A Gay Homecoming

The glory of a still-undefeated football team cast a warm glow of enthusiasm over every event of the 1939 Homecoming for University of Oklahoma alumni and former students. There was never a lack of something to talk about when old acquaintances got together at the Union or Varsity Corner or Oklahoma City.

The keynote of football excitement ran through everything from the opening dinner-dance Friday night in Oklahoma City to the annual reception in the Union following O.U.'s 38 to 6 defeat of Iowa State.

There were a few more serious interludes, however, and some of the current problems of the University were discussed at the joint meeting of the Alumni Association's Executive Board with members of the county advisory councils on the morning of Homecoming Day.

Dr. W. B. Bizzell, president of the University, spoke to the group about the institution's financial difficulties, and particularly about the budget reduction for the quarterly period that began October 1—a cut that meant reduction of faculty salaries from the levels set at the beginning of the school year.

"Of course we understand the state's financial condition, and the fact that general fund revenues have declined," President Bizzell explained. "Faculty members have not made a single complaint to me about the prospective salary reductions, because they understand the reasons for it. But our salary scale was unreasonably low even before the new cuts, and it can't help but hurt the morale of the faculty.

"Our low salary scale, in comparison to other universities in the nation, causes us to lose some good men. But that isn't so serious as the fact that we have great difficulty in securing good replacements for the men we lose, because we have so little to offer."

Dr. Bizzell cited an example. He tried to interest a man in taking a University teaching position that paid $2,200 a year, and discovered that the man was already receiving $6,500 in his present position.

He also cited actual examples of faculty members with national reputations in their fields who are receiving salaries in the neighborhood of $2,000 a year.

Dr. Bizzell told the alumni group that while the national standard per capita cost considered essential for good quality university work is $250 per student, the per capita cost at the University of Oklahoma is now only $124.50.

The per capita figure at O.U. was at one time as high as about $215, which was in 1929-30, he said. But the figure has declined steadily as enrollment increased and appropriations were reduced.

The University needs stability in its finances more than anything else, the president declared. "We can't plan our work properly when we don't know from one month to the next how much money will be available," he said.

Dr. Bizzell announced that he planned to devote more time during the present school year to contacts with alumni groups out over the state.

Joe W. Hicks, '23, of Chicago, brought greetings to the Executive Board meeting from the Chicago Advisory Council and paid tribute to the effective work of President Bizzell and Alumni Secretary Ted Beaird.

Copies of an editorial written by Bill Brinkley, editor of the Oklahoma Daily, were distributed to the board members and advisory council members in order to give them the student viewpoint on expenses at O.U. Brinkley, in his editorial, condemned the impression held by many Oklahomans that the University of Oklahoma is "a place where snobbishness is king and where you have to have a pack of money to get to first base."

Brinkley called such ideas "boast and nonsense" and urged that students and alumni let people of the state know what really goes on at Norman.

Hicks Epton, '32law, Wewoka attorney and president of the University of Oklahoma Association, presided at the board meeting. Describing his recent contacts with O.U. alumni all over the state, he declared that the graduates and former students of the University have confidence in the administration of President Bizzell, and also that they are determined that there shall be no political interference in University affairs.

T. M. Beaird, executive secretary of the association, reported briefly on routine affairs.

Board members present were Mr. Epton; Mrs. Kitty Shanklin Rountree, Oklahoma City, first vice president; W. L. Eagleton, Tulsa, second vice president; Frank Cleckler, Muskogee; Norman Brilliart, Madill; Harry L. Halley, Tulsa; Cy Ellinger, Purcell; Elmer Praker, Manhoma; Charles B. Memminger, Atoka; John R. Pearson, Pawhuska; O. Fisher Muldrow, Ardmore; Dr. John B. Miles, Anadarko; W. Max Chambers, Okmulgee.

About twenty members of the State Advisory Council and County Advisory Councils were present for the board meeting.

Homecoming events started Friday night, November 3, with the annual dinner-dance sponsored by the Oklahoma City Alumni Club, in the Silver Glade Room of the Skirvin Tower Hotel. Approximately 450 persons attended.

Principal speaker was Governor Leon C. Phillips, '16law, former Sooner football player, who limited his talk chiefly to football and announced he would not "talk shop" on such an occasion.

Admitting that he sometimes felt a strong urge to be a "grandstand quarter-back" himself, he recommended that alumni leave the coaching of the football team to Coach Tom Stidham and not attempt to tell him how to run his squad.

Coach Stidham spoke briefly about prospects for the game next day. Coach Jim Yeager of Iowa State was unable to be present as his schedule called for a later arrival in Oklahoma City.

An unusual entertainment number at the dinner was the presentation of three new O.U. songs by the Rough Riders quartet from WKY radio station.

The three songs they introduced are "Cheer Oklahoma," by Joe W. Hicks, '23,
To the left are the winning house decorations and parade floats. Sigma Nu won the decoration prize. Winning floats were those of (left to right) Alpha Chi Omega, University Playhouse, and Phi Delta Theta. Homecoming meeting of the Alumni Association's executive board is shown in the upper left picture on this page. Below is the speakers' table at the Homecoming dinner-dance; the O.U. band's queen and drum majors as they lined up in between-halves maneuvers; and an unusual action shot from the game. At the top on the right, the four furthest-traveling Homecoming visitors: Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Whisenant of Long Beach, California (above), and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hicks, of Chicago (below). The co-ed being crowned as Indian Club princess is Nadine Buckner. Below, right, the officers elected when Mortar Board Alumnae met Homecoming Day for an organization meeting. They are, left to right, Mrs. Florence Monnet McKown, Mrs. Lucille Hinshaw Powell, and Elizabeth Beary.

of Chicago; “Oklahoma Toast,” by Mrs. Caro Bond McDonald, ’27ex, of Chickasha; and “Hail to Oklahoma,” by Gayle Grubb, manager of WKY, a Nebraska alumnus but an “adopted” Oklahoman.

All three songs were received favorably by the crowd. “Cheer Oklahoma” was played next day by the University band at the football game.

Dr. Wayman J. Thompson, ’29med, presided at the dinner as president of the Oklahoma City Alumni Club. He introduced officers for the next year, who are: Joe Fred Gibson, ’36law, president; Kermit J. Hardwick, ’29bus, first vice president; Louis Woodruff, ’35law, second vice president; and Mrs. Dave D. Price (Bernice Ford, ’25ex), secretary-treasurer.

Two entertainment numbers were presented by students. Harley Price, member of the University band, played a trombone solo, accompanied by Etoyle Dragon; and Jack E. Wilson, law student and radio entertainer, gave novelty vocal numbers.

After the dinner program, most of the guests stayed to visit or to dance to the music of Howard Suesz, ’32, and his orchestra.

While alumni were dining and dancing in Oklahoma City, students conducted a pre-game pep rally in Norman, and Sequoyah Indian Club conducted its traditional Homecoming vigil. Nadine Buckner, part Cherokee Indian from Shidler, was crowned princess of the club in a ceremonial setting on the campus.

Homecoming Day itself was bright, crisp, and clear—an ideal day for the celebration.

The Homecoming parade of forty floats (PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 28)
and four bands was declared by many observers to be the most spectacular and interesting ever held.

Award for the best organization float went to the Playhouse, perennial winner of parade prizes, for its clever "Soonerland Trolley." This was an elaborate engine-and-car train in the style of the gay nineties, with passengers in appropriate costumes.

Alpha Chi Omega won the award for the best sorority float, with a beautiful presentation of Grecian goddesses pointing to a University campus scene.

Award for the best fraternity entry went to Phi Delta Theta for a float depicting Sooner football prowess.

Forty-three student houses exercised their ingenuity to decorate for Homecoming visitors and compete for a trophy. Sigma Nu won first honors with a front yard caricature showing a cyclone with a human head being conquered by a hefty Sooner football player.

The Union Building was full of luncheon meetings at noon on Homecoming Day.

Thirty persons were present for the annual luncheon reunion of members of the Law Class of 1930. Leonard Sible, '30law, Oklahoma City provost, presided.

Nearly fifty alumnae members of Mortar Board, honorary society for women, attended a luncheon meeting held to start a permanent organization of the group.

Mrs. Dave McKown (Florence Monnet, '27), of Oklahoma City, was elected presient. A more detailed report on this meeting appears elsewhere in this magazine.

Nearly six hundred persons jammed the Union Ballroom at noon to hear Governor Phillips address state school superintendents and principals who were meeting on the campus that day.

The governor expressed belief that some school men, "probably not more than ten per cent," have taken advantage of the state school aid laws to obtain funds for their own political and personal purposes and he warned this minority group to "take to cover."

He promised the school men that he would make available the entire $11,500,000 common school appropriation if he found that it was all actually needed by the schools, but only if it is found essential.

The governor criticized the primary aid feature of the school fund law, declaring that the law was based on compromises instead of sound principles.

The Homecoming football game drew a crowd of 21,000. Iowa State was badly outclassed, but it gave a tremendous display of courage and spirit against odds.

Sooner fans, watching the last home game of the 1939 season, enjoyed the spectacle of six touchdown drives by Stidham's powerhouse. Frequent substitution of Sooner reserves gave the crowd a preview of players they will see in action next year.

The game is reported in more detail in the Sports Review section of this magazine.

Immediately after the game, hundreds of alumni swarmed into the Union lobby and in the ballroom for the annual Homecoming reception and openhouse. It was time to shake hands, hunt up old classmates, speak to old time professors, and enjoy a cup of coffee before departing for home.

Mrs. Janet Langford, '18, headed the general committee handling arrangements for the reception.

Registration of Homecoming visitors, held all day in the lobby of the Union, was conducted by a committee headed by Herbert H. Scott, 26, of Norman.

The list of Homecoming registrations, divided geographically, is as follows:

**Aca**
- Jim Haring, '36, '39law; L. H. Harrell, '16
- George V. Metzol, Jr., '34ma; Mrs. Mary Allgood Metzol, '35
- E. C. Wilson, '23

**Altus**
- Mrs. Glenn D. Kelley (Maxine Alexander, '36fa); Glee Miller, '37
- A. G. Steele, '33med; W. Harrington Wimberly, '24

**Alva**
- John B. Stout, '24

**Anadarko**
- Earl C. Everett, '34med; Mrs. Clella LeMarr McBride, '27
- Joe W. McBride, '28

**Ardmore**
- Laurence E. Beattie, '17, '20law; R. R. Council, '36ed; George D. Hahn, '36med
- Odell Locke, '24; O. Fisheis Mulrow, '22ex; Ashley H. Sills, '24, '27ma; Robert M. Urie, '38; Mort Woods, '36ex

**Atoka**
- C. B. Memminger, '14, '33law; Mrs. Martha R. Memminger, '16ex

**Bartlesville**
- William F. Alshier, '28; E. W. Clabaube, '31ma; William H. Credel, '24eng; Mrs. William H. Credel (Wilma Carter, '25ex);
- Maurice R. Dean, '34eng; Clifford G. Hines, '35ex; Daniel J. Jones, '33, '35ms; Alice Quadscybe, '36; A. F. Morris, '18; T. E. Weinrich, '22; Herbert Wrinkle, '22, '31ex

**Beggs**
- J. Arthur Herron, '32, '36ed

**Blackwell**
- Ruth Gober, '25fa, '26; Mrs. Annette Ellison McKinney, '39pharm

**Blanchard**
- Ernest Johnson, '31med

**Bowlegs**
- C. N. Merrell, '35med

**Bristow**
- George B. Cortley, Jr., '26law; Lawrence Jones, '22law; Mrs. Leonine McCaskey, '21; Mrs. Beulah R. Smith (Beulah Powell, '23ex); Lloyd L. Smith, '23law

**Burbank**
- Paul R. Locofman, '39med

**Byars**
- Frances L. Caldwell, '36ex; O. P. Hamilton, '37med

**Checotah**
- Mrs. Ethel Easterwood Russell, '30ed

**Chandler**
- Mrs. J. Basil Wagner (Roxana Aultane Mabry, '25); J. Basil Wagner, '29ed.
Pioneering in Practical Education

(continued from page 9)

Few of Mr. Highsaw’s students have trouble finding work after they leave school. They are prepared for specific duties, and they generally are given preference among job seekers.

Perhaps the clue to Mr. Highsaw’s vision and energy might be found in the verse beside his name in the 1911 Sooner Yearbook.

“This hair is red and his eyes are blue, And he is Irish through and through.”

He has the enthusiasm and the strong loyalties of the Irish temperament. Although he has not had an opportunity to return to the O.U. campus often, he still considers himself a loyal Sooner.

As a student he was on the varsity debate team, was a member of Senate society, and president of the Texas Club. He was elected an alumni member of the University chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, honorary scholastic society, ten years after graduation.

Mrs. Highsaw is also a graduate of the University. She is the former Mattie May Baker, ’10. They have two sons, both of whom made outstanding scholastic records at Princeton and Harvard.

Like most men who have devoted most of their lives to fulfillment of a vision, Mr. Highsaw has not become wealthy. But he has many compensations.

A few years ago he was traveling in New England and stopped for a short time in a small town. He was walking down the street, thinking that he did not know a single person anywhere near there.

“Hello, Mr. Highsaw,” a voice said. It was a “Tech Club” in New York City with 75 members. Graduates of the school scatter far and wide because they find opportunities in many places.

And J. L. Highsaw enjoys the satisfaction of knowing that his dream of providing practical education has become a reality.

Advisory council changes

Harrison Roe, ’33aw, attorney at Fredericksburg, has been appointed chairman of the Tillman County Advisory Council, succeeding Gene Stewart, ’36 ma.

O. M. Woodward, ’38, has been named chairman of a new council set up at San Fernando, Trinidad, British West Indies.

Lawrence H. Armstrong, ’36, has been appointed chairman at Jefferson City, Missouri.