Mrs. Sally Beaird Hignite unveils portrait of her father, the late Ted Beaird, '21ba, at Dedication luncheon of the Union's Ted Beaird Memorial Lounge.

Reunion time every year is the highlight of the Alumni year for 10 classes.

There's a time for catching up and seeing old friends. This year's was

The Best Yet

Although the first weekend in June doesn't rival a football game as a crowd drawer, the period serves as one of the most important weekends in the school year. On Sunday and Monday Reunion classes meet for their 5-year get-together and the seniors-about-to-be-alumni attend baccalaureate and commencement exercises— their last official undegraduate activities.

This year's Reunions brought the classes of 1902, '07, '12, '17-18 (joint meeting), '27, '32, '37 and '42-'43 (joint meeting) back for a visit. In many ways the June 1 and 2 Reunion meetings were the most interesting and impressive ever held at the University.

Coupled with the traditional Reunion dinner this year was a luncheon to dedicate the Ted Beaird Memorial Lounge in the Union Building. With all reunion activities taking place in the Union, the Sunday luncheon brought back to the University many prominent alumni who had worked closely with the late executive secretary.

Hicks Epton, '32law, Wewoka, chairman of the Ted Beaird Memorial Committee, was one of those. Speaking at the close of the luncheon, Epton made an eloquent outline of why the 200-plus diners were there as he formally dedicated the Ted Beaird Memorial Lounge.

"Only those who smell the honeysuckle know its fragrance, only those who hear the mocking bird and whipperwill know their magic music; only those who felt this (Beaird's) warm handclasp—only those who drew from his well their own inspiration—only those who saw his raw courage in action—only they—you—could truly know the real Ted Beaird," Epton said.

(Ed's Note: A complete transcription of Epton's address can be found on the following pages.)

With her mother, Mrs. Katheryn Haxel Beaird, '24, and members of the family

Nadine Norton, senior class president, and Hicks Upton, '32law, Wewoka, chat at dedication luncheon. Epton, chairman of Beaird Memorial Committee, dedicated the new Lounge to his memory.
The Classes of '02, '07, '12, '17-'18, '27, '32, '37 and '42-'43 gathered June 1 for a Reunion they had awaited for five years. Not since 1947 had the classmates met in formal Reunions and many were on hand to share in the cheerful nostalgia that is associated with such get togethers.
Reunion Classes

A part of Reunion activities each year is the spot when class pictures are snapped; a reminder of 1952 for those who come in 1957 and a permanent record of a campus visit. (Many graduates of the Reunion classes came early or late and missed their class photo. These pictures are good representations of the class meetings.)

Class of 1932. (Seated) Mrs. Beverly G. Schadensack, Norman; Mrs. Caroline M. Bosworth, Norman; Mrs. Hammet Hough, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Marian McRae of Madison, N. J.; and Mrs. Mildred P. Colby, Madill. (Standing) Q. M. Spradling, Norman; W. O. Wetherington, Nash; W. J. Lampton, Norman; Charles Grady, Oklahoma City; J. Arthur Herron, Blackwell; Dr. Jim Haddock, Norman, Hough.

Class of 1927. (Seated) Lois Nethery, Norman; Wilda Griffin, Norman, and Minnie Connolly, El Reno. (Standing) Joe Whitten, Oklahoma City; William R. Morgan, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Morgan; Mary F. Lawson, Okla. City, and J. Phil Burns, Okla. City.

Class of 1937. (Seated) John C. Caldwell, Ardmore; Mrs. Richard L. Disney, Norman; Mrs. Emmette Jones Haddock, Norman, and John McReynolds, Norman. (Standing) Disney, Dean Glenn Couch, Norman, and Johnny Caldwell.

present, Sally Beaird Hignite stepped to a raised platform behind the speakers' table and unveiled the portrait of her father that will have a permanent place in the newly dedicated lounge. Painted through the efforts of the Memorial Committee and friends of the late secretary, the portrait was the work of Dr. Joseph Sigall, Tulsa.

Five of the happiest people at the Luncheon were four members of the class of 1912 and their former teacher. In 1911 Mrs. Eva E. Dungan was hired to teach piano. The following spring her first four students—Mrs. Clara Belknap Jacob, '12mus, Marietta; Mrs. Lena Trout Sapper, '12mus, '14ba, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Alma Watkins Dowd, '12mus, and Lewis S. Salter, '12mus, '17ba, Norman—graduated. Mrs. Dungan, who retired in 1934, recently returned from a tour of South America and Europe.

Unquestionably in the race for honors as the alumna having the best time was Mrs. Neva Rogers Gahring, '17ma, Lubbock, Texas, who is teaching at Texas Tech.

After the luncheon, a reception for all Reunion classes was held in the Beaird Lounge. At the same time the Board of Trustees of the Oklahoma Memorial Union were holding their annual business meeting. While the grads remembered old times downstairs, the Board chose a new president to replace A. N. Jack Boatman, '14ba, '16law, Oklahoma City, formerly vice president, was named president and Harold Belknap, '25ba, Norman, was elected vice president. D. M. Grisso, '28geo, Norman, was selected treasurer, and W. H. Fredland, '38ba, Norman, was named secretary.

Following the Spring election, 12 new members of the Board were seated at the meeting. (All members of the Board were elected this year under a new constitution for staggered terms of 3, 4, and 3 years.) The new Board of Trustees includes: Dean E. D. Meacham, '14ba, Norman; Thompson; T. H. McCasland, '16ba, Duncan, and Joe W. Curtis, '20ba, '22law, Pauls Valley, (3-year terms); Boatman; Belknap; W. Max Chambers, '24ba, '29ms, Edmond, and Grisso (2-year terms); Neil R. Johnson, '15ba, '17ma, Norman, Milt Phillips, '22, Seminole, Frank S. Cleckler, '21ba, Oklahoma City, and R. J. Clements, '22ba, Oklahoma City (1-year terms).

After the reception and Board meeting, the classes held individual class reunions and had their class photographs taken.

To wind up Sunday's activities, the Reunion dinner was held in the Union ballroom. Executive Secretary Boyd Gunning, '376a, '371aw, served as master of ceremonies. He introduced Alumni President Herbert L. Branan, '32ba, '38law, Oklahoma City, who presented 50-year pins to five of the eight living members of the class of 1902. Those present to receive the awards were Mrs. Florena Williams Hadsell, '02ba, Norman; Constance Madge Wolcott, '02pharm, Tulsa, Clyde Bogle, '02ba, Norman; Kate Barbour, '02ba, '17ma, Norman, and Dr. Roy Gittinger, '02ba, Norman. Two graduates that beat the '02ers to degrees were also present. They were Mrs. Merty Cullom Smith Wadley, '99mus, and Jesse L. Hefley, '99ba,'01ms, both of Norman.

Special recognition was awarded to six people attending the dinner. Guy Brown, '42ba, '48ms, assistant executive secretary, presented gifts to Mrs. Marian Wooldridge McRae, '32ba, Madison, New Jersey, for coming the longest distance; Jesse L. Hefley for having the greatest number of O.U. graduates in his immediate family (seven); W. H. Fredland for having the youngest "Junior Sooner" (son, age, three months); Neil R. Johnson for having the youngest grandchild (grandson, age, one month), Lucy Tandy, '30ba, '32ma, Norman, for being Reunion chairman for the class (1932) with the largest number present, and Dr. Gittinger for being chairman of

The Class of 1943 views the statue of President William Bennett Bizzell that was their class memorial to University.
Dedicated to Ted

By HICKS EPTON, '32 Law

(Speech Dedicating Beaird Memorial Lounge)

On April 15, 1950, Ted Beaird passed into the Great Unseen; to him it is no longer the Unknown. I find it hard to believe he is no longer here; that he has traveled to that Unknown Country from whose bourne no traveler returns. While he has gone yonder, there is a very real sense in which he is still here.

When Joshua led the children of Israel safely across the Jordan into the promised land, he commanded them to bring stones from the other side and build a monument in order that all who later came that way, would know God had there again protected Israel. Today we dedicate these bricks and stone and steel so that those who pass this way may know that here lived, labored and loved a manly man.

Had we the power or time to tell his achievements as a scholar, teacher, soldier and administrator, we would still tell little of the real man. Ted Beaird was a man statistics cannot describe. To catalogue his achievements is to tell little of the man. His real greatness lay—as it does with all men—in the intangibles that surrounded and motivated his actions; it lay in the realm of the spirit.

Only those who smell the honeysuckle know its fragrance; only those who hear the mocking bird and whippoorwill, know their magic music; only those who felt this warm handclasp—only those who drew from his well the inspiration—only those who saw his raw courage in action—only they—you—could truly know the real Ted Beaird.

We feebly try to honor his memory as we dedicate the heart of this building to the memory of him whose heart it was. Inadequate though our effort, we honor ourselves in trying to keep warm the afterglow of such a life. This lounge is the heart of the building. In it young men and women—the likes of which he loved—will meet and move.

They were always in his heart of hearts and when they view his portrait and enter this room, they will remember here was one who cared for them—and dared for them.

Long before the lines of this new edifice were on the draftsman’s board, they were already etched deep and clear in the vision of Ted Beaird. Long before this new building grew from Sooner Soil, it had already grown tall and strong in his imagination. Even as the sculptor sees his masterpiece in the granite he could see the businessman, geologist, engineer, teacher, lawyer, journalist and preacher in the frightened face of the country girl or boy. Some of those were your faces.

No! His real memorial is not built by men, but in men. It is woven in the warp and woof of men and women, in the thousands of his boys and girls—now stalwart men and lovely women scattered throughout this broad land. The only real honor for such a man is emulation.

If we would honor him, we must capture a part of his amazing vision, some of his capacity for friendship, his courage to dream—a bit of his faith in the fundamental decency of man. May those of us who knew him best and loved him most, here and now re dedicate ourselves to the high idealism for which he lived and died. His real monument then will be—as indeed it must be—in the palpitating softness of the Sooner heart.

Wilson, Roswell, New Mexico, and Nicholas Fox, ’07 pharm, and Mrs. Fox, Spalding, Nebraska.

Five years later—in 1957—many of the Reunioners will return, a little older, a little grayer perhaps, but still anxious to be associated with their classmates and their University.