Denver Alumni Gather

Approximately 40 Sooner alumni and their guests gathered in the famous Brown Palace Hotel, Denver, February 25 to see motion pictures of the Oklahoma-Missouri 1948 football game and to chat and get acquainted.

According to a report received from Robert Bruce McWilliams, '40journ, the gathering was "one of the most successful Sooners get-togethers in the Denver area in many years."

The meeting was organized and details arranged by President Roscoe Walker, '40Law and McWilliams who did such a good job that "some strangers" from Oklahoma A. & M., Texas A. & M., and Colorado University also dropped in to see the Sooners trample the Missouri team.

Through the courtesy of the Brown Palace Hotel, a beautiful meeting room was provided in the very center of the city, Robert Seymour, '36-'41, a former O.U. fullback who is now assistant football coach and head swimming coach at Denver University, graciously loaned a projector and screen to the group and Harlan Mendenhall, '37 journ, provided the club with an operator for the machine.

The report from McWilliams also states that Mendenhall, "who switched from full-time writing..."
of mystery stories to producing film shorts, has once again done an about face, and is selling insurance night and day, with that typical Mendenhall vigor.

The rapid increase in importance of Denver as the oil center of the fast-growing Rocky Mountain producing area has resulted in many oil companies from the Oklahoma area locating offices and personnel there. Consequently there has been a tremendous increase in Sooner alumni in the area, the last official count being 180.

"Incidentally, the Missouri alumni in Denver were contacted but apparently had no stomach for the pictures of their footballers getting the boot. None showed up, at least," McWilliams further stated.

A few interesting items concerning other members of the club were also included in the report from Denver:

John Tippie, ’40Law, “who quit the politics of Marietta to come West and marry a Denver girl, is now practicing law on his own in Denver. He’s hung his own shingle in partnership with a group of other young Denver attorneys, and from what we can learn, he’s really going to town."

"Roscoe Walker, ’40Law, who if you remember was one of Bruce Drake’s better basketballers about the era of the famed ‘Boy Scats,’ can’t foresee the courts entirely, even though he’s sedately practicing law in Denver and is a family man 100 percent. He’s been playing with one of the Mile High City’s Y.M.C.A. leagues amid some pretty tough competition."

"Herman Rutsch, ’40bs, is now located in Denver with the general office of a casualty insurance firm."

Robert B. McWilliams, ’40journ, is up to his neck in the advertising agency business in Denver, being Vice-President of Galen E. Broyles Co., Inc. He is married to Marjorie Johnston McWilliams, Northwestern University, ’42, and the couple have two infant daughters—Robin Lou, 17 months and Suzanne Dee, 6 months. McWilliams recently received the “Al of the Year” award of the Denver Advertising Club for a poster on which he supervised production for his firm’s client, Continental Air Lines.

The mid-winter dinner over, sponsored by the Washington County O.U. Alumni Club in Bartlesville, four prominent Sooners cornered Coach Bud Wilkinson, seeking the latest “dope” concerning next season’s prospects. Reading from left to right, Omar “Bud” Browning, ’37ed, recreational director for Phillips Petroleum Company. Browning will be remembered by thousands of alumni as the mainstay on Hugh McDermott’s O.U. Basketball teams for three years. He was All-American in his senior year of 1935. Following graduation Browning played several years with the Phillips 66ers and was named more than once as an All-American in A.A.U. basketball. He later coached the titans in their most successful years, and was head coach of the world championship United States Olympic basketball team in 1948.

Ben Hurard, ’36ba, cashier in the First National Bank of Bartlesville, James McColl, ’38ba, ’38Law, attorney at law, Bartlesville, Coach Bud Wilkinson, and Max Pischel, ’35ba, ’38Law, are the two University representatives who spoke at the Bartlesville meeting (where some 138 University of Oklahoma alumni were in session) namely, Boyd Gunning, ’37ba, ’37Law, and Bud Wilkinson. Reading from left to right, Boyd Gunning, Director of the University of Oklahoma Foundation and Secretary of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Development Fund; D. E. “Bill” Hodges, ’27ba, ’27Law, member of the Alumni Development Fund Commission and past Executive Board member of the University of Oklahoma Association as well as past president of the O.U. Alumni Club of Washington County; Head Coach and O.U. Athletic Director Bud Wilkinson.

Clinton Club Sees Bowl Films

Merle Greathouse, newest member of the O.U. coaching staff, did a bang-up job of public relations for the University when he took the Oklahoma-North Carolina Sugar Bowl pictures to Clinton on February 10.

Appearing as a guest at the Custer County O.U. Alumni Club meeting before the showing at the high school auditorium, Greathouse explained that he was substituting for Bill Jennings, who was scheduled to narrate the film, and hoped “that the people won’t be disappointed.”

Alumni members weren’t, and the crowd of more than 450 sports fans were delighted with Merle’s short report on the Sugar Bowl game and Oklahoma in general.

While answering questions, somebody asked Merle why he didn’t go all the way for a touchdown after he had intercepted one of Choo-Choo Justice’s passes, and ran 75 yards before being hauled down from behind.

“To slow” was Greathouse’s answer but this “slowness” didn’t prevent Chicago Cardinal officials from recently signing the Sooner fullback to a professional football contract.

When the film would show No. 44 (Greathouse) making a jarring tackle on one of the North Carolina backs, he would narrate, “Tackle made by the O.U. line.”

Alumni members passed the hat to defray expenses of the event, so that it could be offered without cost to the public. Coaches and players from Clinton and surrounding high schools were special guests at the showing.

Among those who attended the alumni club meeting were:

Charles Engleman, ’33ba; Mrs. Engleman (Jean Garnett), ’33ba; Everett Arney, ’32Law; Floyd Simon, ’43med; Fred Lingenfelter, ’42pharm; Mike Smith, ’40; Mrs. Smith (Viola Hatfield), ’38ba; Loyd Andrews; Mitch Simon, ’37 ’41; and Vic Thompson, Jr., ’48bsus.

Also Eph Monroe, ’40Law; Mrs. Monroe (Willo- dean Eoff), ’40bs; Chester Bender, ’23Law; Johnny Thornbrough, ’42pharm; Mrs. Thornbrough (Martha Roach), ’43pharm; Fred LaRue, ’21Law; Arch Gilchrist, ’48bs; Jack W. Lowe, ’42pharm; Mrs. Love (Betty Brundage), ’42pharm; Frank Sewell, ’47bs; Mrs. Sewell (Barbara Jane Berry), ’46ba; Paul Flick, ’39 ’42; and Mrs. Flick (Dottie Blunck), ’43.