Class Reunions

Seemed Like Old Times

Alumni and former students from 12 states gathered in the central lounge of the Women’s Quadrangle. The June 4 day was cool and clear with an easy breeze stirring from the southwest. It was a fine day for a reunion.

The classes whose years ended in 0 or 5 moved through the registration line giving their names and casting inquiring glances at the interlopers of a more recent vintage who registered them. Then they moved quickly on to check the lounge for familiar faces.

All afternoon the line would diminish and grow as the alumni gathered. Shortly after 2 p.m., the reunion reception was in full swing. In groups of two to fifteen the alumni chatted.

Dr. Edwin DeBarr, Norman, only member of the original University faculty still living, was there. Spry and chipper he moved through the groups of old students recalling earlier times. Not overwhelmed by the place of honor his years of service and outstanding work had gained for him, he quickly shattered thoughts to the contrary with a classic remark, “I’m the oldest relic here.”

But age was of no concern to the re-united classmates. Before dinner, the various classes went their separate ways to hold
Class of 1905. Clarence Reeds, '05ba, Oklahoma City, C. W. Davis, '05pharm, Shawnee, Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Reeds look at an album of class pictures.

class meetings. (Pictures on these pages show all of the classes except 1930 and 1935.)

At 5:30 p.m. the classes reassembled for the annual Alumni dinner. President Cross welcomed the alumni back to the campus (a welcome which he had been offering personally during the afternoon reception). He said, “With the support of the alumni, the University will continue to grow and its usefulness to the state and nation will increase.”

Living member of the class of 1900 were cited by Joe Curtis, '20ba, '22Law, Pauls Valley, president of the Alumni Association, for their many years of service to the alumni and University. Only three of nine living members were able to attend and receive the citations personally. Judge C. Ross Hume, '98ba, '00ma, Anadarko; H. A. Sommers, '00pharm, Helena, and B. E. Hayden, '00ba, Menlo Park, California, accepted citations. Judge Hume said by way of rebuttal, “We are looking forward to being here in 2000, if we have to come in wheelchair.”

Dinner over, the reunion classes moved to the stadium to witness the baccalaureate services for the newest alumni. But they gathered again June 5 for a directed tour of the campus, a showing of the Sugar Bowl film and the Senior-Alumni luncheon at noon. The 2-day celebration closed with the commencement exercises in Owen Stadium at 8 p.m.

The two days were full of memories for everyone present. Memories that brought mixed feelings of sentiment and hilarity to those sharing them.

Probably no one enjoyed the activities more than B. E. Hayden. He left the campus in 1900 with his BA and somehow never managed to make it back until this reunion. The prospect of a trip from California didn’t dissuade him from his determination to see a full-grown university which had replaced the one-building school he remembered.

Looking at him it was indeed difficult to believe that he was a member of the oldest reunion class. Slim and energetic, Hayden arrived several days before the reunion and left after commencement, planning stops with friends along his return trip to California.

With the usual parental pride, Hayden displayed pictures of his three children and grandchildren. The oldest daughter, who holds a Ph.D from Harvard, is employed in the U. S. State Department, and her husband is currently serving with the UN in Europe. Another daughter is living in Texas and a son is at home in Menlo Park. Regretfully, Hayden admitted that he was afraid none of his grandchildren would attend the University.

Another out of state alumnus who has made an enviable reputation for himself in the field of metallurgy was displaying a small gold button worn in his suit lapel.

He was Oscar Harder, '10ba, '11ma, from Columbus, Ohio. “I’ll bet I’m the only one who could find my class pin,” Harder said with just a trace of pride.

Harder has a private metallurgy practice in Columbus. Modestly displaying samples of a metal composition he has
Class of 1915. Probably no class managed to have a better time than the reunioners of '15. Caught in a moment of repose are R. M. Parkhurst, '13ba, '15Law, Blackwell, Charles B. Steele, '15ba, Okmulgee, Paul Darrough, '13ba, '15Law, Oklahoma City, Mrs. Jennie Erickson Loucks, '15ba, '15mus, Mrs. Margaret Archdeacon Darrough, '18ba, Clifford Loucks, '15ba, Oklahoma City, and Harry Halley, '15ba, '17Law, Oklahoma City.

Class of 1920. The gay mood of the photo can not convey the full scope of the hilarity indulged in by the '20 class. Carl H. Kunesmuller, '20ba, Wichita, Kansas, Mrs. Kunesmuller, Mrs. Gertrude Sidener Phillips, '20ba, Norman, Mrs. Joe Looney, and Joe Looney, '20ba, '22Law, Wewoka, sit for class picture.

developed, Harder explained that it was used in the development of watch technology.

Dr. DeBarr had something to say about Harder. Giving some of Harder's background at the University, Dr. DeBarr said, "He's one of the greatest men I've ever known." And that was from a man who has known quite a few great men.

Key Wolf, '10ba, '31ms, one of Bennie Owen's first football greats, and Mrs. Euline Capshaw Wolf, '07fa, came from their home in Elbo Woods, North Dakota, to attend the festivities. Both are employed as teachers by the Indian service at Elbo Woods. They added to their own pleasure at the reunion by bringing their granddaughter, Judy Beaver, Lawson, with them.

A more recent graduate, Miss Bonnie Fitzwater, '45ba, came from Dallas. She was an outstanding student at the University and received the Dad's Day Award as the outstanding senior woman in 1945. Currently, Miss Fitzwater is director of social activities at Southern Methodist University. Besides having a good visit with her fellow classmates, she managed to add a notable amount of glamour to the proceedings.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Rusler, Minneapolis, Minnesota, made a special trip to help the class of 1925 celebrate their silver anniversary. Both Ruslers gained degrees in 1925. Rusler picked up a BA and Mrs. Rusler, the former Marquerite E. Creamer, Oklahoma City, was awarded a BA. Rusler is a research engineer in Minneapolis.

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Sperry of Artesia, New Mexico, brought their family along for the reunion. There was considerable method to such madness because the Sperrys are planning on sending their children—Carolyn, Donald and John—to the University. Sperry received a BA in 1930 and Mrs. Sperry, the former Helen Watford, Norman, received her BS in 1931.

Miss Mary Lawson, '25ba, '27ma, Oklahoma City, was on the campus for two reasons. First the reunion activities and second for a professional writer's short course which followed.

Miss Lawson recently retired as a teacher of English at Classen highschool in Oklahoma City. She had taught in various school systems for 50 years and when asked her estimate on the number of students she had taught, she replied, "Oh, about 15,000 I'd say." She confessed she was looking forward to the writer's short course with much interest (the course opened June 6). She had taken professional writing work from the University and had written some feature material, "educational articles mostly." She is planning to do some stories in other fields.

"We just rushed through those Roaring 20's so fast we're still resting up," was a remark made by Miss Bethene Henry, Sulphur, in explaining the small number of fellow 1930 grads present. (More came for the evening dinner.)

For Mrs. Gola Bible Clark, '10ba, '15ma, the reunion was just a trip home. Now residing in Frederick where her husband is a retired businessman, the couple were reared in Norman. Mrs. Clarke had many tales to tell of her school days from primary through graduation from the University. You see, there were just three buildings on the campus when we left." Reed and Davis received degrees in pharmacy in 1950.
Tulsa, Charles B. Steel, an Okmulgee lawyer, and R. M. Parkhurst, Kay County judge from Blackwell, exchanged memories of acquaintances while awaiting the arrival of Paul Darrough, of Tulsa who served as 1949-50 president of their class.

They were soon joined by Mr. and Mrs. Clifford R. Loucks, Oklahoma City. Loucks received a BA and Mrs. Loucks, the former Jennie Erickson, picked up a BA.

During the business session of their reunion, Steele was elected president for the year and Mrs. Loucks was named to serve as secretary.

Mrs. Rosemary Lyng Kane, bs, Elk City, was wearing a summer print dress with white accessories and looked much too young to be a graduate of the '40 class, and equally too young to be the mother of daughter Kathy who was with her class.

Mrs. Kane thinks the "O.U. co-eds of today are lucky indeed to have such fine housing facilities as those in the Quadrangle." This was her first trip back to the campus since graduation.

Mrs. Dick Pryor, '49ma, "just dropped by the reunion in hope of seeing someone I know." Mrs. Pryor has taught school for 21 years, all in Jefferson County. The Pryors recently completed construction of a new house in Norman where they plan to make their permanent home in the future. Their son, Richard, and his wife are living in the house at the present time while he completes his studies at the University.

Class reunions are an old story to Mrs. J. L. Rader, the former Fanny Simpson of Norman.

"I'm an oldtimer at these reunions," she said. "I took my prep schooling at the University, too!" Since her graduation in 1910 she has attended all of the celebrations. Mr. Rader is a graduate of the classes of 1908 and 1913, receiving a BA and MA, respectively. A daughter, Katherine Rader, is also an alumna of the University, receiving her BA in 1936 and MA in 1940.

These were but a few of the many alumni taking part in the activities. Everyone looked forward to the next get-together in 1955.

Possessed of a Grand Manner

A featured highlight of the annual Senior-Alumni luncheon June 5 was the special tribute paid to Dr. Lucile Dora.

Dr. Lucile Dora, professor emeritus of French at the University of Oklahoma, was honored in absentia at the annual senior-alumni luncheon, an event of the two-day celebration held on the campus attendant to the 1950 graduating exercises and to the individual class reunions.

Although Dr. Dora was not able to be present for the luncheon because of illness, she was there in spirit as her portrait stood before the assembly.

Several hundred University alumni were present for the luncheon held in the Quadrangle dining room on Monday, June 5. Joe Curtis, '20ba, '22 Law, 1949-50 president of the Oklahoma Alumni Association, admitted the class of 1950 into the association, and George Cummings, '49bus, acting secretary of the association, gave the official welcome. Acceptance of admission and the welcome response was given by Charles Dowell, president of the class and one of the University's outstanding football players of recent years.

The portrait of Dr. Dora, painted by Leonard Good, '21ma, Norman, member of the University modern languages department, was presented to the University by Judge Fletcher Riley, '17ba, Oklahoma City, a former student of the French teacher. Carl M. Franklin, executive vice president, accepted the portrait for the University.

Of Dr. Dora, Riley said: "She is the object of appreciation and of admiration for accomplishments, having lived and learned and taught, she is possessed of manner grand."

A familiar commencement figure as she yearly joined the graduation procession in the colorful academic gown of a French university, Dr. Dora holds a bachelor of arts degree from Christian College and is a master of the University of Paris. She also studied at the graduate institute of International Studies at Geneva and was master of Hildesheim College, London, Ontario. At one time she served both as professor of French and head of the department of Romance languages at the University. She also served as the school's first dean of women.

Presentation of the portrait was under the direction of a committee of former students and colleagues of Dr. Dora, headed by Miss Stella Sanders, '21ba, '26ma, Norman, and George Cummings, '49bus, acting president of the University professional journalism fraternity.

Clarke Visits Oklahoma City

Robert Clarke, '39-'40, a veteran of four entertainment fields, spent three days in Oklahoma City recently and then headed back to California.

Clarke, who is a veteran actor of stage, radio, television and motion pictures, has just completed two movies, to be released soon. He plays the romantic lead in "Outrage," directed by Ida Lupino, and "A Modern Marriage," filmed at another Hollywood studio.

In recent months, Clarke has made appearances on the Hollywood Studio Theater and the Gordon McCrae radio shows. His first radio experience was as an NBC announcer in Wisconsin.

He is now a free-lance screen actor and recently has done two television shows. He made a number of western movies under a three-year contract to RKO.

Stocker Writes Article

Joseph S. Stocker, '35 jorn, former Oklahoma newsman, is the author of an article in the Quill, official publication of Sigma Delta Chi, national professional journalism fraternity.

Debo Picked for Hall of Fame

The Oklahoma Memorial Association has selected Dr. Angie Debo, '18ba, '33Ph.D, historian of Marshall, as one of six to be installed Statehood Day, November 16, in the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

Born in Beattie, Kansas, she started her teaching career in rural Oklahoma schools in 1913. She has held the A&M position since 1947.