

LEE B. THOMPSON, SR. ***Oklahoma '25*** **Oxford Cup Roll N° 025**

Lee and his twin brother, Ralph Gordon Thompson, were born at Miami, Indian Territory, March 2, 1902, just 13 years after the Oklahoma Territory was opened for settlement and five years before it gained statehood. In the Beta chapter, founded almost simultaneously with statehood, Lee and Ralph became Numbers 227 and 226, respectively, on the chapter roll. And at 92, Lee was still driving 30 miles each spring from Oklahoma City to the campus to present the year's outstanding Pledge Award.

From this and other evidence of loyalty, there was little surprise that Lee made the single largest gift to the building of the new Beta Foundation and Administrative Office in Oxford.

His Beta service included chapter secretary, treasurer and vice president. A Convention delegate in 1925, he was elected a Convention vice president. He was a district chief 1935-42 and president of the 1942 Convention. He was elected vice president and trustee of Beta Theta Pi in 1945. He died July 22, 1994. His identical twin, Ralph, had died March 3, 1934.

Lee Thompson was student body president at the University of Oklahoma, which gave him its Gold Letzeiser Medal as outstanding senior man for leadership and scholarship plus its Brown Derby Award as the student who contributed the most to the University at greatest personal sacrifice. After graduation from the University's College of Law, he began a law career in Oklahoma City and in 1928 married Elaine Bizzell, daughter of University of Oklahoma President William B. Bizzell. They became parents of Lee B. Thompson, Jr., *Oklahoma '54*, Enid Okla., a former district chief, Beta vice president and trustee 1976-79; Carolyn Elaine (Mrs. Don T.) Zachritz and Judge Ralph G. Thompson, *Oklahoma '56*, and grandparents of Lee B. Thompson III, *Oklahoma '84*. Other Beta relatives also have included another brother, the late Wayman J. Thompson, *Oklahoma '27*, and a nephew, William Bizzell, Tulane '49.

At University of Oklahoma, he was the first sophomore in its Reserve Officers Training Corps to earn a 2nd lieutenant's commission. By 1940, he was a captain, then advancing to major in three months. He attended Command and General Staff School and was promoted to full colonel in 1943.

Lee was a special justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court in 1967-68 and over the years was secretary, general counsel and director of the Mustang Oil Company, deacon and life elder of the First Christian Church of Oklahoma City, a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow and a 33rd degree Mason.

He was a founding member of the Dean's Council of the University of Oklahoma College of Law and 1971 recipient of the University's Distinguished Service Citation, past president of the University's Memorial Student Union and 1982 recipient of its Greek Alumnus of the Year Award. He also was recognized in 1982 as Phi Beta Kappa of the Year.

Robert T. Howard, DePauw '37, Historian