Seventh in a Radio Series

The Class of 1934

By Roy Gittinger, *02a

The five-year period from 1929 to 1934 was a time of stagnation, even of discouragement, for the University.

At the two Commencements in 1934, 1,167 degrees were conferred. Five years before, in 1929, nearly as many degrees had been conferred. The number enrolled in residence during the year 1933-34 was 6,500 or 580 fewer than in 1929-30. Counting students enrolled in correspondence courses or extension classes the number was 7,000, or a loss of 2,000 during the five-year period.

The annual appropriation for support and maintenance of the University at Norman was $1,100,000, and for the School of Medicine and the two hospitals at Oklahoma City the amount was not quite $400,000. In each case the reduction was about 20 per cent. In other words the University received about 80 per cent as much in 1933-34 as in 1929-30, not to mention the fact that during the five-year period no appropriation was made for buildings against $500,000 a year for the earlier period. The chief reason, of course, for the decline in numbers and the amount of appropriations was the great depression.

The price of crude oil had dropped from two dollars a barrel to twenty-five cents or less. Farm income had declined to the vanishing point.

Governor Murray was determined to reduce state expenditures. The depression had reduced the income from state taxes and the governor and legislature reduced the taxes further, and during this administration the state ran up a deficit despite reduced salaries and appropriations. Three-fourths of the saving came from the salaries of the school teachers and the cost of the school system of the state.

At the very beginning of this five-year period, that is January 1, 1930, the new university library was completed and occupied. The reader may be interested in knowing that the library has a capacity of 350,000 volumes and accessions have been made constantly—even during this period of depression. The establishment of the Treasure Room for rare and valuable books dates from 1932 and the School of Library Science, with librarian J. L. Rader as director, had its beginning with the new library.

One kindly gesture made in March, 1930, by the Board of Regents on the recommendation of President Bizzell was appreciated by all older per- sons interested in the university. The title of President Emeritus was conferred on David Ross Boyd, first president from 1892 to 1908. His honorary degree was conferred.

One of the chief reasons that the University was appreciated by all older persons was the kindness and understanding of the Board of Regents on the recommendation of President Emeritus Bizzell.

President Bizzell was appreciated by all older persons interested in the university. The title of President Emeritus was conferred on David Ross Boyd, first president from 1892 to 1908. His honorary degree was conferred.

The eighth in the series will deal with the five-year period ending in 1939, and the classes graduating in 1939.

Logan Likes Leadership

Every outstanding town or city in Oklahoma is a monument to leadership, plus efficient use of resources.

That's the order in which Dr. Leonard Logan, '48a, director of the University of Oklahoma Institute of Community Development, rates requirements for building a successful community. Good schools and churches follow naturally, he says, when you have wise leadership.

"Go into any busy Oklahoma community," Logan believes, "and you know somebody is responsible. You could put leaders on a flat rock and they would make a live community. And with natural resources, they have the means to secure the things a city needs. Again, that goes back to leadership, which often converts a liability into an asset."

"Every community has leaders of some sort. There has been a time in Oklahoma history when there was a greater awareness of leadership needs than now."

Logan credits much of this urge to get things done to returning veterans "who saw what other