

# Sooners at Home and Abroad

**D**R. GRADY F. MATHEWS, '25med, has been appointed state health commissioner by Governor Leon C. Phillips, '16law. He succeeds Dr. Charles M. Pearce.

Dr. Mathews has been in charge of the state-federal health units of a five-county district in eastern Oklahoma since 1936. From 1926 to 1933, he was director of the bureau of communicable diseases for the state health department.

Dr. Mathews' medical education includes field training in public health work at the Rockefeller Foundation in Alabama and post graduate work in the School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University.

Several other Sooner alumni were given positions of importance in the new state administration last month.

Charles B. Steele, 15law, Okmulgee attorney, was appointed to the important position of secretary of the State School Land Department, effective March 1. Mr. Steele and Governor Phillips were friends when in the O. U. School of Law at the same time.

Governor Phillips appointed George A. Meacham, '20law, as member of the new three-man State Highway Commission. Mr. Meacham, whose home is in Clinton, has been practicing law since his graduation from the University. He was superintendent of schools in Custer County from 1912 to 1916. A son, Denver, graduated from the University School of Law in 1935. Mr. Meacham was a boyhood friend of the governor.

Dick Jones, '27law, lawyer at Okemah and former county attorney of Okfuskee County, was appointed attorney for the State Tax Commission.

Linwood Neal, Hugo banker who was appointed state bank commissioner, is the husband of an O. U. graduate, the former Juanita Weathered, '14. Mrs. Neal is a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority, and before their marriage in 1914, was an English teacher in Hugo. The Neals will make their home in Oklahoma City.

Charles L. Orr, '12, '24law, Holdenville attorney was appointed attorney for the Interstate Oil Compact Commission by Governor Leon C. Phillips. Mr. Orr succeeds W. J. Holloway, former governor.

The *Daily Oklahoman's* oil editor describes Mr. Orr's background as follows:

Governor Phillips picked an organizer when he selected Charles Orr of Holdenville to become attorney for the Oklahoma unit of the interstate compact commission. Orr also knows a bit about the oil business, having lived in Ada and Holdenville for a number of years after getting his law degree at the University of Oklahoma.

Orr got out of a captain's uniform when the World war ended; he served with the 345th Infantry, 87th Division, and saw six months' service overseas. He is credited with organizing

the American Legion post at Ada, and was the first post commander; later he was commander of the Holdenville post.

In June, 1923, he was appointed the State Senate's member on the Soldiers Relief Commission, having been selected by Tom Anglin, then president pro tem of the Senate. Others on the board were Ray Weems, now corporation commissioner, and Grant Victor of Afton.

He served on the relief commission until 1927, and it was during those days that the Veterans Hospital at Sulphur was erected. Orr was active in gaining support in the state for this and other veterans' activities. He also served a term as state vice commander of the American Legion.

At one time Orr was associated with Harry L. Diamond in the practice of law at Holdenville. Diamond virtually quit the law to become an independent oil operator and has extensive holdings in the state.

In October, 1925, Orr won the "gold ring" at the India Temple Shrine ceremonial here, and it was presented to him before a gathering of some two thousand Shriners.

In April, 1937, Orr was appointed special justice on the State Supreme Court to hear the appeal in the Andrew Harden divorce case, Justice Orel Busby having been disqualified.

W. R. Wallace, '10ex, first student to enroll in the University of Oklahoma Law School when it was established, was appointed chairman of the Oklahoma Public Welfare Commission. He is a member of the law firm Blakeney, Wallace, Brown and Blakeney, an Oklahoma City firm that represents the Magnolia Petroleum Company.

Mr. Wallace was elected to the State Legislature in 1908 and was the youngest member of the House in the 1909 assembly. He has served as city attorney of Pauls Valley, two terms as Garvin County attorney and as state senator in 1919 and 1921. He moved to Oklahoma City in 1925 and became associated with the Magnolia Petroleum Company as legal counsel. A son, W. R. Wallace, Jr., is a freshman in the University Law School.

## New chief justice

Wayne W. Bayless, '20law, in January started a two-year term as chief justice of the state supreme court of Oklahoma. Justice Bayless had served as vice chief justice since 1936 and was advanced to preside over the court for the next two years by terms of the court's traditional seniority rule.

As Justice Bayless became chief justice of the court in January, three O. U. alumni who were re-elected members of the court last November took the oath of office to begin new terms. They are Denver Davidson, '15law, Ada; Earl Welch, '11ex, Antlers; and Monroe Osborn, '04ex, Pauls Valley. Holdover members of the court include two other Sooner alumni—Thurman Hurst, '12law, Pawnee, and Fletcher Riley, '17, Lawton. Six of the nine members of the court are

alumni or former students of the University of Oklahoma.

A biographical sketch of the new chief justice was written by Joseph Howell, correspondent for the *Tulsa Tribune*, as follows:

Bayless, the new chief justice, was born in Cassville, Missouri, August 27, 1895. He is six feet tall, weighs 190 pounds, and has coal black hair. Hunting, fishing and golf are his favorite recreations. Last Wednesday he walked over 20 miles while hunting in the hills of southeastern Oklahoma.

His father John M. Bayless, a Cassville merchant and railroad builder, made the run into Oklahoma in 1889, but didn't stay.

Later, the elder Bayless located at Claremore, building the Sequoyah hotel and establishing the Bank of Claremore. He was erecting a home there and moving his family from Cassville at the time of his death in 1907.

Wayne W. Bayless attended the Eastern University Preparatory School, a state institution then located at Claremore, and played center on the football team for three years.

In 1913, he entered the University at Norman. Two years later he quit school and began teaching at Justice, a schoolhouse three miles east of Claremore. On December 28, 1915, he married Miss Dirickson, daughter of John Dirickson, Claremore banker and rancher.

After a year of teaching school, Bayless tried his hand at running an automobile agency and working in a bank in Houston, Texas. By 1918 his mind was made up to study law and he returned to Norman, graduating from the law school in 1920.

He hung out his shingle in Claremore with L. S. Robson as a partner and two years later was elected to the legislature. In 1924 he won the Democratic nomination for Congress in the first district but lost out to a Republican in the general election by about 200 votes out of 3,000.

In 1926 Bayless was appointed district judge by M. E. Trapp, then governor. He served until 1932 when he was elected to the Supreme Court to serve out the expired term of the late J. H. Langley of Pryor.

Justice and Mrs. Bayless have one son, Winton, 12. The judge is a Mason, a Shriner, and a member of the Oklahoma City Golf and Country club.

He has a sister, Mrs. G. D. Davis, and two brothers, Guy O. Bayless and Bourke Bayless, living at Claremore. Another brother, Ross Bayless lives at Nowata.

## Dinner at Tulsa

An overflow crowd filled the University Club of Tulsa to capacity the night of February 10 for the annual O. U. Alumni Dinner held in connection with the convention of the Oklahoma Education Association.

About 225 persons heard a program consisting of an address by Dr. W. B. Bizzell, president of the University; a brief talk by Ted Beard, '21, executive secretary of the University of Oklahoma Association; and vocal numbers by Barre Hill, head of the University voice department.

Following the program, Jap Haskell and Pete Smith of the Sooner Athletic Department presented moving pictures of the

Orange Bowl football game between the Sooners and Tennessee and gave a running description of the contest.

Speaking of recent progress at the University, Dr. Bizzell told the alumni group that preparations were almost complete for offering a doctor's degree in English at O. U., and he explained how carefully steps had been taken to make sure that adequate library and instructional facilities were provided before the degree is offered.

He also announced that the number of books in the University Library has passed 200,000—a milestone in the institution's progress.

Dr. Bizzell discussed recent published reports that there are men on the O. U. faculty with Communistic tendencies. He declared that he believes himself familiar with the political philosophies of practically all of the faculty members and he stated flatly that he is fully confident there is not a single member of the faculty who would for an instant advocate the substitution of some alien form of government for democracy.

Cleo C. Ingle, '24, president of the Tulsa County Alumni of the University, presided at the dinner. He was assisted in making arrangements for the dinner by other members of the Tulsa County Advisory Council of the Association.

#### New Sooner song

Words for a new Sooner loyalty song to be sung to the tune of the Soldiers' Chorus from *Faust* have been written by Gerald B. Siler, '31. The song was sent to the alumni office by Mrs. Paul A. Duffield, '30h.ec, chairman of the Alumni Advisory Council at Mattoon, Illinois.

The words go as follows:

Glory and love to the Sooners of old,  
Their sons have copied their virtues bold;  
Courage in heart and ball in hand,  
Ready to fight, ready to die for Soonerland.  
Who needs cheering to fight when the game's begun,

Who's still willing to fight 'til the game is won  
Who would tackle the foe and fight to the last  
And cheer for O. U. as a Sooner would do  
When the ball is passed.

Glory and love to the Sooners of old  
Their sons have copied their virtues bold  
Courage in heart and ball in hand  
Ready to fight, ready to die for Soonerland.

Well it's Boomer Sooner, Oklahoma  
Boomer Sooner O-K-U  
Hi rickety hoop te do  
Boomer Sooner O-K-U  
For the University of Oklahoma.

#### Heads Oklahomans in Washington

Roy St. Lewis, '15law, attorney at Washington, D. C., has been elected president of the Oklahoma State Society, an organization of Oklahomans now living in the national capital. Paul Walker, '12law, member of the Federal Communications Commission, is first vice president.

#### Dinner at Duncan

Approximately 150 alumni and former students of the University attended an alumni dinner January 27 at Duncan. N. L. George, '31ed.m, superintendent of schools at Duncan and chairman of the Stephens County Advisory Council of the University of Oklahoma Association, presided at the dinner.

Dr. M. L. Wardell, '19, assistant to the president of the University was principal speaker. He described recent progress at the University and outstanding needs.

R. H. Erskine, Sooner football scout and freshman coach, and Jack Baer, '38ex, assistant on the coaching staff, represented the University athletic department on the program and presented moving pictures of the Sooner-Tennessee game in the Orange Bowl at Miami.

The program also included vocal numbers by a quartet consisting of Mrs. Francis Trindle, Marie Henderson, '31fa, Charles Leonhard, '30, '32med, and Roy Kunkel, '37ed.m.

#### Football dinner at Altus

Sooner alumni and football fans from several counties of southwestern Oklahoma gathered at Altus the night of January 17 for a dinner and program. The banquet was one of a series of annual football dinners sponsored by O. U. alumni and former students in Altus. Harrington Wimberly, '24, publisher of the *Altus Times Democrat*, presided.

Tom Stidham, Sooner football coach and director of athletics, and other speakers of the evening urged the high school players who were special guests to go to college in Oklahoma. They emphasized that both the state and the student himself are benefitted when the student attends a college or university in his own state.

Speakers in addition to Coach Stidham included T. M. Baird, '21, executive secretary of the University of Oklahoma Association; Dr. W. W. Isle, '15, president of Southwestern State Teachers College, Weatherford; Claude Reeds, '14, coach at Central State Teachers College, Edmond;

*Three Sooner alumni who are presidents of state organizations are shown here. Top picture, Mrs. Dora Streight Popejoy, '26fa, of Anadarko, head of the State Federation of Music Clubs. Edythe Stith Triplett, '23nurse, superintendent of nurses at University Hospital, Oklahoma City, is president of the State Nurses Association. Stewart E. Meyers, '28 Oklahoma City insurance man, is president of the Oklahoma Association of Life Underwriters.*



W. W. Nicklaus, former coach of Altus Junior College recently appointed head coach at Oklahoma Baptist University; and R. H. Erskine, freshman coach at O. U.

Musical numbers were given by students from Southwestern Teachers College.

The O. U. delegation present at the dinner, in addition to the two coaches and Mr. Beard, included Herbert Scott, '26ma, director of the extension division; J. F. Malone, '36ex, director of the state museum service; Pete Smith, '38ex, football end coach; and Roscoe Cate, '26, editor of *Sooner Magazine*.

Mr. Wimberly, writing in his personal column in the *Altus Times Democrat* the next day, made the following comment about Coach Stidham's speech at the dinner:

Tom Stidham, Sooner football coach, handed out the best advice last night that we have ever heard given to high school athletes. He told them to go ahead and play football but not to forget that they had to eat after their college days are over. His advice to get the most out of college years and prepare for the future was sound and should be heeded. Coming from one of the best known football coaches in the country that attitude certainly justifies all the stress that is being put on college athletics.

#### Burtis sells newspaper

Buff B. Burtis, '27, who has been publisher of the *Clinton Daily News* since 1929, has disposed of his interest in the *News*. He sold his interest in the *News* to L. J. Miner, of Mangum. Mr. Burtis announced that he expects to re-enter the newspaper business somewhere in Oklahoma.

He has been a leader in community affairs in Clinton since becoming editor of the *News*, and is first vice-president of the University of Oklahoma Association. Mrs. Burtis is the former Reba Crowe, '26.

#### War days recalled

The recent article in *The Sooner Magazine* about the Old Gym Building evoked reminiscences from "J. L. C.," columnist in the *El Reno American*. He wrote as follows:

We note that the December issue of *The Sooner Magazine* carries a picture and history of the antiquated frame building that nestles on the campus just south of the Student Union. It gives a complete history of the old Gym, except for one important chapter—that of the stirring days of 1918.

It was in that building we first learned about army life, for the entire signal corps training detachment, 115 men and three officers, were quartered under that one roof. The buck privates were herded into the one large room and slept on cots end-to-end.

It was in this building we got our first lesson on rolling out at 3 a. m. to the blood curdling cries of "fire!" and falling into line out front with half our clothes on, and hearing Capt. Bachman lecture us on the etiquette of a smart soldier. . . . It was from the Gym we marched across the street east to the mess hall, and to the engineering building to be instructed in the intricacies of radio, wig-wag and semaphore, and it was from the same building we were paraded out to Owen Field to do squads right and left,

and crawl through acres of weeds with our old Springfields.

The one bright spot in those days was the evening sessions under the showers when the gang went trooping through the barracks in various forms of dress and undress. We doubt if the staid old Gym ever beheld another such glittering array of male pulchritude! Now and then passersby on the way to and from the library beheld strange sights about the barracks by the evening lights, and the walk up that way was dubbed the "Bella Vista" on that account—though it never gained any added popularity on that score, that we could tell.

On guard duty around the old Gym we learned well every foot of the way and night life in its environs, though the only prowler we ever intercepted was our own vitriolic Lieutenant Lysendoll—who promptly "ate us out" for not rushing him and trying to run him through with our bayonet!

#### New law firm

Two University graduates, Leslie E. Salter, '20, '22law, and Adelbert Brown, '17law, are now associated with the new law firm Woods, Woods, Brown and Salter, at Chicago, Illinois.

Edward G. Woods has been general counsel for the Hurst interests in Chicago since 1930 and recently, counsel for all Hurst enterprises. The fourth member of the firm is Roy C. Woods, general counsel of the Chicago Real Estate Board, who has served seventeen sessions in the Illinois State Senate.

Mr. Salter is a former special assistant to the United States Attorney General. He went to Chicago to participate in a number of income tax evasion cases and was prosecutor in the trial of Samuel In-sull on charge of mail frauds. He has specialized in federal court cases since his return to private practice seven years ago.

Mr. Brown is widely known as a authority on taxation and won success as a trial lawyer in Oklahoma as assistant general attorney for the St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad. He has participated in a number of important tax suits in Illinois.

The new firm will specialize in trial work, state and federal taxation, administrative law, general corporate and real estate practice.

#### Mentioned for governor's race

Several state newspapers recently have mentioned Lewis R. Morris, '15law, county attorney at Oklahoma City and former president of the University of Oklahoma Association, as one of the probable candidates for governor in the next campaign. The *Bartlesville Examiner* stated:

Maybe you did not know it but County Attorney Morris of Oklahoma County is being groomed for governor in 1942. Morris won the Oklahoma City award as its most useful citizen in 1938, is young and has put the fear of punishment and the dread of what will happen if he puts an end to all kinds of graft and crime into a lot of folks around the capital city.

The *Oklahoma News* commented that the "friends of County Attorney Morris base their hopes for state-wide recognition upon his record of convictions of the Oklahoma County bribery cases and upon

what they hope he will do with the coming grand jury."

#### Colorado university regent

Lawrence W. Cole, '99, one of the first four graduates of the University of Oklahoma, was elected a regent of the University of Colorado in a state election last November. Mr. Cole has been professor and head of the department of psychology at the University of Colorado for twenty-eight years until his retirement last June.

Regents of the University of Colorado are named in a statewide election.

#### Dinner at Cherokee

Football fans at Cherokee, one of the gridiron hot spots of Oklahoma, gathered the night of January 12 at a football dinner honoring two hometown boys, Earl Crowder and Beryl Clark, members of the Big Six championship football team. High school players and coaches from all parts of northwest Oklahoma were present.

Webster Wilder, Jr., '33law, county attorney, presented mementos to Clark and Crowder. Tom Stidham, Sooner football coach and athletic director, was principal speaker on the program and told the crowd that the Sooner freshman squad next Fall will be composed 100 per cent of Oklahoma boys. Harold Keith, '29, director of O. U. sports news, also was speaker on the program.

#### Elected at convention

Several Sooner alumni were elected to positions of importance at the annual convention of the Oklahoma Education Association held last month at Tulsa.

D. D. Kirkland, '33ed.m, superintendent of schools at Holdenville, was named president of the State Association of School Administrators.

N. L. George, '26, '31ed.m, superintendent of schools at Duncan, was elected president of the Municipal College Association. Ruth Gober, '25fa, teacher in the Blackwell schools, was named to head the Oklahoma Teachers of Speech Association.

Clyde M. Howell, '15, '36ed.m, Oklahoma City, who has served as secretary of the Oklahoma Education Association for 18 years, was re-elected for another three-year term by the board of directors.

Sooners elected to head various sectional groups include:

Junior High Schools—J. T. Wade, '24ed, '25ma, Tulsa.

Art Division—Myrle E. Kelly, '37ed.m, Weatherford.

Visual Education—Haskell Pruett, '30 ed.m, Stillwater.

Science—T. R. Stemen, '22ma, Oklahoma City.

Social Studies—Elizabeth Duncan, '31, Oklahoma City.

History and Social Studies—Nelle H. Bowman, '30ex, Tulsa.

Oklahoma Council for Juvenile Protection—Ben D. Chapman, '29ex, Tulsa.