

1971-72

All-American Family



Oklahomans have always boasted of a history rich with well-known, friendly and respected people. This year they can claim the 1971 All-American Family, the Edmond Synars of Muskogee, who believe strongly in the youth of America and the importance of youth leadership.

The Synars won the All-American Family Search National Grand Finals held August 5-14 at Lehigh Acres, Florida. They were among 51 families from 50 states and the District of Columbia who participated in a series of panel discussions, forums and interviews with judges. The activities were designed to select the most representative family in the nation.

The families were interviewed five times and questioned on every phase of family living. They participated in forums on such subjects as drugs, family problems and premarital sex.

Among nationally known judges participating were Dr. Joyce Brothers, psychologist and columnist; Betty Wadsworth, food editor of the Ladies' Home Journal; Dr. Sterling W. Brown, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and Sam Jaffe, author and former roving TV correspondent.

In addition to winning a distinctive title, the Synars won a \$30,000 Lehigh Acres Vacation Villa, a 1972 Dodge, a U.S. Savings Bond and a Grolier Library.

In answering some of the questions for the All-American Family Search Committee, Edmond Synar stated that his family had "deep and sincere knowledge of those principles that assure responsible Christian citizenship. We understand and believe in the competitive American free enterprise system that made our country great."

Synar and his wife, Virginia, are both college graduates. They have three children, Michael, 20, Edwyna, 18, and Alan, 16.

Synar, an active member of the the OU Dads' Association, is a successful cattle rancher and real estate broker, president of the Eastern Oklahoma Land and Cattle Company, a member of the board of directors of the Commercial Bank and Trust Company of Muskogee and active in numerous other organizations.

"We have kept in mind and practiced those things we believe that are right with America. We believe strongly in the youth of America and have worked continuously with 4-H Club boys and girls, Boy Scouts

and Girl Scouts and all phases of youth activities to set examples of leadership that will build the kind of men and women that can successfully guide this country and preserve the liberty and freedom we all cherish," Synar explained.

Virginia Synar is secretary of the OU Mothers' Association, an active member of the Alumnae Council and secretary-treasurer of the state Beta Theta Pi Moms' Association. In addition to her duties as a housewife and homemaker, Mrs. Synar is a full-time bridge instructor at the Young Women's Christian Association and a member of both the Guild and the Altar Society of Grace Episcopal Church.

Mike is a senior at the University of Oklahoma with an accounting-finance double major. A member of Beta Theta Pi social fraternity, he is Dad's Day chairman and executive coordinator of the University of Oklahoma Student Association. He has served as chairman of the Student Congress and was one of the Top 10 Freshmen. He was the outstanding 4-H boy in the U.S. as a freshman and was elected to the Oklahoma 4-H Club Hall of Fame.

Mike feels the contest is a worthwhile idea. "Family living is the backbone of society. There is a great need for a family to be active in the community, state and nation. Family involvement plays an important part in the future of a young person. An active young person can also help a parent better understand his role and duties in society and to his family," Mike stated.

"For a family to be close and understand one another there must be a good communication level within the family. Our family works together well because each member is considered an individual. We have separate interests, yet we manage to share them," added Mike.

Edwyna is a freshman at Oklahoma State University and plans to major in business administration and law. She was selected as one of the 10 most outstanding 4-H Club girls in Oklahoma in 1970, as 1971 Miss Teenager of Muskogee when a senior and as outstanding Teenager of America in 1971.

A junior at Muskogee High School, Alan is an honor student and active in many student organizations including the Student Council and 4-H Club. He plans to attend OU upon graduation.