HISTORY OF "OLE MISS"

Across the river at Oxford, "Ole Miss" has had a record of trouble. Rootin' tootin' Gov. Theodore Bilbo, an archsegregationist, began putting his cronies into high position long before integration was a gleam in a Supreme Court Justice's eye. In 1936-37 some professors left when right wing students started making tape recordings of their lectures; claimed that profs who explained social reforms were Communists. Later came attempt at integration. James H. Meredith is not the first Negro to make the try. First was a minister from the Gulf Coast who tried to matriculate around 1933. Next day he disappeared, was found dead of a heart attack. Next integrator was a Negro professor who rode on a bus up to Oxford. He didn't know that on the bus were state troopers in civilian clothes. He also disappeared, was found in the Whitfield, Miss., mental hospital. Ole Miss was founded in 1838 when Albert Gallatin Brown was governor. A friend of Confederate President Jeff Davis, Brown at first thought Davis was too soft on Negroes but ended up by urging that Mississippi accept integration. No county in Mississippi is now named for him. Ols Miss standards must be higher than some critics claim, for, according to the late Sen. Bilbo, it kept ex-Gov. Hugh White in the status of a freshman for four years.