



Commencement '57

It was a day like all June Commencement days, it seems—hot and humid. The graduates who assembled in the basement of Jesse Hall for the Academic Procession waited till the last possible moment to don the flowing robes. The wiser ones chose the lightest apparel to wear underneath, and rare was the male graduate who braved the added discomfort of a coat.

The march around the Columns, across Lowry and down Hitt Street to Brewer Field House was at a lively clip, and still it consumed more than an hour, for the line was made up of approximately 1,700 candidates, a near record. Once inside the Field House, the heat was on in earnest. Between four and five thousand persons were there, and all who had the strength used the thick programs as fans. By contrast, a few hundred spectators enjoyed the comfort of the Student Union lounge to watch the ceremonies on KOMU-TV, which telecast the entire program to the Central Missouri viewing area.

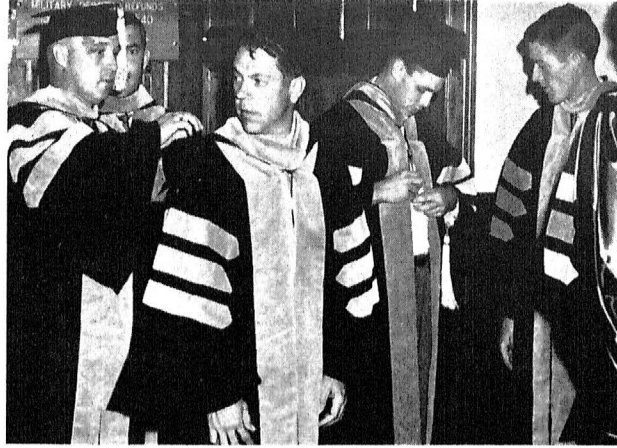
The 115th annual Commencement, in addition to producing the third largest graduating class in the University's history, was also notable for the first M.D. degrees conferred in nearly half a century. Twenty-one new doctors made up the first class graduated since the School of Medicine again became a four-year school.

Two distinguished graduates of the University were among four noted persons receiving honorary degrees. They were Dr. Roy Glen Spurling, native Missourian, outstanding leader in the field of neurosurgery and eminent surgeon of world renown; and Dr. Lewis Knudson, plant physiologist, renowned for research in

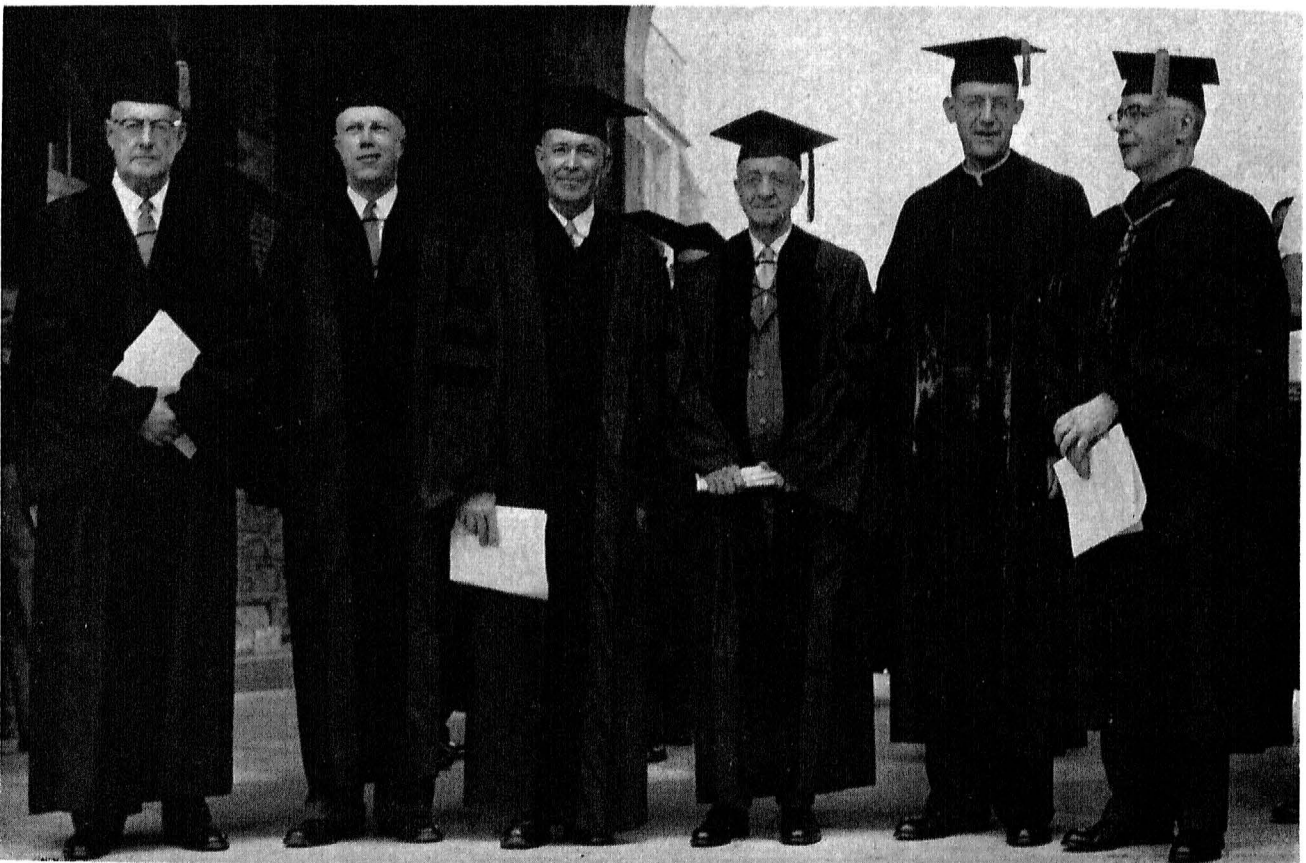
various fields of plant growth. Dr. Spurling (a brother of Virgil Spurling of the University staff) is clinical Professor of Neurosurgery in the School of Medicine, University of Louisville; and Dr. Knudson is head of the Department of Botany at Cornell University. Both received Doctor of Science degrees. Other recipients were Chancellor Ethan A. H. Shepley of Washington University, St. Louis, who delivered the Commencement address; and The Very Rev. Paul Clare Reinert, S.J., president of St. Louis University, noted churchman and scholar, both of whom received the Doctor of Laws degree. Chancellor Shepley's address, "Understanding and Eternal Vigilance," begins on page ten.

At the Commencement, the University also granted emeritus titles to five members of its staff, whose pictures and biographical sketches appeared in the previous issue of the *Alumnus*.

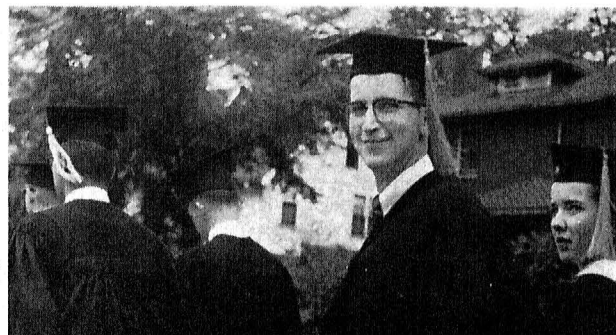
Other Commencement program features included introductions, announcement of prizes and honors, and conferring of degrees by President Elmer Ellis; announcement of gifts and grants-in-aid by James A. Finch, Jr., president of the Board of Curators; granting of commissions in the Armed Forces; welcome to graduates and posthumous presentation of the Alumni Distinguished Service Award to Robert E. L. Hill of Columbia by Dutton Brookfield, retiring president of the Alumni Association; and music by Perry G. Parrigan, University organist; the University Concert Band, conducted by George C. Wilson; and audience singing of the National Anthem, led by Herbert Bingham Gould, professor of voice.



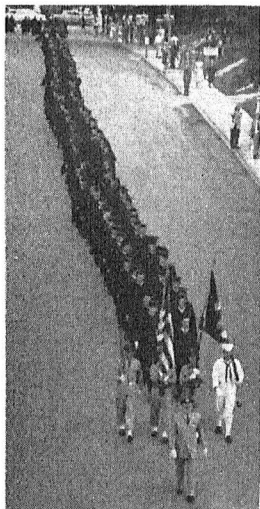
Mutual assistance among D.V.M's



Chancellor Ethan A. H. Shepley, James A. Finch, Jr., Dr. R. Glen Spurling, Dr. Lewis Knudson, The Very Rev. Paul Clare Reinert, S.J., and President Elmer Ellis.



A day for beaming with pride.

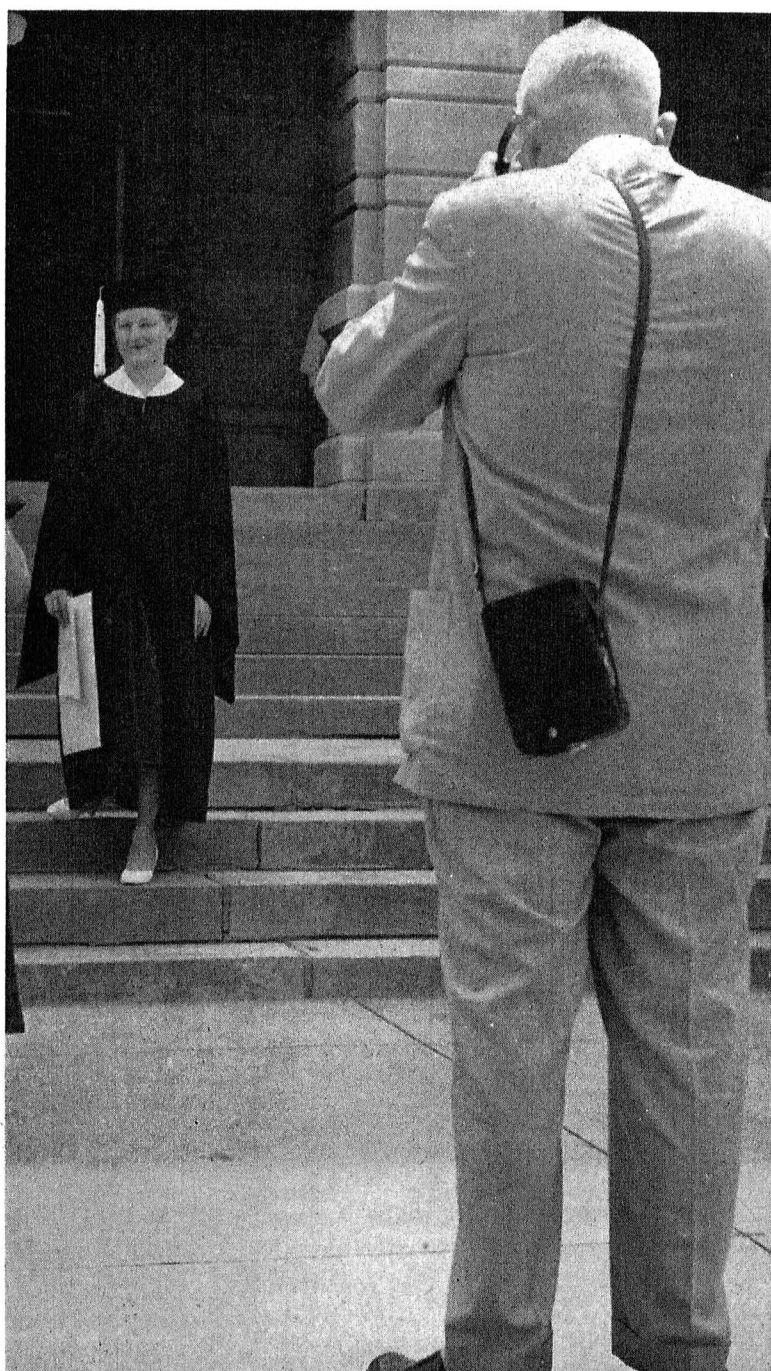


Commencement '57
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A snapshot for the memory book.



*After the exercises, a
cooling-off period.*





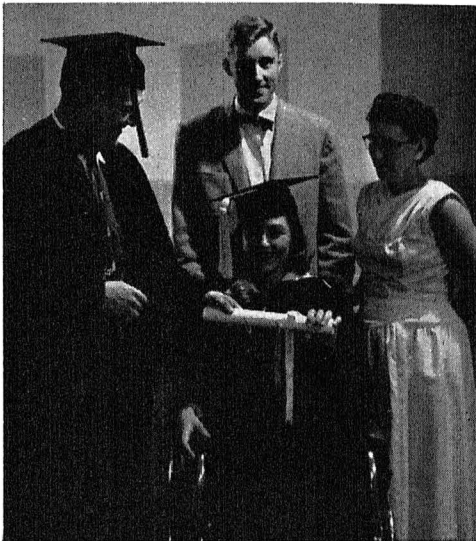
As their families look on, the candidates file into Brewer Field House.



*Commencement '57
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Medics choose busy corner for picture-taking.



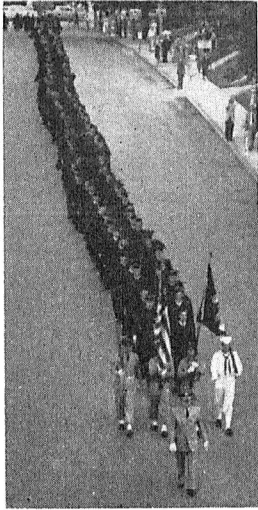
Betty Dee Peterson, temporarily hospitalized, has private graduation ceremonies as mother and fiance look on.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Klausing are happy about his A.M., but daughter Melissa is indifferent.



Family photographers have a field day after Commencement.



Commencement '57
continued

it was hot . . .



HONORARY DEGREES

The University chose three prominent educators and a noted surgeon as recipients of honorary doctorate degrees at the 115th annual Commencement exercises on June 8.

They are Ethan A. H. Shepley, Chancellor of Washington University, and The Very Rev. Paul Clare Reinert, S.J., President of St. Louis University, who received Doctor of Science degrees, con-Dr. Lewis Knudson, head of the Department of Botany at Cornell University, and Dr. Roy Glen Spurling, neurosurgeon of Louisville, Ky., alumni who received Doctor of Science degrees, conferred by University President Elmer Ellis. The citations said in part:

To Chancellor Shepley: "He has contributed greatly to the welfare of St. Louis and the State of Missouri, not only by his business and professional activities, but also by his civic leadership . . . and as a member of the Missouri State Constitutional Convention. . . . As a member of the Board of Civic

Progress, Inc., he has played a leading part in one of the most significant civic movements in the country. . . . The University honors him today for his vision, his leadership and his understanding of the needs of higher education in this State."

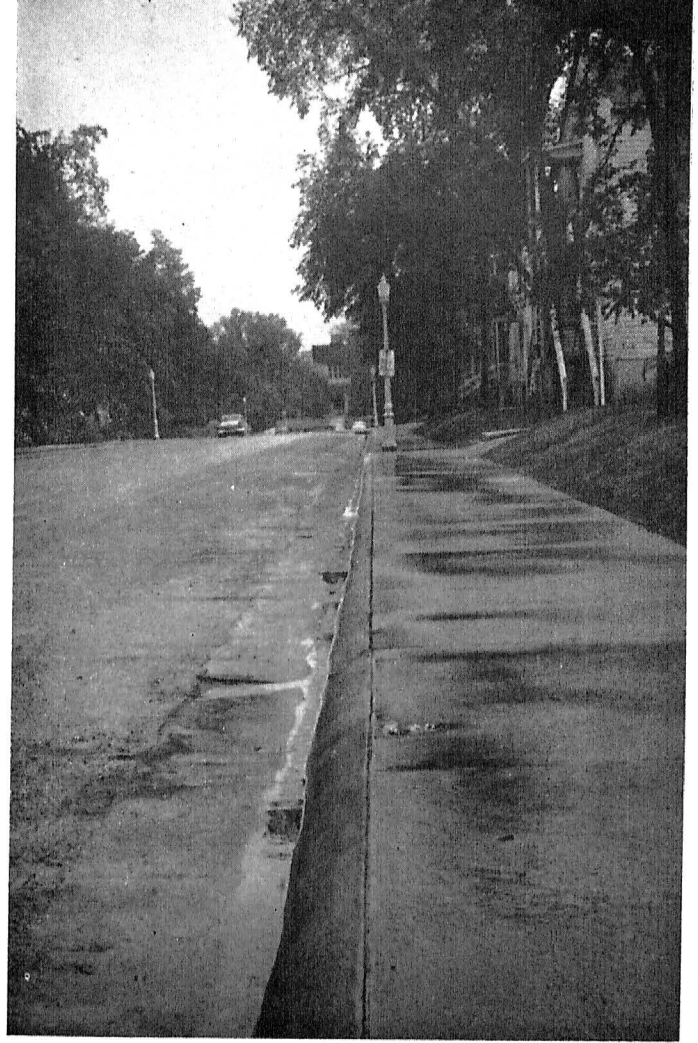
To Father Reinert: "By his educational leadership on the national scene, in the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, in the American Council on Education, in several Catholic educational associations . . . as well as his assistance to higher education in Missouri as head of one of our great universities, and, most significantly, perhaps, by his part in bringing to this State the incomparable Vatican Microfilm collection, he has made distinguished contributions to American Education and to the welfare of this State."

To Dr. Knudson: "In Spain and in the United States his work in teaching

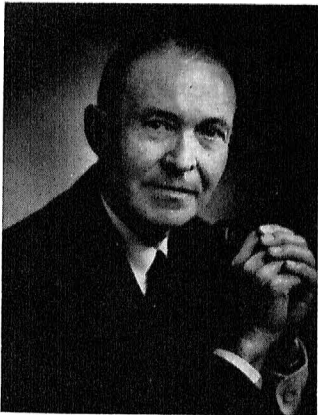
and research has brought credit to his Alma Mater and to his own name. His researches in fermentation, in enzyme production, organic nutrition of plants, the germination of orchid seeds, symbiosis, banana diseases, x-rays and neutrons, chloroplasts, and native plants as sources of rubber, have brought him recognition in the world of science and membership in many learned and honorary societies."

To Dr. Spurling: "As clinical Professor of Neuro-surgery in the School of Medicine of the University of Louisville, he stands as one of the most eminent leaders in this field. His well-known service during the war . . . his membership in honorary status of leading American, British and French societies and his authorship of the authoritative works in this, one of the most difficult surgical fields, and his position as chairman of the editorial board of the Journal of Neurosurgery, all attest to his outstanding achievement in this field."

*and
shortly
very
lonely*



Deserted Hitt Street the day after Commencement.



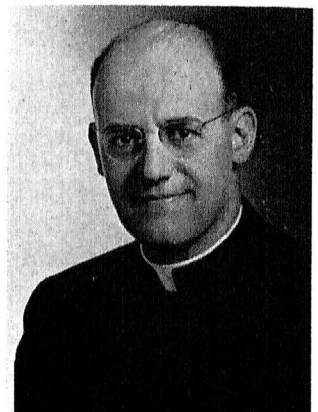
Dr. R. Glen Spurling



Ethan A. H. Shepley



Dr. Lewis Knudson



Fr. Paul Clare Reinert