Thy Story O’er
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By

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and

Robert W. Moore

A History of the First One-Hundred Years

Of the Ohio University Alumni Association
IT WAS HOT that June 29, 1853. Nearly everyone in Athens, Ohio, tried to enjoy or avoid the heat as much as possible. But one man in town had other more important things on his mind. Middle-aged Archibald Green Brown sat at his huge desk—his quill in his hand. Before him, was a circular which he had been working on for some time.

The circular, which was to be distributed by way of stage or pony express, read:

"Circular
Meeting of Students
of the Ohio University

By consultation and request, a general meeting of the early Students and the Alumni of the Ohio University has been appointed to be held in Athens at 3 o'clock, p.m., on
Wednesday, August 3rd, 1853

For the purpose of a social reunion and rendering Homage due to their Alma Mater. The venerable JACOB LINDLEY, the first Instructor, and a long time head of the Institution, now past 80 years of age, is expected to be present and to address those formerly under his tuition. Addresses are also expected from Honorable Thomas Ewing, General L.V. Bierce and others who have borne the honors of the University or have been connected with its early history. The occasion, it is believed, will be one of great interest and enjoyment to those who may participate in it. The preparations will be simple, but it is hoped ample and satisfactory. A cordial invitation to be present is extended to all who at any time have been connected with the University as Students, Instructors or Patrons, and who have its prosperity and welfare at heart.

A. G. Brown
For Committee of Arrangements
Athens, Ohio, June 29, 1853"

This was the first attempt (recorded) by A. G. Brown to organize the alumni of the university. However, it is known that the alumni had met at a general meeting in 1849 to discuss plans for commencement. Probably one of the main reasons why the alumni had not organized earlier was the scarcity of Ohio University alumni from 1815 to 1865. During this fifty-year span, a class of one to 13 was graduated each year except for 1835 when, due to a lack of funds, there were no graduates. The total number of graduates listed in the 1857 directory was 171.

This same 1857 directory contained an occupational breakdown of graduates as follows: 53 lawyers, 53 clergymen, 59 professors and teachers, 13 physicians, 9 merchants, 5 farmers, 5 missionaries and 35 “deceased so far as known.” Even the first reference to OU alumni in an OU catalogue
praised the versatility of the graduates: "Its (Ohio University) graduates are found among the most distinguished men in our country."

The six year interval—1853-59—saw the coming of the railroad to Athens, the Lincoln-Douglas debates on the national scene, the enrollment at Ohio University average out to about 150 students a year; but it saw very little in the way of alumni organization.

Then in 1859, according to the original "minute book" of the first association, "a number of the alumni met in College Hall and effected the permanent association." Another source makes it even more specific: "On the second of June, 1859, a number of Alumni met in the Chapel, West Wing (McGuffey Hall now) and organized by electing Honorable Archibald Green Brown of the class of 1822 chairman, and Professor W. H. Young, class of 1853 as secretary." A committee of Reverend Amos Miller, Dr. J. M. Trimble and Mr. J. K. Mower was appointed to draft a constitution.

"The meeting was addressed by the Chairman, who gave some reminiscences of the early days of the University; a Constitution was adopted, which with but few changes, remains the organic law of the Alumni Association; and officers were elected."

The first constitution of the Alumni Association of Ohio University read:

"Article I—This association shall be called the 'Alumni Association of the Ohio University.'

Article II*—The officers of the Association shall be a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and an executive committee consisting of four members to be chosen annually.

Article III—Annual meeting of the association shall be held in connection with Commencement exercise of the University.

Article IV—The object of this association shall be to cultivate fraternal relations among the Alumni of the University and to promote the interest of our Alma Mater by the holding of social reunions by literary exercises, or by such other means as the Association may, from time to time, deem best.

Article V—Any member of the Faculty, and graduate of the University also any one who has spent three years in college classes of the University, and has been honorably dismissed may, by payment of one dollar, and the signing of the Constitution, become a member of the Association."
Article VI—This Constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meetings, by a vote of 2/3 of those present at such meetings.

Article VII—The members of the Association shall each pay into its treasury an annual fee of one dollar, and the sum so paid shall be expended in defraying the expenses of the annual reunion. (An amendment)

After this first meeting, plans were made to enlist the services of the alumni in the future. The 1915 Athena yearbook explained: "A circular was prepared and sent to the Alumni, enlisting their co-operation. Arrangements were also made for the first meeting to be held the succeeding year. It is significant that the first Alumni address was to be by the first Alumnus, Thomas Ewing, which was accordingly done on Wednesday, June 20, 1860." At the 1860 meeting, 23 names were listed, most of whom the secretary honored with the prefix of "honorable" or "esquire." Besides Ewing’s address, the program included an “Alumni Re-union” at 8 p.m. and the degrees had been conferred at 10 a.m.

**First President of the Association**

And this group did not lack in colorful people. The Alumni Association’s first president was a very illustrious man himself. “Uncle Green Brown” as he was called was a Presbyterian church elder who during the course of the winter months preferred to wear a long shawl over his shoulders rather than an overcoat. He would sit in the front pew of the church in order to hear the sermon.

Brown was born in Washington County, Ohio on April 16, 1798. He matriculated at the “institution in the wilderness” at an early age and became an Ohio University graduate in 1822. From 1824 to 1825, he served as perceptor in the academic department of the University and in 1825, he began the publication of the “Athens Mirror,” the first newspaper printed in southern Ohio.

It was hard to keep Judge Brown out of the president’s seat as the alumni re-elected him to the post in 1860, 62, 76, 77, 78, 79 and 80 as far as records show. Since records are scarce in the 60s and 70s, it is not known whether he served continuously as president throughout this duration.
in 1901 demonstrated the necessity of having a permanent department, which would keep in touch with the Alumni, enlist their help and co-operation for the upbuilding of the University.

But let's not get the cart before the horse.

**Early Alumni Meetings**

Alumni meetings were still being held in the latter part of the nineteenth century. For instance, an "Alumni reunion and President's Levee" was held at 8 p.m. on Commencement Day, 1861. No records show when Commencement Day was in 1861; however, an "Anniversary of Alumni" was held at 7:30 p.m. on June 20, 1866. Giles S. B. Hempstead, M.D., class of 1816, was listed as historian and Clark Granston, class of 1861, was poet. There was no name listed before the designation "orator." The exercises on this day were concluded with a reunion. (And Clark E. Williams noted in his research "no hyphen in the word reunion this time.")

At the "Anniversary of the Alumni Association" in 1867, the "Historical Essay" was given by the Honorable A. G. Brown and the "Oration" (probably a typographical error) was given by General Thomas O. Osborne, 1854 class.

Not much was heard from the Honorable A. G. Brown and his Alumni Association until 1872. In July of that year, the organization was given incorporation rights for the purpose of providing a fund to be applied to the promotion of education in the Ohio University. The goal set up for this endowment fund was $25,000 or 1000 subscriptions at $25 each. No records are available pertaining to the success of the campaign and no records of any benefit given to the University is in evidence, so it seems safe to say that this first fund-raising campaign was unsuccessful. The goal was too high in the first place since the number of alumni up until this time was far less than 1000.

**Aims of the Association**

The circular that was sent to each alumnus follows:

Dear Sir:

This circular, with accompanying documents, is forwarded to each graduate, former student and known friend of the Ohio University. Our object is to afford information of the aims of the Association as well as to awaken sympathy and to enlist zeal and effort in behalf of our Alma Mater.

In July, 1872, this Association, which had been in existence for several years, became a body corporate under the provisions of an act for the incorporation of educational associations, passed by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, April 27, 1872. The organization of the Association under this act may be deemed of great importance, as giving it stability and securing to its proceedings the sanction of law. The avowed purpose of the Association is to secure a permanent fund to aid in the endowment of the University.

A subscription of one or more shares of $25.00 entitles the subscriber to membership and to one vote for each share subscribed. The subscribers are to become binding only when $25,000.00, or one thousand shares of stock, have been subscribed, and may either be paid at that time or secured by notes for the principal payable at a future date, with interest at eight percent, payable annually, it being the design that the subscriptions shall form a permanent irreducible fund, the income only of which can be used for the purpose of the Association. Blank forms for notes to be executed are transmitted herewith.

It is highly desirable that the proposed minimum sum of $25,000.00 should be subscribed on or before January 1, 1873, or as soon thereafter as practicable. By earnest cooperation on the part of all our friends this end may be accomplished. The object is worthy and calls for united and earnest effort. The difficulties and discouragements with which the Ohio University has always contended for lack of a more liberal endowment, are widely known. No argument or portraiture of her history and condition can be needed to bring her wants home to the consideration of her Alumni and other devoted friends. The Alumni of other institutions, less in need than our own, have engaged in similar undertakings with gratifying success. Great is the encouragement, and greater still will be the reward, should the Ohio University be raised, through the liberality of her sons, to her just position among the institutions of learning in our land.

A G. Brown, president
J. M. Goodspeed, secretary, treasurer

*JUNE, 1959*
The men who signed the certificate of incorporation were the same men that one hears about throughout this whole era of alumni organization. Men like H. F. Miller, N. I. Behan, W. S. Eversole, J. B. Lash, J. M. Goodspeed, A. A. Stanley, V. C. Stiers, Benjamin H. Smith. Others like W. H. Scott, D. M. Blair, Charles Townsend, W. H. G. Adney, George W. Warner, John T. Brasee, A. G. Brown and Leonidas M. Jewett brought the Association out of its cradle and developed it into a mature, functioning individual.

Raising Money Among Alumni

Fund-raising seemed to be one of the things that kept the alumni in touch (or frightened them further apart). Although not originating directly from the Alumni Association, on July 20th 1877, another letter was sent out to the Alumni and Friends of the Ohio University. This one was sent out from William H. Scott, president of the Board of Directors at Ohio University. Its purpose was to raise a minimum of $2,000 for physics and chemistry apparatus, the "fitting up of a suitable room for the library," and general purposes.

The objective of the Alumni Association was changed in 1875-76 in what was the first of many later revisions of the organization's constitution. Article IV read: "The objects of this Association shall be to cultivate fraternal relations among the Alumni of the University, and to promote the interests of our Alma Mater by the holding of social reunions, by literary exercises, or by such other means as the Association may from time to time deem best."

These were the Reconstruction Days in the United States, the Industrial Revolution, the period (1875-76) when the degree of Master of Science was first being conferred on Bachelor of Science graduates of three years standing, on the same conditions as those for the degree of Master of Arts." During this period, dues were being assessed of alumni for the first time.

In 1876, the constitution was amended to: "Article VII: The members of this Association shall each pay into its treasury an annual fee of one dollar, and the sums so paid shall be expended in defraying the expenses of the annual reunions."

Little information is available of this period except for the names of the officers. It appears that because of the intense interest that some individuals showed in the Alumni Association and because of the scarcity of alumni members in general, a few people dominated the offices every year. The only change came in the offices themselves. A man might be vice president one year, then secretary the next. Brown, Goodspeed, Lash (secretary), Jewett, Townsend, again led the group along with E. C. de Steiguer ’75, E. J. Jones, J. A. White ’74, H. F. Acker ’75, and R. S. Devol, ’70.

Literary Contest at Graduation

Throughout the early history of the Alumni Association, the names of the two literary societies, Athenian and Philomathean, appeared countless times. One of the main attractions at the Commencement Week proceedings was the literary contest between the two groups. The literary societies were the drawing attraction for alumni because...
nearly every alumnus at one time or another belonged to one of the organizations. In 1883, the members of the two literary societies appealed to the "generous aid" of former members and others in raising funds to furnish the societies' hall in the new "chapel building" (Fine Arts Building now) then under construction.

New Titles of Degrees

The year 1883 also saw a change in the names of degrees issued at Ohio University. The Bachelor of Science degree was discontinued in favor of the Bachelor of Philosophy (PhB). Scarcity of alumni was again proven by the 1885 Ohio University catalogue which listed 354 graduates of the University. There had been 77 honorary degrees granted up until this date.

Another statement said: "The degree of doctor of philosophy will be conferred on persons who give evidence to the faculty of possessing conspicuous scientific attainments. Such evidence may consist either in the written or printed work of the candidate, or in the examinations which he undergoes before the faculty, or both. A thesis will, in all cases, be required... Great stress is laid upon the fact that no mere mastery of other men’s labors, however complete, will entitle a candidate to the degree."

During the late 80's and early 90's, the officers were basically the same as in the past. However, in 1887-1888, among the executives was a certain Margaret Boyd, '73, first woman graduate of Ohio University and as far as can be ascertained, the first woman on the executive committee of the Ohio University Alumni Association. Miss Maggie Boyd later became the first woman to preside over the Alumni Association holding the position in 1894-95.

One of the new features to be added to the 1888 Commencement was the first "Commencement of the Pedagogical Department" in which was offered a "seven years' course" and a "three years' course."

It was announced for the first time in 1889, that the Alumni Exercises would be in charge of the class graduating twenty years previous. This apparently led to the custom which prevailed into the 1930s—that of choosing the alumni day speaker from the "twenty year class." This was another drawing point of the Commencement Week exercises. In 1890, it was Dr. Philip Zemmer, later to become a large donor to the school and its oldest alumnus up until 1956 when he died at 104, who gave the address.

The same years 1891-92 when the positions of secretary and treasurer were combined and given to Eli Dunkle, also saw a change in the conferring of Master's Degrees. "The Degree of Master will be conferred upon graduates of this or any other college who give evidence to the Faculty that they possess such literary and scientific attainments as will make them worthy recipients of it, without reference to the time elapsed since graduation."

Alumni Day, 1896

Alumni Days were still being held and still in the same manner. June 25, 1895, Alumni Day was observed with public exercises and a concert in the evening. Alumni Day, 1896, was celebrated on June 17 with "public exercises and a banquet." Something new was added to the 1895 Ohio University catalogue—an alumni directory of the graduates of the classes of 1885-1894 inclusive.

And graduates read in 1896 that the Ph D degree would be awarded only to students who had done part of their graduate work in residence. Earlier, the University had decided a candidate for the Ph D did not have to be a resident of Ohio University.

Women were finding their way more and more into the officerships of the Association as they gained more and more freedom in the late 90s and early 1900s. Lillian E. Michael '84, presided in 1895-96; Mabel K. Brown '89, was the vice president in 1896-97; Della Mac Conneff '97 served as vice president in 1897-98-99 while Maggie Boyd, Amy Weiler '95, Mary Ullo '96 served in other posts on the executive committee.

The real "awakening years" of the Ohio University Alumni Association were 1904 and 1906. Lists of graduates were the objective of the Association in 1904 in an attempt to get the alumni back for the Homecoming game of that Centennial year. But according to the 1909 Athena, the list of members was very incomplete.

"The Alumni Association, being a volunteer organization, the subsequent career of the graduates, after leaving college, was not followed, and the history of many became lost. Little attempt was made to locate the graduates or to learn of their careers until the centennial of 1904, when such information was desired, but, in many instances, could not be obtained. Since then, a systematic effort has been pursued by the officers of the association to ascertain and preserve the history of each graduate.

"Of recent years, meetings of the association have become more frequent and an annual banquet is held at Athens during Commencement Week." was the way the July 1910 Ohio University catalogue described the dilemma.

With the creation of the position of Alumni Secretary and the setting up of the first chapter in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1906, the Association began to operate on the same basis as it does today.
From 1859 until 1906, many persons held the office of secretary of the Alumni Association, a position without salary and with only nominal duties. It was not until June 15 of 1906 that the Board of Trustees of the University created the position of Alumni Secretary, thus giving official status and recognition to alumni work. "The object of this department," the trustees said, "is to assist in the work of the Alumni Association, to organize clubs of alumni and former students, to secure data concerning the history and the alumni of the University, and to publish bulletins from time to time denoting the progress made."

Although, at that time not a graduate of Ohio University, Charles H. Bryson '11, was selected to the newly-created post. His duties were of a part-time nature. "Under his supervision, a beginning was made to locate all living Alumni, and considerable progress was made," according to Clark E. Williams.

First O U Alumni Chapter

The second major accomplishment of the year 1906 was the organization of the first alumni chapter—"The Ohio University Alumni Association of Pittsburgh." Cabin B. Humphrey '88 was first president of this pioneering chapter while Dr. Newman H. Bennett '99 was the first secretary-treasurer.

The only noteworthy event of the following year was the annual alumni banquet held June 19, 1907 in the Athenian Hall. The members of the 1907 class were guests as the Ohio University Glee Club sang college songs. Representatives from each decade since 1860 responded to hear the Alumni Address by Rev. D. William H. Morgan, of the Central M.E. Church of Newark, New Jersey.

Again in 1908, the scarcity of alumni was discussed as only 635 persons had received bachelor's degrees from Ohio University up until that time. One writer in the Athena, O. C. Stine, explained the dearth of students thusly: "The growth of the University was necessarily slow. Here there was no Abilene to attract thousands of students into this wilderness from all over the country, nor were there thousands of young men in this great west starving for intellectual food. There were Indian boys but bear meat satisfied them. This University was built in the wilderness for the education of the people who were to come and stands here today as a grand monument to our forefathers' love of learning."

THE MARTZOLFF ERA

Alumni Records Established

Clement L. Martzolff succeeded Bryson in the Alumni Secretary's chair in 1908. Clark E. Williams, later to become Martzolff's successor, said: "During his administration, Mr. Martzolff has collected material on all of the alumni, living and dead, and has preserved the records in the archives of the University. He has collected much valuable matter relating to the college and has made it accessible. Another feature of his work has been the organization of branch Alumni Associations, which meet from time to time, and this tends to keep alive the spirit of Ohio University. Another phase of his work is the publication of a monthly Bulletin, which aims to herald the doings of Alumni and record their achievements."

Dr. Martzolff didn't waste any time getting the organization off on the right foot. Within a short time, the second alumni chapter was set up, the Loan Fund was created and the list of alumni was brought up to date.

Of the 643 persons who had received their bachelor's degree from Ohio University up to 1909, only twenty-five had not been accounted for. The improved 1909 Alumni
Bulletin, predecessor of the Alumnus Magazine, contained: "a verified list of living alumni, an unverified list of alumni, biographical sketches of the 'semi-centennial' class of 1859, biographical sketches of living graduates who graduated prior to 1859; biographical sketches of those alumni who died during 1908, tables showing the various degrees granted and the professions represented among the alumni."

Martzloff’s dream in 1909 was: "as the work of the department becomes more organized it is the intention to add other features to these publications and eventually to publish a complete Alumni Catalogue and History of the University."

1909—the age of Stanley Steamers, Lillian Russell, the barbershop quartets, the handlebar mustache and amidst all this, the Columbus chapter became the second subdivision of the Ohio University Alumni Association. Joseph A. Harlor, 1894, was the first president while Oscar C. Stine, 1908, was secretary.

"Decennial" class reunions were held in June 1909 and were reported to have "struck a popular cord." All of the "nine" classes were represented at the Alumni Banquet held in the "new Gymnasium." (Now Women's Gymnasium.)

Chapter number three came into the Association during mid-winter, 1909-10. The Southern Ohio Chapter of the Alumni Association held its first annual banquet at Jackson and the meeting was described as "one of the most enthusiastic Ohio alumni gatherings ever held outside of Athens." The president was John M. Davies, 73 while the secretary was Fred Kirkendall '93.

Another Alumni Directory appeared in April, 1910 with a "verified" list of living alumni. The listing was done on a geographical basis rather than by the classes. This was due to the "organization of local Alumni Association suggesting that arrangement for this year."

The one thing that distinguished the year 1910 from any other year in the life of the Ohio University Alumni Association was the establishment of the Alumni Loan Fund. Its actual beginning was in 1907 when Dean Edwin Watts Chubb called a meeting of interested alumni and others to discuss an Alumni Loan Fund "to aid college students in Ohio University to finish their four-year courses."

By 1910, $3200 had been subscribed but as we'll see time after time, later on, not all of it had been paid. The original objective had been $2500, which was obtained by July 1, 1908. The largest gifts: one of $500 and one of $250.

"Twelve students were aided during the past year in amounts ranging from $30 to $100," it was reported in 1910.

The rules set up to govern the fund were:

1. The purpose of this fund shall be to furnish loans of money to needy and worthy students of Ohio University.
2. To be entitled to receive aid, a student must have a net credit of 1000 hours, or in other words, he must have finished two fifths of a four year course. To receive aid, he must have proved himself worthy both in character and scholarship.
3. No student shall receive more than $100 in one year, nor more than $200 in his entire course. Aid shall be given only to such students as have promised to complete a four year course.
4. Five percent interest shall be charged.

Besides Dean Chubb, the other members of the original committee governing the fund were: Professor Eli Dunkle, and Mr. J. D. Brown, president of the Bank of Athens.

Arrival of the Twentieth Century

With the arrival of the twentieth century came the remodeling and building of more buildings on the Ohio University campus. McGuffey Hall, Carnegie Hall (renamed), and Howard Hall were remodeled during 1907 and 1908 while Women’s Gymnasium (originally built for men and women), was completed in 1908 along with Ellis Hall. "Twenty year" students who returned to the campus for the 1910 Alumni Day found that the Chapel Building (later called Music Hall, now Fine Arts Building) had been moved in 1896 to its new position behind Cutler Hall; Ewing Hall had been completed along with Carnegie.

It was around this time that the Phi D was discontinued at Ohio University. Judge Thomas A. Jones '81, was serving his second term as Alumni Association president.

Everything seemed to be routine concerning the association in 1911 and 1912. Chapters had been formed at Western Reserve and in the New England area and the Ohio University Club at Cornell was organized in 1913 with H. A. Pidgeon '11, president.

The year 1913 saw Mr. Martzloff making the promise: "A Complete Alumni Record of the University will be published in 1915 on the occasion of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the graduation of the first class."

It was also Martzloff who welcomed the class of 1913 to the alumni ranks with these remarks, "In the name of that goodly band of splendid men and women, who in the field and forum and home are fighting battles for better things, and in the name of that glorious company of choice spirits who have fallen with their faces to the front, I welcome you as recruits in a noble cause—to place your banners of Justice on the outer walls, to maintain the standards for the good, to march in the van of the army of worthwhile, to unsheathe your swords for the right, aye to fight, perhaps to fall but whether you march, or fight, or fall, your ALMA MATER like a guardian spirit will hover about you, will breathe the benediction of 'well done' if you fall."

As the world made arrangements to fight and defend in 1914, arrangements were made for the organization of three alumni chapters in Ohio. The OU Alumni Association of Southwestern Ohio was presided over originally by L. P. McGinley ’94. The first president of the Eastern Ohio chapter was George W. Reed ’88, and the Athens Chapter was presided over by J. P. Wood Jr., '03.
It was the gateway on Union Street, dedicated by the class of 1912, that prompted a suggestion which was carried in the Athens Morning Journal that a ‘grander gateway’ be erected at the northwest corner of the campus and “instead of having the campus path where it is at present, let it start at the corner of the grounds where the new gateway would be placed.” (The path then was an extension of the present “under-the-elms” cinder path.)

The Alumni Gateway

The Gateway, donated from alumni contributions and “presented by the Ohio University Alumni commemorating the centennial anniversary of the first graduation in the Old Northwest, 1815,” was dedicated on Wednesday, June 16, 1915.

Significant of the centennial ceremonies was the elaborate Centennial pageant presented Tuesday and Wednesday, Bishop D. H. Moore ’61, presented the Gateway on behalf of the alumni. The unveiling of the Gateway was done by Clara Blum, niece of Dr. Martzolf who was listed on the program as a speaker. “Janice Battin and Anna May Fenzel assisted Miss Blum.” The acceptance was by President Ellis who in turn presented it to Governor Willis.

And Mr. William C. Ewing wrote for the occasion:

“Oh, the East may sing the praises of Old Eli Yale, Johnny Harvard, too;
Roger Williams in a fit of despair
Founded Old Brown U.
Princeton came by way of Nassau,
So did Dartmouth, too;
But Ohio’s up and doing
When old father Thomas Ewing
Gave three cheers for Old OU.

Even today, the incoming inscription: “So enter that daily thou mayest grow in knowledge, wisdom and love,” and the outgoing “So depart that daily thou mayest better serve thy fellowmen, thy country, and thy God.” are bywords of every Ohio University student.

The Athena at that time described the gift as “the alumni’s first expression of love for their Alma Mater ... a beginning of a closer relationship of the graduates and the old school that sent them out into the fulness of life with a song in their hearts.”

World War I Curtails Activities

Ohio University’s Alumni Association must have felt the effects of World War I as there were very few activities from 1915 until the early 1920s. Although there was an alumni secretary, the association continued to elect a secretary to take care of national meeting minutes.

Founder’s Day ceremonies were drawing cards for alumni. Speakers on the February 18, 1920 program were William Henry Scott, ’62, one time Ohio University president, and Edward S. Parsons, Marietta College president.

The 1921 Ohio University catalogue said this under the title of “The Alumni Association”: “More than a thousand graduates and ex-students are organized into an association consisting of a general body and sub-organizations or chapters. The association maintains an office in the administration building, keeps a file of the graduates as to their location, occupation, etc., and publishes a monthly paper, The Alumnus Bulletin. Other activities of this department are to collect and catalogue historical material concerning the University and to organize subsidiary chapters.”

Constitutional revisions were the main course of business at the June 15, 1921 session. Article II was the same as the old Article IV. Other changes were:

Article III

Any member of the Faculty, graduate of the various departments of the University, also any one who has attended the classes of the University and has been honorably dismissed, may, by the payment of a minimum fee of one dollar, become a member of this association.

Article IV

Section 1—The members of this Association may organize themselves into groups called chapters, for social purposes or for the increasing of interest in the welfare of the Association and the University.

Section 2—Such chapters may designate from their members one who is to represent the organization in the central body as a member of the Board of Control. In case no such designation is made, the president of said chapter may appoint one to act or perform such duties himself.

Article V

Section 1—The annual meeting of the Association will be held at the University on Alumni Day of Commencement Week.

Section 2—At this meeting, reports of the Board of Control are to be made and passed upon and such other matters as may claim the attention of the Association.

Section 3—The Board of Control will hold its annual meeting on the same day, at such time as may be set by the Executive Committee.

Section 4—The President and secretary of the Association shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Control.

Article VI

Section 1—The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, who, in addition to the duties usually devolving on such officers, shall jointly constitute, together with three others so designated, an Executive Committee, all selected by the Board of Control at its annual meeting.

Section 2—The Executive Committee shall constitute the working body of the Association, under the general direction of the Board of Control, and shall have the immediate management of the affairs of the organization.

Section 3—The Board of Control may establish its own rules of conduct as to meetings and the general conduct of the policy of the Association.

Article VII

Amendments to this constitution may be suggested by any chapter of the Association or by the Association itself in its annual meeting. Ratification will be by plebiscite, conducted in such a way as the Board of Control or Executive Committee may direct.

Alumni Board of Control

And in 1921-22, the first Board of Control was set up—consisting of T. W. Craig (Athens), J. E. Kennison (Canton), Frank B. Kentz (Chicago), Blanche Wolfe Walters (Chillicothe), Herbert B. Dunkle (Cincinnati), C. Don McVay (Columbus), Merrill M. Cooley (class of 1926), Annett Higgins Francis (Eastern Ohio), Harry C. Wilson (Huntington), Ruth K. Jones (Mahoning Valley), Clyde Brown (New York) and Mae S. Bettrel (Western Reserve).

It was in 1922, that Dr. Clement L. Martzolf died. Mr. Martzolf had held the position of Alumni Secretary for 14 years, as well as handling the duties inherent in being the field agent, director of extension and a professor of history. His successor, Mr. Clark E. Williams paid him the following tribute: “Ohio University alumni owe a great debt of gratitude to Dr. Martzolf for pioneer work in preserving and compiling alumni records, for the initial organization of chapter and regional groups, and for effecting a national organization.”
FOUR RETURNING graduates at the 1909 Commencement pose beside the old sun dial which marked the location of Ohio University's first building. It is now the site of the Helen Mauck Galbreath Memorial Chapel.
A Modern Alumni Association

Clark E. Williams was on his way home from his Athens High School teaching chores that hot day in June, 1922. As he passed Dr. Elmer Burritt Bryan's home, he was approached by the Ohio University president. President Bryan wanted to know if Mr. Williams would consider taking the alumni secretary's job on as a full-time duty. The 1921 OU graduate accepted and became the first full-time alumni secretary of Ohio University.

The first activities in his new position were related to the campaign to raise funds for the Alumni Memorial Auditorium which had been initiated earlier in the year by Dr. Martzloff, and upon which he (Martzloff) had been working at the time of his final illness.

Little did anyone think that it would be some five or six years later before their dream—the Auditorium—would be erected.

Charlie Chaplin and the silent movies, KDKA's first broadcast, the Ku Klux Klan demonstrations, an Ohioan in the President's seat—Warren Harding. These were the early 1920s. At Ohio University, a new seven man board of trustees was in operation (1922). President Bryan and the trustees also were considering the limitation of the number of women students; encouraged the attendance of men to attend college. It was also 1922 when Bryan helped secure from the state legislature, the largest appropriation in two decades—enough to build a men's gymnasium and an engineering building.

Charters and Activities Increase

Mr. Williams recalls that in his first year, Robert S. Soule '23, was president of the senior class; that Dr. Don D. Tullis '28, gave the Founder's Day Address; and that the commencement speaker was Dr. Payson Smith, commissioner of education for Massachusetts. The June alumni luncheon was held in the banquet room of the Men's Union, with James P. Wood, Alumni Association president, as speaker.

From 1922 on, the number of chapters increased steadily. Mr. Williams worked diligently in order to improve the alumni publication at this time. Upon taking office, he assumed the editorship of the alumni magazine which was known as the Ohio University Bulletin. It had a small format and was published seven times a year. The annual budget for the magazine, plus a lot of other not-too-related expenses was $790. The first issue of the Ohio Alumni appeared in October 1923 with this editor's note: "Last year with the firing of the opening gun in October; we promised that if every alumni subscribed for the Alumni Bulletin, publication would be insured for an entire year and a general improvement of the magazine would be made possible."

Magazine Publication Problems

Lawhead Press was very helpful with the publication of the early issues of the Alumni. Due to a lack of funds, the Association wasn't always in a position to pay their printing bills and Lawhead would carry the group for months.

B. O. Skinner was alumni president in 1923-24; 102 out-of-staters were enrolled at Ohio University, 1568 altogether; the "mammoth, new gymnasium" was opened February 20, 1924. Members of the Alumni Auditorium Committee were listed as Fred W. Busch '92 chairman; Charles H. Bryson '11, director; Lawrence G. Worstell '88, Edwin D. Sayre and Clark E. Williams. Dr. T. R. Biddle was added to the committee later.

The chapters listed at this mid-1920s period were: New York, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Huntington, Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Toledo, Youngstown, Akron, Canton, Lancaster, Dayton and Steubenville. It might be mentioned here that some of the chapters have changed their names throughout the years.

Alumni Day activities featured during the 1924 Commencement were a senior class breakfast, class reunions, a senior-alumni convocation, golf tournaments for men and women, an auto tour of the city, alumni picnic at the Hospital grounds, a Twilight Concert, campus illumination, and finally a serenade under the Elms. Commencement was a three day affair with baccalaureate on Sunday and commencement on Tuesday.

New Life in Commencements

Also in 1924: "Memorial Auditorium will be initiated in 1925," it was announced. Class reunions were staged on an individual basis for the first time in order to "inject new life in Ohio University Commencements." Charles W. Stewart '61, the oldest alumna then, died.

"Re-une in June" was the theme scattered throughout the 1925 Alumni Magazines. New sub-divisions added were Lima and Los Angeles (Marion, Mahoning Valley, Class of 1916 and Western Reserve). The Dinx Reunion Plan, five every year class honored, was being used during the Commencement Week festivities.

"The generosity of the state legislature in voting the Alumni Memorial Auditorium Committee an appropriation of $160,000 at its last session has saved the day for the biggest effort ever made by the alumni and friends of Ohio University in behalf of their Alma Mater and school. The money appropriated was a sum given to offset the amount which the efforts of alumni workers failed to realize. After expenses there will be no margin. It is the hope of the committee that every cent of the outstanding pledges may be received by May 20 in order that no further delay will be experienced in getting to work. Over $80,000 of the money subscribed has been paid into the treasury." The above plea by the editor in May 1925 was one of many made of the alumni to get their pledges in.

Don't Destroy the Elms

Much controversy was circulating in 1925 about the location of the Auditorium. Alumni members everywhere feared that the McGuffey Elms would be destroyed. Editor Williams said in October: "Of those alumni who are, sincerely enough, but somewhat heatedly opposed to the location of the Memorial Auditorium as determined upon by a joint committee representing the alumni and the board of trustees, we ask a hearing of the facts and a fair consideration of them. A true comprehension and appreciation of the difficulties involved in the task will eliminate, in most cases, the feeling of disappointment and dissatisfaction." Williams went on to explain that the Auditorium would have to be near or at the center of campus activities to be of value to the students.

"Representatives have tried for over two years to acquire at a reasonable figure enough space for the proposed building. Because of the size of the lot required, difficulties in securing a group of properties were encountered.

"The cheapest combination of property units that were desirable was held by its owner for $60,000. Other combinations which were not investigated because of their prohibitive values, were estimated as high as $100,000. Before arriving at their decision, the board saw that it was a case of either buying a piece of useless property or investing in a building with no ground on which to build it. There was no way of having both. The legislature has repeatedly
MR. ALUMNI ASSOCIATION for more than 32 years, Clark E. Williams, a graduate of 1921, was the first full-time alumni secretary, serving from 1922 until 1954, when he became the University's director of admissions.
refused to appropriate such sums of money for building sites as were demanded by 'round the campus property owners. There is little reason again, to believe that after having given a generous sum to complete the building fund, they would further set aside $60,000 or $90,000 for the site. Even if they did, it would be only a little short of two years before the money would or could be available. With this knowledge, the board refused to consider the prices asked for such lots as could be had at any price and came to their final decision . . . . One member of the board, an alumnus of undoubted devotion to the best interests of the school and appreciative of the views of his fellow alumni, upon returning to his home after the June meeting, reported to questioners that he had been unalterably opposed to a campus location until he had personally become acquainted with the situation. He argued that those who profess to be irreconcilable to the present action get intimately in touch with affairs and strive to understand the difficulties of the position of the board. As indicative of the desire and anxiety of board members to preserve the front campus free of building, it may be said that some even advocated the wrecking of Cutler Hall and, if necessary, East and West Wings (Wilson and McGuffey Halls) in order to secure a site."

Careful Planning by Architects

Acting in a role of an intermediate, Mr. Williams went on to say "... with the careful planning of the architects, we don't feel that the building will destroy the beauty of the front campus, while at the same time it will doubtless serve its purpose a hundred times better than if it were located even a few hundred feet away from the beaten campus path."

October 9, 1925, Treasurer of the Alumni Auditorium Fund George C. Parks announced "there was only lacking $1,000 of being sufficient funds in the treasury to make a certification to the state department of finance that would insure their permission for the letting of a general contract for the construction of the Auditorium." This announcement has been expected by alumni for three years: Howell and Thomas of Cleveland, one of the leading architectural firms in the country, had drawn up plans for the building.

Location of Memorial Auditorium

Earlier in June, the board had decided upon a location for the building after considerable study. "Because of the practical and financial inability to secure a building off the campus, it was definitely decided to choose a site on the campus, all members of the board but one concurring in the decision."

In the decision for a site, every effort was made for the conservation of the McGuffey Elms. "Only about ten trees will be involved according to present plans, six of which are locust trees which are dead in the tops and will shortly be subject to removal anyway. No injury whatever is contemplated to the McGuffey Elms and contrary to reports which have been given a wide circulation, these famous old trees will not be interfered with by the erection of the auditorium."

The other problem concerning the Alumni Auditorium was reported by the Alumni Secretary in this same October 1925 issue of the Alumnus: "The determination of the
auditorium committee to collect the outstanding subscriptions from tardy and delinquent subscribers is evidenced by their action taken in the city of Athens where legal procedure has been resorted to in a few cases to bring about payments. Mr. F. W. Bush, chairman of the committee, says: 'Approximately $40,000 of the amount subscribed is as yet unpaid. Much of it—most of it—we feel, will be paid voluntarily. Many of our subscribers have stated that they will pay as soon as the construction of the building is underway. By the laws of the state of Ohio, we cannot contract for such a building until the money for the building is in the bank and that institution's certification given of its deposit. We call upon them now, in fairness to the building committee and to the 1,786 paid-up subscribers, to redeem their obligations to the fund. In a few cases thus far, it has been necessary for us to bring suit for the collection of these pledges.'

But the auditorium wasn't the only problem of the day. Many notices sent out by Mr. Williams asking for names and addresses of alumni went unanswered. "Less than a month ago, we attempted to get in touch with every living graduate of the University. Less than 25% of the returnable cards were returned to keep our files up to date."

And in the same issue (October 1925) concerning the summer number of the Alumnus Magazine: "... A lot of people reported they had failed to receive the summer number of the Alumnus which had been promised in lieu of one of the spring numbers that failed to materialize. Well, being in possession of the inside dope, we took their word for it. Probably they didn't get it. At any rate, there was none published, which may account for their failure to receive it. Why? Just the same old story—lack of funds due to lack of support from the alumni generally."

In the same year, the Alumnus Magazine undertook another project for the benefit of Ohio University. In an article entitled "What's in a Name?", a contest to name Ohio University's athletic teams was introduced. The Alumni Association offered a ten dollar prize to the alumnus or former student who suggested the "best and most appropriate sobriquet" for Green and White teams. In response to this request, ninety name suggestions were submitted. The winning name—Bobcats—was made by Hal H. Rowland, '23. The committee had considerable difficulty inasmuch as there were many first class names on the list.

Role of Women Questioned

The role of the woman student on the campus was questioned in 1925-26 when there were controversies concerning women traveling to distant points for athletic contests. An Alumnus article opposed women smokers. "... official sanction has not been, and will not be given to OU girls to consort with the Lady Nicotine. No rooms have been set aside in college dormitories for the convenience of the smoking sisters and the idea of a young lady reclining in the parlor of Lindley Hall blowing smoke rings at the ceiling is still a repulsive one."

Financially the Alumnus Magazine still wasn't sound. Due to a lack of monetary support in 1924 "a motion was sponsored" at the annual meeting to discontinue sending the magazine to non-contributors... "this will remove the burdensome 'albatross' from about the necks of the paying
members and make possible a magazine which will do credit to Ohio University men and women."

Shortly after this announcement, the format of the magazine was changed from a 5x8, 24 page publication to 26 pages of 7x10 format. New articles began to appear while others such as "From the Editor's Desk," "Letters of a Beloved Philosopher—Dr. Frederick Treudley," and "De Alumnus" remained.

So much has appeared about the year 1925, that it is necessary to include one more article from the Alumnus of that year. "... the State has to approve the plans for the Auditorium but it is known that it will be long and wide with high columns in front." Many people who had hoped that the chimes would be housed in the Auditorium had their hopes shattered when it was announced that due to the architect's drawing, there would be no tower on the auditorium.

Problems with Pledges

As the new year (1926) appeared, the Alumni Memorial Auditorium Committee "had ordered an audit made of all subscriptions paid to the fund and all contributions of alumni so that the money may be turned over to the treasurer of the University." Before any contract could be entered, the money had to be subject to the disposal of the state. Although 2,000 people had paid subscriptions by January 1926, many other outstanding pledges were still being sought. Some $50,000 had to be obtained from subscribers at this date.

A survey taken in 1926 showed there were some 4,514 living alumni in all parts of the world. The article in the Alumnus was entitled: "As on British Dominions, the Sun Never Sets on Green and White Alumi."

Two things were sure to appear in each Alumnus in the 1920's. One was the plea for the auditorium fund, the other was an apology for the tardiness or lack of an Alumnus issue. "Many have inquired, what has become of the March number of the Ohio Alumnus.

"We crave your indulgence in this our hour of confusion and distraction. Work of any sort in the Alumni Office has been practically at a standstill for the past few weeks due to the repairing and redecorating which our home, East Wing, has been undergoing... Under the circumstances, we know you'll forget and forgive this time."

In this age of the Stutz Bearcats, raccoon coats and charleston, the Commencement activities still held their own in attracting alumni. The third annual alumni golf tournaments were held during the 1926 Commencement along with other contests. A bronze plaque was given for the class with the highest percentage of members present at a reunion. The class of 1923 won in both 1925 and 1926. "The alumni-varsity baseball game has won a permanent place on the Commencement program. The 'old-timers' were successful last year (1925) in taking the measure of the varsity in a real, honest-to-goodness, nip-and-tuck baseball game."

Miss Anna Pearl McVay, presently the oldest living alumna of Ohio University, was elected alumni president in 1927. Besides being the second woman to ever preside over the Alumni Association, Dr. McVay has been honored on numerous other occasions since her graduation from Ohio University in 1892.

Even back in 1927, W. H. Fenzel was treasurer of the
Most unusual Homecoming in the history of Ohio University was in 1904 when George Baten, a New York broker and promoter, pitched a tent on the main campus and passed out free box lunches to everyone. The son of Tom Baten, who operated the Athens livery stable, George brought in the food and a crew of waiters from New York City, hired a Columbus band to furnish music and a newspaper cartoonist to draw sketches of those attending the Homecoming. He topped it off by giving away souvenir plates, each decorated with a picture of Cutler Hall.

Alumni Association. His treasurer's report for 1926: "The treasury report shows a modest balance but it must be borne in mind that the heavy expenses incident to the Commencement program and the publishing of the summer number of the Alumnus were immediate liabilities not shown in the report. . . In order that the association might end its fiscal year without the usual deficit, the University generously assumed the expense of publishing three numbers of the Alumnus magazine. The average cost of publication per issue last year was $100. . . In addition, the University usually pays the salary of the alumni secretary and the salary of an assistant." It was reported by Mr. Fenzel that 709 alumni paid their annual dues in 1926 and the balance was $1,657.57.

Homecoming continued to bring back the dads and alumni of the University. Four thousand saw OU beat Cincinnati in a hard fought game in 1926. Mr. Williams described the contest: "there was no unsportsman-like conduct from the players or spectators. . . Yes, the present college generation may be thoughtless and unresponsive to the finer 'ures' but this was no demonstration of the fact. It was an impressive exhibition."

End of a Campaign

Back to the Auditorium campaign . . . By March, 1927, 3,112 subscriptions had been made, 2,385 of them paid-in-full, and one fourth of the remaining 727 had been partially paid. Bids for the erection of the auditorium opened at 10:00 Saturday morning April 2, 1927. State Architect Mr. Herbert B. Briggs handled the bids before the president of the University and the building committee of the University.

An extra day was added to the Commencement program in 1928. This was done so that the Athens branch of the American Association of University Women could put on a McGuffey Pageant with themes taken from the life and activities of Ohio University's fourth president, William H. McGuffey.

Other notes of importance in this year were: The Dix Class Reunion plan was abandoned due to a lack of spirit. In June of 1928, "at last, the frequently referred to and often promised Alumni Directory has appeared."

Dedication of the auditorium was postponed and finally held on January 20, 1929. The dedicatory address was given by Bishop Earl Cranston, '61, the institution's oldest graduate in 1929. Dr. Hiram Roy Wilson, Alumni president, also spoke and a hymn written for the occasion by Dean Edwin Watts Chubb was sung by a choral group and joined in by the audience.

Ohio University's Auditorium began to see its first real use soon after. An audience of 2,200 heard the Mantell-Hamper Company present "MacBeth" on February 4. And the "beautiful, rich velour main curtain, or grand drapery, which failed to arrive in time for the dedication of the building, is now in place.

"The curtains are in two sections; the valance, on which portrayals of the nine modern muses have been applied, and the main curtain which opens from the center." These curtains have since been replaced during redecoration.

And financially, things weren't getting any better with the Alumni Association nor with the country in general during this era. A lack of funds was the reason for no Alumnus Magazine in April, 1929.

For those who had helped support the Alumni Auditorium Fund and then saw their dreams fulfilled through
the tireless efforts of the Fund committee, October 4, 1929 was a sad day. Fred W. Bush, chairman of the fund committee, died. The Auditorium stood as a result of and tribute to his efforts in getting the necessary money to have it finished.

Ohio University was gaining nation-wide publicity in the fall of 1929 because of Don Peden's unbeaten football team. Ranked as one of the nation's top teams, radio station KDKA in Pittsburgh said: "Pittsburgh, Notre Dame and Ohio are the best in the nation." This team not only brought spirit and renown to the school, it also tended to bring the alumni of Ohio University everywhere, closer together.

But the opposite of this togetherness was shown in February, 1930 when Clark Williams said that "frankness is alleged to beget confidence," and then proceeded to say that he was disappointed with the alumni support at that time.

Depression years were on their way in full force in 1930. Alumni activities slacked considerably. Despite this financial situation, a few cities found it possible to create alumni chapters. One was started in Charleston, West Virginia in February. Frederick L. Burton '26, and Robert C. Clutter '26, were credited with its formation. This chapter was followed by one at Detroit on April 11, initiated by Eliza Sanzenbacher '11, Dr. LeRoy Skidmore '25, and Mr. J. Allen Chase '28, and another at Zanesville formed by Russell Herrold '16.

Days of the Depression

The United States was suffering from the greatest depression in its history. Her citizens were standing in bread lines and the ranks of the unemployed grew everyday until they reached fantastic numbers.

During this time, the Alumni Association felt the effects of the depression. Its membership dwindled. Its funds were depleted. Each issue of the ALUMNUS carried pleas for assistance. If the University did not help defray the association's expenses, the organization could have folded for a few years.

Dr. J. T. Ullon '98, was elected president of the group, which now included 31 chapters. He was elected at the 1930 commencement activities which saw Bishop Cranston, speak to the group assembled at the annual Senior-Alumni Convocation.

Ullon, Williams and the executive committee decided to take a gamble to increase the association's membership. The membership fee was reduced. A year's membership cost $2.50 instead of $3.00, a Sustaining membership cost $10 dollars and a Life-Time membership cost $50 dollars. It was hoped that this reduction would persuade persons to join the association. The loss in revenue would be made up by the increase in volume.

This proposal did not meet with much success and Alumni Secretary Clark E. Williams pleaded monthly in the Alumnus for financial assistance until 1936.

A Special Broadcast

The class of 1931 held a reunion at the 31 Homecoming. Those alumni in the Columbus area who could not return to Athens heard the game over station WAIU, Columbus. Jim McWilliams '01, sponsored the broadcast.

The association published a new edition of the OU song book which included several new songs written by David K. Todd '24, and Paul Fridley '27. A few of the songs were "We Are the Boys of O-H-I-O," "Over the Goal, Ohio."

The effect of the depression on the association became evident in the issues of the ALUMNUS magazine early in 1932. A questionnaire was sent to alumni to discover the magazine content most desired. However, once the results were tabulated, it was discovered that the organization could not afford to make the changes. The size of the magazine was increased to 8-1/2x11.

However, this period of financial stress did not prevent the alumni from serving the University. The ALUMNUS urged members to help new graduates find jobs. This request was met and many graduates got their start from this service.

Alumni Help Get Students

A greater service—recruiting new students—was performed by the alumni. Once again, the alumni met the pleas of its secretary. The school year 1932-33 was an indication of their loyal support. Ohio University's enrollment was up, while other schools, Ohio State, Wisconsin and Illinois, reported sharp decreases.

OU graduates had persuaded high school seniors to enroll in the Hocking Valley university. They continued to do so from that time forward. A special issue of the ALUMNUS contained information which would prove valuable in the recruiting program.

The recruiting program helped the school's administration. During this period of time, the Ohio Legislature was discussing a measure that would reduce the appropriation to state schools. An increase in enrollment gave the administrators a sound argument to prevent a reduction of funds.

F. B. Gullum '07, was elected president of the association at the commencement proceedings of 1932. Missing from the program was the annual Senior-Alumni Convocation. Lack of interest displayed by both groups created the need for the event's curtailment. vii Chun Chow, '32, became the association's first Chinese alumni after the commencement activities.

The OU football team was privileged to meet President Herbert Hoover when it traveled to Washington to tackle the powerful Navy eleven. This was the highlight of the program prepared for the team by Washington alumni. It was one of the first efforts by an alumni chapter to plan a program for the team when it played away.

Advertisements and combined issues were methods used by the ALUMNUS staff to cut costs. However, more and more Ohio alumni were joining the ranks of the unemployed. The magazine urged others to help graduates find new jobs.

Tribute to President James

A special issue of the magazine honored President Bryan who passed away in 1934. President Herman James assumed the reigns of the University. He was to serve in this capacity until his services were needed by the U. S. government during World War II.

W. H. Scott, the oldest living alum in 1935 was made honorary president of the association which elected G. Floyd Cooper its president at the 1935 commencement.

The nation was treated during 1935 to the introduction of a song for Ohio, O-H and I-O, on a nationally broadcast radio program. Francis Crumit '12, a network radio star, played his original composition on his program and announced that O.U. could use it as a college song.

As President James spoke to various alumni chapters to stimulate more alumni interest, Fred S. Pickering, '19, made an attempt to bring OU into the national spotlight. Pickering, the Southern California Alumni Chapter president, tried to persuade the Rose Bowl officials to invite Coach Don Peden's squad to participate in the 1936 bowl game. However, his efforts were in vain.

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The Ohio Alumnus
FAMILIAR SIGHT to returning alumni for many years was the Ohio University baseball diamond that finally gave way this year to a new diamond after more than 40 years of use. State Hospital is in the background.

Peden, who produced several winning football combinations, was in demand by several colleges. Indiana desired him as the alumni hoped he could produce a Big Ten champion. However, Peden remained at Ohio U. because the alumni gave him the chance to build football teams without undue pressure. This was a tribute to the association’s members.

The association promised its members that new proceedings in the commencement activities would be added as soon as the organization was fully recovered from the depression lows and a greater degree of alumni interest was manifested in the proceedings.

The University set a new enrollment record in 1936, (2,761), as John Galbreath, ’20, became the association president.

An attempt to organize an alumni band for the 1936 Homecoming was unsuccessful, but the task of preparing a new alumni directory met with great success. The last directory was prepared in 1928 and since that time 5,265 persons had walked “under the elms” to receive their degrees.

Alumni Directory

Clark Williams promised a new directory would be prepared if 2,000 alums would indicate a willingness to purchase one for 50 cents. He had the demand and the difficult task of supplying the book was underway. Cards were mailed to alumni to bring the records up to date, the material was organized and a 164 page directory was ready in April, 1937.

It contained a complete list of the 11,484 Ohio University graduates, their occupation and their addresses. Two lists were given; one by classes and the other was alphabetical.

The oldest alumnus, W. H. Scott, died and Judge Anselm Tupper Holcomb, ’67, became OU’s oldest alum. However, shortly after, Judge Holcomb died in a flood and Dr. Phillip Zenner, ’71, and Thomas Jay Harrison, ’71, held this distinction jointly. The oldest alum is determined by classes, not birthdates.

Ohio University needed money to continue its progressive program. Realizing the importance of the alumni, President James wrote an open letter in the ALUMNUS explaining the needs of the school. He hoped the former graduates would contact their representative to the Ohio State government to influence them to insure Ohio University of necessary funds.

1937-38 school year saw a change in the Alumni Association. This change was evidenced in both the magazine and the organization’s activities.

No longer did a line drawing of a campus scene decorate the cover of the ALUMNUS. Instead, large photographs of Ohio U. men and women who had achieved excellence in various fields were featured.
Over 123 alums attended a luncheon before the Ohio-Rutgers football game in New Brunswick, N. J. This meeting gave impetus to the idea of rallies before away games and encouraged the athletic department to schedule eastern opponents.

The association was over the hump. It could now continue in its efforts to bring all alumni into a closer relationship with their alma mater.

It was becoming more and more apparent that the alumni held their university in great esteem. In 1937, there were nearly 200 legacies on the OU campus and the number was increasing each year. Graduates wanted their children to enjoy the benefits of OU.

Senior - Alumni Convocation

A project to raise $3,000 dollars for the Alumni Loan Fund was initiated with little success, but the association was able to keep its word and plan new commencement activities. The Senior-Alumni Convo was restored and representatives of the classes of '88, '98 and '13 were to speak. The convo was to be a replica of the old days of the debating societies. An alumni ball was also planned.

However, the interest was low. The Convocation was eliminated, as was the Alumna Golf Tournament. A bright spot in the proceedings was the 100 percent attendance by the class of 1888. All members of the class, who were physically able, returned.

Dr. W. F. Copeland was elected president and during his tenure of office the alumni were asked to remember the re-construction of Cotter Hall. Plans to reconstruct this landmark were underway. The Cleveland Bobcat Club was also organized during 1938. The club, which was the forerunner of all Bobcat Clubs in the country, was founded by George M. Brown, "31", Arthur Sayre, "16", and H. J. Dickenson, "11". Shortly after, the Cleveland Women's Club was started by Mrs. George Brown (Ruth Fowler, "32"), Mrs. Benjamin Madow (Fannie Simon, "41"), Miss Eleanor Morrow, "33", and Mrs. Robert Young (Lucille Baranik, "13"). Henrietta Wilson, "15", mimeographed and mailed all club notices from 1939 until 1953, free of charge.

In the fall of 1939 several women attending Mothers' Weekend at OU enjoyed their brief acquaintance so much that they thought it would be nice to continue it away from the campus.

Although not alumnae, they shared mutual interest of having children attending the University and they talked over the possibility of developing that interest into an organization that would benefit their children.

At least one of the mothers, Mrs. Harry D. Mullett of Youngstown, was determined to carry the idea through. She contacted mothers of that area and the first Mother's Club was formed in June, 1939. There have been three similar clubs since; two in Cleveland and one in Dayton.

At each University vacation period, the Youngstown Mothers' Club charters a bus for students in that area. Buses are also chartered for Mothers' Weekend and Dad's Day.

Certificates of Merit

As the 1940's started, the association, its members and the university looked forward to a bright future. Grosvenor S. McKee assumed the presidency as the association initiated the practice of awarding a Certificate of Merit.

The certificate was awarded, annually, to ten alumni who have achieved distinction in various fields of professional, scientific, or artistic endeavor, or who have demonstrated a loyal and active interest in their alma mater. It was a carry over from the idea of placing leading graduates on the cover of the ALUMNUS. However, the
association made it clear that those persons honored were not to be considered as the top graduates, but merely typical of the many outstanding Ohio University alumni.

The classes of '05, '10, '15 and '25 held reunions at the 1940 Commencement. The highlight of the program was a luncheon served at Lindley Hall. President James addressed the group and Harry L. Ridenour, '12, entertained the group with singing.

The ALUMNUS's policy of featuring alumni personalities, sports and campus activities was upheld by a poll of college alumni by the N. W. Ayer and Son Agency. The poll indicated that alumni throughout the United States enjoyed these articles above all others.

The Cleveland alumni group entertained alums and planned a program of activity for OU fans before the OU-Western Reserve football game in 1940. Those who migrated took part in a parade through Cleveland before the game.

Women's Club Organized

The Akron Women's Club was organized at a general meeting on April 13, 1940, when Mrs. Rhys Evans stated a need for an organized women's group. Eight alumnae met: Mrs. Carl Adamson, Mrs. William Armstrong, Mrs. Eugene Roberts, Mrs. Ruth Young, Mrs. Fred Jenning, Mrs. Leavitt Gard, Mrs. Harrison Frame and Miss Lillie Greer. May, 1941, the constitution was accepted and the group became the second active women's alumnae group in Ohio. Despite inconveniences during the war years, they met and carried out services. In 1949 their annual scholarship was established. In 1950 the bonus scholarship was established.

Early in 1941, Ohio University was making national headlines. Its basketball team became "the sweetheart of the country" as it made its bid for the National Invitational Tournament in Madison Square Garden, New York.

The enthusiastic support of alumni, students and friends of Ohio U forced the New York scribes to comment about the deluge of telegrams the team received. The Bobcats did not win the tournament, but they had won the hearts of American sport fans.

The Alumni Supper "under the elms" was restored to the commencement activities, but it was no longer free. A cost of 30 cents per person entitled alumni from the classes of '86, '91, '01, '06, '11, '16, '21, '26, and '31 to enjoy this event. More than 250 alumni returned for the festivities, but the Alumni Supper was rained out and they were forced indoors.

McKee presented a new proposal to the OU Board of Trustees which was a "shot in the arm" to the organization. His proposal was accepted and the diploma fee was increased from five dollars to ten. Six dollars went to the alumni group and it entitled a graduate to three years membership. This was beneficial to the association because a person would become familiar with the group and its activities and renew his membership once it had expired. The organization still had a slight financial deficit and donations from Robert Rucker, '14, who donated $250, and the Akron Women's Club helped remove financial problems.

Pearl Harbor - World War II

The Alumni Association was taking great strides to meet its objectives when the U.S. was stunned by the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. Immediately, OU graduates, students and faculty joined their country's defensive forces to protect their homeland.

The alumni office instantly began the task of compiling and maintaining a complete record of Ohio men and women in the service. The magazine devoted much of its space to service news and encouraged its readers to write to servicemen.

Among the first casualties of World War II was Lieut. John P. Robbins, the first OU graduate to give his life for his country in World War II. However, he was only the first. Many were to follow.

The association continued at a normal pace and commencement was held on May 31, 1942, over 200 representatives of the classes of '92, '97, '12, '17, '22 and '27 attended the occasion. Israel Foster, '95, spoke to the group and Marianna Bing, '28, sang. This was the last commencement for several years. The University was complying to a government request to limit activities which bring a large number of people to one area.

C. Don McVay was elected to the presidency and held this position until after the war. All other officers elected at this time remained in their positions for several years.

Although its activities were greatly limited, the Alumni Association embarked on a program of service to the University and the graduates in the Armed Forces.

A gold-corded, gold-fringed service flag with blue script writing became a memorial to those persons killed in action. At its introduction in 1942, fourteen names already appeared.

President James requested the secretary, Clark Williams, to compile a list, "Official Roster of Ohio University Men and Women in Military or Naval Service." Williams had already started such a list and it included 1,000 persons at the time of the request. Alumni assistance was requested to furnish the office with names and addresses of those persons serving their country.

Memberships for Servicemen

A special Service Membership was introduced. Any person in the Armed Forces could obtain a membership for only one dollar. The ALUMNUS urged its readers to purchase the membership as a gift to a soldier. The association's officers realized the fee would not cover the cost of supplying a magazine to the individual, but felt that the members would favor the action.

Homecoming activities were greatly reduced, but the clubs were operating at near normal. However, late in 1942 President James was called by the government to serve with the State Department and Dr. Walter S. Gamiersfelder was appointed as temporary president of the University.

Although commencement was not held, the association awarded the Certificate of Merit in 1943. It was the last time these awards were made for several years.

September, 1943 rolled around. The war was still raging and enrollments in colleges throughout the country were down. The entire country was going "all-out" in a united war effort. More than 3,000 Ohio University graduates had donned khaki and blue. This represented a little more than 25% of the persons upon whom the University had conferred diplomas.

Many of the servicemen requested that pictures of the campus appear on the cover of the ALUMNUS and throughout the magazine. Until this time, pictures of men in the service made up the cover. Williams complied with this request and campus scenes could be found throughout the magazine in addition to extensive service news coverage.

Homecoming, like commencement and other activities, was cancelled because of the war and the war effort. At the conclusion of 1943, 47 OU men were listed as casualties.

A special issue, Sept., 1944, of the ALUMNUS appeared. This edition made up for the February, 1944 issue which never made an appearance. This issue was tailored to servicemen and gave a complete list of the 73 men killed in action.
A MEMBER of the Ohio University faculty since 1919, Prof. William H. Fenzel of the College of Commerce has served as treasurer of the Alumni Association for 35 years. This year he personally made available $26,000 for low-interest short-term loans to Ohio University students. The gesture was termed a "meritorious contribution toward the solution of a critical problem" by President Baker and the Board of Trustees.
It was at this time that the alumni office experienced a great deal of difficulty in preparing the magazine for regular publication. The office was overburdened with work which made it impossible to prepare the book. Additional help was needed badly.

John C. Baker, Harvard trained educator was named the president of the University and a new era of alumni relations was forthcoming. Baker was to play a leading role in the development of the present-day association.

**Post-War Re-Activation**

With Hiroshima, Nagasaki, V.J. Day and V.E. Day in the past, the alumni in late 1945 made efforts to re-organize, having "frozen" their activities throughout the duration of the war.

Everything in the Association and University centered around veterans, memorial services and the like. About 5,300 OU men and women served during World War II: 218 never made it home. Memorial services for these 218 Gold Star Men were held in the Auditorium December 2, 1945 with 2,400 people attending. The November, 1945 Alumnus listed all known Gold Star men with their address of death — Luzon, Texas, Belgium, Atlantic, Iwo Jima, Germany, France, Hungary, Burma and so forth.

The notice asking chapters to re-activate read: "Upon a vote of the executive committee of the Ohio University Alumni Association, two years ago, the officers of the association's district groups or chapters were instructed to use their own judgments, in the light of local situations and the general wartime picture, in the matter of holding annual or more frequent group meetings. Where organizations ceased, the officers were asked to regard themselves as "frozen" in their jobs until the day when they could again function. As a result, only a few of the organized groups have maintained a pre-war semblance of activity, notably the women's clubs in Akron, Cleveland and Youngstown and the general organizations in the first two of these cities.

"A call has been sounded for the inactive chapters to "unfreeze" themselves and plan district reunions as in the past."

Not long after this announcement, a new club, Perth Amboy, New Jersey, met with Joseph P. Marra '42, in charge of arrangements.

**The Veterans Bulge**

Enrollment soared at Ohio University due to the return of veterans to the campus. The men were rightfully honored and mentioned as much as possible in all publicity emanating from the Alumni office. Articles in the Alumnus said that "Malaria Victims Are Not a Menace to Their Community."

The right-to-vote was given to all alumni members in 1946. The April Alumnus contained a ballot which each member could submit with his list of candidates. In the past, the right of franchise was given to only those attending the annual business meeting in June but since not a majority would usually be in attendance, the manner to vote had to be changed to give all members a chance to select a candidate.

The Alumnus Magazine continued to be interesting with this notice in the April, 1946 issue: "this issue is dated April, 1946 to conform to postal regulations. It contains news and information, however, through June 20.

The same issue told about Commencement at which Associate Justice William O. Douglas spoke. The alumni luncheon and business meeting was eliminated from the 1946 Commencement program.

Probably the most active alumni-associated chapters of 1946 were the Women's Club of Youngstown, the Mother's Club of Youngstown and the Cleveland Bobcat Club. The Bobcat Club held its first Christmas Dance in December, 1946. Since then the Bobcat Dance has become a tradition with the Cleveland Bobcats and the Ohio University students. Each year, a Cleveland co-ed from Ohio University is chosen Bobcat Queen at the dance.

Twenty five years of service to the Alumni Association — this honor was given to Alumni Secretary Clark E. Williams and a secretary in the alumni office, Miss Geraldine Hope '22. The alumni, in an effort to repay Mr. Williams for all that he gave to the Association, paid for a trip to California for his wife and himself. The executive committee of the Alumni Association had asked for donations from the alumni for this trip and the alumni seemed to respond. Miss Hope was awarded a hundred dollar United States savings bond in June, 1947. Miss Hope is still a secretary in the alumni office.

Not much else was being done in the association during 1947 and early 1948. The Alumnus was now running features on campus progress and institutions rather than with strictly alumni activities... Sixty men in Youngstown got together and initiated the Youngstown Bobcat Club on November 13, 1947.

**More Concern About the Elms**

Even at this late date, there was concern about the prized McGuffey Elms. The April, 1948 Alumnus told about a McGuffey Elm that a "twister" caught in an April storm: "Several years ago another elm in the McGuffey row succumbed to an onslaught of the elements. Others may go at any time. This note is written to prepare alumni for news of just such mishaps, news which is bound to come with increasing frequency." It seemed that there was nothing more prized to the alumni of Ohio University than those 18 elms planted in 1839 by President McGuffey.

Housing alumni was a problem during the 1948 Commencement Week. The Alumnus said that it was impossible to assure housing for members of all reunion groups; therefore only the 50-year, 35-year and 25-year classes were urged to come as units. "All alumni, however, of whatever vintage or class, are cordially welcome." The returning alumni were told to bring their own blankets in case of unseasonably cold weather. Five of the then nine living members of the 1888 class returned for the festivities. They were Mrs. Ada Wickham Blenness, Mrs. Florence Craig Wilson, Dr. Don Tullis, Charles G. O'Blennis and Dr. J. T. Ullom.

Another class gift was given to the University — this time by the class of 1948. A drinking fountain was placed in front of the library by this group.

The first face-lifting done on the Alumni Memorial Auditorium was started and completed in mid-1948. An $8,000 redecorating job saw a new set of stage draperies, furniture and a public address system installed in the auditorium.

In January, 1949, Carroll Widdoes, a winning coach at Ohio State, was accepted enthusiastically by the campus as the new head football coach. He started a statewide tour of alumni chapters that spring as do most coaches upon appointment.

**Close, Personal Ties**

The re-organization of the Alumni Association was moving into a higher gear in the 1950s.

President of the University, John C. Baker, who always had a keen interest in the alumni activities, increased these same interests. He started to write monthly articles for the
Alumnus magazine in order to "bring the alumni an informal, personal note about their university—its plans and aspirations, its problems and its accomplishments." He also desired to see Ohio University linked with its alumni by as close, personal ties as possible. He selected and asked a representative committee of alumni to survey all present activities in the alumni field and to recommend any improvement on broadening of the program that may seem desirable.

The committee selected was headed by Dr. Don Tullis '98. It gave a representation to a wide range of age groups but was selected entirely from Ohio residents who could meet regularly.

Members of the Alumni Survey Committee were: Jean Ewing '49; John C. Baker; Clark E. Williams '21; William A. Smetts '48; Dr. Tullis; Elizabeth Herbert '22; Professor W. N. Mackinnon, faculty representative; Edward B. Wright '38 and Carr Liggett '16.

Alumni Staff Increased

Two people were added to the alumni office to help Clark Williams carry out his many diversified duties. In late 1949, Robert McCreanor '48, was named assistant editor of the Alumnus while in February 1950, Martin L. Hecht '46, was appointed assistant alumni secretary. Before taking this position, Mr. Hecht had been director of employees at Ohio University. A graduate of Cleveland's Shaw High School, Mr. Hecht had been an accountant at White Motor Company in Cleveland before coming to Ohio University. His college career was interrupted by more than four years of war service. Following graduation from Ohio University, he became assistant executive secretary of Phi Delta Theta at its national headquarters in Oxford, Ohio. He returned to OU on January 5, 1948 to accept the job as personnel director.

Reactivation was the main object of the association in 1950. Wanting one general organization for both men and women, the Canton residents formed the Stark County chapter with Dr. George De Stefano '36 as president. Licking County's chapter reactivated as did the Meigs County chapter. Mansfield re-organized while Ashland-Richland founded a chapter on April 26, 1950. The Fairfield County chapter (Lancaster) was organized April 13 with John E. Brown '37 calling the group together.

It was the year that the Lakewood Mothers established an emergency loan fund on the campus for students from Lakewood, Rocky River and Bay Village. In other words, every thing seemed to be on its way up. Then in the summer of this same year, the Korean War disrupted a few plans.

Commencement 1950 saw, per usual, the largest class to graduate from the school and, per usual, dump grounds for the graduation ceremonies. Disappointment was evident in that none of the members of the 1900 class made it to the ceremonies. Only three members of the nine originals were living in 1950: Mable Z. Wilson, Charles M. Matheny, and Thomas H. Selden.

And the Alumnus Magazine patted its own back as it was the first time in the history of the magazine, that all nine months of the magazine (24 pages) were mailed out "on time."

During the June, 1950, commencement exercises, Lewis Miller, '13, directed the Associations activities. Throughout the country the alumni club were establishing scholarship plans and continuing their efforts to recruit new students.

The administration's efforts to strengthen alumni relations continued as President Baker wrote a letter to alumni in each issue of the Alumnus. These monthly letters helped inform the Universities graduates on the policies and problems of the school.

Oct. 14, 1950 was an important day in the history of the Alumni Association. The first Alumni Conference was held in Athens. Local chapter presidents and other key alumni returned to the campus to become oriented about the campus and improve the operations of the groups they represented.

Results of the Alumni Survey

At the meeting, the representatives heard the results of the Alumni Survey, plans for expansion, the OU Fund and numerous scholarship programs. The event met with great success and plans were made to make it an annual affair.

Of great interest to all was the results of the Alumni Survey committee established by Baker. Results indicated:

1. The Alumni Association needed a more adequate staff, more ample financial resources, additional chapters and the membership should triple itself.

2. A program should be devised to challenge the enthusiasm of the alumni.

Immediately, the association leaders set out to make the recommendations a reality.

The streamlined commencement program of the early fifties did not permit a general meeting of alumni to elect new officers. Therefore, a ballot was prepared by the executive committee and published in the Alumnus magazine. Members were asked to vote and mail the ballot. However, Marty Hecht, '46, was busy planning a reorganization of the Association which would eliminate the necessity of voting through the mail.

The world was shocked by Communist aggression in South Korea. President Truman announced that the United States would help the country and once again Ohio University graduates were serving their country in war.

The Alumni Office promptly began the task of maintaining records of alumni serving in the Armed Forces during the Korean conflict. The issues of the magazine carried news from the Korean front. Second Lieut. Richard Riplinger, '50, became the first OU grad to be killed in this war. However, he was only the first of many graduates who gave their life during this war.

The responsibility of publishing the OU Fund report was transferred from the Alumni Association to the Green and White club as the Association made plans to prepare a newsletter for those persons in the service.

Commencement, 1951, featured reunions of graduating classes ending in years of one and six. Grosvenor McKee was once again elected president of the group and a new constitution and bylaws were drawn up.

Carr Liggett Named President

The Alumni Council met in Athens on Oct. 20, and Carr Liggett, '16, assumed the presidency. Liggett was to lead the organization into a new era—an era of closer ties between the University and her graduates.

One of his first steps was to receive permission for the Alumni president to sit in on the OU Board of Trustee meetings. Although he did not have a vote, Liggett was able to present alumni views and carry the Trustees ideas back to the people he represented.

The Cleveland advertising executive also started writing monthly letters to alumni in the Alumnus magazine, which was becoming even more the voice of OU grads. This help to draw members closer to the association.

President Baker's drive to improve OU's scholarship program received impetus from alumni and alumni clubs. These groups had already donated 96 scholarships.
Children of OU graduates living out-of-state received special privileges. These students could attend their parents' alma mater on the same scholastic requirements as on-campus residents. This helped encourage alumni children to attend the first school in the Northwest Territory.

As executive meetings became more frequent, the bond between alumni and the University strengthened and big plans for the future were enacted. Alumni were asked to express their views in the "Letters from Alumni" column that appeared in the Alumnus. It was another method of encouraging alumni participation to create additional interest.

Marty Hecht continued to organize more local chapters and numerous committees were established to benefit the association. One such committee was the Alumni Public Relations committee which proved invaluable in future activities of the Association.

Robert W. McClean, '48, became the editor of the Alumnus which cost $3.50 per year. The subscription rate included a years membership in the alumni organization. McClean incorporated several new features in the magazine which were well received by Alumnus readers.

The Sesquicentennial celebration year, 1954, was drawing nearer and the executive council met in Columbus to discuss alumni role in the festivities. Foremost in their minds was a scholarship program.

Sesquicentennial Scholarship Fund

Shortly thereafter, the council set a $150,000 goal for their Alumni Sesquicentennial Scholarship Fund. At this time, 22,691 persons had walked "under the elms" to receive their degree or diploma from Ohio University. It was decided by leaders of the Council that a scholarship fund would be a real monument to the graduates devotion to their alma mater.

After careful study, it was decided that the money would be a more permanent gift than a building or any other gift. Other gifts would decay and lose value but the scholarships would continue to help worthy students as long as Ohio University existed.

The plan called for the anticipated $150,000 to be invested in the state of Ohio's irreducible debt fund, which would return six percent interest each year. The interest money would be used toward scholarships administered to deserving students by the University's Scholarship Committee. It was pointed out that donors to the fund could specify as to the allocation of their donation.

President Baker was enthusiastic about the Council's proposal and offered his assistance. It was decided that an advisory alumni committee should be appointed to assist the University's fund raising organization, which would be established to conduct the campaign.

At the next Alumni Council meeting, Liggett was re-elected to guide them during the next year. At this meeting, it was decided that the policy of awarding Certificates of Merit should be renewed at the 1953 commencement activities.

Liggett clearly expressed his views on the scholarship fund. He pointed out that nearly $200,000 was raised for Memorial Auditorium by less than 1/2 the graduates at a time when money was more scarce. He favored the drive 100 percent.

Dr. Hiram Roy Wilson, '96, was appointed honorary chairman of the drive. Fred H. Johnson, '22, was chairman and Prof. Albert C. Gubitz was selected as the executive
MARTIN L. HECHT, ‘46, is now serving in his fifth year as executive secretary of the Ohio University Alumni Association.
director. Two women, Mrs. Alice Wright, '27, and Mary Elizabeth Huck, '44, were picked to serve as vice-chairman. These five people were to work hard during the next year to insure the success of the Sesquicentennial Scholarship Fund.

Through conferences, it was decided that the University would finance administrative and executive expenses of the campaign. Therefore, the entire income from the drive would be used to make scholarships available.

1953 commencement planned reunions for graduating classes ending in years three and eight. The graduates were also asked to submit names to be considered for the Certificate of Merit award which could now be awarded to any number of persons. Earlier, ten persons could receive the award each year.

Two-hundred and seventy attended the festivities and eleven persons were honored by the Association. Throughout the proceedings, the alumni displayed a great deal of interest toward the scholarship drive.

The Alumnus told its readers more and more information concerning the campaign. Donations could be extended over three taxable years and the donation would not be considered a legal document. The gift was deductible up to 15% of an individual's adjusted gross income. Plans for the operations were nearing completion.

At the time of these hectic preparations, Mr. and Mrs. Seymure L. Meisel, '47, became the proud parents of triplets. They were the first OU graduates to be blessed so.

Nationwide Enthusiasm

Throughout the summer of 1953, Prof. Gubitz and his staff travelled throughout the United States carrying the story of the alumni's proposed gift. Gubitz was high in his praise of the hospitality he and his staff received. He cited the enthusiasm of the alumni by saying, "All of us going out from campus to assist local alumni in organizing their particular part in this total alumni campaign continue to find great enthusiasm for the project. Many have expressed belief that is the greatest organized effort alumni have ever proposed on behalf of their alma mater.

Assisting Gubitz were: Dr. Lorin C. Staats, '26, Ernest E. Ray, '24, Martin L. Hecht, '46, and F. Patrick Collins, '50.

In September Grier S. Leach became the assistant editor of the Alumnus which reported that $3,625.80 had been lost from the Alumni Loan Fund. The loss resulted when several students did not repay their loans; however, it was stressed that for every person who did not pay, hundreds had.

Over 120 local organizations from coast to coast, border to border were ready to start the big push to raise the 150 thousand before June, 1954. All details were being ironed out before the big push.

A certificate of recognition signed by the president of the University Board of Trustees, the president of the University, the president of the Alumni Association and the chairman of the project would be given to each person who donated. Each name of the donors would be recorded in OU history in a leatherbound document which was to be kept in the Alumni Room of the new Center. Amount of donations would not be recorded.

The Bronze Plaque

In addition, a bronze plaque would be placed in the Alumni Room bearing the names of those persons who donated more than $150. Contributions of more than $2500 permit the donors name under the inscription Memorial Gifts and donors of 1000 to 2500 were listed under the heading Honor Gifts, and those of 150 to 1000, Loyalty Gifts.

It was announced that the Alumnus magazine had received honorable mention in the "Intellectual Stimulation" division of the American Alumni Association's judging of association papers. The national organization recognized the tremendous job the Alumnus was doing.

The long-dreamed-of Student Center became a reality and was opened to the public the fall of 1953. OU was the Mid-American football champions and everything was running smoothly. An indication of alumni support was evidenced before the OU-Harvard football game in Boston. Hundreds of grads turned out for a reunion. OU lost 16-0.

ALUMNI RE-ORGANIZATION

Russell P. Herrold Leads Program

Russell P. Herrold, '16, succeeded Liggett in the president's chair at the October meeting of the Alumni Council. At this meeting President Baker told the group that the scholarships available to high school graduates would attract persons of character and ability and young men and women who desire higher education that need financial assistance.

The drive was a stimulant to the Alumni Association. Enthusiasm mounted and interest in the group's activities increased within the individual and the local chapters. At last, the association's members were realizing their potential as benefactors to their University.

It cost only $2,500 to set up an annual scholarship in perpetuity at Ohio U., but in many other schools it would take close to $15,000 to give a student comparable annual assistance. Therefore, the dollars which rolled in steadily would be put to a greater use at OU.

It was announced that alumni memberships could be obtained to the Center. If an alum planned to use the facilities more than twice in one year, membership was $10. However, if he used it less than twice, a free guest card would be issued to him at his request. Those persons who contributed a gift of at least $100 to the OU Fund received a free membership. From its opening, the Center was to play an important role when a graduate returned to Athens.

Sesquicentennial Celebration

January 1, 1954—the start of Ohio University's 150th year as an institution of higher learning. The First University in the Northwest Territory was preparing to celebrate its Sesquicentennial year and its alumni were to play an important role.

During this time, the McGuffey elms, a tradition of OU, were slowly being killed by the Dutch elm disease and phloem necrosis. Already nine of the 18 trees planted by McGuffey, a former president of the school, had been felled. The remaining nine were expected to be taken down within the next two or three years. All efforts to save the trees were to no avail.

Salvageable sections of the trees were being made into mementos such as plaques and gavals. Parts of the elms became rustic log benches on the portico which adjoins the Frontier Room of the Center.

Founders Day was celebrated the weekend of February 18-21. A highlight of the celebration was the official dedication of the OU Center. A dream had come true.

Robert McCreanor left the position of editor of the Alumnus to assume another job in industry. He had done an excellent job in his position and had proved very valuable in his part toward achieving the goal for the scholarship fund campaign. David Keller, '50, was chosen to succeed McCreanor.
Commencement weekend rolled around and the largest number of alumni ever to attend the activities returned. The weekend schedule was full of activities.

During the activities, honorary degrees were conferred for the first time in 20 years, 14 received the Certificate of Merit and seven received honorary memberships into the Alumni Association.

However, the highlight of the entire weekend was the presentation of the Alumni Sesquicentennial Scholarship Fund. The alumni more than doubled their goal—$364,724.74 was presented to President Baker by Mr. Johnson, the drive's chairman.

Upon receipt of the gift, Baker exclaimed, "This is a great day for Ohio University."

Johnson said, "From now on out, as long as there is a United States, a state of Ohio, and an Ohio University, worthy boys and girls will have an opportunity to get an education."

It was then decided to continue the drive until the end of 1954.

**Martin L. Hecht Becomes Secretary**

Clark E. Williams, alumni secretary for more than 32 years, resigned his post to assume the position of Director of Admissions. However, Marty Hecht, assistant secretary, was ready to pick up where Williams left off.

The University started the 1954-55 school year with the largest freshman class in its history. There were also more girls enrolled than ever before. The large group of students turned out in force to greet the many alumni who returned for the 1954 Homecoming. Throughout the entire weekend, the Sesquicentennial theme was carried out.

At the close of 1954, $390,523 had been raised toward the scholarship fund. More than 3,788 persons had contributed to the cause. This tremendous effort, directed by Prof. Gübitz, drew the following conclusion from those who administering to the daily need of the campus:

"Rather than marking the end of a project in which support has been displayed so magnificently, the Scholarship campaign may in effect launch a new era of loyalty in which gifts might take the form of bequests, stocks or property."

A fitting conclusion to the glorious chapter which marks the drive in the Alumni Associations history were found in the words of President Baker in the brochure announcing the drive:

"The enthusiastic support given by you alumni (and friends) to the Sesquicentennial Scholarship gift proposal of the Alumni Council is not surprising to me. It is characteristic of your interest in all phases of work at Ohio University. The scholarship fund will bear permanent witness to your love for your alma mater and in addition help worthy students for an indefinite period of time. I cannot commend this project too highly to you or thank you adequately for your support.

The organization was growing and plans were being made by the officers to reorganize once again. This action was necessary, in the minds of the leaders, to tie the local groups into one unit.

The new program was officially launched on October 14, 1955 when twelve members of the Alumni Board of Directors headed by Mr. Herrold, met at Ohio University. At this meeting, they decided that the Board of Directors would be increased to 33 members divided into six classes:
Elected Directors: Twelve directors selected by the Association members on Alumni Day (day preceding Commencement Day). Four will be named to three year terms in 1955, four for two year terms and four for one year terms. In the future, four will be elected for terms of three years.

Directors Representing Councils: Three directors will be appointed every second year, one each by the chairman of Alumnae Council, chairman of Class Secretaries Council and the chairman of Alumni Varsity Board Council.

Directors Representing Clubs: Ten directors will be elected by the club presidents in March, April and May every second year with one director being elected from each of the ten districts geographically determined by the Board of Directors.

Directors Representing the University and OU Fund: Two directors will be selected every second year, one each by the president of Ohio University and the president of the OU Fund.

Directors as Officers: Four directors will be the Association officers elected by the Board.

Ex-Officio Directors: The last retiring president of the Association will be a member for one year as will the editor of the Alumnus during his term of office.

Other responsibilities that were invested in the Board of Directors as the governing body of the Alumni Association were: the Board of Directors should meet at least three times a year, make arrangements for Alumni Day and other gatherings of OU alumni; maintain a service to handle such alumni projects as class mailings, dinners, reunions, maintain an Alumni headquarters; assure publication of the alumni magazine, and plan, organize and develop clubs, boards, councils and other Alumni Association units.

Other divisions of the Alumni Association and their duties follow:

Class Secretaries Council: At the June 1955 reunion, the alumni began their program of class organization. It is hoped that the plan will be completely underway by 1960 when 40 classes will have been organized.

Each class, when it assembles at its regular reunion, elects a class secretary who becomes a member of the Class Secretaries Council. The function of this group is to develop class reunions and class gift projects, whereby each class is able to donate a gift to the University at its reunion every five years.

Alumnae Council: During the last two decades, women's clubs have progressed to the point where they now constitute one of the most active phases of the Association. Therefore, the Alumnae Council was adopted. It consists of the presidents of all Women's Clubs and one woman from each chapter where one organization exists for both men and women.

Varsity Board: This group's main mission is to do follow-up work on prospective students who are outstanding athletically and academically and who meet the standards of the University and the Athletic Department. A chairman is appointed by the Association in any area where the Alumni Varsity Board is desired. He in turn selects his Board members in that city and serves as member of the Varsity Board Council.

Alumni Clubs: Area alumni chapters continue to be the backbone of the Association. The success of the entire alumni program depends upon the active participation of each chapter.

In the fall of 1955, a few alumni chapters reorganized or were founded throughout the United States. The Southern California chapter reorganized at a dinner meeting in October of this year while the Tampa, Florida chapter came into existence two months later.

The Alumni Board decided to raise the dues to $4 in 1956. "Even with the University contributing 78.4% of the total budget, the Association cannot operate in the black at the $3.50 membership fee level."

Clark E. Williams compiled his list of alumni, faculty, and trustees serving in all of the nation's wars since the French and Indian up to December 31, 1954. The roster included 10,924 names.

PERIOD OF SOLVENCY

Edwin L. Kennedy Takes Presidency

In June of 1956 Edwin L. Kennedy, '27, became president of the Alumni Association. During the two years of his tenure, the reorganization plan was to be continued, the Association was to become solvent for the first time, and many other innovations were to become important phases of alumni activity.

Heading the list was the Honor Membership Plan, introduced at the 1956 Alumni Luncheon by Board Member Dr. Stanley Doughan of Palm Springs, California. It found immediate endorsement among the more than 300 members present.

The plan, suggested by President John C. Baker and organized by the Board of Directors, assured a financial stable, active Alumni Association in years to come.

The Honor Membership Plan was a program which conferred honor membership upon those persons in whose families $100 has been contributed for that purpose. The honor membership remains in perpetuity and is recorded as a life membership in the Alumni Association.

Each honor member of the association receives a lifetime subscription to the Alumnus Magazine, annual reports and yearly copies of the President's annual report on all phases of Ohio University administration. Contributions can be made in the name of the donor or in the name of the person of his choice.

By the end of June, 1956, twenty-five honor memberships were paid in full and five were in invoice for $100 as instructed by the donors and four established under deferred payment. By November of the same year, this number increased to 39 and by June 8, 1958, the number of honor memberships had risen to 323.

Also initiated as chapters of the Alumni Association in 1956 were Honolulu, Hawaii, Perry County, Pickaway County and Philadelphia. OU's Sammy Kaye donated his "Swing and Sway" Orchestra for the New York alumni meeting on May 1, 1957. Bandleader Kaye also donated $2,500 to the sesquicentennial scholarship fund.

Alumni Day, 1957 saw the presentation of two surprise awards in the name of Dr. Rush Elliott. Two $2,500 perpetual scholarships were given by Dr. Charles W. Stertzbach '37, who represented the 42 physicians who contributed to the fund drive since it started in 1954. All 42 physicians had studied under Dr. Elliott.

The Harvard football game in 1957 provided an occasion for the gathering of the East Coast alumni on October 12. The group met on two occasions during the course of the weekend, once for luncheon in the Harvard Business School Faculty Club and dinner at Boston's Harvard Club. About 175 OU alumni showed up for the game in Cambridge.
And not too long after this, a new coach was introduced to the campus again. Bill Hess, an OU grad, was on his way touring the seven larger Ohio cities during the winter months. Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Youngstown, Canton, Springfield, Dayton were his destinations.

The Alumni Association Today

Dwight H. Rutherford, '26, was elected president of the Alumni Association and plans to continue building the ranks of Honor Members were announced by the Board of Directors.

On June 7, 1958, the Helen Mauck Galbreath Memorial Chapel, presented to Ohio University by the John W. Galbreath family, was dedicated. The beautiful interdenominational chapel was dedicated to the memory of Helen Mauck Galbreath, a graduate of 1919, who died in 1946.

Mr. Galbreath, also a 1919 graduate, had been active for many years in alumni affairs and as a member of the University's board of trustees. The chapel, located between Memorial Chapel and Ellis Hall, was the largest single donation ever made to the University. Joining the prominent real estate man in making the donation were his daughter, Mrs. J. Wallace Phillips (Joan Galbreath, '46), and her husband, and Mr. Galbreath's son, Daniel, and his wife.

Another event of the 1958 June Commencement Weekend was the inauguration of the Thomas Ewing Society.

Its purpose being to honor the people closely related to the Association, the Society is made up of past officers and former members of the Association's Board of Directors and its predecessor organization, the Executive Committee. The advisory group will formalize and periodically review the activity of the Association in relation to its service to alumni and Ohio University.

The first chairman of the society is Carr Liggett, "16", a past president of the alumni. 1959 saw the Alumni Association of Ohio University grow stronger and stronger as plans were made to observe the organization's 100th birthday.

Those close to the organization recognize the tremendous leap the Alumni Association has made—from a penniless group to solvency; from a small central association to a huge Alumni Association with 35 chapters.

Another example of this progressive movement—the Alumni. No longer are they late or in the red. The award-winning magazine now has its own editor compared to the times when the alumni secretary had to add this and other duties to his list.

It has taken 100 years, despite depressions, wars, and other disasters, to build the powerful group that goes by the name of Alumni Association of Ohio University.
Hon. A. G. Brown, '22
Joseph M. Goodspeed, '59
Hugh M. Lash, '69
Leonidas M. Jewett, '61
Evan J. Jones, Sr. '73
Charles Townsend, '56
Maggie Boyd, '73
Lillian E. Michael, '84
Dr. Thomas R. Biddle, '91
Lawrence G. Worstell, Sr., '88
Edwin D. Sayre, '77
Israel M. Foster, '95
Harry G. Stalder, '93
Thomas A. Jones, '81
John W. Dowd, '69
David H. Moore, '60
John T. Duff, '70
Dr. Thomas C. Iliff, '70
Samuel L. McCune, '96
John H. Beveridge, '97
Dr. Josephus T. Ullom, '98
Judge David H. Thomas, '96
James P. Wood, Jr. '03
Beverly O. Skinner, '12
Judge George W. Reed, '88
Dr. Anna Pearl McVay, '92
Dr. Hiram Roy Wilson, '96
Prof. Harry L. Redenour, '12
Samuel S. Shafer, '14
Prof. Frank B. Gullum, '07
Rhys D. Evans, '09
Prof. A. A. Atkinson, '91
G. Floyd Cooper, '15
William H. Scott, '62
John W. Galbreath, '20
Dr. William Frank Copeland, '02
Harlan J. Deckerson, '11
Grosvenor S. McKee, '16
Noble C. Shilt, '21
C. Don McVay, '15
George M. Brown, '31
The Rev. Don D. Tullis, '98
Frank H. Palmer, '12
Judge Lewis H. Miller, '13
Carr Liggett, '16
Russell P. Herrold, '16
Edwin L. Kennedy, '26
Dwight H. Rutherford, '26
SEVERAL MONTHS of research, writing, and re-writing lie behind the story of the Alumni Association's first 100 years. The authors, both Ohio University students, spent many long nights pouring over documents and notes from their interviews, but managed to meet the publication deadline.

A graduate student, John A. Lent received his BSJ in 1958 and has been a graduate assistant in human relations this year. He is a former sports editor of the OU Post, a three-year veteran of the varsity track and cross country teams, and a member of Kappa Tau Alpha and Sigma Delta Chi, journalism honor society. He had an Anchor Hocking Glass Corp. scholarship all four of his undergraduate years, graduating with honors. He plans to receive his master's degree next year.

Robert W. Moore received the BSJ degree this month, after an impressive record at Ohio University. A member of Beta Theta Pi, he served as sales manager of the Athena and 1958 chairman of J Prom, was selected as a member of J-Club, then tapped for ODK. He also has been active in intramural athletics. Beginning work toward a master's degree this fall, he also has received a graduate assistantship in human relations.—DNK

The authors wish to extend special appreciation to Clark E. Williams, Miss Anna Pearl McVay and Dr. L. J. Hartin for their invaluable assistance in the preparation of this history.