

Sooners at Home and Abroad

DESPITE heavy rains and flooded highways that reduced attendance at the Oklahoma Education Association convention at Oklahoma City last month, nearly a hundred persons attended the annual teachers convention dinner for University of Oklahoma Alumni.

The dinner was held at the Biltmore, where O.U. alumni headquarters were maintained by Executive Secretary Ted Beard, '21, all during the convention.

Secretary Beard presided at the dinner program in the absence of Hicks Epton, '32law, president of the alumni association, who was unable to get from his home in Wewoka to Oklahoma City because of the bad weather.

Principal speaker was Elmer Fraker, '20, '38ma, superintendent of schools at Mangum and member of the executive board of the alumni association.

"School men need to have more courage to express their convictions," he declared. "When they feel they are right about something, they have just as much right to express themselves as men in any other profession. They don't have to be timid souls."

Mr. Fraker urged that in seeking a solution of the problem of educational finance in Oklahoma, the problem be considered as a whole.

"There will never be a satisfactory solution until something is worked out to include the entire educational system from the first grade to postgraduate work in the colleges," he declared.

One of the chief problems faced by the University, he said, is the fact that most of the people of Oklahoma still have a pioneer viewpoint and have a native suspicion of excellence in any form.

"A man running for public office can't run on a basis of qualifications for leadership—he has to take the appearance of being just one of the boys. People suspect the University of having a feeling of superiority even when there is no evidence for it. I hope the day will come when the people of Oklahoma learn to appreciate excellence in its institutions and its leaders."

Dr. M. L. Wardell, '19, assistant to the president of the University, brought greetings from the University administration.

Entertainment consisted of presentation of a group of new O.U. songs, by the Rough Riders trio of WKY radio station.

The program was ended early in order to permit those attending to go to the general session of the O.E.A. convention that night, at which Governor Leon C. Phillips, '16law, was principal speaker.

New play presented

Mary McDougal Axelson, '13ex, now of Hollywood, California, was in the spotlight of the entertainment world again



Judge Dick Jones

last month with the Westwood Theatre Guild of Los Angeles presenting a new play she wrote, and a new motion picture based on another of her plays reaching Oklahoma for a premiere showing at Sapulpa—her home town.

The motion picture is *A Child Is Born*, produced by Warner Brothers from Mrs. Axelson's story that was first written as a book and later revised as the popular New York play *Life Begins*.

The new play presented in Los Angeles is *Strange Reprieve*.

Mrs. Axelson lives with her husband, Ivar Axelson, former member of the University faculty, and their 10-year-old daughter, Mary Ivonne, in Hollywood.

Bill for school buildings

Senator Josh Lee, '17, last month introduced in the United States Senate a bill that would provide a ten-year federal program of financial aid to states for construction of school buildings and equipment. The federal government would allocate an amount equal to half the cost of each project, including building, site and equipment. An appropriation of \$50,000,000 for each of the first two years and \$100,000,000 for each of the eight following years is proposed.

Promotions at Capitol

Four graduates of the University have been advanced in their positions at the State Capitol. Dick Jones, '27law, was appointed judge of the Criminal Court of Appeals to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Judge James S. Davenport. Frank Dudley, '16law, succeeded Mr. Jones. Bert Larason, '30, and Rowe Cook, '32law,

were promoted to offices with increased salary.

Mr. Jones had been attorney for the Oklahoma Tax Commission. In selecting him for the judicial position Governor Leon C. Phillips, '16law, said, "No doubt of his qualifications can be presented."

Christened Sterling Brown Jones, he was nicknamed "Dick" by his playmates in grade school and he adopted it. At the University he was active in basketball, baseball and debate. The Letzeiser medal for men was voted him in his senior year. He returned to eastern Oklahoma after graduation and was elected Okfuskee County attorney. He afterwards served as Okemah city attorney until he was given the tax commission post.

Mr. Dudley, the new tax commission attorney, was formerly assistant attorney general, which office he had held since 1929, except for a year-and-a-half interlude when he was an assistant United States district attorney.

A member of Phi Delta Phi, national honorary legal fraternity, Mr. Dudley was vice president of his senior law class. His private law practice after graduation was interrupted only by several years service overseas in the World War. In 1925 he was elected Carter County attorney and began fifteen years of public service.

Mr. Larason and Mr. Cook, who were roommates at the University, members of Lambda Chi Alpha social fraternity, received appointments to state offices soon after Governor Phillips' election. Mr. Larason, formerly the governor's front office secretary and twice a member of the State Legislature, has been made purchasing agent for the State Highway Commission.


The new position of Mr. Cook, former member of the tax commission's legal department, is that vacated by Mr. Larason. Mr. Cook served in the 1935 session of the legislature with Governor Phillips and was one of his secretaries before being appointed a legal assistant in the tax commission.

Washington murals finished

Woodrow Crumbo, '39ex, has returned to his work as director of art at Bacone Indian College, Muskogee, after spending three months in Washington, D.C., on a special assignment for the federal government. He completed a series of murals in the new Department of the Interior Building, an art project that was widely praised in the national capital.

Mr. Crumbo was invited to address several groups while in Washington. He was the special speaker at the annual founders' day meeting of the District of Columbia chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, when his subject was "The Symbology of Indian Art."

He also spoke before the Art Apprecia-

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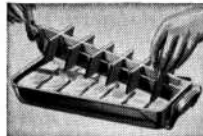
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tion group of the American Association of University Women, and his address was so well received that they invited him again as honor guest at a luncheon. Also he spoke at the International Student House, several city schools, and at a special program shared by other painters. At the Greek Legation, the minister took several hours of his time to show the Oklahoma Indian artist his fine collection of art.



Newspapers purchased

The *Hobart Democrat-Chief* and the *Mangum Daily Star* have been purchased by Nance-McBride Newspapers, Inc., a new corporation formed to buy and operate the two properties. The stockholders are Joe W. McBride, '28bus, and Mrs. McBride (Clella LeMarr, '27), of Anadarko; James C. Nance, Purcell, and James C. Nance, Jr., '34ex, who has been at Anadarko for the last two years.

Mr. McBride, a member of the University Board of Regents, is publisher of the *Anadarko Daily News* and also has an interest in the *Walters Herald*. Mr. Nance is publisher of the *Purcell Register*, and state senator for the district including the University.

The younger Mr. Nance, who has been assistant manager of the Anadarko newspaper, will be the active publisher of the *Hobart Democrat-Chief*.

The elder Mr. Nance is president of the new publishing company. Mr. McBride is secretary-treasurer and general business manager.



Rayburn promoted

Dr. Charles R. Rayburn, '25med, has been appointed assistant medical superintendent of the Central State Hospital at Norman. He succeeds Dr. J. J. Gable, '15 med, who resigned because of ill health.

Dr. Rayburn was promoted from a position as member of the hospital's medical staff.



John Lookabaugh dead

Death of John C. Lookabaugh, '32law, at Dallas in February was declared suicide by investigating officials. A socially prominent business man of Dallas, he was found shot to death in his home, a pistol beside the body.

Mr. Lookabaugh was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity at the University. His brother, James Lookabaugh, is head football coach at Oklahoma A. and M. College, Stillwater.



Essay winner

Bob Kniseley, '33ex, news editor of the *Chandler News-Publicist*, has been awarded a \$250 cash prize by the Oklahoma Natural Gas Company for writing the best essay on the subject "Where Ahead Lies Oklahoma's Greatest Opportunity, and How Can We Attain It."

The contest was restricted to Oklahoma newspapermen, but there were 117 entrants. Mr. Kniseley's essay contended that

Oklahoma must develop industries to use the products of the state and to provide labor for Oklahoma people. He urged that small industries supported by local capital be developed all over the state in areas where raw materials, labor and power could be obtained in satisfactory combination.

Second award in the contest was won by Everett Purcell, '32bus, publisher of the *Enid Events*. Both men are members of the University chapter of Beta Theta Pi fraternity.



Legal assistant

A young Blackwell lawyer, Dick Gurley, '32, '34law, has been chosen by Thurman S. Hurst, justice of the State Supreme Court, as his legal assistant. He was recently a member of the firm of Gurley, Rogers and Gurley at Blackwell.

After admission to the bar in 1934, Mr. Gurley was named to the excise board of Kay County, in which position he served for three years. He was elected county attorney there in 1937.

At the University he was a member of Phi Delta Phi, national honorary legal fraternity, and of Phi Gamma Delta, social fraternity.



Death takes Gene Ambrister

A pioneer resident of Norman, E. L. Ambrister, '12, died early last month in Norman after a brief illness. The fifty-year-old former cotton gin operator and property owner had lived in Norman since 1890. He graduated from Norman High School and the University, and as a University student was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity.

After attending a Kansas City business college for a short time in 1912, immediately following his graduation from the University's College of Arts and Sciences, he began working in the cotton business. He left that to undertake the management of a steam laundry he had purchased at Pauls Valley. Again returning to Norman, however, he re-entered the cotton business and became one of the town's best known business men. He was widely known as "Gene" Ambrister.

Survivors include his wife, four brothers, S. G. Ambrister, Norman; Roy Ambrister, Pauls Valley; Harry Ambrister, Dallas, and Clarence Ambrister, Muskogee; and one sister, Mrs. Maude Wyche, Norman.



Visual education developed

Lonnie Vanderveer, '39m.ed, of Cordell, superintendent of schools for Washita County, and president of the Oklahoma Education Association for the last year, has attracted considerable attention from Oklahoma school men recently by a comprehensive visual education bulletin prepared under his direction for use in the schools of his county.

The mimeographed bulletin was prepared to serve as a guide for the second semester of the 1939-40 school year for all

teachers and school board members of the county who desired to cooperate in the use of sound motion pictures.

The bulletin describes briefly the growing use of visual education in public schools, and explains in detail the routine for utilizing the large selection of sound films that can be secured through the University of Oklahoma Extension Division.



Journalism alumni directory

A total of 404 persons who received training in the School of Journalism of the University of Oklahoma are holding journalistic positions and are widely scattered over the United States. This information is revealed in the annual directory of graduates and former students in journalism, published by the Sooner State Press.

The following tabulation show the number of Sooners in each type of position in the field of journalism:

Editors and owners; editors.....	41
Managers and owners; managers.....	14
Magazine, publishing house, trade journal staff members.....	18
Managing editors, news executives.....	20
Editorial writers, special writers, columnists.....	27
Advertising managers, executives.....	21
City editors; desk workers.....	24
Society and departmental editors.....	11
Sports writers and editors.....	7
Reporters.....	40
Correspondents.....	13
A.P., U.P., I.N.S. employes.....	24
Magazine, trade journal and freelance writers.....	29
Advertising salesmen, copywriters.....	34
College journalism teachers.....	9
High school journalism teachers.....	22
Publicity writers and directors.....	21
Newspaper association employes.....	3
Radio news broadcasters, continuity writers, advertising representatives.....	11
Promotion department workers.....	3
Newspaper librarians and office employes.....	8
Print-shop owners; printing salesmen; engravers.....	13
Mechanical employes.....	9
Press photographers (in connection with other work).....	20
Circulation department employes.....	3



Statues for chapel

Two Indian statues measuring over eight feet in height will be carved by J. Craig Sheppard, '39fa, assistant in art at the University, for the new Memorial Chapel at Bacone College in Muskogee. The Bedford limestone from which the figures are to be cut is now being quarried. Mr. Sheppard expects to start work before the end of March.

The statues will stand on either side of the front entrance of the stone chapel. One is an Indian brave standing with right hand raised in the peace sign that all tribes knew; the other is a squaw with her hair in two long braids and a papoose on her back.

Mr. Sheppard, who is in charge of the sculpture department at the University during the leave of absence of Dr. Joseph R. Taylor, painted the industrial murals in the Business Administration Building on the University campus.

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