

In something less than two months, Thomas Richard Benedum, '28Law, will retire as president of the Board of Regents, ending a successful seven-year term on the board.

Tremendously active, Benedum wrote a previous record of service with his university from 1943-1945 when he served as president of the O.U. Alumni Association. He is one of three men to be re-elected to the Association's highest post and the only man ever to serve as president both of the Association and of the Board of Regents.

Benedum also has contributed his efforts to civic programs in Norman, his home,

and for the state as a whole, in addition to carrying a considerable law practice.

At various times he has acted as a club president in Rotary International, as chairman of the Legal Institute and County Bar Associations committees of the State Bar Association, as a member of the Legal Advisory Committee of the Oklahoma Savings and Loan Association, as a director of the City National Bank in Norman, as president of that city's Safety Council and as a member of the Oklahoma Committee for Mental Hygiene.

When asked to comment on Benedum's service to the University, Dr. Cross stated: "In his seven years of service on the

Board of Regents, T. R. Benedum has made an outstanding contribution to the growth and development of the University through the difficult post-war years. His professional skill and standing as an attorney, his wide background of experience in public affairs, and his unusual ability to exert effective leadership in controversial situations have combined to make his record of service as a Regent a bright chapter in the history of the University.

"In addition," Dr. Cross continued, "he is an amiable and genial person with whom it is a pleasure to work."

To this sincere tribute, the *Sooner Magazine* adds its heartiest Salute!

The Sooner Salutes

REGENT T. R. BENEDUM

COACH BUD WILKINSON

Since becoming head coach in 1947, Bud Wilkinson's football teams have achieved virtually every honor obtainable in college football—a national championship, two Sugar Bowl Titles and one Orange Bowl trophy, a modern national record of 31 consecutive victories, seven Big Seven championships or co-championships, a Heisman Award winner, two Outland Award winners, Coach-of-the-Year titles in both 1949 and 1950, and 16 All-Americans.

Bud Wilkinson's record at Oklahoma is unmatched by any coach in the country. In the past six years his teams have been ranked in the top ten of the nation—no other school can match that mark. On a cumulative point basis of 10 for a No. 1 ranking, etc., Oklahoma holds the top position with 40 points followed by Notre Dame with 37. His record stands at 63 wins, 8 losses, and 3 ties.

It would seem from the statistics used here that the Minnesota born, reared, and educated 37-year-old coach merely followed form in unwrapping his 1953 edition that won 9, lost 1, tied 1, including the Orange Bowl win. But many sports observers believe that the season just concluded demonstrated Bud's finest coaching effort.

Certainly, the sports scribes say, Wilkinson has had better teams. But none have been molded from less experienced or outstanding clay. For the first time since 1947, the Sooners only rated one All-American. Yet the team spirit and determination in the hands of Wilkinson and his coaching staff was parlayed into a ranking as the nation's fourth best team.

This was to have been a rebuilding year. Four All-Americans, including three-fourths of the backfield, were gone. And yet when the blue chips were riding on the hand of the year, the Big Red pulled in the

pile from Maryland's national champs.

The 1953 season probably will not be Bud's finest coaching offering, but the *Sooner* offers its sharpest salute to Bud and his staff for their finest job to date.



T. R. BENEDUM AND BUD WILKINSON
... A Triumphant Trip to Miami's Orange Bowl