

# Honorary Law Degree Awarded to President

By PHIL AUSTIN, '55

President Dwight D. Eisenhower became the first non-alumnus of the University to be awarded an honorary doctor's degree when he received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at commencement exercises on New Beaver Field this morning.

President Eisenhower, speaker at the commencement exercises, is the first person to receive an honorary degree since 1921.

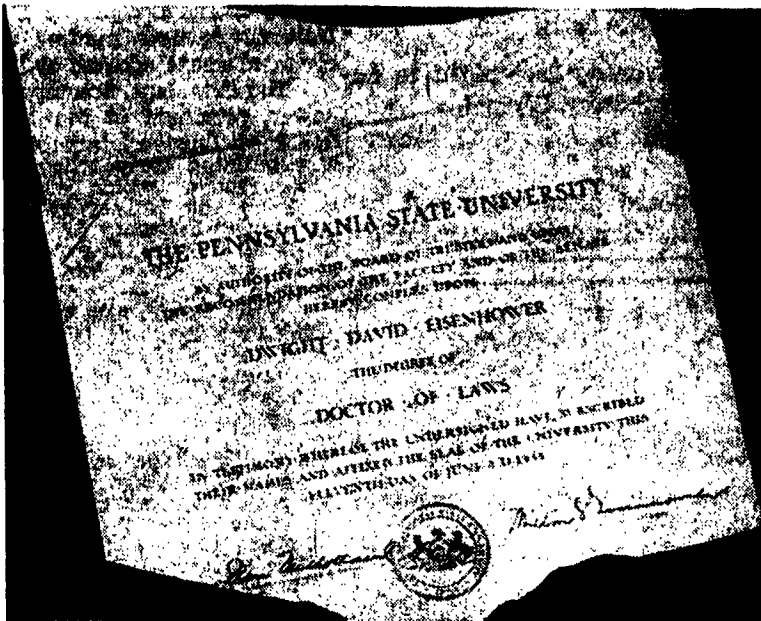
Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower, president of the University, conferred the degree upon his brother in a ceremony carried by five nationwide radio networks. The doctoral hood was placed on President Eisenhower's shoulders by Adrian O. Morse, University provost. The degree was conferred upon President Eisenhower before he delivered his address to the graduating class.

Only two honorary doctorates have been awarded in the past, both before 1909 to alumni who served on the University's faculty.

Both of these degrees were Doctor of Science degrees given to Professor William A. Buckhout, '68, the first head of the University's botany department in 1904, and Louis E. Reber, '30, the first dean of the School of Engineering, in 1908. Buckhout's degree was awarded as a surprise.

In January, 1911, eight Master of Arts and Master of Science degrees were awarded to graduates and eleven honorary certificates were conferred upon members of the first class to graduate from the University in 1861, on their fiftieth reunion.

At the same commencement, three other honorary Master of Arts degrees were also conferred.



DR. MILTON S. EISENHOWER presented his brother, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, with the above pictured honorary degree of Doctor of Laws at commencement exercises this morning. The President's diploma is of the same new type, a smaller size in a leather folder, as the University has adopted for all graduates. The degree is the first of its kind to be granted by the institution.

two upon non-graduates of the University. Judge George B. Or-lady, '68; George E. Alter, a speaker at the fiftieth reunion of the class of 1861; and Chang Yin Tang, Chinese Minister to the United States and commencement speaker.

According to the Department of Public Information the degrees awarded to Alter and Chang were the only two degrees previously granted to non-alumni.

Between 1911 and 1922, honorary masters' degrees and certificates were awarded to men of the classes of 1861 to 1872 returning to the University for their fiftieth reunions. The last such Master of Arts degree was conferred upon John Hamilton, '71, for many years treasurer of the University.

Since 1922, however, it has been the policy of the Board of Trustees not to grant honorary degrees.

## President's Visit Is Fourth to University

President Dwight D. Eisenhower's attendance at the 1955 commencement exercises marks his fourth visit to the University campus.

His first trip to the campus was in October, 1950, when he was president of Columbia University and was here for the inaugural ceremonies of his brother, Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower, as president of the University. In May, 1953, he visited his brother to golf, fish, and rest, and his last visit was last summer when he attended the funeral of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Milton S. Eisenhower.

# Rain Cause Of Concern For Weeks

Life magazine reported in its May 30 issue how the rains suddenly came to a thirsty town named Hobart in Western Oklahoma. But Life forgot to report in its June 13 issue how the rains came to Penn State.

The local druggist in Hobart had decided to seek the Supreme Being's help in ending a two-year drought. He had the at-first unwilling members of the town wear rain apparel as they prayed for water, to save their crops. The rains came.

A rumor has been circulating that the men in Old Main read Life's report of the moisture that fell on request from the Oklahoma skies. It was known these men were worried for Penn State was dry—that is, only .92 inches of rain had fallen during May.

The Farmer's Almanac, the stars, and even the weather man had been consulted to see whether the skies would be clear on June 11 for the President of the United States to give the Centennial commencement address in an outdoor ceremony.

It was quite clear to the higher-ups that if it didn't rain soon one could be sure of rain on June 11 and a limited indoor ceremony.

The rumor has it that a meeting was held in 203 Old Main, the President's office. What was decided at that meeting is not known. But, the rains came on Tuesday. They fell for three days and 2.81 inches flooded New Beaver Field where the ceremonies were to be held.

A partial sigh of relief could be heard emitting from Old Main. Could this mean the skies would be clear on Saturday?

The University's weather man refused to give a definite prediction at such an early date. But in order to help ease quite a few minds, he did say that another downpour was definitely not expected and it probably would not rain at all. The seniors should be quite comfortable in their academic gowns, he said, for it looked as if the temperatures would be in the 50's.

But, he cautioned, it was still too early to make a prediction.

## Many Degrees Show Growth Of Enrollment

Since the first commencement in 1861 through last January's mid-year graduation exercises, the University has granted 56,426 bachelor's and advanced degrees.

Men outnumber women as degree recipients by over four to one with men having received 43,725 and women 12,701. The first degree conferred on a coed was in 1873. When the University celebrated its half-century birthday, only 32 women had earned degrees. At last June's ceremony alone, 451 women were awarded diplomas.

The institution has awarded nearly 47,000 bachelor's degrees as compared to only about 9500 advanced diplomas. The first master's degree was conferred in 1863 and the first doctor of philosophy degree in 1926.

The growth of the University can be traced in the fact that through 1920 only 5227 degrees had been granted, and there have been over 50,000 since then. When the school celebrated its 25th anniversary, 109 degrees were granted, and when it was 50 years old, 887. Last June's commencement saw 1587 degrees conferred, with the record being at the June exercises in 1950 when 2204 diplomas were distributed.

At present there are four commencements—in June, the largest, at mid-term, and after each of two summer sessions.

## President's Arrival

(Continued from page one) outlets, nearly 70 reporters, and President would be. During his appearances on campus, plain photographers are expected to record the actions of the President for newspapers, radio, and television. The five major networks carried his commencement address and television cameramen recorded the event for later re-broadcasting. Eight teletype and three wire-photo machines will transmit proceedings out of University Park.

## Prexy Hails Bible—

(Continued from page one)

know its individual writings; the third is to know its revealing characters, he said. But only, he said, by combining these with the fourth way of tracing through the whole Scripture the development of its structural ideas, does one really know the Bible.

It is always possible, he said, to read and believe the Bible without discerning the great truth it contains.

**Searching Biblical Records**  
"In biblical records, the seeker finds himself in a world in which God Himself speaks, where men listen, where things happen," he said. "Studying the men of the Bible, he notes that they are concerned not with the intellectual construction of the Deity, but about knowing the mind of God and hearing the good news from God in the situation in which He has placed them."

He emphasized that one truth stands out clearly in the Bible—that events and movements must not be judged alone in the light of immediate failure or success, but in the light of their bearing upon future generations.

**God Acting in History**  
Dr. Eisenhower discussed the conception of God as a Supreme Being active in history, saying that the events of men and nations are not a meaningless whirl. They are, he said, the arena in which an everlasting purpose is at work.

In the New Testament, he said, this idea comes to us through the gospel of Christ who taught his disciples to pray: "Thy Kingdom come, they will be done on earth."

Dr. Eisenhower told the graduates that the Bible brings a message of the accountability of men to the ultimate authority of God. Only when men look up to a Divine purpose can they steer through the caprices of the moment toward a steady, supreme goal, he said.

**Emphasizes Dignity**  
Another lesson that the Bible teaches, he said, is its emphasis on the inherent dignity of the individual which Communism or totalitarianism denies.

"There is a divine dignity in every individual that no philosophy of materialism, however brutal or ruthless, can destroy," he said.

He told the students that everyone at one time or another has probably been puzzled by the Bible, often not knowing what to think about it. His solution to dispell this sense of uneasiness was for every man and woman to

really come to know the Bible by constantly studying and comprehending the glory of its message.

Rev. Luther Harshbarger, University chaplain, and the Chapel Choir participated in the service.

## Cornerstone—

(Continued from page one) tennial Booklet, Centennial Edition of LaVie (1955), Founders Roll of the Penn State Alumni Fund, copy of the Oct. 27, 1954, Alumni News, and a copy of the March, 1955, Alumni News.

The Rev. Luther H. Harshbarger, University Chaplain, will preside at the program and explain the purpose of the chapel. Rabbi Benjamin M. Kahn, Jewish chaplain to the University, will deliver the invocation, and Father John C. O'Leary, Roman Catholic chaplain to the University, the benediction.

## Address --

(Continued from page one)

ternational agency to control fissionable materials and the fact that Russia has spurned this. The offer still stands, he said, "but we cannot wait on Russian decisions."

Answering the question of atomic power as pertains to peace or war and the betterment of world society, President Eisenhower emphasized the need for a liberal and practical education program. He listed three difficulties in our present system: failure to provide it to sufficient numbers, lack of providing a broad citizenship aspect to those in many technical fields, and lack of a broad, liberating influence even in liberal educations.

The President's small plane landed at Philipsburg's Black Moshannon airport yesterday when wet weather made the use of the unpaved State College field unsafe. He is expected to leave at 2:30 p.m. today for his farm in Gettysburg.

## Statue Given to President



BRONZE REPLICA of the Nittany Lion was presented to President Dwight D. Eisenhower at commencement exercises on New Beaver Field this morning. The statue, which weighs 18½ pounds, was presented to President Eisen-

hower by John T. Ryan, president of the Penn State Alumni Association, at the conclusion of the President's commencement address. The statue was mounted on a marble base.

## Graduation—

(Continued from page one)

Dr. Eisenhower conferred degrees to the 1828 candidates from the nine colleges and The Graduate School. The student marshals who represented each college, accepted the diplomas in the name of the graduates.

The largest June graduating class to receive degrees was in 1950 when 2204 graduated.

**219 Receive Advanced Degrees**  
Two hundred and nineteen advanced degrees and 1404 bachelor degrees were presented by Dr. Eisenhower. Associate degrees were presented for the first time in the University's history to 205 candidates. One hundred and five of the candidates received their degree in drafting and design technology, 90 in electrical technology and 10 in secretarial science. All are two year courses offered at the University's centers throughout the state.

Scholastic honors were presented to five seniors following the conferring of degrees. The five were among 101 seniors who graduated with honors. Seniors receiving the awards were Carl McGrew, John White Medal; Alex Simkovich and Sidney Goldblatt, John W White fellowships; and Aurelia Arre and John Boyd, Evan Pugh Medals.

**Alma Mater Ends Program**  
After Dr. Eisenhower's charge to the graduates, the audience joined the graduates in singing the Alma Mater. The University Blue Band provided the music for the ceremonies.

An alternate commencement schedule had been planned for Recreation Hall in case of rain. Because of the limited seating capacity in Rec Hall, only two tickets were allowed each graduate for use in case the alternate plan was used.