

Sooner Scene

MONEY COULDN'T BUY THE TALENT OF THE VOLUNTEERS WHO SERVE O.U.

THE American concept of public service, the willingness of busy, skillful people to devote their time and energy to the development of public institutions, has been a singular strength of this democracy for many generations. As a matter of fact, it is because of this devoted public service that the great universities and philanthropic foundations of the United States have become unique symbols of human progress throughout the world.

These institutions have come to mean enlightenment, have worked for improvement of public health and understanding, and have given people everywhere hope of political freedom. The impact of these American institutions on the world scene is repeated by local examples everywhere throughout the country, and one of the best examples of this far-reaching influence can be found in the great state universities.

A university is primarily a place where the environment allows men and ideas to get together. How all this comes about and with what results depends on many factors. One of the reasons the University of Oklahoma has flourished is because several generations of devoted people have been willing to serve as regents, trustees, members of boards and committees, to give of their experience, time, and sometimes money, so that the high purposes of this school might be fulfilled. These people are usually well-known and appreciated on the campus, but even so, for the most part, their great service goes without much recognition. The University has looked to these people for both assistance and guidance in the past, and they will have an even greater role to play as the problems of the immediate future are faced.

A special responsibility falls upon the shoulders of the Regents who are charged with the constitutional responsibility of being the policy-makers of the institution. The president of the board is a distinguished graduate of the University with two degrees. As a student he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and other honorary scholastic societies. He was active as a leader among undergraduates and since that time has lived up to the high promise of his student days by building a successful law practice and developing one of the largest and most vigorous insurance companies in the Southwest. Leonard Savage understands the problems and the ambitions of

the University as well as any regent who has ever served. Many members of his family and his associates have been closely affiliated with this institution. It is appropriate that a man of this caliber should head its most important board in such a critical year.

Other members of the Regents are well-fitted to meet these new opportunities. Glen Northcutt of Willis has for many years been particularly interested in biological research and in strengthening O.U. as a service agency of the state. Another effective Regent who has been on the board for several years is Dave Morgan of Blackwell, who has a way of quietly solving difficult problems and who is always available for special work when the need arises. A vigorous and well-informed younger member of this board is Julian Rothbaum of Tulsa, who has two degrees from O.U. and who in the late thirties was a well-known student leader, especially active in student government and debate. Mr. Rothbaum has made a systematic and careful study of the University and its problems since joining the board, so that he might be full-informed and ready to discharge his responsibility. Three new members of the board are also O.U. graduates, each with a distinguished undergraduate record. Dr. Mark Johnson of Oklahoma City received his B.S. degree in 1943 and an M.D. in 1946. He was a member of the famed President's Class and was also elected to other honorary and professional societies as a student. He has made a distinguished record in his profession and is particularly well-qualified to understand the problems confronting various areas of science and medicine. Eph Monroe of Clinton graduated in 1940. As an undergraduate he was best-known on the campus as the irre-

pressible field general for Jap Haskell's baseball teams. Harold Keith says that in three years Eph and Jap together coined enough new words and phrases that the baseball vocabulary of reporters covering O.U. sports was at least doubled. Eph Monroe is one of the best lawyers the short-grass country ever produced and is completely devoted to O.U. and to his responsibility as a Regent. The most recently appointed Regent is James Davidson of Tulsa. Davidson is widely known as a lawyer in Tulsa. As an undergraduate he was an active campus leader and served as president of the senior class in his final year. He is remembered as a young man of imagination and it was his class that made possible the erection of the magnificent Bizzell statue which stands just south of the University Library.

Traditionally, the Executive Board of the Alumni Association has been composed of people ready, willing and able to go to bat for the University when it is confronted with critical problems. The President of the Alumni Association this year is Wallace Kidd of Anadarko, a graduate of the School of Journalism, and a man who has been closely associated with the University since his undergraduate days. Wallace has brought vigorous and interested leadership to the alumni program.

One of the new boards, and one with a phenomenal record of progress in recent years, is the Alumni Development Fund Board. Heading this group for the third consecutive year is W. Ross Johnston, of Oklahoma City. He and his brother, Paul, were outstanding as undergraduates.

The trustees of the University Foundation, through their efforts, have successfully financed many worthwhile developments at the University. This month, they join with the Regents in beginning a 5-year program of development that will cost approximately \$20,000,000. All of this money must come from private sources. The chairman of the board, who will also serve as co-chairman of the campaign is T. H. McCasland, '16ba, Duncan.

—R. BOYD GUNNING

THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION

Officers: Wallace C. Kidd, Anadarko, president; Don Barnes, Okmulgee, and Mrs. Jack Maurer, Duncan, vice presidents; R. Boyd Gunning, Norman, executive secretary; Don Walker, Tulsa, immediate past president.

Executive Board Members: Robert J. Emery, Oklahoma City; Joe Curtis, Pauls Valley; Jack Patten, Norman; Mrs. S. F. Ditmars, Muskogee; Mrs. Jack Maurer, Duncan; Dr. William C. McCurdy, Purcell; L. B. (Beau) Selman, Tulsa—all members at large.

Denzil D. Garrison, Bartlesville (District I); Don Barnes, Okmulgee (District II); Ernest "Mike" Massad, Ardmore (District III); Mrs. John A. Love, Shawnee (District IV); Patrick J. O'Hornett, Oklahoma City (District V); Fred R. Harris, Lawton (District VI); Charles Engleman, Clinton (District VII); C. D. Northcutt, Ponca City (District VIII).

1961-62 Representative on O.U. Athletic Council: Jack Patten, Norman.

Association Membership: Any former student who completed satisfactorily one or more semesters at the University of Oklahoma is eligible for membership. Annual membership is \$5.00. Life Membership is \$80.00, payable \$5.00 down and \$5.00 quarterly.