the University of Oklahoma Association, welcomed the reunion classes and the seniors to the banquet. Culp also presented 50-year pins to all members of the class of 1903. Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37Law, alumni secretary, served as master of ceremonies for the occasion.

Baccalaureate services in Norman churches were also part of Sunday's activities. This year, for the first time, the services were held in individual churches instead of in one mass program. Churches co-operated with special seating sections for graduating seniors and appropriate sermons.

Graduation day was also commissioning day for 59 Air Force ROTC seniors and 29 navy ROTC seniors. Ceremonies for the new Air Force reserve second lieutenants were held at 10 a.m. June 8 in the Holmberg amphitheater. The new officers heard

an address and were presented their commissions by Maj. Gen. Gabriel P. Disosway, '27-'28, commanding general, flying training Air Force base, Waco, Texas.

Navy ROTC cadets gathered in the Business Administration auditorium at 2 p.m. June 8 to receive their commissions. Brig. Gen John C. McQueen, director of the Marine Corps Reserve, gave the principal address and presented the commissions.

The last event on the graduating seniors' schedule before commencement itself, was a two-hour reception beginning at 3 p.m.

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June 8. President Cross, administrative officials and faculty members were on hand to greet graduates and their families.

For one graduating senior, the new diploma means an end to three years of undergraduate confusion.

George M. Cross, business administration major from Clinton, was presented a diploma by George L. Cross, University of Oklahoma president, and a mix-up that had caused switched mail, phone calls and social invitations was ended.

George M. (Marion) claimed that whenever he signed his name at the University, his signature was usually greeted with suspicious looks or unbelieving chuckles. Letters and telephone messages meant for President Cross found their way to George M. and vice versa.

But in spite of the confusion it has caused, George M. claims he still likes the name and wouldn't have any other.

Something for Teachers . . .

the rising cost of living. As the outer trappings of our colleges and universities grew more imposing with each passing year, the quality of our faculties, in many cases, slowly degenerated. We simply could not allow that to continue. It is the one big reason, I firmly believe, why we have been so generous with school appropriations at this time.

A healthier, happier, more prosperous way of life is what we're all striving for. College students of today will be the leaders of tomorrow on whom we must depend to lead us to these desirable goals. Therefore, we cannot afford to neglect them in any way. We have not done so.

Nobody in educational circles can legitimately complain they don't have enough money this time. The recent legislature appropriated far more money for education than ever before. They did so in the hope of correcting whatever shortcomings exist. If it requires more money to get and keep highly qualified teachers, that's where a good deal of the money should be spent. It should be used first for the fundamentals of an educational system. Bigger and better buildings are nice, too, but should have second priority. That was the legislature's intention and that is my intention.

Whether we get what was intended depends on those administrators who control the educational purse strings. They asked for a lot, and got it. It's now up to them to deliver, not only fine buildings and green lawns, but also the best possible education our students can absorb. I believe they will do so.

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