

# 121st COMMENCEMENT

On a warm June 4 evening in Memorial Stadium, the University conducted its 121st annual Commencement and conferred a total of 2,042 degrees. These went to 1,526 June graduates and to 516 who completed requirements for a degree at mid-year. In addition, the University awarded honorary degrees to five men, including Governor John M. Dalton of Missouri, who gave the Commencement address. University President Elmer Ellis conferred the degrees. The governor reviewed recent steps taken in Missouri to meet the challenge of education in the Space Age, and he portrayed the state as one of much promise for graduates starting their careers.

Other recipients of honorary degrees were Joyce C. Hall of Kansas City, founder and president of Hallmark Cards, Inc.; James W. McAfee of St. Louis, president of Union Electric Company; Dr. Fred N. Briggs, dean of agriculture at the University of California; and Dr. Charles S. Singleton, professor of humanistic studies at Johns Hopkins University.

The University Alumni Association's Distinguished Faculty Award was presented to Dr. Raymond A. Schroeder, professor of horticulture; and the Association's Distinguished Service Award went to Umematsu Watada, Honolulu, Hawaii. The presentations were made by Edward W. Sowers of Rolla, retiring national president of the Association.

Seven faculty members were granted emeritus titles upon retirement. They are Dr. Cecil Elder, professor of veterinary pathology; Dr. Elliot B. Scherr, associate professor of Spanish; Dr. Allen E. Stearn, professor of chemistry; Dr. Ralph K. Watkins, professor of education; E. S. Matteson, extension professor of animal husbandry; Gordon B. Nance, professor of agricultural economics; and Miss Amy Kelly, professor of extension education.

James A. Finch, Jr., president of the Board of Curators, reported that gifts and grants to the University totalled more than five million dollars during the last year, an increase of almost two million dollars.

Speaking on "Missouri and Mortarboards," Governor Dalton told the graduates:

"The general welfare of Missouri and Missourians, and the cultural and economic progress of the state in the years to come, will depend in great measure upon the percentage of our young people who enter college and eventually earn the right to wear the mortarboard signifying college graduation."

Governor Dalton stressed the importance of higher education and brainpower in adjusting to "this not entirely welcome explosion of technology"—the Space Age.

"We have been doing something about it in Missouri," he said. "Not enough. But we have made a

beginning. The state has, since 1955, appropriated 56 million dollars for new buildings in trying to prepare for the impending horde of college students.

"Another indication of our new awareness of need comes in comparing the appropriations for operating our state colleges and universities. The total in eight years has gone from 30 millions to 95 millions.

"In 1961, a new junior college law was enacted, making possible the creation of new junior college districts and providing state financial assistance to them.

"The General Assembly has, within the past few weeks, taken important steps to enable the University to expand its services in the St. Louis area. Another tremendous development which has taken place recently has been the merging of the University of Kansas City into the state university system.

"In the current legislative session, we have prepared the way for expansion and better support in our college and university systems by adding a penny to the sales tax. This will finance our immediate needs in higher education, plus scientific attack upon the problem of mental health treatment and the establishment of the University's two new metropolitan campuses.

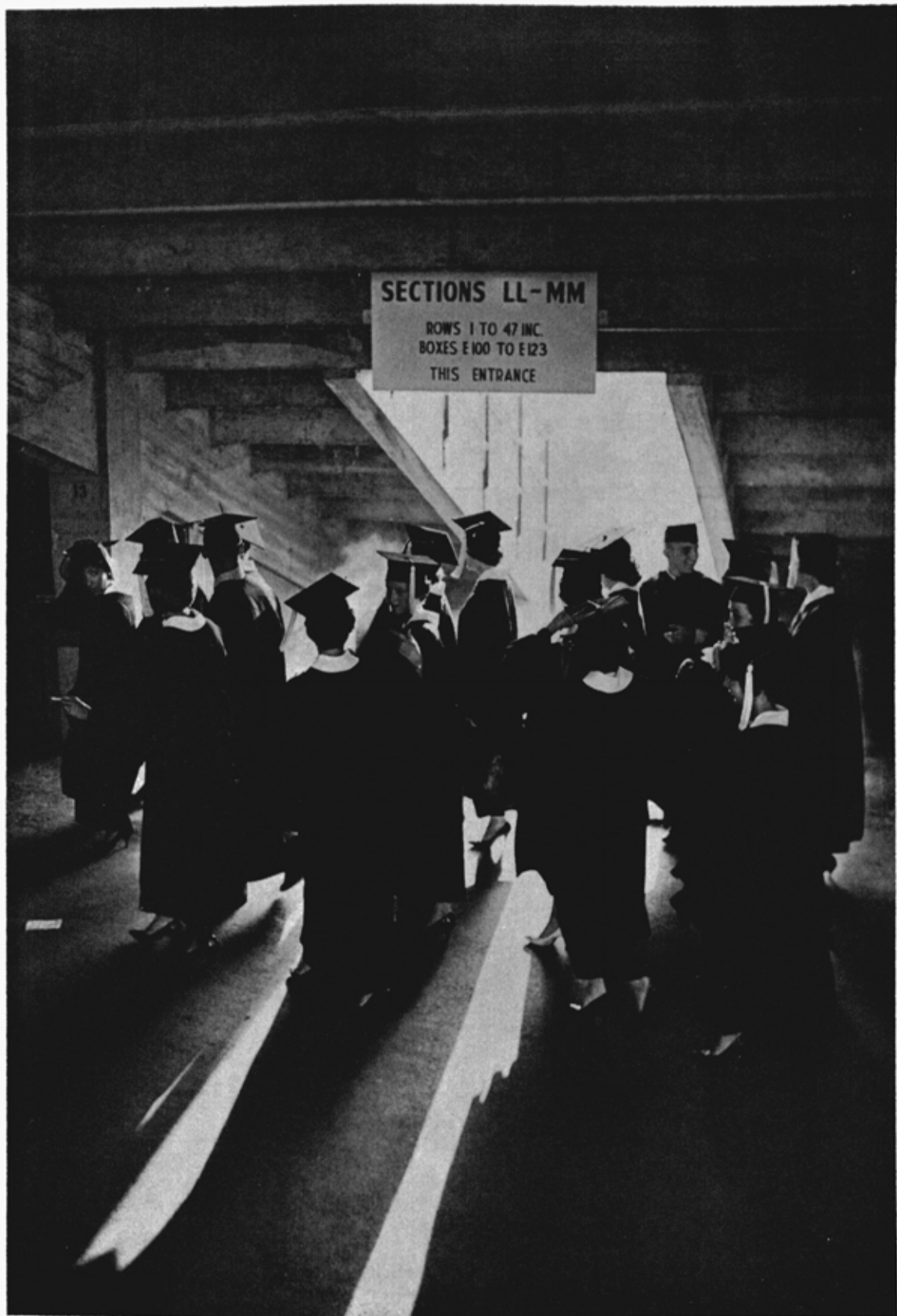
"So, we are making important advancement. And I am proud of the way the people of Missouri have understood and responded to the state's needs."

Discussing the graduates' future, the governor said:

"Missouri, having contributed something to your status as educated men and women, asks nothing in return and hopes only that you will earn for yourselves the greatest measure of success and honor wherever you can best attain them; that you will assume the responsibilities of service and leadership for which you have been trained in whatever place in this world you are called by duty or desire.

"I hope you will permit me to make a case for Missouri as a land of hope and promise. Some of you, certainly, look forward to a future of urban living. Missouri gives you a choice of two great metropolitan cities. Missouri has just come into new prominence as No. 2 among the fifty states in manufacturing for the space program and it would be hard to find a more difficult test for skill and adequacy in production. Since we were already No. 2 in automobile production, in addition to our prominent position in such industries as chemicals and shoes, it is not difficult to see that Missouri's position as the great industrial state of the Missouri Valley is steadily brightening.

"If your goal, on the other hand, is rural life, Missouri offers you much. Agriculture is a billion-dollar industry in this state. The future of Missouri agriculture is bright and will grow steadily brighter for the technically trained farmer."

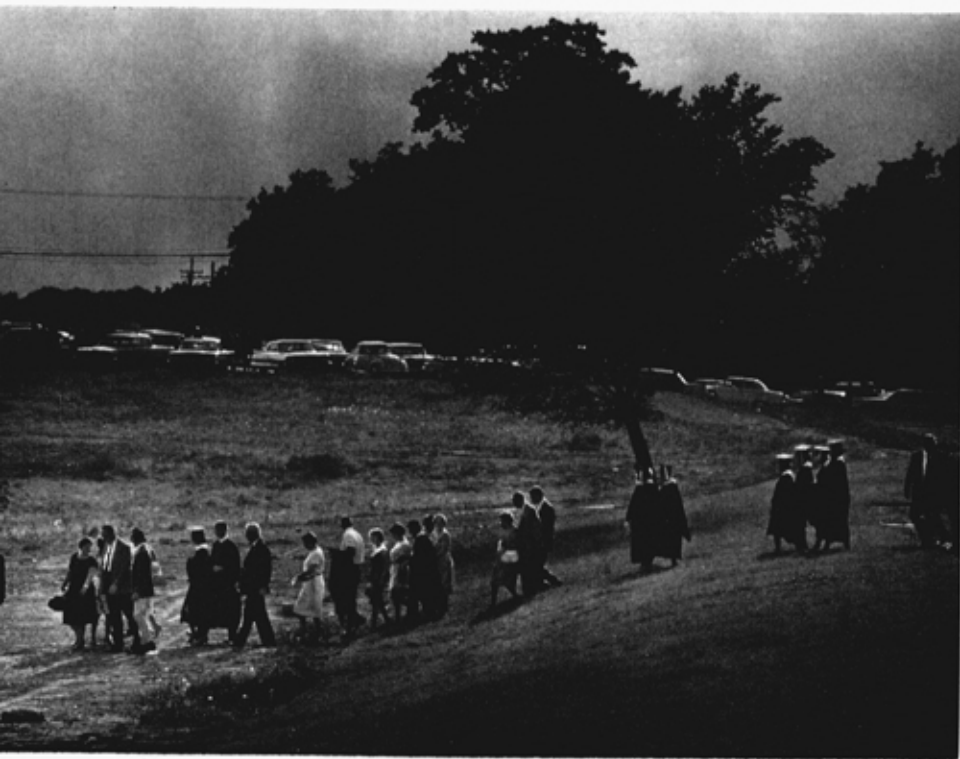


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continued



*That look into the future.*



*Over hill and dale, graduates and relatives wend their way toward Stadium.*





*Our cover girl glances back.*



*This was the Commencement scene, 1963.*



*The Commencement speaker, Governor John M. Dalton, an M. U. alumnus and honorary degree recipient.*

Photos by George W. Gardner