Oklahomans at home and abroad

SPRING commencement at the University was a busy and happy three-day period this year, with half a dozen alumni groups meeting for reunions, a record-breaking number of degrees awarded, and several developments pointing toward a bright future for the University.

The final event, but one of the most important for the Alumni Association, was the annual Commencement Meeting of the Executive Board of the Association.

Lowry H. Harrell, '16law, Ada attorney, was elected president of the Association in the annual election of officers. He succeeds Earl Foster, '12, '13law, Oklahoma City attorney who has led the Association through an important year in which the Executive Board handled numerous difficult problems.

Other new officers are: Charles B. Memminger, Atoka, vice-president; Mrs. Ruby Ingram Ford, re-elected second vice-president; Clarence Karcher, Dallas, vice-president for Texas, and T. M. "Ted" Beaird, re-elected secretary-treasurer.

The report of the election committee was accepted and the board formally seated five new members: Judge Harry L. S. Halley, '15, '17law, Tulsa, and Graham Johnson, '19, Norman, both members-at-large; John Pearson, '29law, Pawhuska, District One; Coleman Hayes, '24, '26law, Oklahoma City, District Five; and Elton B. Hunt, '13law, Tulsa, District Nine.

The Board approved a list of six nominees for positions as alumni representatives on the Athletic Council, and the list was submitted to Dr. W. B. Bizzell, president of the University, for final action.

A committee representing the University chapter of the American Association of University Professors appeared before the Board and asked its cooperation in a threefold program: (1) to help the University increase its physical equipment; (2) to help the Extension Division "spread the University over the state; and (3) help stabilize the faculty by securing adequate appropriations for the University.

The Executive Board endorsed the program and agreed to give its co-operation.

Recognizing a need for more participation in alumni affairs by graduates recently out of school, the Executive Board authorized the president and executive secretary of the Association to select one representative from each of the last ten graduating classes to serve on the Board in an advisory capacity, without voting privileges.

Secretary Beaird explained preliminary plans for an O. U. night program to be broadcast over one of the larger state radio stations in early fall, with the aim of starting an annual custom. The Board approved this plan.

The Board also endorsed a suggestion for a permanent setup to acquaint the public with the University. This is to consist of one chairman and four advisory committee members for each of the 77 counties in Oklahoma.

Those present at the Executive Board meeting were:


The alumni luncheon

Attendance records fell as a crowd of two hundred filled the Union ballroom for the annual senior-alumni luncheon immediately following the Commencement exercises.

The crowd applauded enthusiastically and at length when Governor E. W. Marland stated flatly that there would be no change in the presidency of the University for at least the next two years.

"I will have something to do with the choice of University regents for two more years," said the governor. "There will be no change in the presidency of the University in that time."

This statement, coupled with scores of newspaper editorials over the state that praised President Bizzell's record as an educator and condemned attacks on him as purely political, seemed to clear the atmosphere of the last trace of rumors that a change in the University administration might develop.

Governor Marland also made another significant statement, urging O. U. alumni to consider the possibility of a constitutional amendment providing for severance tax on oil and other natural resources to establish a permanent fund for support of state educational institutions.

He warned that the Legislature had appropriated $32,000,000 from the general revenue fund with only $25,000,000 in revenue in sight, and declared that educational institutions drawing their support from the general fund face the possibility of running short.

"Oklahoma is producing $260,000,000 worth of oil a year, and this oil, which belongs to the people of Oklahoma, is going out of the state to provide cheap fuel for the people of other states and countries of the world," he declared in favoring a severance tax.

Paul Walker, '12, who was the Com-
mencement speaker, also spoke at the luncheon. Mr. Walker, who is chairman of the Telephone Division of the Federal Communication Division, told the luncheon group that "The more you do for your University, the more you will love it."

He urged that alumni start now with plans to make the fiftieth anniversary of the University "the biggest thing in Oklahoma and the Southwest."

Speaking of "rumors" that had been heard recently about the University, he said that "The University must be kept on a high plane and away from politics. We must pay the faculty enough to keep our good men here, we must keep a good strong man like Dr. Bizzell, and keep building up the University."

President Bizzell expressed deep appreciation for what alumni have done for the institution during the last year, and said that the Association has a responsibility to see that the University is adequately supported and that political influences are not allowed to penetrate the University.

"I want to tell you that the only way any man can get on the teaching staff today is by recommendation of the head of a department, the approval of the dean, and the approval of the president's office for the consideration of the Board of Regents," he declared emphatically. "The very best man available for the money we can pay is the man selected."

"As far as the University is concerned, the last year has been the best in my 12 years here," he said. "We have been going about our work quietly and effectively. The University is fulfilling everything the state has a right to expect of it. We are 'poor but proud,' and the morale has never been better than it is today."

Speaking of the University's forthcoming fiftieth anniversary in 1942, he revealed that Dr. E. E. Dale, '11, head of the History Department, has collected material for a comprehensive history of the University to be published in connection with the anniversary.

Earl Foster, '12, Oklahoma City, retiring president of the Association, presided at the luncheon. Special guests included Governor Marland, Joe W. McBride, Walters, and Joe Looney, Wewoka, members of the Board of Regents, and C. C. Hatchett, Durant, a former member of the board.

Class reunions

Large reunion dinners were held by the Classes of '12 and '17 on Sunday evening, June 6, in the Union building. Approximately sixty persons were present at each.

The Class of '17 adopted resolutions providing for permanent organization. Albert S. Clinkscales, Oklahoma City geologist and petroleum engineer, was continued in office as president for the next five years and Mrs. Neva Rogers Gahring, Blackwell, was continued as vice-president. Mrs. Aline Pelphrey Christian, Shawnee, was named secretary-treasurer.

The resolutions also provided that an executive committee be selected by the president to carry on any business required in the future, and to make plans for the next meeting which will be at the 50-year Commencement in 1942.

Several telegrams and letters were received from members of the class unable to be present.

Senator Josh Lee wired from Washington: "Regret inability to attend class reunion due to several pressing matters which require my presence in Washington. Please extend my personal regrets and warmest best wishes to the assembled class members."

A. D. Brown wired from Chicago: "Regret inability to attend. Best wishes for a large reunion." Laurence E. Beatrice of Ardmore, wired from San Antonio, Texas, that army duty prevented his presence, and he sent best wishes. Walter L. Ditzler, '17aw, and Edith Ross Ditzler, '17, of Tulsa, were unable to attend because of illness in the family but wired "Best wishes for a happy reunion and we'll see you in 1942."

Hughes B. Davis of the Cities Service Corporation, New York City, expressed his regrets by long distance telephone.

The Class of '12 had an informal session with Dr. Victor E. Monnett, director of the School of Geology, presiding.

The evening was spent in impromptu talks. One of the highlights was a talk by Jerome Dowel, head of the Sociology Department, who discussed humorously "How the Class of '12 Changed My Whole Life." He related how his marriage to Alma Watkins, '12, caused him to learn to wash dishes, and keep a garden and perform numerous tasks that he had been able to avoid while a bachelor.

Many stories about Dr. Edwin DeBarr, former head of the Chemistry Department who was a guest at the dinner, were related and caused considerable amusement.

When the chairman called for a show of hands by persons in the group who had children in the University during the last year or in previous years, 13 hands were raised.

Letters of regret over inability to be present were received from several members of the class, including Lloyd W. Maxwell and C. W. Hamilton, New York.

The Class did not organize formally, but Thurman S. Hurst, member of the State Supreme Court, suggested that since the 1937 dinner of the class was larger than the one five years ago, the class establish a custom of "making every one larger than the last."

Those who registered for the Reunion Dinners of the Class of '12 and the Class of '17 are:

- Streeter S. Speakman, '12, Sapulpa; Earl Foster, '12, and Mrs. Alta Sawyer Foster, '30, Oklahoma City; A. N. Boatman, '14, '16, Okmulgee; Thurman S. Hurst, '12, and Mrs. Hurst, Oklahoma City; S. R. Hadsell, '04, Norman; Mrs. Myrtle Ellenberger, Okemah, '16, Oklahoma; Nina Keiger Black, '13, Norman; E. B. Wilson, '17, Tyler, Texas; Albert S. Clinkscales, '17, Oklahoma City; Ellis Jones Northcutt, '15, Oklahoma City; Marlon J. Northcutt, '17, Oklahoma City; Mary E. Leurs, Oklahoma City; Bobby Ben Lewis, Oklahoma City; Reuben G. Lewis, '12, Oklahoma City; D. W. Emerson, '17, Tahlequah; Mrs. Ben Shapere, Oklahoma City; D. D. Stewart, '17, Durant; Aline Pelphrey Christian, '17, Shawnee; Fred Speakman, Sapulpa; Mrs. Norman Brillhart, '22, Madill; Mary Reid, '17, Dallas, Texas; Iris Baughman, '17, Oklahoma City; Mary Harness Berry, '13, Oklahoma City; Alice Ann Berry, Oklahoma City; Roger E. Berry, '13, Oklahoma City.

Betty May Hocker, '10, Norman; Frank M. Long, '08, '09, and Mrs. Long, Roan-
Ray H. Haun, '12, Detroit advertising executive, and his 88-year-old father are shown in the top picture. They were two of the liveliest guests at the 25-Year Reunion events. Below are R. W. Hutto, '10, and Charles Clifford, '07, laughing over something at the alumni-senior luncheon.