

Greater interest than usual attended the luncheon of the College Women's club of El Paso when celebrities representing Mexico and the United States were host, and when two distinguished Oklahomans were present, one as hostess for the evening in the person of Alice Hurley Mackey, '16 arts-sc., president of the club, and the other her brother, Patrick J. Hurley, secretary of war. Mr and Mrs Clifton Mackey have since removed to their old home in Tulsa



## Honoring the Hurleys

BY FRANCES ROSSER BROWN, '21

ONE of the most unusual occasions in the history of the American Association of University Women occurred in El Paso, Texas, in June when Mrs Clinton M. Mackey (Alice Hurley, '16) president of the El Paso branch of the association, presided at a civic banquet at which her brother, Patrick Hurley, secretary of war, was guest of honor.

The College Woman's club, El Paso branch, was host on that evening to as brilliant an international assemblage as has ever been seen in the border city. Among the distinguished guests were the heads of the International Boundary Commission of the United States and Mexico, members of the consular service of both countries, generals and other army officers from both countries, and civic and professional leaders from both El Paso and Juarez. Beautifully gowned women, formally dressed and uniformed men guests, with the patriotic decorations and martial music, made the banquet in the secretary's honor a colorful one. The affair took place in the ballroom of the Hotel Paso del Norte. Back of the secretary's chair hung the Stars and Stripes of the United States and the Eagle and Serpent of Mexico.

Secretary Hurley, Major General Booth, commanding officer at Fort Bliss, and Mrs Booth, and Mr and Mrs Mackey were escorted to the hotel by an armored car squadron. Color bearers from Fort Bliss stood in the lobby of the hotel and at the entrance of the ball room. The Seventh cavalry band was placed on an outdoor balcony off the ball room and played the Secretary's Salute when the secretary and his party entered.

Mrs Mackey, who presided with grace and dignity, introduced Mayor R. E.

Sherman and he in turn introduced Major General Ewing E. Booth, commanding officer at Fort Bliss. The general, in his introduction, predicted that Secretary Hurley will go down in history as one of the greatest war secretaries the United States has ever known and characterized him as a secretary of war who has actual knowledge of the army and its need.

Secretary Hurley began his speech by saying that he appreciated what a unique occasion this was in that a sister who was president of an organization was presiding at a banquet where her brother was guest of honor. He characterized the occasion as "the thrill that comes once in a life-time" and spoke of how much this sister meant to him.

"Our mother died when my little sister was fourteen months old," he said. "I took her then and she has been my little girl ever since. I am happy if she has found favor in your eyes." The secretary continued, "While soaring along over Oklahoma a few days ago, I banked my plane over a hill top down in the Choctaw nation of old Indian Territory where our mother lies buried."

He then paid tribute to their mother to whom, he said, should go credit for anything her children might have achieved.

Secretary Hurley quoted a question his good friend Will Rogers asked him recently, "What does the war department do in peace time?" and then gave an able and illuminating talk on the peace time activity of his department, and concluded with a moving appeal for the equalization of the economic burdens of war.

"It is unpatriotic and dishonest to re-

quire one man to die for his country while another profits. There can be no such thing as equalization of the burdens of war among men who fight. One may be killed and another decorated. But we can equalize the economic burdens. Our department is now deeply engaged in the study of this problem."

Turning to General Miguel Gonzales, commander of the Juarez garrison, the secretary paid tribute to our neighbors to the South.

"We have many things in common. They are a republic. So are we. Their resources are untold. So are ours. Many of theirs are undeveloped. So are ours. They have noble aspirations. So have we. They have fair women and brave men. So have we." Then to the immense delight of his hearers he finished, "They have bull fighters. And we have after dinner speakers."

Other University of Oklahoma alumni present at the banquet were Clifton M. Mackey, '17, Mr and Mrs Wallace Perry, '07, and Frances Rosser Brown, ex '21.

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### Two poems

Poems by two university students appeared in the January number of *College Verse*, a magazine published by the College Poetry Society of America at Grinnel, Iowa. Two poems by Selma Rott, Norman, "Wild Geese" and "Silence;" and "April Will Laugh" by Patsy Truscott, Fort Myer, Virginia, were given space. Miss Truscott's poem was published in the *University of Oklahoma Magazine* last spring.