Dr. Burton’s Day

The last weekend in April was a time of unusual activity on the campus. Some 200 mothers of University students were here for the annual Mothers’ Day activities and more than 10,000 high school students had participated in interscholastic events.

But for the 400 people gathered in the central lounge of the Women’s Quadrangle, April 29 was Dr. Burton’s day—the day in which Dr. Helen Burton, chairman of the University School of Home Economics from 1927 until 1950, was honored with a tea by alumnae, former students and associates.

It was her day from the beginning to the end. Heading the receiving line, Dr. Burton wore an afternoon dress of rose lace over pink taffeta. Her flowers were green orchids flecked with shades of rose. Beside her in the line was her sister, Mrs. Walter Mitchell, who came from Chicago for the occasion.

One could not be sure what was running through Dr. Burton’s mind as she greeted each of the guests with the hospitable charm for which she is known. Perhaps she was thinking of each of her former students and of the years they had spent together at the University.

Or perhaps she was remembering the University as it was when she arrived in 1927 from the West Texas State Teachers College at Canyon after having taught at Lewis Institute, Chicago, and Wayne, Nebraska, Teachers College. But had anyone asked her to compare the University today with the one 24 years ago, she would have said, “Oh, it hasn’t changed much. It’s just grown.”

And, again, she might have been thinking with a deep inner pleasure that succeeded in brightening her warm blue eyes of the great care taken by her associates so that the spotlight of the afternoon would not move from her.

The lounge had been decorated with her as the central theme. Pink bridlewreath and rose tulips—specially dyed by florists to match her costume—were used as the centerpiece for the candlelighted tea table and for the table the rosetinted guest book. A portrait of Dr. Burton was unveiled and presented to the school during the tea. It now hangs in the Home Economics clubroom.

Dr. Helen Burton’s “girls” had given her a day. It was a day well worth remembering.

May, 1951
Many hours of careful preparations were spent in order that the tea would radiate the same charm and graciousness personified by Dr. Burton. Held in the central lounge of the Women's Quadrangle, the tea was planned as a tribute for Dr. Burton's many years of service as head of the School of Home Economics. The lounge was decorated with spring flowers, the colors matching the afternoon attire of Dr. Burton.

Shown signing the guest book are Mrs. Rosemary Shead Holt, '41h.ec, Oklahoma City, and Miss Betty Oakes, '50bs, Edmond.

**Dr. Burton** resigned as chairman of the School of Home Economics in 1950 after holding the position for 23 years. She now is a research professor of nutrition and consultant for all other types of research in the school.

Heading the receiving line at the tea were Dr. Burton, Miss Mary Warren, who is now chairman of the School of Home Economics, and Miss Blanche Portwood, '34h.ec, '46m.h.ec, Oklahoma City, state supervisor of home economics education.

More than 400 former students, alumnae and faculty members were present for the tea. Associates of Dr. Burton throughout her many years of teaching from in and out of state were also present.

Heading the planning committee for the tea were Mrs. Clemmontyne Corbett Morris, '29h.ec, Norman, chairman of the Home Economics alumni group; Mrs. Agnes Heron Nesbitt, '28h.ec, Norman, and Mrs. Ruth Snoddy, '30ed, '45m.h.ec, assistant professor of Home Economics.