How It Happened

Forming the University's First Alumni Association

By C. Ross Hume, '98

Perhaps no more appropriate title could be found than the first words in the Book of Books, "In the Beginning," to recount those now-distant days when the first alumni association of the university was formed.

The contrast between our then university and our present school came vividly to my mind when I attended the Dads' day festivities. Our alumni association has broadened its purpose to include not only the graduates but former students of the university as well; and it no longer depends on annual meetings to keep interest alive, for it now has its own magazine.

There were just five of us who organized that first association in June, 1898, just five, and just enough to fill the various offices. The two graduates of the class of '98 and the three members of the class of '99 were the charter members. When we met we found afterwards that all of us had an office.

The offices of the Alumni Association of the University of Oklahoma, as we called it, consisted of

Lawrence W. Cole, '99, president;
Roy P. Stoops, '98, vice-president;
C. Ross Hume, '98, secretary;
Roscoe S. Helvie, '99, treasurer;
Jesse L. Helley, '99, orator.

E very graduate of the university was a member of the association, and every member was an officer, an ideal way to start things in Oklahoma. When the constitution was drafted and put into the first minute book, the members of the association began the custom of securing the signature of each graduate as he left school. Probably this old book is still in the archives of the university.

The class of 1900 was a small one, unbelievably small when compared with present numbers. Three men were graduated that year: Beauford E. Hayden, arts-sc., John J. Hertz, arts-sc., and C. Ross Hume, M.A.

When the first alumni meeting convened to hear the orator, Jesse L. Helley, the audience was so small that he refused to function. Possibly that unspoken address now lies at the bottom of his barrel of sermons, as our orator afterwards became a Methodist minister.

The class of 1901 added five members to the association, and Mrs. J. F. Paxton was the first woman to join.

Of Anadarko, is the first man to receive an M. A. degree from the University of Oklahoma. He is one of the founders of the first alumni association. He is assistant county attorney of Caddo county.

C. ROSS HUME

Dean Turley Resigns

The resignation of Dr. L. A. Turley, vice-dean of the School of Medicine of the University of Oklahoma for more than ten years, was accepted by the board of regents of the university November 15, 1928. Doctor Turley resigned because of the recent consolidation of the two branches of the school and his belief that the position of vice-dean was no longer useful to the school. Doctor Turley retains the title and position of head of the department of pathology. No readjustment of salary accompanied his removal.

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