

Portrait of a Sooner

Who heads the state press

By Stewart Harral, '36

TO look at him, you'd probably never guess that the acrid smell of printer's ink had been a part of the air which he has breathed daily ever since he was a pudgy little fellow. He's put together on the generous lines that distinguish persons who like comfort. He dresses immaculately and is a perfect example of what is known as the "go-getter" type.

That's Harrington Wimberly, editor and publisher of the *Altus Times-Democrat* and a graduate of the University in 1924, who was recently elected president of the Oklahoma Press Association for 1937-38.

Born June 22, 1901, in Hale Center, Texas, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Wimberly, he literally "grew up" in a newspaper office. When he was four years old the family moved to Hagerman, N. M., where his father was the editor, publisher, advertising and circulation manager and everything else on the weekly publication, the *Hagerman Messenger*.

Recalling those days Mr. Wimberly relates, "I learned to set type before I could spell and since I did this both before and after school my time was pretty well taken up. Father sent four children to college on earnings of the country weekly, which is proof that they can be made to pay."

In the spring of 1919 he was graduated from high school and through the influence of the principal, who was a graduate of the University, he decided to come to Norman.

"I arrived at the University resolved to become a great lawyer," he recalls "but the late Dean Buchanan talked me into sticking around a year or two in the college of arts and sciences before entering law school. He said that the University was turning out too many punk lawyers as it was, and he was trying to weed out some of them.

"I intended to enter law school the second year but had a chance to become assistant business manager of the *Oklahoma Daily*, if I went into the School of Journalism. That year I backed Ennis DeWeese against Buff Burtis for business manager of the *Daily* and we licked the



Publisher Wimberly at work in the Altus Times-Democrat office

socks off the handsome boy from Muskogee. When Ennis offered me the job as assistant business manager I found that I would have to enter the School of Journalism to take it. The forty bucks per month beat being a lawyer and besides there were no good-looking girls in the law school.

"Well, the next year I ran for business manager but was defeated by a very charming girl, Inez Lacey, who showed me that women can be a very potent force in journalism. I finally landed the job during my last year in school, 1923-24."

In July following his graduation he went to Altus as advertising manager soon after the late Hutton Bellah had bought the *Times-Democrat*. He served as advertising manager and city editor intermittently until March, 1925, when he went to Cordell to become manager and editor of the *Beacon*. Mr. Wimberly returned to Altus January 1, 1928, and he became publisher of the *Times-Democrat* when C. E. Pulliam bought an interest in the paper in June, 1929. He purchased the paper from the Central Newspapers, Inc., January 1, 1936.

On April 22, 1927, he married Miss Myrth McCurley, Cordell, and they have two daughters, Janis, 6, and Mary Margaret, 2. He is a Mason and a member of the Presbyterian church. During his stu-

dent days at the University he became a member of Sigma Delta Chi and Alpha Tau Omega.

During his 13 years in Altus he has been most active in civic affairs, having served as president of the Rotary club, and from time to time has been a member of the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce.

Recently re-elected president of the Oklahoma Society for Crippled Children, Mr. Wimberly is well known for his deep interest in aiding young folks who are physically handicapped. Among the scores he has helped, two instances of his help are typical—one a boy born without limbs who is now attending college and who with his artificial legs walks almost as well as a normal person, and the other, a girl deaf from birth who has been taught to operate a linotype in the mechanical department of the *Times-Democrat* and is now self-supporting.

Particularly interested in securing an irrigation project for southwestern Oklahoma, Mr. Wimberly has done as much or more work than any one person in securing a federal government survey now under way at Lake Altus. Folk in the region hope that as a result of the survey the government will eventually provide an enormous lake which will furnish water

(TURN TO PAGE 301, PLEASE)

At the south side of the little town of Jefferson in Grant County are the locations of the intersection of the famous Black Dog Trail, named for the Osage Chief, and the Chisholm Trail, the Sewall Stockade which was the first stage stand south of Caldwell, Kansas, established in the late sixties, and the graves of two cowboys who lost their lives in the early seventies as they drove their herds along the famous trail. Two monuments have been erected—one sixteen feet high, the other twelve. The former marks the Sewall Stockade, the latter the graves of the two riders of the western plains. In each of these monuments will be placed a metal plaque, twenty-four by forty inches, bearing the design of the outline of the State of Oklahoma, inside of which appears the legend. Dedication ceremonies will be held July the Fourth.

The actual marking of Oklahoma's historical sites is now under way. Within a few years, scores of places will be suitably marked and in this way our history will be read by those who drive along the highways, visit parks which are being prepared by both the State of Oklahoma and the National Park Service, and by others who may be interested in the history of one of the most colorful states in the Union.

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PORTRAIT OF A SOONER

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 281)

for the irrigation of thousands of acres of Jackson county farm land.

Often kidded because of his continual insistence for improved highways in his section, Mr. Wimberly nevertheless keeps right on pleading editorially and through personal requests.

Once a golfer, he gave up that hobby for aviation and later turned to fishing. But now he is the victim of a bite from the "photography bug" and he snaps pictures of everything and everybody, many of which are in the *Times-Democrat*. With a small movie camera he often takes pictures of his family and intimate friends and then puts on a "show" with a projection machine in his home.

Author of "The West Side," one of the most quoted daily newspaper columns in the state, Mr. Wimberly likes the Fourth Estate because he believes it is the "only thing."

As a leader of the Oklahoma press group, which is nationally known for its effectiveness, Mr. Wimberly this year will drive hundreds of miles all over the state in all kinds of weather, will make scores of speeches, attend many group meetings and conferences and perform other tasks. But he will do it and do it well because he is a "born newspaperman."

20 LIFE MEMBERS!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 283)

continued in this position after his graduation. He was a leader in student activities, as colonel in the R. O. T. C., member of Scabbard and Blade, Ruf Neks, Skeleton and Key, and winner of the Oklahoma Public Speaking League award for the student doing the most to promote student speech work. Mrs. Gunning is the former Eleanor Aderhold, a junior in the School of Art during the last school year.

Alfred Naifeh, '38, who has been active in student affairs as president of the Mens Council, member of the President's Honor Class, and president of Phi Eta Sigma, freshman honorary scholastic society. Other activities included Bombardiers, Congress, debate, chairman Student Emergency Loan Fund Committee, state chairman Roosevelt First Voters League, president O. U. League of Young Democrats, Activities Trust Fund Committee, Ruf Neks, Phi Beta Kappa, and president of the Southern Federation of College Students.

Brunette Shanklin, '30, secretary in the office of James F. Findlay, dean of men. Counselor and friend to hundreds of students who carry on the program of the Independent Men's Association from the dean's office, Miss Shanklin performs many important services for the student body.

Sam Pack, '37ex, Norman, supervisor for the state WPA project for gathering facts about historical sites in Oklahoma. Mr. Pack was outstanding as an orator and debater while in school, and won several forensic contests.

Mrs. Arta Maginnis James, '32bus, former secretary to T. M. Beard in the University Extension Division and now a housewife at Duncan.

Albert Clinkscales, '17, Oklahoma City. Mr. Clinkscales is a petroleum geologist. He was president of the Class of '17, and was in charge of the highly successful 20-year reunion of the class which was held June 6 of this year.

Ralph Kenyon, '38law, president of the Men's Council during the last year and prominent in many activities. He was awarded the Dads Association scholarship for 1937, and is a member of Phi Delta Phi, Skeleton Key, League of Young Democrats, Congress Literary Society, and the Progressive Democrats Association.

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Believes in education

Dr. James G. Binkley, '17, whose son Frank C. Binkley received a B. S. in Medicine degree this spring, is rapidly assuming top rank for loyalty to education and to the University.

When Frank receives his M. D. degree, Dr. Binkley will have paid for and ob-

tained a total of seven degrees from O. U. and one from Harvard! How many Oklahomans could beat that record?

Dr. Binkley started the string of degrees by working his own way through school, entering at the age of 33. His oldest daughter, now Mrs. H. A. Ireland, obtained an arts and science degree; his elder son, Dr. J. Samuel Binkley, received two degrees—B. S. and A. B.—from O. U., and the M. D. degree from Harvard; a daughter, Anna Margaret, received a degree in art at Norman, and Frank is getting the sixth and seventh degrees from O. U.

Disclaiming personal credit for his achievement, Dr. Binkley says, "I am indebted to O. U. for our opportunity."

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Johnsons cancel trip

Neil R. Johnson, '15, '17law, and Mrs. Johnson, '16, were forced to cancel plans for a European trip this summer because Mrs. Johnson became ill suddenly a few days before they were scheduled to leave.

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Muskogee chairman named

A. Camp Bonds, '29law, Muskogee county attorney, has been named chairman of a committee to arrange for organization of Sooners at Muskogee and to plan a football dinner meeting in early fall.

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