



Alumni President Taylor

Commencement Weekend, 1963

plenty of places to go and people to see filled three days for Sooner grads

SOME things about Commencement weekends never change—the warmth of renewed friendship, recollection of half-forgotten memories of college days, nostalgic tours of the campus, wonder at some changes, regret at others. But other aspects of the weekend do change over the years—the addition of the Alumni Institute last year, establishment of the Distinguished Service Citations some years earlier, new personnel filling the alumni offices each year, and of course the ever-growing size of the graduating class. This year's Commencement weekend at the University of Oklahoma, May 24-26, was a combination of all these things.

The alumni started gathering on Friday evening, May 24, for the class dinners at the University's Center for Continuing Education. Naturally the Golden Anniversary Class of 1913 was the star attraction. Mrs. Roger Berry (Mary Harness, '13ba), Oklahoma City, nearly stole the show with her college scrapbook, containing relics of early O.U. days which even the University archives could not match. Class chairmen Paul Darrrough Sr., '13ba, '15Law, Oklahoma City, and Roger Berry, '13ba, turned out an enthusiastic attendance for the dinner and the reunion which continued through the weekend.

The 50-year celebrants were not alone at the Center by any means. The Class of 1923 gathered under the gentle direction of Class Chairman Mrs. C. R. Rountree (Kitty Shanklin, '23ba), and the robust Law Class of 1938 answered the call of Class Chairman Dr. R. Dale Vliet, '38Law, O.U. professor of law.

Many of the reunioneers were on hand bright and early the next morning for the opening of the second annual Alumni Institute, a new educational enterprise of the Alumni Association designed to give alumni a weekend of thought and discussion on

the forces influencing life in a modern, complex society. This year the seminar topics were "The City: A Living Organism" and "The Arts: Expression or Fulfillment?"

Sunday was the usual hectic day of Commencement festivities—the Alumni Honors Luncheon, a School of Art reception in honor of Dr. Oscar B. Jacobson, research professor emeritus, law convocation, commissioning exercises and the traditional graduation ceremonies.

The featured guests at the Honors Luncheon were the four recipients of the 1963 Distinguished Service Citations, the highest honor which the University of Oklahoma and the University of Oklahoma Association can bestow. The honorees were Mrs. Estelle Faulconer, Frederick's much-honored teacher-historian-author, Rayburn L. Foster, '16Law, Bartlesville, retired vice president and general

counsel of Phillips Petroleum Company and former University Regent; Fred E. Tarman, '10ba, Norman, one of the state's most influential publishers and civic leaders, and Charles B. "Bud" Wilkinson, the University's renowned football coach, athletic director and special consultant to President Kennedy on youth physical fitness.

New Alumni Association officers for 1963-64 were announced. They are Jack A. Taylor, president; Mrs. Sam Noble and Dr. J. H. Tisdal, vice presidents. The Altus Alumni Club received its share of the spotlight at the luncheon by walking off with the 1963 Don Eaton Memorial Award as the outstanding alumni club of the year.

The weather was threatening during the afternoon activities, but skies cleared in time for a record number of degrees to be granted in the evening ceremonies on Owen Field.



The 1963 Distinguished Service Citations were presented at O.U. commencement exercises to (from left) Rayburn L. Foster, Charles (Bud) Wilkinson, Mrs. Estelle Faulconer and Fred E. Tarman.