A TIME TO REMEMBER

On June 5, ten graduating classes of O.U. that span the past half-century gathered in the Union Building for their class Reunions. Here is a report of that meeting.

In the normal routine of living, few people set aside a day for the specific purpose of remembering. What happened yesterday can only be cast up occasionally, and then only for a few minutes lest the remembering be boresome to those who did not share the experiences.

But once a year, as spring moves into its last days, classes of alumni are invited back to their University for no other purpose than to remember in an atmosphere prepared for it, and to do so with those who can add to recollections from mutual experiences.

This year, as commencement time drew near, graduates of the classes ending in “5” and “0” were alerted to the impending Class Reunions. Class Committees were set up, invitations were mailed to all members of the Reunion classes and reservations were requested.

As host for the Reunions, the Alumni Office prepared picture displays, planned a luncheon and reception, published a Reunion newspaper with a complete reservation list, and directed all activity towards providing the returning graduates with an ideal setting for their visit with classmates.

By 10 a.m. of June 5, a hundred early arrivals moved into the Union. As friend spotted friend across the crowded lobby, the signs of recognition were clearly audible and visible.

The luncheon featured prizes for everything from “Coming the Longest Distance” to “Law Graduate with Largest Waistline.” Following lunch, the classes attended an All-University reception and then separated to attend their special class meetings.

Perhaps the highlight of the day was the initiation of six new members into the Honored Alumnus Club. All but one of the six living members of the Class of ’05 attended to receive their H.A.C. buttons in person. The sixth member, C. W. Davis, Shawnee, had to cancel plans to attend due to a family illness.

All graduates who received their degrees 50 or more years ago are members of the Honored Alumnus Club. From the number who were honored in previous years, seven attended. Resplendent in a fez prepared especially for him, H.A.C. Driver (President) C. Ross Hume, ’98ba, ’00ma, Anadarko recalled early days at O.U. for the luncheon guests.

Reunion alumni were invited to state in written form what they remembered best about their days on the O.U. campus. Some of the high spots of their recollections accompany the class pictures on the following pages.
CLASS OF 1910
The Class of 1910 has had 45 years to remember their school days at the University. Still prominent in their recollections were two events that many of the classmates mentioned—the fire that destroyed the Second Administration Building in 1907 and the building of the spoonholder on the North Oval as the class memorial.

Some of the classmates who attended the class reunion and what they remember are:
- Charles R. Gray, Pawhuska—D.D.M.C;
- Charles E. Armstrong, Oakwood—all athletics and beautiful girls;
- Key Wolf, Davis—football;
- Mrs. Jeannette Reed Kingle-Smith, Oklahoma City—the coming of statehood and the consequent change in the O.U. administration, class dinners and morning hayrides;
- Fred Tarman, Norman—commencement in a tent, state track meet held when track was flooded;
- Mrs. B. May Bailey Hocker, Norman—class fights, freshmen vs. sophomores, and Professor Gittinger;
- Art Reeds, Newcastle—“We knew everyone and called him by first name. School loyalty was one of our main pleasures.”

Class of 1910—Key Wolf, ’10ba, ’31med, Davis; Charles R. Gray, ’10ba, Pawhuska; Charles E. Armstrong, ’10ba, Oakwood; Fred Tarman, ’10ba, Norman; Art Reeds, ’10ba, Newcastle; Jeannette Reed Kingle-Smith, ’10ba, Oklahoma City; Guy Y. Williams, ’09ba, ’10ba, Norman; Dr. Eva Wells, ’10med, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Fanny Simpson Rader, ’10ba, Norman. Reunion for the Class of 1910 was one of the best attended get-togethers June 5.

CLASS OF 1915
More than 25 students who graduated 40 years ago attended the Reunion luncheon and still others came for the class meeting to give the group the largest representation of any Reunion class.

Some of those who attended and what they remember about their days at O.U. are:
- George H. Burress, Oklahoma City—Fess Morgan and the good billiard games;
- William J. Crowe, Oklahoma City—freshman caps and senior canes and Johnny Toberman, Jitneys, Varsity Shop, Babrou’s Drug, Miss Dora, Wissy Meyers and Mrs. Scruggs and Benny Owen;
- Joe Gordon, Dallas—“Life was much simpler; knew everyone on campus”;
- Louis H. Hoskins, Anaheim, California—“The warm welcome I received from everyone”; Paul G. Darrough, Oklahoma City—friendly spirit of student body and close friendship with faculty; Charles B. Steele, Okmulgee—“Came here in 1906 when only three permanent buildings were on the campus”;
- Harry L. S. Halley, Tulsa—“Many friends I had, types of work I engaged in.”


JULY, 1955
CLASS OF 1920
The graduates of 1920 and those of 1955 have something in common. Both groups were attempting to get their degrees during a period of international tension. When the '20 graduates started reminiscing there were frequent reminders of college life during World War I.

Some of those who graduated 35 years ago and what they remember are:
Elgin Groseclose, Washington, D.C. — “My professors and classmates, Josh Lee orating, drilling with wooden guns, football rallies, shirt tail parade and bonfire after winning over Missouri; Mrs. Mary Ray Sexton, Bartlesville — the wonderful faculty, the friendly atmosphere, and the confused year of the S.A.T.C.; E. T. Bloom-

CLASS OF 1925
Thirty years after a series of events take place, how much would you remember? Perhaps some striking feature would be readily recalled but others would be hazy and unimportant.

The Class of 1925 reflected such an attitude in their remembrances at Reunion. Practically all who took part mentioned the friendliness of the campus as reflected in the “Howdy” custom.

Here are sample remarks by classmates concerning the custom and other recollections:
James R. Eagleton, Oklahoma City — “Everyone spoke to each other, and ‘Howdy’ was the key word”; Harold Belknap, Norman — running the paddle line at football games, red freshman caps, and the “Howdy” custom; Ralph E. Thornton, Oklahoma City — LKOT fracases with lawyers and polo playing; Edward C. Petty, Norman — watchmaking, woodworking and “Howdy”; Besse A. Clement, Norman — tradition of speaking to everyone on campus; Mrs. Charlotte Bonds Collinson, Oklahoma City — the friendships.
Class of 1930—(Front row) Albert Kulp, '30ba, '34Law, Tulsa; Ed Gerkey, Jr., '30ba, Joplin, Mo.; Orilla Haekler Smalley, '30ba, Norman; Fletcher R. Wickham, '30ma, Nogales, Ariz.; Goldie Barnett, '30ba, Norman; Brunette Shanklin, '30ba, Norman; Mary Evelyn Potts, '30ma, Bartlesville; '42ba, Norman; Lucy Tandy, '30ba, Norman; Eula Thomason Silverthorn, '30ed, Victoria, Tex.; (back row) Milton Emanuel, '30bus, Sulphur Springs, Ark.; Margaret Dannenberg Muldrow, '30ba, Seminole; Mary Stith, '30ba, Norman; Jeannette Holman George, '30ba, Holdenville; Verona Browning Pangburn, '30ba, Alva; Wilford D. Hoback, '30eng, Oklahoma City; F. H. Gaither, '21ba, '26med, Norman; Grace Eckler Dawson, '30ba, Greeley, Colorado.

CLASS OF 1930
Celebrating the 25th anniversary of their graduation from the University, Class of '30 was represented by a large number at Reunion luncheon and class meeting.

Some of the returning graduates of the class and what they remember about the days when they were students are:

Albert G. Kulp, Tulsa—a wonderful school, some hard work and my good fortune in meeting Virginia Kramer who became my wife in 1934; Mrs. Grace Eckler Dawson, Greeley, Colorado—the weeping willow tree at the end of the old Library Building, the fine faculty in the College of Fine Arts, and the generally helpful attitude of people on campus; Miss Goldie Barnett, Norman—"I remember the new Library Building was finished in December, 1929, at a cost of $500,000; the job of moving the books from the old to the new building was done between semesters"; Edward Gerkey, Jr., Joplin, Missouri—carefree college days and high winds blowing around Administration Building; Milton C. Emanuel, Sulphur Springs, Arkansas—good times at O.U.

CLASS OF 1935
Watching the graduates of the Class of 1935, it was difficult to remember that, as students, they fought the depression battle. But it wasn’t difficult for the graduates of that year to recall.

Some of those who returned and what they remember about their stay at O.U. are:

Kenneth K. Baird, Alva—Shortage of funds of both school and students during depression; Carl N. Chambers, Dallas, Texas—dust storms, horse drawn artillery, Gov. Murray’s budget cuts; Mrs. Lorine Loomis Webber, Enid—Dean Gittinger and how he would call your place if you were absent from his class, Dr. Dale and his tales of the early west; Mrs. Mary Tappan Garrison, Ardmore—orchestra rehearsals and concerts, practice teaching at University High School, afternoon labs in chemistry, physics and geology; John W. Ryle, Norman—Dr. Guy Y. Williams and his acrobatics, the feuds between Law and Engineering Schools, Dr. Bizzell and his collection of Bibles; Viola Carr, Oklahoma City—"How hard I had to study."
CLASS OF 1940

Europe was ablaze but the U.S. was still uncommitted when the Class of 1940 received their degrees. Their recollections of life on the O.U. campus reflect the calm that preceded the storm.

Some of the graduates who returned for their 15th anniversary reunion and what they remember are:

- Mrs. Frances Barker Maynard, Boise City—being chased out of the Fine Arts practice rooms at night, hating to walk past the Law Barn, forgetting to Blue Card a speech class and getting an F; Walter G. Hopkins, Fort Knox, Kentucky—athletic contests, friendships and associations, and ROTC work and IMA functions; James W. Meyer, Caney, Kansas—O.U.'s football and basketball teams and playing bridge in the Union; D. R. Kimrey, Norman—sweeping out the Industrial Education Lab. A number of the graduates remembered the fine football teams of the period.

Class of 1940—Jerome M. Dilling, '40ba, Fletcher; Barth P. Jiggs Walker, '40geol, '40law, Oklahoma City; Walter G. Hopkins, '40bs, Fort Knox, Kentucky; James M. Meyer, '40bs, Caney, Kansas; Mrs. Browne Millspaugh Dilling, '39ed, Fletcher; O. T. McCall, '40bus, Norman; Mrs. James Meyer, Caney; D. R. Kimrey, '40ba, Norman; Mrs. Frances Barker Maynard, '40mus, Boise City. They were juniors at time of O.U.'s first bowl game in 1939.

CLASS OF 1945

As could be expected of a class that graduated just as World War II's European phase was coming to an end, the graduates returning for their 10th Reunion were mostly women.

Many of the recollections were concerned with the unsettled atmosphere that the world and University afforded during the period they were in college.

Some of the graduates and their recollections of O.U. days are:

- Delora Tinsley, Norman—the war years, characterized by V-12 and ASTP units on campus; Mrs. Helen Huntington Jennings, Norman—good friends, Orchesis and Ducks Club; Mrs. Martha T. Artman, Norman—friendly atmosphere; Mrs. Charlene Armstrong Steves, Wichita, Kansas—years of participation in the University band; Mrs. Mary Joyce Norwood Rodgers, Norman—work on the Oklahoma Daily, life in the dormitory, Cadette activities during World War II.
CLASS OF 1950

The largest graduating class in the history of the University was represented by one of the largest Reunion turnouts.

Some of the graduates who attended and their remembrances of the post-war O.U. are:

Bill Jordan, Norman—impressive sight of the largest graduating class in O.U. history rising during graduation exercises, classes on the North and South Bases; Vernon Parsons, Oklahoma City—remembers Law Barn and contents; James W. Smith, Lone Star, Texas—Dr. Schuman and his Personnel Theory and Dr. Tullies and his firecrackers in Stat class; Mrs. Rosamond Hansen Liggett, Tulsa—the well-trimmed shrubbery; George B. Hanson, Brownfield, Texas—garbage detail in Sooner City and attending first two semesters from two miles out on a girl’s bicycle; B. Wayne Carmichael, Denver Colorado—long hours in pharmaceutical chemistry compounding prescriptions that didn’t seem compatible.

Class of 1950—(Front row) Jack Heckinger, ’50bus, Norman; Bob Naifeh, ’47ba, ’50Law, Norman; Tom Myers, ’50bus, Midwest City; Rosamond Hansen Liggett, ’50eda, Evansville, Ind.; Birdie Sparks Word, ’50med, Oklahoma City; Pat Stath Huntress, ’50ba, Oklahoma City; Emma Rickett, ’50med, Bethany; Elvin Brown, ’50Law, Norman; (back row) James W. Smith, ’50bus, Lone Star, Texas; Bill Jordan, ’50bus, Norman; Robert Birk, ’50pharm, Oklahoma City; Jack Liggett, ’50gool, Evansville; B. W. Carmichael, ’50pharm, Denver, Colo.; Joe Wheeler, ’50law, Oklahoma City; Vernon Parsons, ’50Law, Oklahoma City, and George Hanson, ’50gool, Brownfield, Texas.

50 YEARS OF O. U.

Class Reunions are historic occasions for the University of Oklahoma. When the Reunion classes gathered in the Union Ballroom for lunch, the 50 years represented also represented much of the life of the University of Oklahoma.

Established as a territorial university in 1892, the first graduates with B.A. degrees did not receive their mark of completion until 1898. One of the two men who received degrees in that year was present for the 1955 Reunions: He is C. Ross Hume, ’98ba, ’00ma, Anadarko.

O.U. did not become a state university until Oklahoma was received into the Union in 1907—two years after the honor class (1905) of the 1955 Reunions was graduated.

Pictured above are representatives from each of the Reunion classes. In one picture the years that saw O.U. move from a territorial school to a leading state educational institution are mirrored.