



Hiram Impson, '15, postmaster, publisher and all-around good citizen

McAlester's Postmaster

By William Green

POSTMASTER, editor-publisher, Oklahoma National Guard officer, Legionnaire, civic worker, churchman, all-round good citizen—that would be the description of Hiram W. Impson, '15, if the City of McAlester had a *Who's Who*.

The ability and leadership that marked his undergraduate days at the University of Oklahoma still are displayed by this Sooner, making him a dynamic civic worker and community booster in the city he chose for his home.

Going to McAlester early in 1930 as co-publisher and editor of the *McAlester Democrat*, a weekly newspaper, Mr. Impson was quick to team with movements for the betterment of the city. Not only did he lend the services of his newspaper to publicize the expanding program of the Chamber of Commerce and other civic enterprises, but he gave his personal energy wholeheartedly.

Five months after his arrival in McAlester, city boosters called upon him to undertake a tough assignment—organization of a National Guard unit. Being new to the community, he was reluctant. But he finally agreed. He set to work immediately and soon organized a skeleton roster of youths, mostly of teen age. Consequently, Company K, 180th Infantry, was removed from Antlers in June,

1930, giving McAlester its second guard unit.

Five years after he had established his home in McAlester, he was elected president of the McAlester Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

Since retiring from the presidency at the end of his 1937 term, he has continued to serve the organization loyally. He now heads the important agricultural committee and is one of McAlester's most enthusiastic highway boosters.

Back in his University days, Mr. Impson enjoyed dabbling in campus politics. He was senior class president during the first semester of his last year on the campus and helped direct the movement that led to the erection of the class gift to the University—the first Gothic archway at the University Boulevard entrance to the campus.

His interest in political science continued through the years. Although he never has sought an elective office for himself, he served as chairman of the Pittsburg County Democratic central committee from 1932 to '34. He is a close personal friend of Wilburn Cartwright, '20law, congressman from the Third District. Their friendship started a number of years ago at a chance meeting in Arkansas during a Y. M. C. A. meeting.

Mr. Impson relinquished active editorship of his newspaper in January, 1936, when President Roosevelt appointed him postmaster at McAlester. He now is serving his second term as postmaster.

In addition to his military, civic and political activities, this 150-pound Sooner dynamo finds time for church and Boy Scout work. He is a member of the Board of Stewards of the Grand Avenue Methodist church and serves as a member of the troop committee of the Boy Scout unit sponsored by the church.

He is an active Legionnaire, a thirty-second degree Mason and a Shriner.

Impson grew up as a farm boy east of Durant in a community called Impson Prairie, and entered the University in 1910 intent on studying law. He was busy working on his pre-law requirements when H. H. Herbert, present director of the School of Journalism, arrived in Norman in the autumn of 1913 to add news writing and editing to the O. U. curriculum.

Journalism sounded interesting to him, so Impson enrolled in Professor Herbert's first class, thereby setting the stage for his future occupation. The School of Journalism was still a mere infant during Impson's college career, so he was unable to take a major in it. He continued his study of political science, but sandwiched in numerous courses in writing.

During his sophomore year, Impson was a member of the board of the *Umpire*, semi-weekly campus publication and predecessor of the present *Oklahoma Daily*.

He became circulation manager of the *Umpire* in his junior year.

Impson took a bachelor of arts degree in the spring of 1915 and set out to find a newspaper job. He didn't find it. What he did find was a salesman's commission offer which had a bare hint of journalism about it.

His job was to write biographies of southeastern Oklahomans. The biographies were to be published in three volumes of a five-volume set, but publication of these sketches depended on whether the subject of the biography purchased the entire set.

HE didn't make a sale the first day, because, as he soon learned, residents of the community still remembered the previous visit of a similar writer-salesman. He moved into new territory, sold three sets in a half day and chalked up \$27.50 as his own share.

Three months of this was enough and Impson went into the government Indian service. He became assistant field clerk at Atoka and later was transferred to the general agency of the Five Civilized tribes at Muskogee where he served in the oil and gas leasing department. He resigned after a year to enter the real estate business and was engaged in that

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 24)



CONDENSED STATEMENT

At the close of business, December 31, 1938

RESOURCES

Cash and Due from Banks	\$ 22,631,357.32
United States Bonds, or Bonds guaranteed by the U.S. Government	12,170,262.14
Demand Loans	1,692,664.01
Overdrafts	6,105.08
State, County and Municipal Bonds and Warrants	9,288,625.17
Foreign Bonds	13,341.50
General Market Bonds	189,083.88
First Mortgage Real Estate Loans	1,087,689.50
Other Investment Securities	261,255.00
Stock in Federal Reserve Bank	191,250.00
Bank Vault, Furniture and Fixtures	302,208.91
Customers' Liability Account, Letters of Credit Issued	41,085.24
Time Loans	13,918,995.27
TOTAL	\$ 61,793,923.02

LIABILITIES

Deposits	\$ 53,201,117.43
Liability Account Letters of Credit Guaranteed	41,085.24
Capital Stock — Common	\$ 5,000,000.00
Surplus and Undivided Profits	3,424,002.04
Reserved for Expenses Accrued	127,718.31
TOTAL	\$ 61,793,923.02



FIRST NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Facilities for All Alumni Groups

The Oklahoma Union provides a convenient place for meetings of all kinds of alumni groups — class organizations, fraternal groups, clubs, committees, and so on. Accommodations vary from a small dining room suitable for fifteen or twenty, to the main ballroom which is capable of taking care of a crowd of four hundred or more. Reservations should be made through the Union business office.

The Oklahoma Union

McAlester's Postmaster

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

line of work when the United States mobilized its World War army.

He entered the service at Camp Travis, Texas, and later went to an officers training camp. A chance to go overseas as a replacement in an infantry regiment of the Eighty-Third Division came his way and he jumped at it. The Armistice was signed before he saw front line service, however.

Returning from France, Mr. Impson received his discharge in February, 1919, and purchased a half interest in the *Madill Record*, a weekly newspaper. He and O. S. Stanton, his partner in the Madill enterprise, disposed of the weekly in late 1929 and purchased the *McAlester Guardian*, which they immediately renamed the *McAlester Democrat* and published as a weekly.

Mr. Impson purchased complete control of the paper in 1936 and still owns it.

After discharge from the A. E. F. army as a corporal, Mr. Impson accepted a commission as second lieutenant in the Infantry Reserves. Continuing this work, he was made a first lieutenant, the rank he held until he organized the National Guard unit in McAlester. Then he was elevated to a captaincy.

By odd coincidence, one of Mr. Impson's classmates and closest friends while on the O. U. campus is also now a postmaster. He is Louis Hoskins, '15, postmaster at Anaheim, Calif.

To really know this man Impson, one must know something about his home, his personality, his likes, aims, and hobbies.

Middle-age gray has begun to fleck his hair. His sharp, dark eyes peer out through thick lenses framed in thin yellow gold. His broad forehead lends dignity to a healthy, erect stature. Facial features indicate his one-eighth Choctaw Indian ancestry, and his quiet, unobtrusive manner emphasizes it.

Although not gifted as an orator, Mr. Impson has the easy command of words that marks a good extemporaneous speaker. His speech is fluent and crisp, reflecting his military training.

In 1921, Mr. Impson was married to Miss Bess Hardaway of Sherman, Texas, whom he had met at Madill during the time she taught in the schools there. They have a 16-year-old daughter, Irma Sue, who is a high school junior, and two young sons, Hiram, Jr., four weeks old, and Robert L., two years old.

Mr. Impson likes his job as postmaster but likes newspaper work better. In the course of eighteen years in the business of newspaper publication, he has written and edited hundreds of columns of copy, but has never attempted fiction for sale.

His closest approach to creative writing was the compiling of a history of the Folsoms, a family prominent in tribal

history of the Choctaws. Holding part of his Indian lineage through that family, he gathered considerable material concerning the Folsoms from reference books, old letters and personal stories handed down by tongue, and wove it into shape. It never has been published, although part of the material has been turned over to the Oklahoma Historical society.

Mr. Impson's interest in Oklahoma Indian affairs manifested itself while he still was a student at the University. He was one of a group of youths who visioned the need of a campus organization to perpetuate Indian customs and sponsor tribal culture.

So he helped organize the Indian Club, which still is active, and became its first chief.

Captain Impson is a life member of the University of Oklahoma Association (since 1935), and has been an Executive Board member. At present he is a member of the Pittsburg County Advisory Council of the association.

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The University as Intellectual Leader

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

Aside from the need of keeping the mind active there is another need which springs more from the present-day environment. With more and more inventions, social conditions and information about things in general change so fast that the knowledge acquired in college gets largely out of date in five or ten years. To prove this one needs only to mention such things as the quick succession of the railroad, automobile, airplane, the telephone, wireless and television, with all their financial entanglements and social consequences. The change of two thousand years is jammed into one generation. Adult education must meet this crisis if our civilization is not to destroy itself. Here the university has a vast function to perform.

But how to accomplish it? The extension work of the universities is much of it devoted to such a purpose. With a growing sense of the peculiar demand that is being placed upon them the officers of such divisions and departments will do more and more in this line as time goes on. The short courses and institutes that are being conducted in our own university are serving this undertaking well. The extension of summer school offerings so that they satisfy not only the students' need of credit but also vocational and spiritual needs of the population at large will help.

Improving the facilities for broadcasting, and developing the radio programs continually with the adult population in mind will further promote the cause. Keeping in touch with the public school teachers in their professional work and

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