

# Sooners at Home and Abroad

**C**HANGES made in state college presidencies during the summer involved more than half a dozen graduates of the University. Soon after the majority of the changes were made, W. C. Kite, '16, chairman of the Board of Regents of Oklahoma colleges, submitted his resignation to Governor Leon C. Phillips, '16 law, and some newspaper writers interpreted the resignation as a protest against the wholesale changes.

Governor Phillips denied the appointments were made on a political basis.

Here is a summary of the changes affecting O. U. alumni:

Central State College, Edmond—Roscoe R. Robinson, '18ma, formerly president of the University Preparatory School at Tonkawa, named president to fill vacancy left by resignation of John O. Moseley, '16ma.

Southwestern State College of Diversified Occupations, Weatherford—W. W. Isle, '15, removed as president and replaced by James Boren, '36ed.m, formerly superintendent of schools at Mangum.

Southeastern State College, Durant—H. Vance Posey removed and replaced by T. T. Montgomery, '26ed.m, formerly superintendent of schools at Chickasha.

Northwestern State College, Alva—E. E. Brown, '19, '25ma, removed and replaced by Chester O. Newlun, professor of elementary education in the University of Oklahoma.

University Preparatory School, Tonkawa—Loren Brown, '28ma, '37ph.d, formerly dean of Central State College at Edmond, appointed president to fill vacancy.

Mr. Kite, an Oklahoma City geologist, made no public explanation when he resigned from the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, which was set up by the last legislature as an independent board to administer affairs of the state colleges.

However, the resignation caused widespread newspaper comment. *Harlow's Weekly* commented: "There has been virtually no criticism of the new appointees as all of them rose to their positions in the normal manner through the educational field; the attacks have been leveled at the confusion which resulted from so many changes. The heads of every one of the institutions under this board have been changed since Governor Phillips took office with the exception of two—those at Tahlequah and Ada."

The *Daily Oklahoman* made the following editorial comment:

Newly elected presidents of teachers colleges need not be offended by the *Daily Oklahoman's* criticism of the process by which they were elevated to their new stations at the expense of worthy and competent educators. Let them bide their time for two years or possibly four years.



*Mrs. Opal Hunt Woody, '25ex, president of the Retail Credit Association at Oklahoma City*

Then the *Daily Oklahoman* may be pleading just as earnestly for their retention as it is now protesting against their elevation. For our interest in the matter is not a matter of personnel. We merely protest against the cruel and unwise policy of ordering a wholesale change in college presidencies every time a new administration comes into power at the capitol. It matters mighty little to the *Daily Oklahoman* who holds these positions of responsibility. But we protest, just as we have protested through the years, against the conversion of high educational positions into the spoils of a political campaign.

Dr. Robinson, the new president at Central, received his Ph. D. degree from George Peabody Teachers College, Nashville, Tennessee, in 1928. He was a member of the faculty and dean at East Central State Teachers College, Ada, from 1918 to 1928, and he served as acting president in 1928-29. Since then he has been head of the school at Tonkawa. Dr. Robinson is a former president of the Northern Oklahoma Education Association, member of the Lions Club, Mason, and a Boy Scout leader.

James Boren, the new head of the Weatherford college, has been superintendent of schools at Bradley, Cement and Mangum, and has been on the summer faculty of Central State College at Edmond. He is a Mason and belongs to the Rotary Club, the Mangum Chamber of Commerce, and the Methodist Church. He is a brother of Lyle Boren, Oklahoma congressman.

T. T. Montgomery, new president at Southeastern, has been head of the public school system at Chickasha for twenty years. Before that he was superintendent at Madill for ten years. He taught on the summer faculty at the Durant college. Mr. Montgomery has been active in civic affairs in Chickasha, as president of the Lions Club, and served for five years as a member of the State Board of Education.

Chester O. Newlun, appointed to the presidency at Northwestern, is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and has a Ph. D. degree from Columbia. He has been a member of the University of Oklahoma faculty since 1919.

## Head of credit association

Dealing tactfully with irate customers and facing the public smilingly comes quite naturally to Mrs. Opal Hunt Woody, '25ex, credit manager of Harry Katz, Inc., who has the distinction of being president of the Oklahoma City Retail Credit Association, an organization composed of credit executives of Oklahoma City firms.

For, since she was a junior in Nelagony High School, where at fourteen she operated the telephone exchange with her mother, Mrs. Woody has been in public work.

During the summer of 1923 she recalls, one very exciting event occurred. Al Spencer and his gang held up the M. K. and T. train between Bartlesville and Okesa. The outlaws boarded the train, slugged the conductor and a few others and cut the telegraph wires at Okesa. Therefore, the call came to the next station, Nelagony, at midnight, asking them to have an ambulance meet the train and care for the wounded. Nelagony is a small village about fifteen miles from Pawhuska, and it was necessary for Mrs. Woody to call the Pawhuska doctors, police, and ambulance, which she did with coolness and courage equal to that with which she meets unpleasant incidents in her credit department today. In fact, the young 14-year-old girl was commended by both train officials and passengers for the business-like manner in which she handled the bank robbery situation.

A straight "A" student, Mrs. Woody graduated from Osage High School in 1924. She attended O. U. from 1924 to 1925, where she made a straight "A" average her freshman year. She taught a country school near Taloga, and graduated later from the Ponca City Business College.

She has been in the employ of Harry Katz, Inc., for the past nine years. For the last three years, she has been credit manager, and was assistant credit manager for two years before that.

In the past two years, she has won cash prizes for making the highest grades at the credit educational classes in Oklahoma City. She is a member of the Credit Women's Breakfast Club.

In 1937, she was elected Oklahoma City delegate from the Oklahoma City Retail Credit Association to the national convention at Spokane, Washington.

A sister, Ruth Hughes, who received the B. F. A. degree from the University in 1927, is now cellist with the Oklahoma Federal Symphony Orchestra in Oklahoma City.

In her leisure moments, Mrs. Woody works in her garden. She also is a versatile reader. She has a gold Lincoln medal won for an essay on "Lincoln," and also another gold medal presented by Osage County for her original oration on "Oklahoma," as a senior in 1924. Mrs. Woody was a member of the Indian Club while a student at O. U.



### Walker reappointed

Paul A. Walker, '12law, began a new seven-year term as a member of the Federal Communications Commission July 1. He was reappointed to the commission by President Roosevelt, who first named him as a member of the commission in 1934.

Much of his time as a member of the commission has been devoted to a comprehensive investigation of the affairs of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company. His report recommended substantial reductions in telephone rates, but was criticized by telephone company officials.

Mr. Walker became a school principal at Shawnee after coming to Oklahoma in 1905 following his graduation from the University of Chicago. He entered the School of Law at O. U. in 1909 and after receiving his law degree practiced at Shawnee until 1915.

He then became counsel for the Oklahoma Corporation Commission and began the type of work that was to carry him to the important Federal Communications Commission. His work as freight rate expert attracted wide attention and he was elected by a large majority when he ran for a position on the corporation commission in 1930. He was immediately elected chairman. Four years later he received the federal appointment.

Mr. Walker is chairman of the O. U. Advisory Council at Washington, D. C., and is a Life Member of the Association.



### Assistant U. S. attorney

William H. Landram, '32, '34law, of Madill, has resigned as county judge of Marshall County to accept an appointment as assistant United States district attorney for the eastern district of Oklahoma, at Muskogee.

He succeeds Charles W. Miller, veteran assistant attorney who resigned.

Mr. Landram had been county judge at Madill since January, 1935. He was chairman of the O. U. Alumni Advisory Council in Marshall County; president of the county chapter of the League of Young Democrats; secretary of the Masonic Lodge, and secretary of the County Bar Association. At O. U. he was a member of Delta Tau Delta fraternity

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# Howdy Folks!

By DAVID RANDOLPH MILSTEN

*Well, here goes some scribblin' that's a little past due,  
But I reckon I'm always a-thinkin' 'bout you.*

*I've been readin' the papers in my own little way,  
And I see where you messed up my last birthday.*

*Through divine television I caught the dedication  
And heard some tributes by a mighty swell nation.*

*Now that's a powerful nice shack you built on the hill;  
But that's just like the Sooners, it gives them a thrill.*

*I never did nuthin' to cause all that fuss;  
And sometimes, folks, I could almost cuss.*

*But, dern you, I love you, I guess it's my pride  
That chokes me all up and hurts me inside.*

*I heard Jesse, Irvin, Cohan and Fred  
And Amon and Eddie, what nice things they said.*

*I always called Claremore a big little town,  
With guys like Mort Harrison and others around.*

*I see where Joe Cronon winged there for a day;  
Remember him, Wiley? We slept all the way.*

*But I'll tell you the part which touched me the most,  
And it ain't like me to speak up and boast.*

*It was when my dear Mary pulled the curtain string  
For my act in bronze—what a homely thing!*

*But I guess it was sentiment that filled the place,  
'Cause my kids kind of cried and I saw Betty's face.*

*God bless my old pardner, she held up her head;  
And though none of you heard me, she knew what I said.*

*And I spied Sister Sally with a shy little glance;  
She's all the West means, charm and romance.*

*Old Jo had a job a-chislin' my mug;  
Why, I got more wrinkles than a Navajo rug.*

*So you're honorin' Oklahoma with a replica of me—  
Move over, Sequoyah, for another Cherokee.*

*Well, much obliged friends, for the money you spent,  
And the words that were spoken by our President.*

*I wish you had erected a memorial to peace;  
We'd be happy up here if war talk would cease.*

*But I ain't ungrateful, I just can't see  
Such a hullabaloo 'bout a cowboy like me.*

*Well, so long folks, it's time to retire;  
I got to keep a date with Old McIntyre.*

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This is a replica of the original bronze of the poem "Howdy Folks" which has been placed in the Will Rogers Memorial Museum at Claremore, Oklahoma. (This poem was written by the author of "An Appreciation of Will Rogers," an authentic biography, published by The Naylor Publishing Company of San Antonio, Texas.) All rights to the above poem reserved, including reproduction in any manner for commercial purposes.



IN Claremore, Oklahoma, stands the Will Rogers Memorial Museum, erected in tribute to Oklahoma's beloved son and one of America's great personalities.

On January 7, 1939, a bronze plaque of the poem, "Howdy Folks," by David Randolph Milsten, '25, '28law, Tulsa attorney was added to the Memorial. Mr. Milsten, who is also author of the book *An Appreciation of Will Rogers*, an authentic review of the late humorist's career, has received many compliments on the poem from national celebrities. Among these are Jesse Jones, Eddie Cantor, Rudy Vallee, Amon Carter, Mrs. Will Rogers and numerous others.

The above illustration is a miniature re-

production of the original plaque which is 16 by 20 inches in size and mounted on a beautifully carved wooden base. It is a copper bronze etching of Rogers, across the face of which appears the poem.

George M. Cohan, noted actor and great friend of Rogers, made the presentation of the poem to the Memorial and in so doing stated: "This poem best expresses my sentiments at the moment. It is indeed a wonderful tribute to Will Rogers' memory."

Mr. Milsten has a voluminous file of letters from all parts of the country requesting copies of the poem and in almost every instance he has been told that in writing the poem he has caught the true spirit of Will Rogers.