

# Sooners at Home and Abroad



*Minnaetha White, film voice coach*



*Bernice Berry, attorney*



*Grace Stevenson, flight instructor*

WHEN the Eighteenth Oklahoma Legislature convenes in January, more than fifty of the members will be University of Oklahoma alumni or students.

Results in the November general election show four alumni elected to the State Senate and thirty-nine alumni and students elected to the House. There are ten O. U. men among the twenty-two holdover members of the Senate.

The four newly elected to the Senate for four-year terms are Joe B. Thompson, '27ba, '27law, Ardmore; Guy A. Curry, '25, Stigler; Paul V. Carlile, '39law, Vian; and H. M. Curnutt, '16, Barnsdall.

Sooners in the Senate who hold over are Robert B. Harbison, '30law, Altus; Bill Ginder, '31law, Cherokee; Charles B. Duffy, '22law, Ponca City; Boyd Cowden, '28, Chandler; J. A. Rinehart, '23law, El Reno; John Boyce McKeel, '27, Ada; John C. Monk, '23, McAlester; Jesse Taylor, '30ba, Woodward; Murrell H. Thornton, '10, Muskogee; and R. H. Sibley, '23, Pryor.

Elected to the House of Representatives are the following Sooner students and alumni:

W. H. Langley, '21, Stilwell, Adair County.

Merle Lansden, '39law, Beaver, Beaver County.

Claude W. Cherry, '17, El Reno, Canadian County.

Richard T. Pendleton, '26law, Norman, Cleveland County.

J. T. Daniel, '25bs, Ryan, Jefferson County.

Robert Barr, '31, Dover, Kingfisher County.

Jack Bradley, '25law, Wilburton, Latimer County.

John Steele Batson, '21, Marietta, Love County.

Purman Wilson, '20, Purcell, McClain County.

Kirksey M. Nix, University student, Eufaula, McIntosh County.

D. C. Matthews, '38ba, now a student in the University, Sulphur, Murray County.

Merle D. Allen, '22, Perry, Noble County.

Glen D. Johnson, '39, Okemah, Okfuskee County.

Dennis Bushyhead, '29law, Claremore, Rogers County.

William Parrish, '40m.ed, Durant, Bryan County.

Amos Stovall, '29law, Anadarko, Caddo County.

Bill Selvidge, '38ba, now a University student, Ardmore, Carter County.

Harold Freeman, '25, Pauls Valley, Garvin County.

Herbert Hope, '38bus, University student, Maysville, Garvin County.

Frank Grayson, University student, Atwood, Hughes County.

Paul Ballinger, '34law, Holdenville, Hughes County.

Leonard G. Geb, '40, Ponca City, Kay County.

William H. Cline, '21ba, '21law, Newkirk, Kay County.

J. Robin Field, '34law, Hobart, Kiowa County.

W. B. McDonald, '27, Hobart, Kiowa County.

F. C. Helm, '19, Henryetta, Okmulgee County.

Robert L. Hert, '34ba, '34law, Stillwater, Payne County.

Moss Wimbish, University student, Ada, Pontotoc County.

Streeter Speakman, '12law, Sapulpa, Creek County.

Lawrence Jones, '22law, Bristow, Creek County.

Dutch Hill, now a student in University, Chickasha, Grady County.

Chester Norman, '38ba, '40law, Muskogee, Muskogee County.

Bill High, '31ba, Shawnee, Pottawatomie County.

George Miskovsky, '36law, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County.

J. D. McCarty, '40, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County.

B. B. Kerr, '31law, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County.

A. E. Montgomery, '15law, Tulsa County.

Glade R. Kirkpatrick, '27, Tulsa, Tulsa County.

Holly L. Anderson, '24law, Tulsa, Tulsa County.

All Sooner alumni who were Democratic candidates for state and congressional offices won their races in the November general election.

W. J. Armstrong, '14ba, '16law, was elected member of the State Corporation Commission by a large majority over his Republican opponent. Judge Ben Arnold, '20ba, '25law, Oklahoma City, was elected

*On the left are three women graduates of the University in unusual professional fields*

to the State Supreme Court from the Third District.

Four O. U. alumni were re-elected to Congress. They are Wilburn Cartwright, '20law, Third District; Mike Monroney, '24ba, Fifth District; Jed Johnson, '15ba, Sixth District, and Will Rogers, '30m.ed, congressman-at-large.

Sooners also fared well in political races in other states. Ernest W. McFarland, '17ba, of Florence, Arizona, was elected to the United States Senate from Arizona. William T. Pheiffer, '19law, was elected to the national House of Representatives from the Sixteenth Congressional District of New York. Mr. Pheiffer practiced law in Amarillo, Texas for sixteen years before moving to New York.

Eli Eubanks, '28law, ran a good race for attorney general of the state of Kansas on the Democratic ticket, but was defeated along with most other Democrats on the Kansas state ticket. Mr. Eubanks is a practicing attorney in Wichita.

Lewis R. Morris, '17law, led the Oklahoma County Democratic ticket when he was elected for his sixth consecutive term in the office of county attorney.

### Appointment

Bernice Berry, '31law, Enid, has been appointed a special attorney for the Lands Division of the United States Department of Justice and assigned to assist Curtis P. Harris, chief attorney of the division at Oklahoma City. The office is handling a large volume of work in connection with condemnation and purchase of land for military and flood control projects in the state.

Miss Berry practiced law in Enid after graduation from the University and from 1935 to 1939 was an attorney for the State Banking Department in the Enid district. At O. U. she was elected to the Order of the Coif and to Kappa Beta Pi, honorary legal fraternities.

### Studio Voice Teacher

Well established in behind-the-scenes Hollywood, Mrs. Minnaetha White, '17fa (piano), '23fa (voice), is in charge of voice training in the music department at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios. She describes her job as "a voice teacher's paradise."

"It is wonderful," she says, "to be working with such talented, ambitious, eager young people. I love every hour of it."

She went to California six years ago and opened a small voice studio. The number of her pupils grew from one to more than she could handle, and included Dennis Morgan, Larry Cotton, Trudy Wood, June Henderson, and others. An executive of M-G-M learned of the work she was doing and offered her the post of voice teacher in the music department.

Today she gives ten to twelve lessons a day to such singers as Douglas McPhail, romantic lead of a forthcoming Judy Garland film, John Carroll, who sings in the



James C. Ryan, Alaskan educator

next Marx Brothers' picture, Mary Howard, and Kathryn Grayson. She also trains and coaches some young people who have not yet appeared before a movie camera.

Mrs. White is a native of Tennessee. From the time she was old enough to talk, she wanted to play the piano. Her mother had been a piano teacher and developed the child's interest in music. Mrs. White studied in Texas before coming to the University of Oklahoma. She was an instructor in voice at the University for several years after graduating.

### Alaskan Commissioner

James C. Ryan, '31m.ed, '37d.ed, takes office as the new Commissioner of Education of Alaska shortly after January 1, 1941. He will resign his present position as professor of education and psychology at the University of Alaska, near Fairbanks, which he has held since 1928.

More than half of his life Mr. Ryan has spent in teaching and studying. Born in Dickinson, Tennessee, in 1900, he came to Oklahoma in 1914 with his foster-father, D. B. R. Johnson, dean of the University School of Pharmacy. He began teaching in Okeene, Oklahoma, in the fall of 1918, after graduating from high school at Depew in the spring and attending summer school at the University.

Mr. Ryan did his undergraduate work at Northwestern State College, Alva, and secured his life teaching certificate there.

Between 1920 and 1925 he was principal of the high school at Helena, Oklahoma, principal of the high school at Lambert, Oklahoma, and superintendent of schools at Lambert.

As the first leg of a journey around the world, he travelled to the Philippine Islands, where he taught in the high school at Lingayen for two years. The remainder of his trip was strictly pleasure. He was back in Oklahoma teaching in Horace

Mann Junior High School in Tulsa in the fall of 1927.

Through a friend with whom he had taught in the Philippines he learned of the opening on the University of Alaska faculty and secured the position. On leaves of absence from there he returned to Oklahoma and studied at the University for both his master's and doctor's degrees in education, receiving them in 1931 and 1937, respectively.

Mr. Ryan, his wife, Mrs. Iris Butler Ryan, '30, and their 4-year old son, Dennis, will move from Fairbanks to Juneau, the capital of Alaska, late this month.

### Girl Pilot Instructor

Dark-haired, dark-eyed Grace Stevenson, '39journal, at the age of 23 years holds a commercial pilot's license and is a regular instructor of civilian flying at the Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa. Captain M. W. Balfour, director of the school, expressed the belief that she is the only woman instructor in any major air school in the nation.

Miss Stevenson started flying in 1936 at Lambert Field, St. Louis, Missouri, rushing up on weekends from St. Charles, where she was attending Lindenwood College. She continued to fly when she came to the University, where she majored in journalism.

Her father gave her the course at Spartan for a graduation gift. She began in July, 1939. Since then her total number of flying hours has grown to 300. In addition, she has spent many hours in ground school classes, mastering meteorology, flight theory, motor mechanics, radio and other things necessary to skillful flying. She has also flown almost every type of craft available to civilian pilots.

Her plans are to make flying her profession—at least for a while. She sees plenty of opportunity for her to break into professional flying by filling the vacancies in civilian flying left by the call for military service.

Miss Stevenson is feminine enough to like pretty clothes, although she spends most of her time in slacks and coveralls. She is feminine enough, too, to admit that flying isn't the only thing she wants to do.

"I'll probably get married later—eventually," she says with a smile.

### Mrs. Rountree Elected

Members of the Oklahoma City O. U. Alumni Club have elected Mrs. Charles R. Rountree (Kitty Shanklin, '24ba) as president for the next year. She succeeds Joe Fred Gibson, '34ba, '36law, and will have charge of arrangements for the annual Homecoming dinner-dance sponsored by the Oklahoma City club in November, 1941.

Other officers elected are Kermit Hardwick, '29bus, first vice president; T. J. Woodmansee, '22ba, second vice presi-

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 38)



## Home and Abroad

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

dent; L. V. Woodruff, '33ba, '35law, secretary; and Vernon Cook, '26law, treasurer.

Mrs. Rountree has been active in alumni affairs and is now a vice president of the University of Oklahoma Association.

As a student in the University she was a member of Alpha Phi sorority, majored in business and was active in the Y. W. C. A. and various business organizations.

### Law Class Reunion

Three classes of the University School of Law, the classes of '29, '33 and '37, held annual reunions the weekend of the Sooner-Nebraska game. The two earlier classes met in Oklahoma City the evening of November 1; the other group met for luncheon in Norman November 2.

In a contest between the classes of '29 and '33 in the number of notables present, the '29ers claimed a victory by a score of six to two. A. P. Murrain, '28law, addressed the members of the '29class, after which they chose Truman Rucker, Oklahoma City, their new president to succeed Walter D. Hanson, Oklahoma City. Carmon C. Harris, Oklahoma City, was elected vice president and Frank Wilton Jones, also Oklahoma City, was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

Other '29ers attending were James W. Batchelor, Durant; Martin D. Brown, Frank A. Chilson, Emil G. DeParade, James U. Harbison, John T. Hedges, Rex H. Holden, Leonard Z. King, Joe Allen McCloud, John Morrison, Daniel Nelson, Ray Teague, Everett H. Welborn and



Mrs. Kitty Shanklin Rountree

Sam Clammer, all of Oklahoma City; Vic Croxton, Norman; Warren B. Kice, Ada; Cannon B. McMahan, Okmulgee; Floyd L. Rheam, Tulsa; Alfred Singletary, Perry; Granville Norris, Muskogee; and Thomas R. Higgins, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The Class of '33 had as special guests Curtis P. Harris, special attorney for the lands division of the federal department of justice, and Tom Hieronymus, assistant United States attorney, Oklahoma City.

Those present at the luncheon reunion of the class of '37 included George Sneed, Millard Neptune and J. R. Akright, of the legal department of Phillips Oil Company in Bartlesville; Bob Offutt, who is working in the traffic control division of the Oklahoma City police department; Bland West, an Oklahoma City practicing attorney who writes detective stories in his spare time; LeRoy Allen, of the legal department of National Mutual Casualty Company, Tulsa; Si Freeman, county attorney at Ada; Kirk Woodliff, state director of unemployment compensation in the Oklahoma department of labor; Boyce Timmons, assistant registrar at the University; Glenn Staley, in active duty in the United States Army at Ft. Sill; Mrs. Dorothy Hume Hammond, who is raising a family in Anadarko; R. Boyd Gunning, assistant director of the University Extension Division; Ben Franklin, Bert Barefoot, W. T. Brunson, Paul Duncan, W. K. Garnett, William J. King, Elliott Fenton, Max Morgan, Fred Dunlevy, W. W. Whiteman, James McWilliams, W. C. Tippitt, Jr., and Fred Hoyt, all practicing in Oklahoma City; Jake Morehead, Wally Thomas, Phil Wimbish, Charles Fellows, and Earl Sneed, Jr., practicing in Tulsa; Ralph H. Cline, Lawton; Arthur G. McComis, Elk City; Alan B. Mc-

Pheron, Durant; Bill Gruber, Alva; and Hall Collinson, Wichita, Kansas.

### Promotion for Attorney

Peyton Ford, '34law, has been appointed chief attorney for the unemployment compensation division of the Oklahoma Department of Labor. His appointment to the \$4000-per-year position was made by W. A. Pat Murphy, state labor commissioner. As assistant attorney general, Mr. Ford had been handling the division's cases in district and Supreme Court trials for several months.

Since graduating from the University in 1934 Mr. Ford has practiced law in Sayre, his home, and in Oklahoma City. He has been attorney for the State Industrial Commission, and worked as special attorney to draft bills for the State Senate during the Sixteenth Legislature.

In June, 1939, Attorney General Mac Q. Williamson employed Mr. Ford for legal work in his department, and five months later made him assistant attorney general.

Mrs. Ford is the former Helen Hutto, '34ba.

### McGaha Elected

Charles P. McGaha, '18, Wichita Falls, Texas, was elected president of the National Stripper Well Association at its annual meeting in Dallas in October. He is an oil operator in Texas fields and is vice president of Fain-McGaha Oil Corporation.

The stripper well owners and operators devoted their meeting to consideration of questions affecting small-well reserves of the nation, and voted thanks to the Independent Petroleum Association of America for its "clear understanding" of the stripper well problems and for the aid that I. P. A. A. has given to stripper well owners.

### Alumni Honored

Among the thirteen Oklahomans chosen to enter the Oklahoma Hall of Fame on the twenty-third anniversary of statehood last month were two graduates of the University and a member of the faculty. They are Dr. Anna Lewis, '28ph.d, and Frank Buttram, '10ba, '12ma, and Dr. Alma J. Neill, professor of physiology.

Dr. Lewis is professor of history and head of the department of history in Oklahoma College for Women, Chickasha.

Mr. Buttram, Oklahoma City oil man, is president of the Independent Petroleum Association of America and widely known as an oil man and civic leader. He is a native of the state, having been born in the Chickasaw nation, in what is now Love County.

Dr. Neill, nationally known scientist, has gained a measure of fame by her research into the causes of sleeping sickness and her experiments with enzymes. She was born in Ohio and secured her education in Illinois.

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