1950 gave no indication of what it had in store. For some it was a success, a sad, a cheerful story. Whatever '50 really was depended upon each individual’s state of mind.

Ring Out the Old!

By David Burr, '50

What is a year? Is it success, failure, birth, death, happiness, sorrow? What is a year?

Perhaps it is a generous helping of all the emotional experiences that one feels. Perhaps it’s a combination of all the ailments and successes that a society holds. Certainly it is not merely 365 days. For some 365 days are twice as long as for others. A year must be a relative time element that reflects the state of mind.

For some alumni 1950 has been a long year. During the time from January '50, to January '51, three Sooner sons, who in their own ways were influential in helping establish the University on the sound footing it enjoys, died.

Ted Beaird, '21ba, died April 15 of a heart ailment. He had served as executive secretary of the Alumni Association for 14 years. In his capacity as the focal point of alumni interests, he had never ceased to promote the interests of his University. Even with the long-time knowledge of his heart condition, Ted Beaird continued to ride the Sooner Range. He literally killed himself by returning from an enforced vacation to campaign for the passage of building bonds for Oklahoma’s state institutions. He became ill shortly after the September election and never recovered.

Lloyd Noble, '23, Ardmore, died February 14 of a heart attack. Ironically, when he accepted the chairmanship of the drive for funds for the Oklahoma Heart Association he had said, “No one can say with any real assurance: ‘This can’t happen to me.’” Noble served 14 years as a regent of the University of Oklahoma and had seen his school through some of the roughest years in its history. His efforts will long be remembered.

Still another prominent alumnus, Bradford Risinger, '23ba, Sand Springs, died August 25. Risinger was serving as vice president of the Alumni Association at the time. He had played an active and instrumental role in alumni activities since he completed his college work.

The loss of three prominent alumni leaders in one year helped stretch the 365 days to the breaking point and the additional deaths of two old friends and teachers of alumni didn’t brighten the year’s happenings.

Dr. John Tillman Hefley, '01ba, '35d.ed., died June 25. Dr. Hefley had served as an assistant professor of education from 1935 to 1946 and as librarian in the College of Education from 1946 to 1950.

Dean S. W. Reaves, dean emeritus of the College of Arts and Sciences, died August
The last photo of the late Ted Beaird, '21ba, caught him as he was conducting business with Joe Curtis, '20ba, '22Law, Pauls Valley, then president of the University Alumni Association. Beaird died in April, 1950. A year has brought many changes.

2. His death ended 45 years of active service to the University. Dean Reaves arrived on the campus in 1905 to head the mathematics department. He became dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in 1925, a post he held until 1940 when he asked to be retired.

While there was sadness, there was also joy in the year 1950. Some alumni gained well-deserved promotions. To them the 365 days that started in January was an opportunity to prove themselves in new jobs. Probably the most outstanding jump was made by Mike Monroney, '24ba. Mike was elected U. S. Senator from Oklahoma and will move from the U. S. House of Representatives to the Senate in January, 1951.

Earl Sneed, Jr., '34ba, '37Law, was appointed dean of the School of Law. Dean Sneed had served as acting dean for several months prior to his appointment as dean. Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37Law, was chosen executive secretary of the Alumni Association to fill the post Ted Beaird's death had left vacant. Verne H. Schnee, director of the University Research Institute, was appointed vice president of the University of Oklahoma in charge of development.

D. H. Grisso, '30geol, Norman, was elected president of the Alumni Association succeeding Joe Curtis, '20ba, '22Law, Pauls Valley. Curtis was appointed to the state highway commission by Governor Roy J. Turner.

Henry G. Bennett, '24ma, was named by President Truman to an assistant state department secretaryship to be in charge of the Point 4 program for aid to underdeveloped areas.

Dr. Thurman White, '41ms, made two important gains in 1950. He received his doctor's degree from Chicago University and was named dean of the extension division in a move by University regents to put the extension program on a par with other Colleges on the campus.

Judge William R. Wallace, '10, Oklahoma City, was named roving federal district judge serving all three Oklahoma federal districts.

On international fronts, two alumni were covering the activities of the United Nations. Ernie Hill, '33journ, was named head of the Chicago Daily News bureau at U. N. headquarters at Lake Success, New York. Another alumnus was covering the U. N. forces in the field. Earnest Hoberceth, '41journ, was head of the U. P. bureau in Tokyo covering the Korean war.

Not nearly so world shaking as covering the U. N. but just as richly satisfying was the meeting of civic and educational leaders in Idabel May 25 to honor a lady who had contributed much to her community. Miss Eunice Fooshee, '25ba, '32ma, heard Idabel townsfolk laud her for her achievements in 47 years of teaching.

Alumni were named to hundreds of major posts and scored many tributes for their services during the year. Five alumni and state citizens received special recognition in April when they received citations for outstanding service to the state and nation. The Rev. John R. Abernathy, Oklahoma City, Judge O. H. P. Brewer, Muskogee, Dr. D. W. Griffin, Norman, Miss Alice Marriott, '35ba, Oklahoma City, and the late Lloyd Noble, '23, were those honored at the third annual Achievement Day banquet.

Alumni everywhere found 1950 a year of uncertainty and unrest. War was a scare word that many tongues were repeating. No one knew with any degree of finality
what the next week or month held for them.

In late August and early September the state's national guard division (the 45th) began to report for active duty. And with the division were hundreds of alumni. Hal Muldrow, Jr., '28bus, Norman, Tom Brett, '40bs, '48Law, Norman, and Roy Stewart, '31ba, Oklahoma City, serve as examples. Still others were being recalled under the stepped up mobilization program.

From the University's standpoint, the year was a progressive if uncertain one. Many new buildings were on their way up. Although not an Administration program, the Union building was undergoing an expansion and renovation that would better equip it for service to the students. A geology and mineral industries building was nearing completion. Ground was being broken for a men's quadrangle to provide for the men living quarters comparable to those recently completed for the women.

Other buildings in the construction or planning stage and for which money is available include an Aeronautical Engineering Building, Law Library addition, Social Sciences Classroom building, Graduate Education building, Home Economics building, Journalism building, Public Health-Biology building, Chemistry addition. Classroom and library facilities in the stadium are also under construction. Even this list is incomplete.

The University's enrolment took a drop but did not decline as far as had been estimated. The drop was traceable to the call to active duty of the state's 45th National Guard Division and to the general feeling of uncertainty concerning military calls.

In sports, the year was as great a success as anyone could wish for. Heading the list of honors was the Big Red football team that succeeded in completing a 10-game schedule without loss and being picked for another Sugar Bowl outing. Named national football champions by many polls, the Sooners had started the year off January 2, 1950, with a Sugar Bowl victory over L.S.U.

Individual performers who were bright sports stars were Bill Jacobs, '50, and Bill Carroll, '50bs, track; Paul Merchant, '50bs, and Wayne Glasgow, '50bs, basketball; Bob Stephenson, baseball, and Lean Health, Jim Weatherall, Buddy Jones, Claude Arnold and Frankie Anderson, football. Bud Wilkinson topped off the year as A.P.'s coach-of-the-year. (Omitted from the list are the great football heroes of 1949 who completed their education in the spring of '50.)

A major University addition was the Lake Texoma biological station that was dedicated in October. It helped expand the University's facilities for service to the people of Oklahoma in the development and research it will provide for things biological.

An observer watching the University and its children would know without doubt what a year was. It was growth and development. It was success and failure. And still another year was at hand. Perhaps it would be even a longer 365 days than 1950.

Perhaps it is a bit incongruous, but the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association and the staff of the Sooner Magazine wish for every alumnus or alumnae a Happy New Year. It is not nearly so incongruous when it is considered that with the hope of happiness there is extended a prayer for peace.

Ring out the old! Ring in the new!