

# FRANKLIN DAVID MURPHY

## *Kansas '36*

### Oxford Cup Roll N° 026

Born in Kansas City, Mo., in 1916, Franklin David Murphy, *Kansas '36*, was president of Alpha Nu chapter in his senior year. He went to Germany on an exchange fellowship at the University of Gottingen for one year, returning to attend the University of Pennsylvania Medical School where he received his M.D. in 1941. In World War II, he was a captain in the Army Medical Corps, returning to Kansas City in 1946 to become a practicing cardiologist.

In 1948, he was appointed Dean of the University of Kansas Medical School at the age of 32. The next year he was named "One of Ten Outstanding Young Men" by the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce. Three years later, he was appointed Chancellor of the University of Kansas.

His administration at Kansas was happy but short. Six years later, he became Chancellor of the University of California at Los Angeles. He improved the UCLA campus beyond measure, planting it with unusual trees, adding 40 new buildings, seeing the student body grow from 20,000 to 30,000 and raising the University to "major scholarly distinction in worldwide terms."

In 1968, he became Chairman and CEO of the Los Angeles Times Mirror Group. He oversaw the company's growth and expansion into new fields. He was a founder of Los Angeles County Museum of Art at its current site, a trustee of the J. Paul Getty Trust, a trustee of the Ahmanson Foundation, a trustee of the Samuel H. Kress Foundation for more than 40 years, a director of Ford Motor Company and a director of The Bank of America.

He was chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., and on countless other boards, educational, medical and otherwise, where, according to the London England *Independent*, "his common sense, creative genius and unerring eye for the right person for the job were valued."

Upon his death at age 78 in Los Angeles on June 16, 1994, he left surviving his beloved wife Judith Harris Murphy, one son and three daughters. Obituaries in the great newspapers of America from Los Angeles to New York praised Murphy as one of the nation's most distinguished leaders. Nicholas Barker in the London *Independent* may have said it best:

"Murphy received honors and decorations at home and abroad, among them no less than 17 honorary doctorates . . . This catalogue of distinction, however, gives us no idea of the vitality and individuality of his character . . . Life to him, with him, was always full of color. His door was open to anyone with a new idea, a hopeful enterprise. He would listen, utter a few warm words, make a short telephone call, and 'lo, the job was done. He was a wonderful talker, as well as a good listener, and no one who heard him will forget the liveliness, the pungent phrases of his conversation. He was not a big man, but he seemed to fill any room with his expressive features and the warmth and magnetism of his personality."

*Lyman Field, Kansas '36*